

Kildare County Council



Annual Report 2014

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Foreword

Welcome to the 2014 annual report of Kildare County Council 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.

Kildare County Council plays a key role in facilitating and encouraging sustainable economic growth and employment in the county by ensuring a co-ordinated and cohesive development of micro-enterprise which contributes to economic growth and job creation and providing support and services to start, grow and develop micro and small business in Kildare.

We are committed to;

- Supporting and enhancing local democracy
- Developing and growing Kildare's social and physical infrastructure
- Improving efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services
- Promoting and developing Kildare as a place to live, learn, work, visit and do business.

2014 was a time of change for town councils and county councils. The integration of town and county governance saw the abolition of the town councils of Athy, Naas, Newbridge and Leixlip from 1 June 2014.

Following the local elections on 23 May 2014, 40 candidates were elected to Kildare County Council across five municipal districts as follows;

- Athy Municipal District (6 members)
- Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District (7 members)
- Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District (9 members)
- Maynooth Municipal District (9 members)
- Naas Municipal District (9 members)

Our congratulations go, not only to those who were elected, but to all the candidates who went forward and thereby sustained the civic and political life of the county.

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

- The advancement of housing projects including the regeneration of St. Patrick's Park, Rathangan, the development of 13 units on the Athgarvan Road, Newbridge, which is a Towards Carbon Neutral Scheme and the development of 20 units in Kilcock.
- The establishment of County Kildare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).
- The R402 Enfield to Edenderry Improvement Scheme was opened to traffic following significant construction works which were undertaken with funding of €6,700,000.
- In conjunction with the Tidy Towns initiative, Maynooth won Best Kept Large Town for 2014, Straffan and Naas received the Gold Medal Award, Kill, Leixlip, and Newbridge won the Silver Medal Award and Rathangan, Ballymore, Maynooth, Clane and Celbridge won the Bronze Medal Award in the Tidy Towns Competition.
- Initiatives to improve energy performance which included the upgrade of lighting and heating systems in Naas Town Hall and a new LED lighting system in Kildare Library. Also 603 social housing stock was upgraded under the Energy Efficiency Programme.
- The 'Get Kildare Walking' initiative included the Get Kildare Walking Festival which involved 12 different types of walks at different locations throughout the county and the Operation Transformation Walk.
- A new playground and skatepark was opened at Caragh Road, Naas and an outdoor gym was installed in the town park in Newbridge.

The year was tinged with sadness with the untimely death of the late Councillor Willie Callaghan who passed away on 30 November 2014 after a short illness. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

Finally we would like to pay tribute to the leadership of the elected members and also pay tribute to and thank the staff of the council for their work throughout the year.



Fiona O'Loughlin
Mayor

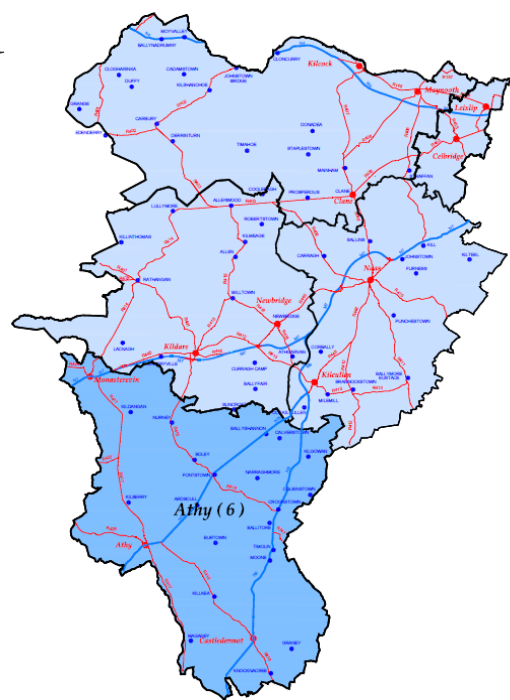


Peter Carey
Chief Executive

Kildare County Council Members

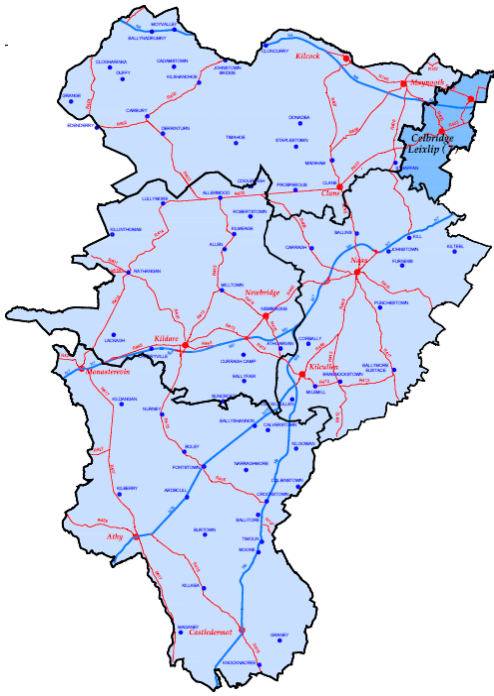
There are 40 members representing five municipal districts;

- Athy Municipal District
- Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District
- Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
- Maynooth Municipal District
- Naas Municipal District







Athy Municipal District

					
Councillor Aoife Breslin The Labour Party	Councillor Mark Dalton Non-Party	Councillor Ivan Keatley Fine Gael	Councillor Martin Miley Junior Fianna Fáil	Councillor Thomas Redmond Sinn Féin	Councillor Mark Wall The Labour Party



Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District

			
Councillor Kevin Byrne The Labour Party	Councillor Bernard Caldwell Non-Party	Councillor Íde Cussen Sinn Féin	Councillor Anthony Larkin Non-Party

		
Councillor Joe Neville Fine Gael	Councillor Frank O'Rourke Fianna Fáil	Councillor Brendan Young Non-Party



Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District



Councillor Willie Crowley
Non-Party



Councillor Suzanne Doyle
Fianna Fáil



Councillor Paddy Kennedy
Non-Party



Councillor Mark Lynch
Sinn Féin



Councillor Fiona McLoughlin-Healy
Fine Gael



Councillor Fiona O'Loughlin
Fianna Fáil



Councillor Joanne Pender
Non-Party



Councillor Seán Power
Fianna Fáil



Councillor Mark Stafford
Fine Gael



Maynooth Municipal District



Councillor Réada Cronin
Sinn Féin



Councillor Tim Durkan
Fine Gael



Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick
Fianna Fáil



Councillor Pádraig McEvoy
Non-Party



Councillor John McGinley
The Labour Party



Councillor Teresa Murray
Non-Party



Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil
Fianna Fáil



Councillor Paul Ward
Fianna Fáil



Councillor Brendan Weld
Fine Gael



Naas Municipal District

		
Councillor Anne Breen The Labour Party	Councillor Fintan Brett Fine Gael	Councillor Deborah Callaghan Fianna Fáil
		
Councillor Billy Hillis Fine Gael	Councillor James Lawless Fianna Fáil	Councillor Seamie Moore Non-Party
		
Councillor Sorcha O'Neill Sinn Féin	Councillor Robert Power Fianna Fáil	Councillor Darren Scully Fine Gael

Committees of the Council

Affixing of Seal

All Council Members

Audit Committee

Councillors Pádraig McEvoy, Paul Ward and Mark Stafford

Finance Committee

Councillors Ivan Keatley, Brendan Young, Suzanne Doyle, Seamie Moore and John McGinley

Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee

Councillors Martin Miley, Íde Cussen, Réada Cronin, Mark Stafford and Fintan Brett

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Councillors Aoife Breslin, Íde Cussen, Réada Cronin, Joanne Pender and Anne Breen

Protocol and Procedures Committee

Councillors Willie Callaghan, Réada Cronin, Suzanne Doyle, Tim Durkan, Anthony Larkin, Mark Lynch, Fiona McLoughlin-Healy, Seamie Moore, Fiona O'Loughlin, Robert Power, Darren Scully and Mark Wall

Corporate Policy Group

Councillors Darren Scully, Sean Power, Suzanne Doyle, Kevin Byrne, Paddy Kennedy, Daragh Fitzpatrick, Martin Miley and the Mayor



First meeting of the new 40 member council held in the council chamber on 6 June 2014

Strategic Policy Committees

Kildare County Council has 5 Strategic Policy Committees;

- **Housing**
- **Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services**
- **Environmental Services and Water**
- **Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning**
- **Local Community and Culture**

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>Issues Addressed</i>
Housing SPC	Cllr.P Kennedy (Chairperson) Cllr. J Pender Cllr. R Power Cllr. A Breslin Cllr. T Redmond Cllr. B Weld Cllr. T Durkan Denis Buckley Anthony Egan Ramon O'Reilly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National policy analysis• National Rents Scheme• RAS/Leasing• Anti-social behaviour• Grants• Homelessness• Energy Efficiency• Sustainable housing policy

<i>SPC Name</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC	Cllr. D Scully (Chairperson) Cllr. R Cronin Cllr. P Ward Cllr. A Breen Cllr. J McGinley Cllr. J Neville Cllr. S Moore Cllr. M Dalton Cormac Browne Sean Lawler Peter Kenny James Earle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial garden for road crash victims • Kildare Fire Service Draft Section 26 Plan • Rural transport • Taxi areas • Newland Cross Project • Cycle forum

<i>SPC Name</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Environmental Services and Water SPC	Cllr. S Power (Chairperson) Cllr. B Young Cllr. Í Cussen Cllr. A Larkin Cllr. J Lawless Cllr. F Brett Cllr. F O'Rourke Cllr. F McLoughlin-Healy David Walsh Gerry O'Hagan Tom Malone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Regional Waste Management Plan • Consideration of Tidy Towns Programme 2014 • Policy views regarding "pay to use" receptacles • Consideration of pilot initiative regarding ashes internments

<i>SPC Name</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC	Cllr. S Doyle (Chairperson) Cllr. D Fitzpatrick Cllr. N Ó Cearúil Cllr. M Lynch Cllr. M Wall Cllr. P McEvoy Cllr. B Hillis Cllr. W Crowley Brendan Allen Gerry Prendergast Noel Archbold Fiona Tutty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Economic Development Fund established • Enterprise Expo held in Newbridge • Reviewed programme of works carried out on historic monuments • Relocation of Local Enterprise Office to Kildare County Council • Interaction with Chamber of Commerce

<i>SPC Name</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Local Community and Culture SPC	Cllr. K Byrne (Chairperson) Cllr. M Miley Cllr. T Murray Cllr. S O'Neill Cllr. M Stafford Cllr. I Keatley Cllr. F O'Loughlin Cllr. B Caldwell Dermot O'Donnell Frieda O'Connell John Hayden P J Fagan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Development Plan and Programme • Kildare Integration Strategy • Art Purchasing and Donations Policy • Grant review update • Parks section work programme for 2014 • Library Development Plan "<i>Ideas realized, spread the word</i>".

Membership of External Bodies

Association of Irish Local Government

Councillors Mark Dalton, Willie Callaghan, Joe Neville, Mark Stafford and Paul Ward

Standing Policy Council of the Association of Irish Local Government

Councillors Mark Dalton, Paul Ward and Mark Stafford

Athy Heritage Company Ltd

Councillor Aoife Breslin

Athy Investment, Development and Employment Forum

Councillors Mark Dalton and Mark Wall

Ballymore Eustace Community Projects Liaison Committee

Councillors Billy Hillis and Robert Power

Board of the Meath Foundation (ceased October 2014)

Councillor Sean Power

County Joint Policing Committee

Councillors Martin Miley, Frank O'Rourke, Suzanne Doyle, Paul Ward, James Lawless, Anthony Larkin, Willie Crowley, Pádraig McEvoy, Íde Cussen, Mark Lynch, Tim Durkan, Ivan Keatley, Fintan Brett, Aoife Breslin and Anne Breen

County Kildare Fáilte

Councillor Pádraig McEvoy

Drehid Community Liaison Committee

Councillors Mark Stafford and Daragh Fitzpatrick

Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Health Forum

Councillors Mark Dalton, Thomas Redmond, Anthony Larkin, Brendan Weld and Paul Ward

Eastern River Basin District Advisory Council

Councillor Tim Durkan and James Lawless

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance

Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil

Kildare Community Network Company

Councillors Seamie Moore, Fintan Brett and Robert Power

Kildare Heritage Forum

Councillors Ivan Keatley, Teresa Murray and James Lawless

Kildare Heritage Town Co Ltd

Councillors Mark Stafford, Joanne Pender and Mark Lynch

Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities Ltd

Councillors Ivan Keatley and Willie Callaghan

Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board

Councillors Aoife Breslin, Reada Cronin, Fiona McLoughlin-Healy, Teresa Murray, Brendan Weld, Daragh Fitzpatrick and Naoise Ó Cearúil

Leixlip Amenities Centre

Councillors Bernard Caldwell and Joe Neville

Local Authorities Members Association

Councillor Sean Power

Local Community Development Committee

Councillors Suzanne Doyle, Fintan Brett and Mark Wall

Regional Assembly Interim Board

Councillors Fiona O'Loughlin, Ivan Keatley and Pádraig McEvoy

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

County Twinning Committee
Councillors Mark Dalton, Bernard Caldwell,
Willie Crowley, Brendan Weld and Sorcha
O'Neill

**South Eastern River Basin District
Advisory Council**
Councillors Mark Dalton and Ivan Keatley



Council Chamber

Conferences Attended During 2014

<i>Date</i>	<i>Conference Details</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of Councillors Attended</i>
10 January 2014	Financing Local Government	Donegal	2
17 January 2014	Valuation Process for Rating Properties	Limerick	1
24 January 2014	Municipal Water, The Challenge for Local Government	Donegal	1
31 January 2014	Local Authority members Association Spring Conference	Monaghan	3
10 February 2014	Accessing EU Funds	Clare	1
21 February 2014	Clare Tourism	Clare	1
6 March 2014	Associations of City and County Councils Annual Conference	Cavan	4
3 April 2014	Carlow Tourism	Carlow	4
10 April 2014	Irish Planning Institute Annual Conference	Limerick	2
28 July 2014	MacGill Summer School	Donegal	1
11 October 2014	Criminal Justice & Human Rights	Dublin	2
11 and 12 October 2014	Remembrance Conference	Tipperary	2

Training Attended During 2014

<i>Date</i>	<i>Training Details</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of Councillors Attended</i>
25 June 2014	AILG Training Local Government	Offaly	25
9 September 2014	AILG Finance	Monaghan	1
11 September 2014	AILG Finance	Dundalk	13
16 September 2014	AILG Finance	Carlow	2
18 September 2014	AILG Finance	Dublin	4
17 and 18 October 2014	LAMA Autumn Seminar	Donegal	3
23 October 2014	AILG Housing	Westmeath	16
29 and 30 October 2014	AILG Annual Conference	Cavan	11
18 November 2014	AILG Planning	Trim	16



Table of Election Expenses and Donations – Local Elections 23 May 2014

	Election Expenses	Donations
Athy Municipal District		
Councillor Aoife Breslin	€2,684.44	€339.44
Councillor Mark Dalton	€5,676.00	€3,526.00
Councillor Ivan Keatley	€3,906.5	€3,501.50
Councillor Martin Miley Junior	€3,050.60	€0.00
Councillor Thomas Redmond	€2,169.56	€0.00
Councillor Mark Wall	€2930.44	€339.44
Celbridge-Newbridge Municipal District		
Councillor Kevin Byrne	€2,877.50	€1,877.50
Councillor Bernard Caldwell	€1,350.85	€0.00
Councillor Íde Cussen	€1,098.37	€1,098.37
Councillor Anthony Larkin	€3,408.77	€819.00
Councillor Joe Neville	€4,003.92	€2,100.00
Councillor Frank O'Rourke	€9,268.55	€6,154.00
Councillor Brendan Young	€3,982.44	€3,982.44
Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District		
Councillor Willie Crowley	€5,200.00	€0.00
Councillor Suzanne Doyle	€3,270.00	€0.00
Councillor Paddy Kennedy	€4,658.00	€1,000.00
Councillor Mark Lynch	€1,219.56	€719.56
Councillor Fiona McLoughlin-Healy	€9,756.73	€7,565.85
Councillor Fiona O'Loughlin	€5,493.33	€2,200.00
Councillor Joanne Pender	€3,113.00	€3,450.00
Councillor Seán Power	€1,116.57	€0.00
Councillor Mark Stafford	€5,887.35	€3,370.35
Maynooth Municipal District		
Councillor Réada Cronin	€1,535.78	€1,535.78
Councillor Tim Durkan	€3,861.29	€2,101.29
Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick	€3,678.40	€0.00
Councillor Pádraig McEvoy	€3,719.24	€219.00
Councillor John McGinley	€2,721.64	€1,250.00
Councillor Teresa Murray	€5,607.14	€1,000.00
Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil	€5,259.15	€0.00
Councillor Paul Ward	€6,158.00	€1,500.00
Councillor Brendan Weld	€2,446.29	€2096.29
Naas Municipal District		
Councillor Anne Breen	€3,942.04	€1,370.00
Councillor Fintan Brett	€1,860.00	€1,610.00
Councillor Willie Callaghan (RIP)	€6,042.07	€2,000.00
Councillor Billy Hillis	€2,151.00	€2,151.00
Councillor James Lawless	€7,423.00	€5,175.00
Councillor Seamie Moore	€8,377.39	€3,377.39
Councillor Siorcha O'Neill	€1,692.62	€1,375.62
Councillor Robert Power	€1,795.58	€1,400.00
Councillor Darren Scully	€2,101.00	€2,101.00

Seirbhísí Corporáideacha, Achmhainní Daonna agus TFC



Corporate, Human Resources
and ICT

Corporate Services

Corporate Services

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

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

Customer Care

The council aims to;

- provide the highest quality service in an economic, efficient, effective and equitable manner to all our customers.
- continue to operate a number of customer focused services and seek to improve the services offered on an ongoing basis.
- ensure the highest standards of sustainability are applied throughout the council.
- encourage and develop the full potential of a committed and talented

workforce through training, delegation and partnership working arrangements.

- facilitate maximum community involvement through consultation and information provision
- provide information that is clear, timely, complete, accurate and available at defined points of contact 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.

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 County Council continue to work with people with disabilities and their representatives to improve accessibility to local authority services. In 2014 we concentrated our focus on the library service.

Accessibility Actions in Kildare Libraries in 2014 included the following highlights:

- Continuing improvements to our buildings infrastructure, Kildare Library Service focused on accessibility to our physical environments at a number of locations. Works included the refurbishment of Maynooth Library's Adult Section and Clane Library's Children's Section and reception area to provide accessible and user friendly shelving and furniture in both locations.
- Re-arrangement of library layouts with accessibility in mind happened in Naas and Athy Libraries, with additional accessible signage installed at Athy and Kildare Libraries.
- Plans for accessibility actions at Rathangan Library were progressed during 2014 in preparation for works scheduled for early 2015.

Kildare Library Service programmes targeting issues of accessibility and for users finding it difficult to access library and community services generally were grown in 2014 to include:

- Touch-type Read Spell (TTRS) - a multi-sensory computer programme for people who have been diagnosed with dyslexia. This course is currently on offer in three library locations.
- Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) - a collection designed to compliment quality of life services for children and adults, and offer support for the use of the toys and technology through professional partnerships between Kildare County Libraries and Health Care Professionals. The toys and assistive technology listed in the TTT catalogue can be accessed through the library service and can be borrowed by joining the library. Full details on the expanded collection and new lecture series schedule can be found at our website www.kildare.ie/library

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 two working days. Kildare County Council received 374 reports via Fix Your Street in 2014.



Legal Services

A framework was set up on 1 October 2013 to centralise Legal Services within the organisation. A category supervisor has been appointed in Corporate Services to manage the service.

The category supervisor in conjunction with IT set up a database through which all requests for legal services within the organisation are submitted.

Higher Education Grants

The Higher Education Grants Scheme has been centrally managed by SUSI (Students Universal Support Ireland) since 2012. Kildare County Council retained any higher education grants submitted to them prior to 2012/2013 and have been processing renewals and reassessments of grants accordingly.

Over the past couple of years as students have completed courses the amount of grants has gradually decreased and for the academic year 2014/2015, approximately 176 renewals/reassessments were received and processed by the Higher Education Grants Section.



Register of Electors

The number appearing on the 2014/15 Register, which came into force on 15 February 2014, was 139,074, a marginal increase of 16 on those registered in the previous year. This had further increased to 140,201 on polling day for the Local and European elections in May, due to successful applications for entry onto the supplement to the register prepared for this poll.

In 2014, we continued our efforts to keep the Register as accurate as possible. We used such methods as writing out to those whose polling information cards were returned as undelivered following a poll and deleted the entry if they didn't confirm that they are still resident at the address given. We placed advertisements in local media, both print and radio, which complements the national campaign undertaken by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and contacting schools to alert those approaching eighteen of the possibility of registering to vote. We also organised a leaflet drop, predominantly into dwellings in urban areas in 2014, encouraging people to check that they were registered.

A hard copy of both the draft and final register for the local area was put on display in post offices, libraries, Garda stations and council offices, so that people could check it. They could also do so online via www.checktheregister.ie. Forms for making a claim for addition, deletion or amendment to the list were made available at the same locations.

Similarly, a copy of the register for their electoral area was supplied to each public representative in the county, both county councillors and Oireachtas members.



Local Elections 2014

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr. Phil Hogan, T.D., established the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee to review local electoral areas in 2013 in order to integrate town and county governance with integrated authorities organised on the basis of municipal districts. This committee recommended

that the number of councillors assigned to Kildare County Council be increased from 25 to 40 and were allocated across the five new municipal districts set out as follows:

Local Electoral Area	No. of members
Athy	6
Celbridge-Leixlip	7
Maynooth	9
Kildare-Newbridge	9
Naas	9
TOTAL	40

Polling in the local election took place countywide on Friday, 23 May 2014. The counts for the electoral areas were held in the Event Centre, Punchestown and there were three count centres in operation.

Forty members were elected to the five municipal districts. Of these, fifteen had never previously been a member of a local authority, four were returning councillors and five were members of a town council during the last term.

Meetings

The Corporate Services Department is responsible for the administration of the meetings of full council, municipal districts, budget meetings, corporate policy group meetings and protocol meetings.

The following is a breakdown of meetings held during 2014;

- 14 full council meetings
- 59 area committee/municipal district meetings
- 19 Corporate Policy Group meetings and Strategic Policy Committee's
- 16 Other meetings

Members Services

The Members Services unit is fully operational since June 2014.

There are four municipal district secretaries who assist the members in all aspects of their functions including:

- Minute taking and report writing for municipal districts and full council
- Receipt and referrals of motions and questions for municipal districts and full council
- Members representations
- Records of attendance at meetings
- Conferences/Training
- Processing of travel claims
- Statutory Declarations
- Members insurance
- Maintain Public Register

Members are encouraged to use the service which plays a key role in ensuring that accurate, timely and relevant information is made available to them.

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 2014 in excess of 230 media queries were received with more than 25 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 2014, the unit produced the Annual Report 2013.

Freedom of Information

45 requests under the Freedom of Information Acts were received in 2014 of which 10 were requests for personal information. 17 requests were granted, 11 requests were part-granted and 16 requests were refused.



Irish Language: Gaeilge

During 2014, Kildare County Council's 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 County Council's 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 County Council through Irish

- corresponding on behalf of Kildare County Council with An Coimisinéir Teanga, government departments and other organisations and individuals as required.

The section dealing with Irish language matters on our website has been maintained and updated. This includes information in Irish on the following matters:

- Councillors' details
- Contact details
- Customer Care
- Freedom of Information
- Kildare County Council's Irish Language Scheme
- Online Comment Card
- A selection of application forms for various services provided by Kildare County Council.

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

The council responded to a report issued by An Coimisinéir Teanga in November 2014, which found that the council had failed in its statutory duty under Section 9 (1) of the Official Languages Act 2003, by

recording out of hour's voicemail message in English only. The council has now 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 2014.

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.



- Provides contact details for our councillors;
- Online services including online payments are available - you can pay your traffic fine, purchase a water butt, pay your dog licence as well as others;
- View online planning enquiries;
- If you subscribe to our RSS feeds, 'like' us on Facebook or 'follow' us on Twitter you will receive automatic updates of our Press Releases/Alerts/Latest Items added to the website;
- Cúrsaí Gaeilge is included on the site;
- The website was visited by **977,961** visitors and **3,559,129** pages were viewed in 2014.

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;

Energy

National and EU legislation requires that national government, local authorities, etc. reduce their energy use by 33% by 2020. Kildare County Council has chosen 2009 as its base year.

In 2014 Kildare County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve energy performance including;

- The introduction of "Follow-Me Printing" has allowed for the standardisation of multi-function devices (photocopier, printer, scanner), supplies and parts. This has also allowed for the reduction

of 37 laser printers across the network. All printers are now set to print monochrome and duplex as default. All printers also switch to environmental mode when not in use which effectively puts them in a low energy consumption mode when they have not been used after a short period of time.

- A computer shut down programme has been installed on all computers (other than those deemed essential), that result in all machines shutting down automatically each night where the computer user does not do so.
- An upgrading of the lighting and heating systems in Naas Town Hall has recently been undertaken. A four year payback is expected in terms of energy cost saving.
- A new LED lighting system was installed in Kildare Library.
- Daylight/occupancy sensors were installed in Monasterevin Library.
- Social Housing Stock - Phase 1 of an Energy Efficiency Programme took place, which involved pumped cavity wall insulation, full attic insulation,

draught proofing, ventilation works. This programme commenced in mid 2013 and resulted in 290 units being upgraded in 2013. Overall energy saving for 2013 was approximately 1,522,599 kWh/year from upgrading the 290 units. Average theoretical saving per household energy/fuel bill to assist fuel poverty was estimated to be €945.

A further 603 units were upgraded in 2014. The average cost of upgrade was €2,163 per unit. The average energy improvement per unit after upgrade works was 70 kWh/m²/year. Overall energy saving for 2014 was approx 3,165,750 kWh/year from upgrading the 603 units. Average theoretical saving per household energy/fuel bill to assist fuel poverty was estimated to be €945.

Projects planned for 2015 will include the

- Energy Awareness Campaign with a Low Energy Day in Áras Chill Dara in March 2015.
- A new LED lighting system was installed in Athy Library.
- The completion of the Naas Town Hall project, including LED lighting, insulation of attic and each radiator will have a separate control.

- Identification and replacement of inefficient storage heaters in use in our various buildings.
- Continue Phase 1 of the Energy Efficiency Programme on council social housing stock

Think  energy

Human Resources

Recruitment

The staff complement for Kildare County Council at 31 December 2014 was:

Core Staff	Number	Whole Time Equivalent
Managerial	5	4.80
Clerical/Administrative	349	306.60
Professional/Technical	143	140.50
Outdoor	335	272.80
Supernumeraries	20	20.00
Total Core Staff	852	744.70
Other staff		
Contract Posts	20	20.00
Site Supervisory	7	7.00
Temporary/Seasonal	22	22.00
Retained Firefighters	66	N/A
Non DoEC&LG	13	8.00
Total Other posts	128	57

The department processed applications in relation to 11 competitions that were held during the year. From the 380 applications received, 323 were male and 57 were female.

As a result of the competitions held for the posts, 95 applicants were deemed qualified and placed on panels, 74 male and 21 female. 20 posts were offered (16

male and 4 female).



Gateway

As part of the Government Action Plan on Jobs, Kildare County Council is committed to the provision of 110 placements on the Gateway Scheme.

This scheme offers an opportunity for the long term employed to gain or update experience of the workplace, to learn new skills and to return to the routine of work. The scheme will assist the personal and social development of participants by providing short-term work opportunities with the objective of bridging the gap between unemployment and re-entering the workforce.

Training and Development

During 2014, the training programme delivered in-house training to 800 staff covering the following areas:

Performance Management and Development Training (PMDS), Health and Safety Training, Courtroom Skills Training, Irish Water Systems and Processes Training, Staff Resilience Training, Retirement Planning Training and Information Technology Training.

2 staff members completed the IPA Certificate in Local Government Studies.
2 staff members completed the IPA Diploma in Local Government Studies.

17 staff members were approved under the Scheme of Assistance for courses of further education.



Employee Assistance Programme

Workplace Options are the new providers of the EAP since August 2014. Staff can access a wide variety of information through their website which is available on the staff intranet. Access is easy. Staff can access professional support to help balance work, family and personal life.

Freephone: 1800 490 390

Email: eap@workplaceoptions.com

Website: www.workplaceoptions.com

Human Resources continued to promote the EAP throughout the year. Usage of the EAP is strong with a good mix of both

emotional counselling support and information query requests.

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 and any consequential changes have been implemented in full and continue to be reviewed.

Kildare County Council has continued to make progress in undertaking local government reform in line with the provisions of Putting People First. This has involved the review and restructuring of services including the integration of the services of four town councils and the reassignment of 68 staff, the establishment of municipal districts, the reorganisation of members services and customer services, the move of the Fire Control Centre to the ERCC and reorganisation of call outs, the integration of the Local Enterprise Office, the setting up of the Local Community Development Committee and Public Participation Network eGovernment initiatives, public procurement provisions and, in addition, the implementation of other nationally agreed policies and procedures.

2014 saw the establishment of Irish Water. Kildare County Council staff continue to provide the service under an annual service level agreement. This has required the reorganisation of the water services department, additional training and revised work practices. This has been achieved through the ongoing co-operation of the unions and staff concerned.

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 be achieved without the continued co-operation and effort of the staff.

Retirements

The following persons retired during 2014, having completed 614 years combined service:

Name	Grade
Anne Crofton	A/Senior Architect
Anne Rowan	Senior Executive Officer
Christopher Farrell	General Operative
Eileen Dunne	Clerical Officer
Geoff Collier	Driver Mechanic
Gerard Gannon	Water Caretaker
Geraldine Deay	Clerical Officer
Irene Dunne	Assistant Staff Officer
James Corbally	Clerical Officer
John Kelly	Water Caretaker
John Lahart	Director of Services
John Tuite	Revenue Collector
Jonathan Kelly	Firefighter
Laurence O'Toole	Firefighter
Liam Gough	General Operative
Margaret Hoban	Assistant Staff Officer
Margaret Woods	School Warden
Mary Connery	Clerical Officer
Mary Grehan	Clerical Officer
Mary Kelly	Clerical Officer
Mary Whelan	Assistant Staff Officer
Michael Malone	County Manager
Pat Lonergan	Assistant Librarian
Philip Doyle	Sub Station Officer
Richard Phillips	General Services Supervisor
Sarah Brennan	Clerical Officer
Seamus Kenna	Driver
Thomas Bagnall	Foreman
Thomas Fahy	Firefighter
Valerie Gormley	Clerical Officer
Valerie Ryan	School Warden

ICT

Council Merge and New Council

With the abolishment of the town councils and the subsequent establishment of the larger council (25 to 40 councillors), the IT Department spent considerable technical resources in preparing for a smooth transition to the new arrangements. All councillors received new laptops with appropriate software and security measures installed, the council chamber WiFi was upgraded, printing facilities were provided in the members' rooms and a significant increase in support for the new members was facilitated throughout the transition period. From a software perspective, all of the main systems were merged from three separate organisations into one organisation which involved months of planning, substantial code rewrites and significant data migrations across the various systems. The systems most affected were iHouse, iPlan, iDocs, Agresso, Enforcements, Online Payments and the council website.

Infrastructure

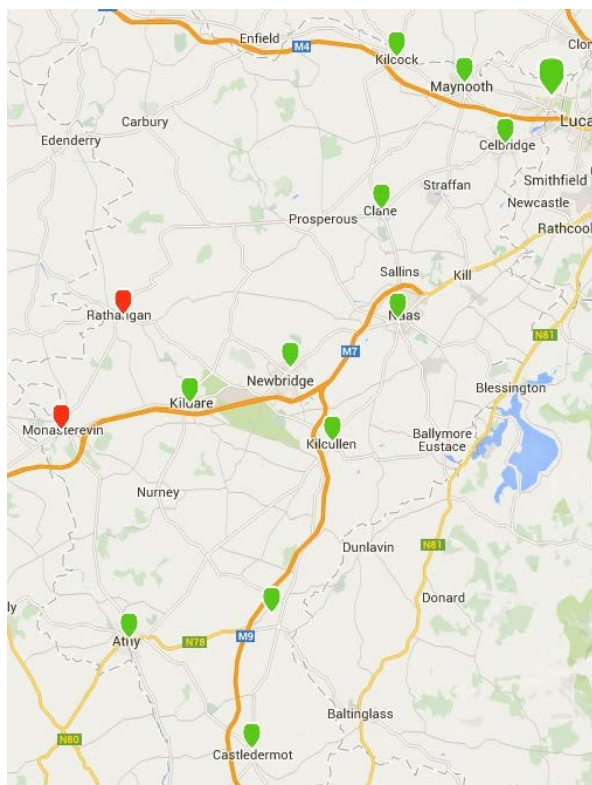
A number of significant ICT infrastructural projects were completed in 2014. The final links in the wireless Wide Area Network (WAN) project were completed in quarter four giving the council 30MB - 90MB full duplex connectivity to the Áras. This

facilitates council staff in accessing software applications and data that is stored and managed in the Áras data centre. In terms of the data centre itself significant work was done on email infrastructure and on upgrading the server virtualisation environment as well as managing the ongoing maintenance, patching, security, data backups and so on that consumes ICT resources on a daily basis. The council also tendered for and implemented a Managed Print Service (MPS) solution for the Áras which is a cost effective means of providing copy, print and scan services to council staff who can use their employee badges to pick up print jobs from any printer in the building in a secure fashion. A new contract was also awarded for mobile hardware and services on foot of a competitive tender.



List of all council offices linked to the Áras

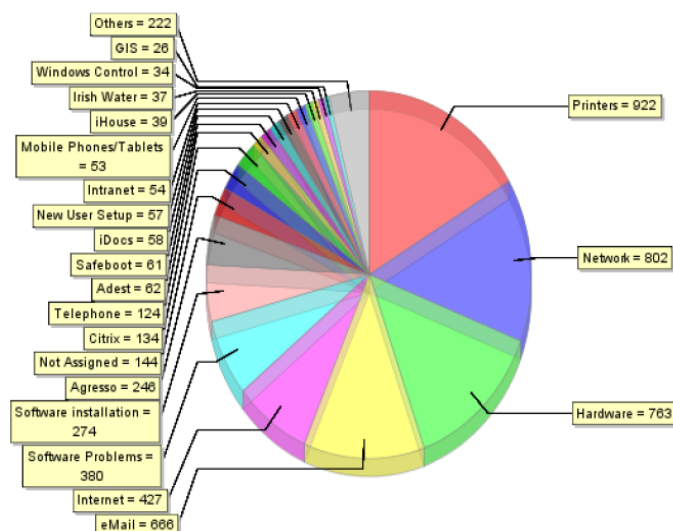
Another project that reached a successful conclusion was the introduction of secure public access WiFi throughout the library network. This solution was designed around cloud-based controller software that enables the WiFi network to be monitored and managed centrally, links to the library management system to verify user membership status and tracks sessions and usage.



Library WiFi Sites

Finally, supporting staff and councillors is one of the cornerstones of ICT operations. The helpdesk processed just over 5,500 calls in 2014.

The breakdown is illustrated in the chart below.



Helpdesk Call Breakdown

The Technical Support Section continues to provide a high level of support to all staff across circa 30 offices in the county.

Applications

In 2014 the merging of ICT systems to prepare for the new council consumed all development time for the first half of 2014. This process was painstaking and complex and ultimately successful.

Apart from the merger project, work continued on the provision of software enhancements and solutions to staff and to the public. The application environment continued to be managed and developed, keeping pace with changes in technology,

especially in the area of SQL Server and Windows Server Operating System. Kildare Sports Partnership was provided with an online payments facility, new intranet based web-parts were developed and development and maintenance of the Environment Section Intranet Portal continued. In quarter four of 2014, the ICT section began work on a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solution. The chosen solution is an Open Source CRM tool called Sugar CRM and Kildare will form an alliance with other local authorities in the ongoing implementation, development and maintenance of Sugar CRM into 2015. This solution will be used to manage councillor representations to begin with, followed by the management of all interactions between the service sections and the public. The popularity of social media accelerated in 2015 with the numbers of Facebook likes and Twitter followers growing at a steady rate, (Facebook: 1,132 likes, Twitter: 2,889 followers).

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 2014.

Key frameworks were developed for the procurement of plant (diggers, trucks, etc. using the national LA Quotes framework), Horse Impound Services, Temporary Veterinary Inspectors, Road Resurfacing, Road Signage and Occupational Therapy Services. A first for the unit was a multi-authority tender which took a shared services view of tendering for Employee Assistance Programme Services on behalf of Kildare County Council, Westmeath County Council and Louth County Council. 2014 saw a big push in the roll-out of Low Value Purchase (LVP) cards which generate significant ongoing operational savings for the council by negating the need to process purchase orders, invoices, GRNs etc., in a secure and controlled environment.



LA Quotes Login Page

The unit continues to serve as a point of expertise for the council, handles 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

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, in contrast, both public and private building programmes have decreased. In response to this and the increasing demand Kildare County Council primarily secures new social housing options through leasing and voluntary housing initiatives.

Social Housing

The current social housing provision in County Kildare stands at 5,334 units, this includes local authority stock (3,611), RAS (550), Social Leasing (214), Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme (491) and Capital Assistance Scheme (468) properties. At year end 2014 the total number of applicants on the housing waiting list was 6,459.

Social Housing Investment Programme

The Social Housing Investment Programme for 2014 covered all aspects of the construction, acquisition and improvement works programme for Kildare County Council. The Housing Supply Allocation (Capital) for 2014 was €6.1

million and the Housing Supply Allocation (current) was €6.2 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 2014 these programmes provided for the advancement of projects such as the regeneration of St. Patrick's Park, Rathangan, the development of 13 units in Athgarvan Road, Newbridge, a Towards Carbon Neutral Scheme and the development of 20 units in Kilcock.

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 providing social housing under the RAS

scheme increased to 661 at year end 2014.

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 2014 there were 214 units operational under this scheme, including units acquired through the new mortgage to rent 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 2014, 180 Housing Aid for Older People Grants, 131 Housing Adaptation Grants and 11 Mobility Aid Grants were awarded, to the total value of 1.7 million.

Homeless Services

In 2014 Kildare County Council continued as lead authority for the Mid East Regional Homeless Forum. Kildare County Council reports on behalf of the region to government on numbers presenting as homeless and services provided, 2014 part 10 funding was also managed by Kildare County Council as lead authority.

At local level, there were 189 cases (individuals and family units) presenting as homeless in 2014, on average 4 cases per working week. Fifty of those cases were supported to independent living with the remaining either returning to family, being admitted to hospital or choosing to leave the county, 198 persons were placed in emergency accommodation in 2014. .

Community Development

In 2014 the Community Team continued to support 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 2014 and again this event culminated in a community celebration evening in NUI Maynooth.



Overall Winner 'Best Kept Garden' 2014, Sean Trimble receives his prize from Mayor Fiona O'Loughlin at Kildare County Council Pride of Place and Tidy Towns Awards presentation evening at Maynooth University



Winners of Youth Endeavour Awards 2014 at Kildare County Council Pride of Place and Tidy Towns Awards presentation evening at Maynooth University on 5 November 2014



Cllr. Paddy Kennedy (left) and Siobhan O'Rourke (right) Kildare County Council Community Worker pictured with group from Rosconnell, Newbridge at Kildare County Council Pride of Place and Tidy Towns Awards presentation evening at Maynooth University on 5 November 2014.

In 2014 the Housing Department continued to support county structures which increase local community engagement in democratic structures including Engage Kildare, Kildare Age Friendly Alliance, Comhairle na nÓg, County Kildare Joint Policing Committee and County Kildare Integration Strategy.

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. In 2014, 5,806 repairs were carried out, a large increase on previous years primarily due to the amalgamation of the town councils. In addition a new tenant handbook was developed in 2014 detailing responsibilities of both tenant and local authority.

Tenancies/Rents

Kildare County Council continued to monitor and support tenancies through the Tenant Liaison Service. Issues relating to anti-social behaviour and breach of tenancies are also dealt with by the Tenant Liaison Officer service.

In preparation for the national rent scheme 937 rents were updated in 2014. Kildare County council calculates rent in accordance with the Differential Rent Scheme. The amalgamation of the town councils resulted in additional rent reviews/ schemes and tenancy regularisation in Naas, Athy and Newbridge.

House Purchase Loan

Under this scheme, house purchase loans of up to 97% (maximum €220,000) are available for house purchases. The scheme is administered by the council under strict criteria as determined nationally. In 2014, 19 house purchase loans were approved in Kildare and 70 applications were evaluated.

Traveller Accommodation

Kildare County Council manage four halting sites in County Kildare. The newly constituted Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met on two occasions since its formation in 2014. Work continued on the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 including the advancement of the redevelopment of Tankardsgarden.



Maynooth Tidy Towns group Bronze Medal and Best Large Town Award winners, Tidy Town Award 2014, pictured at Kildare County Council Pride of Place and Tidy Towns Awards presentation evening at Maynooth University on 5 November 2014.

Community and Culture

Kildare Age Friendly County Programme

The Kildare Age Friendly County Programme was initially developed by the Ageing Well Network under the direction of the Age Friendly Cities and County Programme. The programme was launched in November 2010 and the signing of the Dublin declaration took place in 2011. It is part of a World Health Organisation initiative. The national programme has since been rolled out across the country and is now being facilitated by the 31 local authorities. Local authorities are at different stages of development and are being supported by Age Friendly Ireland. The Kildare programme is now being co-ordinated by Kildare County Council and has acquired a new independent Chairperson to drive the programme.

The Kildare County Programme is overseen by the Kildare Age Friendly Alliance. The alliance was established comprising the older people's representatives and senior decision makers from key public, private and not-for-profit agencies in the county who are committed to making Kildare "A better place in which to grow old". (Kildare Age

Friendly County Strategy 2011-2014). This strategy is under review at the moment and will be enhanced and replaced by a new strategy in 2015. The structures are also under review and will be enhanced and developed to prepare and implement the new strategy.



"Making Kildare a great place to grow old in"

Engage Kildare is the older persons council for County Kildare and they are a very important part of the programme. They are represented on the County Alliance. They have just carried out a review and are currently preparing for their AGM in May 2015.

The National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards Ceremony 2014 was held in Cavan. Over 78 groups from around the country nominated various projects. Kildare was delighted that the Age Friendly Active and Healthy Ageing Award went to McAuley Place in Naas for intergenerational and creative development.

Leisure Services

Parks Section

The Parks Section is involved in the provision, management and maintenance of parks and open spaces in the county. It is 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 the last year are;

- 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 and Castledermot Junctions, Dublin Road, Monasterevin, Straffan Roundabout, Kill and Johnstown Roundabout.

- Grass maintenance was carried out in Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge, Kilcock, Naas, Newbridge, Kildare and Monasterevin.



Monasterevin Roundabout, M7

- Landscaping commenced on Johnstown Roundabout and Straffan Roundabout, Kill



Kildare Town Roundabout, M7

- The pilot allotment scheme in The Wonderful Barn continued this year.
- 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 commenced on the construction and drainage of two sports pitches in Lough na Mona, Leixlip.
- Landscaping works were completed in Nurney Village to develop an amenity area in the village.
- Landscaping works were carried out at Buckely Cross, Newbridge in conjunction with the installation of The Sentinel Sculpture which was commissioned by Newbridge Chamber of Commerce as part of the 200th anniversary of Newbridge town.
- Landscaping works were carried out around the grotto in Celbridge.
- Seating was installed in Carton Avenue, Maynooth and The Wonderful Barn, Leixlip.



Wildflower Meadow, Nurney Village

Playgrounds

- Refurbishment work commenced on the Peoples Park Playground in Athy and plans were prepared for a new Suncroft playground which will be installed in 2015.
- A new playground and skatepark was opened at Caragh Road, Naas. An outdoor gym was installed in the town park in Newbridge.
- Regular maintenance of the established playgrounds continued. There are now 18 playgrounds in the county.

Special Play Initiatives

Play Day event was held in Áras Chill Dara to celebrate National Play Day. It was attended by over 3,000 people.

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 we offer to customers, the biggest improvement was in 2008/2009 where 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 - 2014 the following were achieved;

- Awarded the Gold Standard White Flag Award this year and for the past 14 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 programmes are 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, 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 KWETB and Gaelscoil for sports and inter schools competitions.

FAI Programme

Late Night Leagues

Two Late Night Leagues were completed in 2014 in Newbridge and Kilcock. These leagues help combat anti-social behaviour, provide an outlet

for the young participants and help the community and the local Gardaí to engage with each other. The Late Night Leagues in Newbridge are aimed at children aged between 14-16 years old and was held in Newbridge Sports Centre supported by the Kildare County Council Housing Department and the local Gardaí, on Friday nights in November with 29 participants.

The Late Night League in Kilcock was held on Scoil Ui Riada's all weather pitch on Friday nights for 4 weeks in November and December, with 23 participants. The local Gardaí and local business Kilcock Autos provided support and funding to buy prizes and food for a presentation evening on the final night.



Late Night Leagues

Local Authority Estates Football Fun

In conjunction with Kildare County Council Housing Department, the FAI Development officers ran "Football Fun" programmes in Lakeside Park in Newbridge, Beechgrove in Rathangan, Collaghknock Glebe and Bishopsland in Kildare Town, Anne Street in Prosperous, Ashgrove in Derrinturn, Ballymakealy in Celbridge and Castlefen in Sallins. 194 children, aged between 6 and 14 years took part in these football sessions throughout 2014.

Drop In's

There were drop in sessions for youths in Athy, Leixlip and Newbridge with 49 males and 7 females. There were adult football drop in sessions targeting the unemployed in Athy with 13 males and 3 females participating, which ran for 4 weeks.



Drop In's

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 is a co-ordinated school based actions as part of the UEFA supported football against racism in Europe campaign. 4 primary schools from Celbridge, Sallins and Moone participated in this week of action with the FAI on 13-24 October 2014.

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

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

Club Open Day Programme



Sixth class pupils from St. Patrick's N.S., Celbridge.

Girls' Programmes

Soccer Sisters in Kilcock, Rathangan, Newbridge and Leixlip with 129 girls aged 7 – 11 years old attending.

'My Club After School' programme in Kildare Town for boys and girls with 74 participants with a follow on club open day for girls only in Kildare Town AFC.

U16 futsal tournament ran for 4 weeks to increase participation numbers and new team. This lead onto a U16 7-aside tournament on grass pitches during the summer which ran for six weeks. Over 60 girls participated in these tournaments and this resulted in a new league for this age group.

The Club Open Day Programme is a conscious effort on the part of the FAI to promote football amongst members of the minority ethnic and cultural communities within Ireland.

The Club Open Day is for anyone interested in either playing football for the first time, or improving their skills and to enjoy football in a friendly club environment. Club Open Days are a one day fun, skill based programme of enjoyable activities, delivered by FAI

qualified coaches. We held the Club Open Day in Celbridge Town FC.

The Celbridge Town Club Open Day was held on Saturday, 31 May 2014. Over 82 people attended the event, with 53 children registering (of which, 20% were from ethnic or cultural backgrounds). Speed camera, penalty shoot-outs, crossbar challenge, fun drills and mini games were all part of the packed programme.



Celbridge Club Open Day



**Celbridge Club Open Day
Speed Camera Challenge**



Speed Camera Challenge



Small sided games at Celbridge Town

Integrated Services Programme

Role

The Integrated Service Programme (ISP) was established in 2010 by Kildare County Development Board. Representatives from state agencies, voluntary/community sector organisations, local businesses, local community representatives and elected representatives work collaboratively to progress agreed priorities. Three towns are ISP towns- Kildare town, Kilcock and 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 factually based research. An interagency team work to oversee and progress actions. Sub groups support the work and allow for increased participation.



Work and Progress 2014

There was a lot of significant progress on ISP priorities in 2014. 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. Some of the key achievements 2014 include:

- Teach Dara is now an established family and community centre in the town. Up to 300 people now use the facility every week to attend a range of groups, courses and services.
- The ISP family issues sub group, supported by Kildare County Council, were successful in securing commitment of over €80,000 from the National Office for Suicide Prevention to roll out a pilot MOJO Programme in Kildare. This programme targets men who are unemployed and are finding it hard to cope. The programme aims to motivate the participants to make positive changes to their lives through group based training and one to one working. Initial work took place to gather support and interest in this multi-agency initiative. This proved very successful, with over twenty representatives attending an initial meeting in November from across state, voluntary sector and community group interests.

Recruitment of a Project Co-ordinator commenced in late 2014, and it is anticipated that the first project targeting men will take place in 2015. Teach Dara will host the programme, providing facilities, management and office space.

County Kildare Youth Hub – The Hive

Work took place to continue to progress the establishment of The Hive in the old post office Kildare Town. Planning permission was secured and tendering processes to re-furbish the building was progressed. A round table discussion took place with former Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald, to highlight the importance of this initiative for Kildare. It is planned that refurbishment will commence in early 2015, with the facility opening in August/September 2015.



County Kildare Youth Hub

Kilcock

Kilcock ISP continued to make significant progress in 2014.

- The HSE were granted planning permission to build a primary care centre on the Bawnogues, Kilcock. This is one of fourteen primary care centres planned nationally. Tendering for contractors is due for conclusion in early 2015, and work is expected to commence in mid-2015. This project is worth in the region of €2.5 million and will take twelve to eighteen months to complete.
- Kilcock Community Network continued to progress work to develop a multipurpose community facility on the Bawnogues. An intensive process involving key stakeholders, community groups, leaders and agencies took place to inform the proposed design for the facility. The outcome of the application for planning permission is expected in early 2015.
- Due to the substantial plans for the Bawnogues, an updated integrated design for future development of this recreational area was completed by Cooney Architects. This involved key stakeholders and proposes an integrated multi use

amenity space that can be used by local people for a range of interests.



- A proposal made to the National Cycle Network Local Authority Funding Scheme to propose how this development can benefit Kilcock was unsuccessful. This was a major disappointment for the tourism sub group. However, in late 2014, a delegation met with Minister Alan Kelly, to outline the proposal and plans for Kilcock. This was very positively received and the group are optimistic that the proposal will be successful in the future.



- 2014 saw the establishment of Kilcock Men's Shed. Approximately 30 men from across Kilcock attend the Men's Shed every week and this group is going from strength to strength.
- A second FAI Street League took place in Kilcock, organised by FAI, Kilcock Celtic and Garda Síochána. This was very successful with 24 young people attending weekly.

Celbridge

Work continued to take place to establish the ISP in Celbridge. The research phase was completed and will be launched in 2015. The ISP co-ordinator assigned to Celbridge, was on maternity leave for the second half of 2014, and it is planned to commence work on the priorities identified in the research in early 2015.

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. Kildare County Council's 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.

The ISP anticipates that the work will continue to develop and grow and are looking forward to working with agencies, businesses, elected representatives and local communities in 2015.

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ISP Administrator

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Email: mariekane@kildare.ie

Sporting Achievements

A civic reception was held in Áras Chill Dara in recognition of sporting achievements in the county. Chairman of Kildare Sports Partnership, Ray D'Arcy and Mayor Fiona O'Loughlin presented the awards on the night.



**Hayley Nolan
Soccer**



**Brooke Dunne
Soccer**



**Rita Quirke
Special Olympics**



**Robert Hendrick
Kayaking**



**Shane Dunphy
Special Award**



**Members of Kildare U21
Hurling Team and Kildare
Senior Hurling Team**





**Kate Kelly
Paralympics**



**John Joyce
Boxing**



**Kelsey Leonard
Boxing**

**Sporting
Achievements**



**Gary Cully
Boxing**



**Willie Donoghue
Boxing**



**Brandon McCarthy
Boxing**



**James Hughes
Boxing**



**Natasha Logan
Boxing**



**Kildare Ladies Pitch
and Putt Team**



**Natasha O'Reilly
Boxing**



**Caitlin Sweeney
Boxing**



**Danny O'Reilly
Boxing**

**Sporting
Achievements**

Kildare Sports Partnership

Kildare Sports Partnership was established to co-ordinate and promote the development of sport and physical activity in the county. Following a bidding process in 2001, Kildare was one of the twelve successful areas chosen by the Irish Sports Council to pilot the Local Sports Partnership Initiative. Kildare Sports Partnership was launched in May 2001 and was established under the Private Company model in April 2002. Under The Fitzpatrick Review in 2005 it was recommended that the Local Sports Partnerships come under the remit of the County Development Board structure. On 26 March 2010 Kildare Sports Partnership came under the umbrella of Kildare County Council and the County Development Board and moved its base to the Community and Culture Department of Kildare County Council at Áras Chill Dara, Naas. Niall Quinn became Chairman of the board in January 2011 and remained in that capacity until mid 2014 when new Chairman Ray D'Arcy took on the role.

Summary of Programmes for 2014

Community Sports Leader Programme

Programme for unemployed people who want to become involved in health/fitness, sports coaching and sports leadership at

community level. Six programmes completed to date with 22 participants taking part in the Athy programme in early 2014.

Advanced Community Sports Leader Programme

An Advanced Community Sports Leader Programme course was developed in 2014 as a follow on to the foundation Community Sports Leader Programme with some participants gaining Job Bridge placement with the main sporting organisations and Kildare Sports Partnership.

Sports Inclusion Disability Programme

This programme is focused on removing barriers to participation for people with disabilities by adapting activities to make them inclusive with the following taking place in 2014;

- **Disability Inclusion Training**

Two six hour training courses took place in Naas and Maynooth with a total of 21 people trained in Disability Inclusion Training. Due to this training course a new multi-sports club for children with disabilities has been established by interested parents.

- **Learn 2 Swim Programme**

A pilot 6 week programme commenced on Sunday, 2 November in K-Leisure Naas. 10 children participated in the course.

- **Learn 2 Cycle Programme**

Three Learn 2 Cycle Programmes took place in 2014 with a total of 28 children participating. The Learn 2 Cycle has proven to be hugely successful with interest in the programme growing significantly. Parents, special needs schools and disability groups have all expressed an interest in the programme for 2015.

- **Powerchair Soccer Come and Try It Day**

Kildare Sports Partnership in conjunction with the FAI ran the Come and Try It Day on Saturday, 12 July in Newbridge Sports Centre.

Get Kildare Walking Initiative

This programme was set up to increase the number of people walking by facilitating a structured and co-ordinated approach. Some of the programmes included:

- 'Get Kildare Walking' Strategic Plan

- KLASP (Kildare Local Authority Steps Programme) – 40 employees participated
- Get Kildare Walking Festival – 12 different types of walks at different locations throughout the county.



Kildare Walking Festival

- Walking Leader Training - 3 people trained as leaders by Irish Heart Foundation and KSP.
- Kilberry 'Couch to 5K' Programme
- Athy 'Couch to 5K' Programme
- Castlemitchel 'Couch to 5K' Programme
- Kildare Town Walking Programme
- Kildare County Council Irish Sports Council Challenge
- Sli Na Slainte routes – new route in Rathangan established.
- Operation Transformation Walk



Operation Transformation Walk

Kildare Age Friendly Project

To increase the number of older people participating in sport and physical activity through various programmes including;

- Sportfest for over 55's
- Go For Life Games- eight groups established
- Kildare team won overall team event in National Go For Life Games in DCU.
- Aqua Aerobics for over 55's – K Leisure in Naas and Athy
- Go For Life Grant Scheme

Physical Activity Camps

To increase the number of children participating in sport and physical activity.

- Easter Camp – Athy School Completion Project – 130 children from local authority estates.
- Summer Camps – Leixlip, Naas, Clane, Sallins, Newbridge, Athy, Curragh and Kildare Town – over 500 children from local authority estates.
- Camp Leaders and Junior Leaders all trained through Active Leadership Programme.
- Family Fun Days in Kildare Town, Newbridge and Sallins.

Schools Activities

- Be Active After School Programme
- Junior Active Leader Programme

- Buntus Start for pre school children.
 - Naas CBS Mini Triathlon
 - Conor McCormack Run – Rathangan
 - Gymnastics – Kildangan N.S.
 - Sportshall Athletics
 - Playground markings
 - Walking Safety Awareness with Kildare Road Safety
 - Zumba Dance Classes – St Marys College, Naas
 - Scoil Lorcaín Maganey School walking programme

Irish Sports Council Programmes

- Buntus Start Programme for pre-school children
- Women In Sport Programme
- Code of Ethics and Child Protection Training
- Facilitation of National Pilot of the Club Childrens Officer Training
- Active Leadership Training
- Sports Inclusion Disability Training
- Get Ireland Active Programme

Local Projects

- Rathangan Project – emphasis on leadership training involving the wider community.
- Naas Resettlement Project – using sport as part of the integration

process for the Sudanese and Eritrean refugee community

- Secondary School Seminar
- Club Development Grants
- Civic reception for Kildare athletes
- K Partners Programme
- Website/Social Media Development
- Mens Cancer Awareness
- Sports First Aid
- Sprocket Rocket Cycling Programme

Community Run Programmes supported by Kildare Sports Partnership

- Parkrun - Establishment of first Parkrun in Naas. Free weekly 5K timed run with 1,150 registered to date.

- Castlemitchell Couch to 5K
- Kilberry Couch to 5K
- Athy Couch to 5K
- Moone Kilomarathon
- Athy Rugby Club 10K
- Scoil Mhuire Ballymore 10K
- Clogherinkoe 6K
- Conor McCormack Run
- Moone Kilomarathon
- Narraghmore Duathlon
- Carers Association Mini Marathon
- Kildare Town 10K
- Naas 10K
- National Playday
- Kildare Road Safety Expo
- Ladies Futsal Tournament
- Leinster Loop Cycling Event
- Tour De Foothills



Play Day at Áras Chill Dara

Arts Service

Highlights in the Arts Development programme 2014 included:

- The making of 'All About Eva', a feature film shot on location in Athy in May. The film was produced by Kildare County Council and directed by Ferdia Mac Anna. It was written by a team of local writers and featured local cast and crew. A screening for cast and crew took place on the eve of Culture Night.



- The biennial Dance Summer School took place in Maynooth University in July 2014. It attracted 68 health care professionals, actors, dancers, teachers and community workers.
- The Laban Guild Community Dance Leaders course participants graduated with certificates in September. Participants travelled from across Ireland to attend this year long prestigious course.
- The Creative Well - An integrated arts and health programme, was offered in Newbridge and Naas, in association

with the HSE mental health services and supported by the ISP.

- The 'Menu of Poems', was distributed to hospital wards, in waiting rooms, community and day care centres and other health settings for patients, visitors and staff to enjoy on 3 October. Menu of Poems is a project of Arts and Health Coordinators Ireland and was supported in 2014 by the Arts Council, Kildare County Council Arts Service and Arts and Health Coordinators of Ireland.
- 'If I had an artist for a day ...' 3,600 children in 40 primary schools countywide participated in the arts and education programme, with local visual artists, musicians, dancers, architects and circus practitioners.
- Culture Night - Now in its fifth year, 6,350 adults and children attended 59 events countywide. First time participants included Derry Beg Farm, Celbridge, Ballymore Eustace Brass Band, Celbridge Manor Hotel and Nissan Car Showrooms, Naas, demonstrating the diversity of arts opportunities across the county.
- Grant aid - €42,400 grant aid was provided to 42 professional artists and community groups throughout the

county, for the 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 the County Kildare Orchestra,

Leinster Printmaking Studio, Clane, Cake Contemporary Arts, Curragh Camp, Athy Community Arts Centre, The Performance Corporation, Celbridge, Moate Theatre, Naas and Riverbank Arts Centre - key organisations that enhance the cultural fabric of the county.



Flower Arrangements

Library Service

Kildare Library Service continued to successfully deliver an innovative and modern library service during 2014. 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. As a result Kildare libraries reached an additional 52,000 visits via our buildings and through in-house and outreach events in 2014 an 8% increase on 2013 figures.



Leixlip Library

Scheduled Time

Given that libraries are no longer just about books, an important part of our service in

Kildare has developed over the past number of years to meet the changing needs of communities. During 2014 Kildare Library Service extended its cultural, arts, educational information based events even further.



Children enjoying a good read in one of our libraries

Highlights of this programme of events include:

- The Age Friendly Programme was continued and in 2014 included an Age Friendly Festival, delivered at Leixlip Community Library. It had a large and enthusiastic attendance.
- The fifth Kildare Readers' Festival took place in October and contributors at various events included historian Padraig Yeates, broadcaster Tracey Pigott, authors Dermot Bolger, Jennifer Johnston, Francis Brennan, Professor Jim Lucey and Peter Sheridan. Approximately 1,500 people attended a

weekend of events. For further information visit:

www.kildarereadersfestival.ie



Francis Brennan at Kildare Readers Festival

- Reading Together and Rua the Library Squirrel: this child-centred marketing drive to promote pre-literacy skills to the parents of young children was expanded in 2014 and both the programme and Rua are in high demand



Rua the reading champion with the Mayor on his first birthday

- Play2Read Project – a targeted series of five workshops for preschoolers and

their parents to help them learn the pre-literacy skills required before they start school was also expanded by staff during 2014

- New events included: Engineers Weeks, Age Friendly Festival, Seachtaine na Gaeilge, Heritage Week and Maths Week.
- Extension of the Secondary School Programme
- Maynooth University and Maynooth Community Library shared programme this year included a Teresa Brayton lecture and exhibition, Culture Night events, Maynooth Film For All, Student Membership Drive and Christmas events
- 'Mentoring Kildare Writers Programme' saw Creative Writing Workshops for groups, with writers mentored by established Kildare authors such as John MacKenna, Ann Egan, Mae Leonard and Niamh Boyce.
- Kildare's Children's Book Festival hosted 58 events with nearly 2,500 children attending
- 2014 Science Week was bigger and better this year – 28 events with 1,573 children attending workshops from Science Ireland, Rediscovery and others. This represented an 18% increase on attendance in 2013.

- Nearly 1,500 children participated in the Summer Reading Buzz, a shared project with Dublin City, Fingal, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Dublin South and Longford libraries.

Open-Door Time

Our well stocked libraries include collections of DVD's, CD's, magazines and console games as well as the latest bestsellers in both fiction and non-fiction for lending. Internet access via WiFi or through booking a public PC is also available free of charge throughout the library network.



Launch of Inspiring Horizons in Rathangan Library

2014 highlights include:

- Library collections of approximately 450,000 items include bookclub and bestseller titles, collections in support of class visits, literacy and pre-literacy supports and specialist assistive materials such as the TTT collection
- and Better Basics collections, to name but a few.
- 2014 started with a flourish for Kildare Library Service as free membership for all was rolled out
- A series of remedial works addressing both accessibility and essential maintenance were delivered at Maynooth, Kilcullen, Clane and Celbridge libraries and at the Local Studies and Archives Building
- An energy conservation project was delivered in Kildare Town Library.
- Conservation works at Castledermot Community Library were completed during 2014
- Upgrade and refurbishment of exhibition and multi-purpose spaces were complete at Celbridge and Rathangan libraries to the direct benefit of audiences at library events
- Service hours at Clocha Rince Community Library were extended to meet user need in 2014
- Extensive consultation with focus groups (age friendly, youth services, accessibility, electronic users) to inform Library Development Plan due in 2015.
- Targeted collections such as "Shelf Help" have been extended and strategically marketed through internal and partnership networks. A supportive

programme of lectures is scheduled for February and March 2015

- Toys, Technology and Training Project is a collection of specialised toys and assistive technology. A new catalogue of toys and technologies was produced which was complemented by an online catalogue. A series of lectures and workshops to support parents, carers and teachers attracted audiences of over 1,500 people
- Bradburys Bookstop continued to develop. The Sunday morning adult book-club has proved hugely popular and a sample TTT collection is now in place.



**Porcelain pictures workshop
Scoil Colmcille N.S., Moone**

All The Time

During 2014 Kildare County Library Service had representation on the project

team to select a new national Library Management System (LMS). A system has now been selected and Kildare County Library Service will be the first library authority outside of Dublin to implement the new LMS during the Summer 2015.



Newbridge Book Club

2014 saw continued expansion of eServices. Highlights of our eServices facility included:

- An upgrade of our library website to include a searchable events calendar and dedicated readers pages, visit www.kildare.ie/library
- Kildare Library Service has engaged in extensive use of social media tools to promote and inform citizens of all library and arts events. The library twitter account was shortlisted for the Rabo Tweetie Awards in 2014
- WiFi was successfully delivered throughout the library network during 2014
- The 2014 eServices Roadshow in seven 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 again a huge success

eServices and collections include:

- 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 – we have recently added online Oxford Dictionary and Oxford References to our suite of eServices



Mayor Fiona O'Loughlin at Play Day 2014

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Local Government Reform Act 2014, provided for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) in the 31 local authority areas. LCDCs replace County Development Boards, and while retaining the collaborative nature of CDBs, have an enhanced role and different structure.

Role

LCDCs have a key function to achieve a more strategic, joined up approach to local and community development. LCDCs will have oversight and responsibility for local development and community related funding in their county.

Each LCDC will develop a six year Economic and Community Plan (LECP) in 2015. This plan will agree the strategic framework for economic and community development for the county. It will inform community and local development resource allocation, and inform other planning processes. The community element of the plan will be prepared by the LCDC, with the economic element prepared by the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support. There is a requirement that both elements

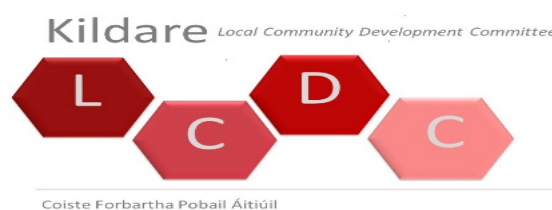
are prepared concurrently and form the basis for one overall LECP.

The LCDC is responsible for awarding the tender for the new two year social inclusion programme, SICAP. This programme will commence in April 2015.

Structure

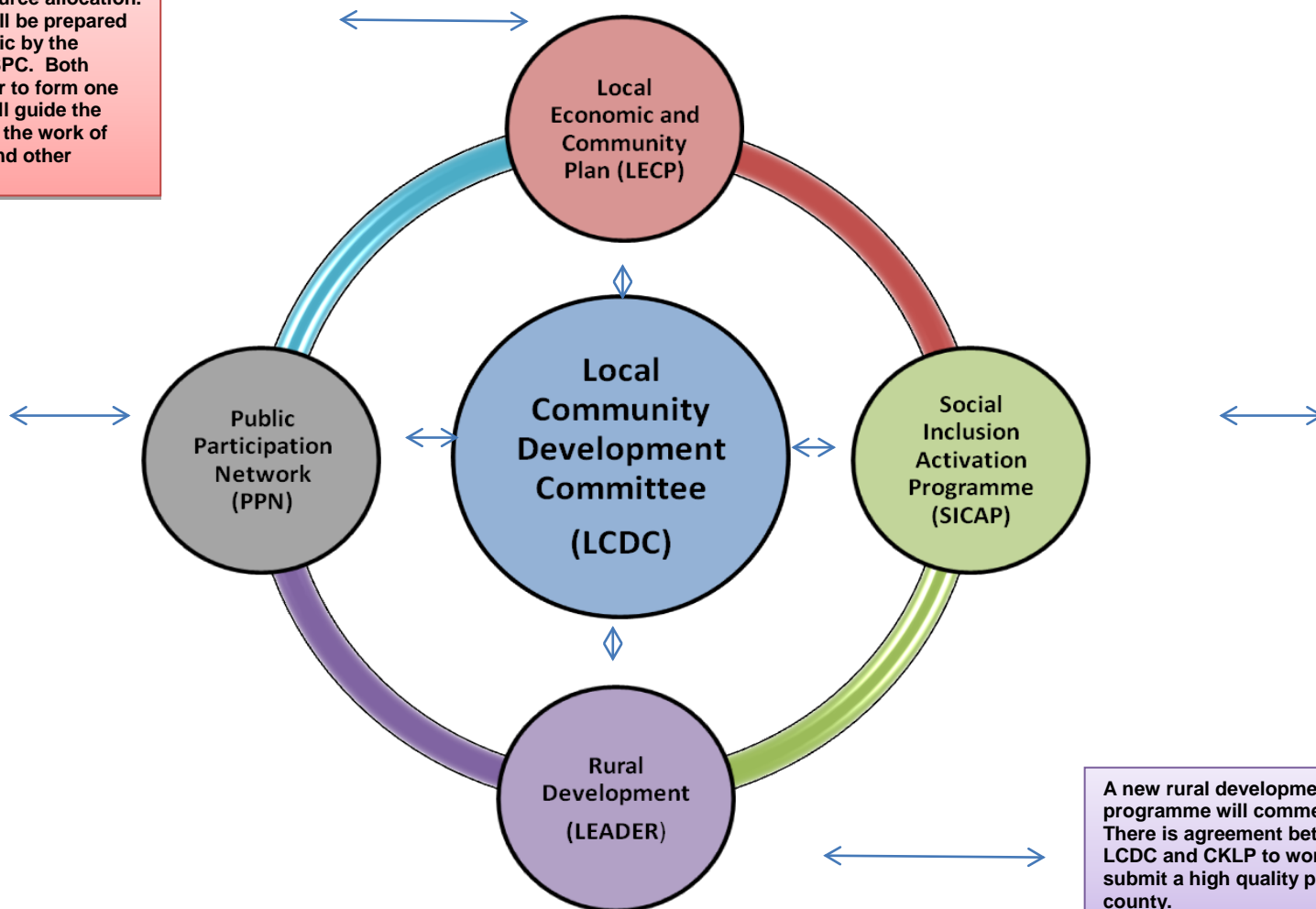
LCDCs are based on membership from statutory and non- statutory bodies (who hold the majority of seats). Administrative and secretariat support is provided by the local authority.

County Kildare LCDC is based on a nineteen member committee. Kildare LCDC was established in May 2014 and met seven times with very high attendance levels (77%) to date. A series of meetings are scheduled for 2015 which aims to build on the work to date to reach the objective of a more strategic, joined up approach to local and community development across Kildare.



A six year LECP plan is being developed as a statutory requirement for all counties. The purpose is to clarify priorities and inform resource allocation. The community aspect will be prepared by the LCDC and economic by the Economic Development SPC. Both aspects will work together to form one plan. This overall plan will guide the work of the LCDC; inform the work of Kildare County Council and other agencies.

PPN's are being established as the mechanism to connect with and involve local communities in decision making across a range of structures – LCDC, SPC, Joint Policing Committees and statutory processes that require community participation e.g. planning.



SICAP is the new national social inclusion programme 2015-2017. It will be overseen by the LCDC and delivered by a contracted organisation. It will be informed by the LECP plan (when completed) and respond to priority social inclusion issues highlighted in the county.

A new rural development LEADER programme will commence in 2015. There is agreement between Kildare LCDC and CKLP to work together to submit a high quality plan for the county.

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.

In summary, the main objectives in a plan 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

The current County Development Plan for Kildare is for the period 2011 to 2017 and was adopted by the council in May 2011.

Review of County Development Plan 2011-2017

Kildare County Council will commence the preparation of the new County Development Plan in April 2015. This plan-making process must be completed within two years - April 2017. The new development plan will set out the strategy for the future planning and sustainable development of County Kildare for the period 2017-2023. The plan is the county councils main public statement of planning policies and objectives and of the criteria by which new developments are assessed. The development plan making process includes periods of consultation during which the input of the public is invited and welcomed.

Variation No. 3 of County Development Plan 2011 - 2017

Policies to address high voltage transmission lines

Variation no. 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 was conducted in 2014 to incorporate policies

to address high voltage transmission lines. The objective of the variation is to establish the planning policy framework for the future development of high voltage transmission lines within the county in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development. The variation was adopted at the council meeting on 20 October 2014.

However, on 12 November 2014, notice was received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, that the Minister had formed the provisional opinion that, in adopting Variation no. 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017

- (i) that the Planning Authority has ignored or not taken account of a submission made on the Minister's behalf in September 2014 in respect of the proposed material alterations to Variation No. 3 of the County Kildare Development Plan 2011-2017 and
- (ii) that the variation as adopted is not in compliance with the requirements of S.13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

In accordance with the relevant statutory provisions the council engaged in a further round of public consultation and prepared

the Chief Executive report on same. As at 31 December 2014 the process was ongoing.

Up-to-date details on policy HT 11 are available to view on the councils website at the following link:

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/CDPVariationNo3>

Wind Energy Strategy County Kildare - Proposed Variation No. 4

The All Island Research Observatory (AIRO) in NUI Maynooth have been contracted to carry out the GIS based analysis and map outputs associated with the wind strategy for County Kildare. A considerable amount of the relevant draft mapping of constraints and facilitators has been completed as part of the preparation of the Kildare Wind Energy Strategy.

In order to bring the strategy closer to completion the conclusion of the review of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, 2006) "Wind Energy Development Planning Guidelines" is required. The guidelines will address issues such as noise, shadow flicker, separation distances from dwellings etc. The council was advised by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local

Government (Circular PL 20-13) to defer the completion of the county wind strategy until the policy review of the said department's Wind Energy Development Guidelines and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources completes the Renewable Energy Export Policy and Development Framework. The council has been informed that the Wind Energy Guidelines are expected to be completed in February/March 2015. It is envisaged that once these guidelines are completed the Kildare Wind Energy Strategy can be further progressed.

A variation of the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 will be required to adopt the Wind Energy Strategy. The strategy will comprise maps and a written statement and will be informed by appropriate environmental studies including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA). Consultation for the screening for SEA takes a period of 4 weeks. Depending on the outcome of the screening process the Planning Authority may need to engage environmental consultancy services to conduct the relevant SEA/AA as appropriate.

Local Area Plans

2014 began with the Newbridge Local Area Plan becoming effective from 29 January 2014. The Kilcullen Local Area Plan was adopted on 20 October 2014 and became effective from 16 November 2014.

The following local area plans are being amended to bring them in line with the new Core Strategy in the County Development Plan throughout 2014-2015:

- Monasterevin
- 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 2014 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.

Development Management

Kildare County Council received 1164 planning applications of which 117 were invalid, 782 were granted and 241 were refused.

The Development Management Section also dealt with the following number of licenses and applications in 2014;

- 30 Section 254 Licence applications
- 44 Section 5 Certificate of Exemption applications
- 26 Section 97 Exemption from Part V applications
- 9 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 2014 a total of 176 commercial 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 10 pre-planning clinics were held in Áras Chill Dara in 2014, attended by 141 prospective applicants.

Building Control

A total of 311 valid Commencement Notices and 147 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received under Building Control legislation in 2014. In addition, 25 applications for regularisation certificates were received along with 109 applications for Disability Access Certificates and 42 applications for seven day notices.

The new Building Control Regulations came into effect on 1 March 2014. This places greater onus on builders, building owners and supervising engineers and architects to ensure that new buildings complied with the building regulations.

At the same time the new Building Control Management System (BCMS) came into effect this enabled those engaged in building projects to upload commencement notices and supporting documents directly onto the system. By the end of the year

most practitioners were lodging commencement notices in this manner.

Development Control

2014 saw a significant resurgence in the level of new house building, particularly in the north of the county.

The creation of Irish Water did inhibit the level of activity in taking estates in charges. However the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government Circular 5-14, which was issued in November 2014 did provide the necessary clarity to enable the taking in charge to resume. By the end of the year 36 estates were ready to put on display 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 still 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 257 new complaints of unauthorised developments were received in 2014. There were 145 warning letters issued to developers and 70 enforcement notices served. Legal proceedings were initiated in 9 cases and 265 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 2014. This was achieved by providing advice on all aspects of Kildare's heritage and matters relating to heritage issues in the county and by developing policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of the county's heritage.

The Heritage Officer contributes to the development of policy in the context of the review of local area plans and any amendments to the County Development Plan 2011-2017. The actions of the County Kildare Heritage Plan implemented in 2014 include the following;

Collection of heritage data

- Completion of the Kildare Wetland Survey Phase III
- Completion of guidelines on the reuse and extension of local authority cottages
- Habitat mapping and development of Green Infrastructure maps for a number of towns

Raising heritage awareness

- Heritage Week 2014 (96 events)
- National Tree Week
- Ongoing advice to tidy towns groups, community groups and individuals regarding heritage management and conservation
- Athy, Naas and Castledermot are members of the Walled Town Network. Athy organised medieval festivals with the support of Kildare County Council and the Heritage Council. Kildare prepared a Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan for the town walls. Castledermot hosted a pop up exhibition of High Crosses. All funding was secured through the Walled Town Networks Grant Scheme
- Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2014 (55 applications received funding totalling €47,964). Community listed below.
- Development to a Monastic trail audio guide

Inform and advise on local authority heritage management

- Assess graveyard grants
- Work of Historic Monuments Advisory Committee
- Input into review of local area plans
- Input into review of planning applications and Part 8 applications
- Input into the Decade of Commemorations Strategy
- Barrow Navigation Project
- Input into the UNESCO bid

Promoting best practice

- Advice to community groups, tidy towns and individuals on heritage projects
- Supported Tir Na Mona in the management of Ballynafagh Lake. Consolidated the signage at the site.

A total of €145,000 was spent on the implementation of the Heritage Plan and other heritage projects in 2014. €76,000 was secured from the Heritage Council and €14,000 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. A total of €148,000 was spent on the conservation of historic monuments in 2014, this amount include allocations under the Built Heritage Job Leverage Scheme, Buildings in State Care Scheme and contributions made by

community groups and Kildare County Council.

Community Heritage Grant Scheme Projects

- Ard Cloch (Modern Megalith) Project
- Window coverings to protect artefacts
- Living in Ballitore in Quaker Times V Today
- Signage at river walk Kilcullen
- Leaflet on gardening for butterflies and moths
- Caragh Field Names
- Castledermot History and the Story of the High Crosses and their relationship with Moone High Cross
- Historical and Educational Sign for Water Turbines in Celbridge
- Viewings, Talks and Publication
- Heritage Signage Clane
- Renewing the Bee in the Community Garden
- One day seminar "They called it the Great War"
- Curragh Families Hospital Monument
- Nimrod - Ernest Shackleton Vol 8
- Further investigations into the Priory at Great Connell
- Atlas of the natural, cultural and economic resources in Lullymore
- Woodstock Castle "In search of Athy's medieval past"
- Researching Kilcullen and World War 1
- Bat Educational Programme
- Yellowhammer bird ringing projects in County Kildare
- Expansion and Development of Education Programme
- Mock World War 1 Trench at the KCS
- Kildare Heritage Monastic Garden
- Free walking tours Kildare Town
- Kildoon Wood Walk
- Programme of history talks in Kill
- Erection of plaque to commemorate Gabriel Hayes and Sean O'Riordain
- Interpretative Board For the Well on Old Hill, Leixlip
- Bio-diverse and wildlife friendly park by the Rye River
- Rathcoffey Roll Books Project
- Exhibition of the Maynooth and County Kildare involvement in the volunteers 1913
- Maynooth People and World War 1
- Knotweed in The Green adjacent to the Lyreen River
- Identification of habitat of local otters and associated conservation management plan
- Nicholastown Green Wild Area
- Develop queen rearing and promote the art and knowledge of beekeeping
- Wildflower and heritage board
- Town Hall Clock Restoration Fund
- Maynooth College and World War 1
- Restoration of organ, Kill Church
- Preservation of Tea Lane Graveyard
- Collaborative outreach project to promote the work of Teresa Brayton
- Enhancement of the wildlife Park for Kilcullen residents

- Maynooth 1916 Commemoration
- Enhancement of Ballynafagh Lake
- Erection of sign at Monument
- Wolfetone Banner restoration project



Architectural Conservation Record of Protected Structures

The Architectural Conservation Officer (ACO) provides technical advice and recommendations to Kildare Local

Authorities and the public, on the built heritage of the county. This guidance is carried out on a statutory basis through Part 4 of the Planning and Development Act. Historic buildings and their setting are protected, through their addition to the Record of Protected Structures as part of development plan reviews. Historic structures can also be added to the Record of Protected Structures outside the development plan reviews.

Architectural Conservation Areas

Historic designed landscapes and demesnes, historic spaces and their material urban or rural enclosure, can be protected by establishing Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA).

ACAs have been proposed as part of the various development plan reviews. A Historic Landscape Characterisation Study was carried out for Kildare town. This is an important heritage survey framework, together with Conservation Management Plans, they can inform local area plan reviews and the definition of Architectural Conservation Areas. This ACA has been adopted into the County Development Plan. This study was made possible through part funding from the Heritage Council and as an action of the Heritage Officer's Heritage Forum.

Re-use

The ACO advises on proper repair works and suitable reuse of protected and vernacular structures. Architectural conservation advice guides repair works and appropriate interventions to protected structures. Early consultation is critical at feasibility stage, from a Conservation Consultant, with the relevant professional training and experience.

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) has published an 'Advice' series as a guide to conservation best practice.

Building conservation is a specialised discipline and the method of work needs to be specified by experts with a knowledge and experience of historic buildings. This is to ensure, that the special heritage character of the building is protected.



Ballykelly Maltings



K Club, Straffan



Maynooth



Kildare Youth Hub

Funding and grants

The DAHG established a matched funding scheme, the Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme (BHJLS) in 2014. Kildare Local Authorities were allotted €163,000. Private owners and community groups were eligible to apply. The Built Heritage Jobs

Leverage Scheme seeks to encourage the investment of private capital in a number of small-scale, labour intensive projects to repair and conserve historic structures and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craft workers and trades people. The scheme is designed to assist the owners/occupiers of protected structures. Out of 24 project applications, 19 were completed.

From the €163,000 fund, €462,587 was privately leveraged. This scheme was highlighted on RTE Nationwide programme on Kildare's Heritage.

Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme



Shell Cottage, Carton



Quinsboro thatch



Tin Church, Sallins



Pewter Mill, Timolin

Kildare County Council was also successful in obtaining funding of €66,965 for the lime mortar masonry repair for Grey Abbey outside Kildare Town through the Buildings in State Care (BISC) grant scheme. These works were applied for and procured by the Senior Architect. The works were supervised by a Grade 1

Conservation Architect and monitored by the ACO.

Buildings in State Care



Grey Abbey



Grey Abbey



Grey Abbey



Grey Abbey phased works was part funded by the DAHG, BHJLS, the BISC, Kildare Village Outlet and Community groups.

Collaboration

The ACO advises other Directorates on the re-use of historic buildings and best conservation practice.

The Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC) seeks advice from its

technical officers on the ongoing maintenance and repair of medieval monuments and graveyards, in the care of Kildare County Council.

The ACO funded and monitored lime mortar consolidation masonry works through the Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme for Grey Abbey, Clane Friary and Donaghcumper. The Senior Architect procured Grade 1 Conservation Architects to supervise these works. The Heritage Officer liaised with community groups on these Historic Monuments Advisory Committee projects also.



Clane Friary



Donaghcumper

Heritage Projects

The ACO liaises with the Heritage Officer on various built heritage projects through the Heritage Forum and its actions which are part funded by the Heritage Council. Consultants developed a draft guide for Kildare County Council cottages.



Cottage, Kildare

Irish Walled Town Network

Castledermot, Naas, Athy and Kildare town are medieval walled towns in the county. A Conservation Management Plan was drawn up by consultants for Kildare town.



Kildare Town (RIA)

Endangerment

There is a statutory duty of care for owners and occupiers to repair and maintain their protected structures.

and weatherproof the historic fabric of the protected structure.

The local authority can serve endangerment notices to ensure that the necessary works are carried out to secure



Home Farm, Sallins



Home Farm, Sallins

Bóithre, Iompar agus Sábháilteacht Poiblí



Roads, Transport and Public Safety

Roads, Transport and Public Safety

During 2014 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 ten 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 all 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 Union procurement policies
- examined energy usage and worked to minimise energy costs
- promoted, developed and maintained Civil Defence as an effective volunteer-based organisation providing emergency response and community support services
- maintained six fire stations at Athy, Leixlip, Maynooth, Monasterevin, Naas and Newbridge providing an operational twenty four hour fire and emergency response service.

Road Infrastructure

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

Motorway	128km
National Primary	12km
National Secondary	17km
Regional	482km
Local Primary	355km
Local Secondary	1,040km
Local Tertiary	494km
Local (Total)	1,889km
Total	2,528km

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 fund the design, construction and maintenance of national roads, the Department of Transport, Tourism and

Sport and Kildare County Council co-fund the design, construction and maintenance of regional and local roads and the National Transport Authority fund a programme of sustainable transport measures.

NRA	€ 5,987,090
DTTaS	€ 15,232,650
KCC	€ 14,290,966
NTA	€ 2,415,000
Total for 2014	€37,925,706

Works Completed/Under Way

The largest project underway is the R402 Enfield to Edenderry Improvement Scheme. In 2014 significant construction works were undertaken with funding of €6,700,000 and the project was opened to traffic.

A total of thirty five smaller schemes were completed around the county using the Restoration Improvement Grant at a total cost of €4,593,500.

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

Pay Parking

Parking is regulated in six towns in County Kildare; Athy, Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Naas and Newbridge. Following the adoption of Pay Parking Bye Laws in 2013 parking regulations will also be introduced in Maynooth.

Road Safety

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

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



**Live by the rules
of the road**

Fire Service

Kildare Fire Service provides a range of services for the citizens of Kildare. These services include the implementation of the Fire Safety Certification System, inspection of buildings for compliance with fire safety requirements, licensing of petrol stations and bulk stores, advising on safety in relation to the storage of explosives and developing Major Emergency Plans in consultation with the other principal response agencies.

Our operational service is delivered from six retained stations located at Newbridge, Naas, Athy, Maynooth, Monasterevin and Leixlip.

Operations Section

In 2014 the Fire Service attended 1,568 fire and emergency calls. The breakdown of calls per station was as follows:

- Newbridge 379 calls
- Naas 396 calls
- Athy 217 calls
- Maynooth 226 calls
- Monasterevin 177 calls
- Leixlip 173 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.

Fire Safety and Emergency Management Section

Fire Safety

171 Fire Safety Certificate Applications were received in 2014 along with 24 applications for Regularisation Fire Safety Certificates.

A total of 210 fire safety inspections were undertaken across the county. Fire Service comments were also provided on 315 planning applications.

Community Fire Safety

Kildare Fire Service continued to deliver the schools programme. This programme provides age appropriate education on fire safety to primary students. In 2014 the programme was delivered to 130 of the 137 primary school third classes in the county.

Two fire station Open Days were held in 2014. The locations of these events were Naas and Monasterevin Fire Stations. These Open Days were very successful and local communities took the opportunity

to meet their firefighters and learn more about the work they do.



Open Day in Monasterevin



Open Day in Naas

Facebook

Kildare Fire Service continues to operate a Facebook page and we currently have 921 likes. The page provides fire safety information and updates on the activities of the service.

Chief Fire Officers Conference

In May 2014 Kildare Fire Service hosted the Chief Fire Officers Conference in the Killashee House Hotel. The conference hosted speakers from Ireland, the U.K., the Netherlands, Estonia and the U.S.A. along with delegates from fire services throughout Ireland and a large trade show.



Chief Fire Officers Conference

Civil Defence

The international civil defence badge is worn by members of Civil Defence to show they are a 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, Auxiliary 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 has 64 volunteers at present 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. Weekly training classes are undertaken in Naas.

Events

2014 was a busy year for Kildare Civil Defence. During the year volunteers attended a large number of events in the county and also assisted with events in other counties. Assistance was provided at the Punchestown Racing Festival, the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby at the Curragh, the Dragon Boat Festival in Athy, the Military Vehicle Show at the Curragh and at local cycle races, road races, community and sporting events.

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



Health, Safety and Risk Management

Kildare County Council is 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 2014:

- Holding discussion groups with operational staff to identify health and safety blockers and agreeing on best possible solutions
- The preparation and communication of a new safety statement/safety manual for the organisation.
- Working with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, the NRA and other local authorities on the review of Temporary Traffic Management requirements.
- Working with the Local Government Management Agency on the development of a root cause analysis toolkit to be used in incident investigations to identify the root cause(s) and ensuring appropriate control measures are put in place to prevent recurrence.
- Holding a series of meetings, such as, pre-start meetings, Health and Safety Senior Management Committee meetings, safety rep meetings, thus ensuring the promotion of a positive safety culture and compliance with legislation.
- 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 2014 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 (40ML) and Rathangan/Monasterevin wellfields (8ML).

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.
- Working with the Dublin Region and Irish Water under the Service Level Agreement to meet demands throughout the county.
- Barrow Supply Abstraction Plant at Srowland for 40ML commissioned in July 2013 and conditioning plant to reduce water hardness commissioned in November 2014.
- Commissioning of Castlewarden to Ballygoran scheme and Ballygoran to Collinstown to provide security of supply to Intel in January 2015.
- Implement Irish Waters new procurement system for purchasing goods/ services and Maximo for dealing with queries.

- Complete Irish Waters data book and dash board every month.

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 23.3% average for December 2014. 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 the Lower Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme (LLVRSS) wastewater treatment plant at Leixlip (serving Kilcock, Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Straffan) and the Upper Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme (ULVRSS) wastewater treatment plant at Osberstown (serving Naas, Newbridge, Kilcullen, Athgarvan, Prosperous, Sallins, Clane, The Curragh, Brownstown, Suncroft, Johnstown and Kill). Both have current design capacities of 80,000 population equivalent (PE). There are a further 35 wastewater

treatment plants scattered throughout the county, ranging in size from 10pe to 24,000pe. Feeding each of these plants is a network of over 2,000 kms of sewers and 110 waste water pumping stations.

Major capital work progressed during the year to upgrade a number of plants.

Upgrade work began in August 2014 at Osberstown Wastewater Treatment Plant, increasing the capacity of the ULVRSS agglomeration to 130,000 PE from its existing 80,000pe.

Work continued at Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant increasing the capacity of the LLVRSS to 150,000 PE from its previous 80,000pe. Final commissioning also took place at Ballymore Eustace Wastewater Treatment Plant increasing its capacity to 2,000pe from its previous capacity of 500pe.

Minor upgrade works took place at Coill Dubh, Kilmeague, Rathangan, Timolin, and Kildangan wastewater treatment plants to help with license compliance and reduction of impact on receiving waters. A large number of pumping stations also were upgraded, primarily for energy reduction and efficiency reason.

The Waste Water Operations department has been working closely with the

Development Control team in relation to the taking in charge of wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations associated within private housing schemes. Significant advancement was made on some developments, but significant obstacles remain due to many developers going into receivership/bankruptcy. Due to difficulties, the council has been maintaining a private wastewater treatment plant in Narraghmore. Work has also advanced steadily in relation to the final commissioning of a brand new 1,500pe wastewater treatment plant in Ballitore so as to accommodate the needs of the village and will also accommodate a new school that is currently under construction in Crookstown nearby.

The planning of works was ongoing for a number of major capital projects which are expected to advance to construction in 2015. Two of the networks contracts for the ULVRSS, Contracts 2A and 2B are progressing well. Approval was given by Irish Water to advance the tender for the Newbridge Southern Interceptor Sewer (Contract 2A), while the other networks contract (2B) is being reviewed with plans to advance to contract. Contracts were signed to carry out upgrade works to the value of almost €1m at Coill Dubh

Wastewater Treatment Plant so as to ensure that it complies with EPA license requirements.

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. Currently, all agglomerations less than 500pe in size in Kildare have Certificates of Authorisation, while ten of the 13 larger plants are licensed. It is envisaged that the 3 remaining ones (Kildare, Monasterevin, and Rathangan) will be licensed during 2015. Kildare County Council Water Services staff are working closely with Irish Water and the EPA in this regard.

Capital Programme

The Kildare County Council Water Services Capital Project Office, acting as agents of Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement, is managing the delivery of all water and wastewater projects in the county that are included in Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan 2014-2016.

Contracts completed during 2014

- Barrow Abstraction Scheme - Contract 1 - Water Treatment Plant - Water Conditioning Plant Variation
- North Leixlip Sewerage Scheme Contract

Contracts under construction in 2014

- Lower Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme - Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Contract
- Castlewarden to Ballygoran Pipeline and Reservoir Contract
- Ballygoran to Collinstown Watermain Contract
- Ballymore Eustace Sewerage Scheme Contract A – Wastewater Treatment Plant
Contract B – Pumping Station and Pipelines

Contract which began construction in 2014

- Osberstown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Contract

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 2014

Subsidy Grants €128,694.40

To the various group water schemes in the county.

Advance DBO Works €11,951.69

Take Over of Group Water Schemes

No Group Schemes were taken in charge during 2014 as Irish Water had not

established their protocol for taking in charge of group schemes.

Pilot Group Sewerage Schemes

Boston Cottages Group Sewerage Scheme

The works were not carried out due to weather conditions towards the end of 2014 but an application for funding has been made to carry out these works in 2015.

Smaller Water and Sewerage Schemes

Funding is now provided, since January 2014, for capital projects for the provision of upgrading of small water and sewerage schemes through the Irish Water Minor Capital Projects.

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 €25,295.98 was paid under this scheme in 2014.

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
- Morrell River Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Dara Park Surface Water Improvement 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 funding commitment 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

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 3,508 tonnes of glass and 51 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 120 visits to schools, businesses and community groups (e.g. tidy towns) to create public awareness of waste issues and to promote good waste disposal practice in the community.

94 of the county's schools had been awarded green flags under the Green Flag Campaign and a total of 128 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 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 €32,000 to 22 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 €32,000 to 10 separate projects including dog fouling awareness campaign involving audio reminders to the public.



Fishing Platform on the Liffey at Ballymore

Tidy Towns

The council worked closely to support the tidy towns committees in Kildare in 2014. 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 were two gold medal winners in Straffan and Naas. There were three silver medal winners in Kill, Leixlip and Newbridge and six bronze medal winners in Rathangan, Ballymore Eustace, Maynooth, Clane and Celbridge.



Straffan Tidy Towns receiving Gold Medal Award in Tidy Town Competition

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 537 fines issued for litter offences in 2014.

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.
- An anti-dog fouling stencil is being piloted in a number of areas frequented by dog walkers. The stencil is used to paint a symbol reminding people to remove dog waste. This was augmented in 2014 with the addition of a temporary audio warning device using a motion sensor. The device was set up at a site that is subject a lot of dog fouling. The device was favourably received and further trialling will take place in 2015.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Year ended 31 December 2014
(with comparative revenue account figures for previous years)

REVENUE ACCOUNT

	KCC*	KCC	KCC	KCC
Expenditure	2014	2013	2012	2011
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	22,806,753	23,336,991	20,263,507	22,375,627
Road Transportation and Safety	31,169,089	25,781,693	24,683,802	27,914,562
Water Supply and Sewerage	12,953,104	21,982,457	23,051,625	23,673,594
Development Incentives and Controls	8,918,678	7,927,111	8,151,139	8,680,129
Environmental Protection	26,709,722	29,573,757	28,394,126	32,750,134
Recreation and Amenity	8,185,083	8,275,033	7,863,202	8,246,631
Agriculture and Education	2,848,229	4,636,973	7,687,392	13,642,277
Miscellaneous Services	22,550,150	19,190,232	17,542,126	6,960,813
Total	136,140,808	140,704,247	137,636,919	144,243,767

Receipts (Grants, Goods and Services)

Housing and Building	22,339,579	21,109,465	18,553,726	20,419,668
Road Transportation and Safety	13,228,306	11,899,047	12,384,971	13,880,457
Water Supply and Sewerage	12,882,404	13,685,200	12,069,423	12,353,255
Development Incentives and Controls	2,518,538	1,282,369	1,334,899	1,306,399
Environmental Protection	16,099,267	19,639,564	17,475,323	21,252,249
Recreation and Amenity	860,526	1,313,456	1,194,113	1,387,880
Agriculture and Education	2,168,360	3,628,687	6,684,822	12,679,258
Miscellaneous Services	4,495,017	4,882,285	4,303,184	4,239,618
Sub-Total	74,591,997	77,440,073	74,000,461	87,518,784
Urban Authority Accounts	0	2,865,954	2,807,836	2,852,094
Pension Related Deductions	2,068,865	2,120,213	2,126,952	2,268,787
Local Government Fund	9,686,924	20,634,229	19,628,180	21,604,877
County Rates	57,823,714	47,194,791	46,928,784	36,235,752
Total	144,171,500	150,255,260	145,492,213	150,480,294
Transfers to/from Reserves	-7,660,596	-9,297,151	-7,603,996	-5,321,720

Surplus/Deficit for year	370,096	253,863	251,297	914,810
Opening Balance	-1,815,806	-2,747,147	-2,998,444	-3,913,254
Closing Balance	-1,445,710	-2,493,284	-2,747,147	-2,998,444

CAPITAL INVESTMENT	2014	2013	2012	2011
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	5,929,014	3,463,268	6,299,888	14,641,512
Road Transportation and Safety	32,012,329	30,012,454	42,359,890	26,371,931
Water Supply and Sewerage	3,206,835	38,830,475	38,283,194	20,339,215
Development Incentives and Controls	3,351,515	1,984,954	2,757,447	15,293,521
Environmental Protection	336,590	663,829	1,257,504	831,287
Recreation and Amenity	1,318,218	1,357,612	496,575	921,476
Agriculture and Education	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Services	1,813,847	373,149	0	6,794,682
Total	47,968,348	76,685,741	91,454,498	85,193,624

* The figure for 2014 includes the following former town councils;

Athy Town Council

Naas Town Council

Corporate Plan 2009-2014 Progress Report 2014

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 €250,000 was awarded in 2014 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 agencies and departments. 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 (replaced by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)) 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.(Local Community Development Committee) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Integrated Service Programme (ISP) in Kildare and Kilcock is now in transition phase. With an ISP now established in Celbridge. 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. The LCDC is now established and first phase of research completed.
Community & Enterprise (Leisure Services)	1.7 To continue to work with existing community/residents' associations and support the development of new residents associations in urban areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide communities with support in relation to amenity and landscaping works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical and financial assistance to various Tidy Towns Committees including Leixlip, Celbridge, Carbury, Kildare, Kill, Newbridge Naas Narraghmore, Nurney Monasterevin, Castledermot in 2014. Completion of tree planting programme for county Completion of tree pruning and removal programme Completion of Bulb Planting Programme Grass Maintenance Programme Support to Kildare Tidy Towns for Monastic Garden. Work continued on the conservation of Leixlip Spa Well.
Corporate Services	1.4 To work to improve the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and enhance 	Continue to improve the accuracy of the electoral register by :

	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.	local democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeting of publicity and information on registration process through social media advertising campaigns and leaflet drops. ▪ Target second and third level institutions to alert those approaching age requirement for entry on Register. ▪ Continued input of Council and Oireachtas members to ensure accuracy of Register ▪ Promoting the use of e-requests for information and application forms, particularly prior to issue of supplementary register.
	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"> ▪ Procedures reviewed, including standing orders, in advance of election of 40 member council in May 2014. • Members Services Unit established to facilitate and assist 40 member council. • 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 work of policy committees, on an annual basis, and reviewing this through the corporate policy group • Continue to assist the members in identifying training to meet their requirements, particularly with regard to facilitating the work of the strategic policy committees.
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, water, air and noise pollution 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		Ongoing engagement with elected members through Housing Strategic Policy Committee and the Community and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee, Local Traveller Accommodation

	as public representatives.		Consultative Committee, Kildare Joint Policing Committee and through the Regional Homelessness Forum. Regular communication with staff in the Housing Department on issues concerning members 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 ▪ Completion of County Kildare Integration Strategy 2014-2019
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"> • Redevelop the councillor extranet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Design delivered for new council. The Councillor extranet is now the primary source of information exchange for councillors. This new design is the main interface between the councillors and the council in terms of meetings, minutes, agendas and overall communication. This is a major redevelopment and will be designed to work with the new chamber infrastructure and with the rollout of devices to councillors.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out new devices to all councillors to replace existing 5 year old laptops. 	Complete. New laptops provided to all councillors.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support councillor hardware, wireless internet access, printing from party rooms etc. 	New WiFi solution in chamber. Print facilities in members rooms.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to facilitate the growing need for members of the public to connect to the internet using their own devices in public libraries a new 	New system based on Meraki WiFi devices with cloud based controller software implemented throughout the library network.

		infrastructure project will be completed that addresses concerns over content management and security. A key requirement is to implement a solution that does not consume staff resources, can connect to library management systems but is independent from any one system and provides staff with the levels of control and reporting functionality required.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The popularity of social media continues apace. IT will continue to promote and invest in social media interfaces with the public and will seek to do more in the mobile/tablet space. 	Ongoing in 2014.
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. 	<p>In 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fifth Kildare Readers' Festival took place in October, contributors at various events included historian Padraig Yeates, broadcaster Tracey Pigott, Dermot Bolger, Jennifer Johnston, Francis Brennan, Professor Jim Lucey and Peter Sheridan. Over 1,000 attended event. Reading Together and Rua the Library Squirrel – a child centered marketing drive to promote pre-literacy skills to the parents of young children was expanded in 2014 Play2Read Project – a targeted series of 5 workshops for preschoolers and their parents to help them learn the pre-literacy skills required before they start school Maynooth University and Maynooth Community Library shared programming - Teresa Brayton lecture and exhibition, Culture Night events, Maynooth Film For All, Student

			<p>Membership Drive and Christmas Events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Toys Technology and Training Project is a collection of specialised toys and assistive technology. A new catalogue of toys and technologies was produced which was complemented by an online catalogue. A series of lectures and workshops to support parents, carers and teachers attracted audiences of over 1,500 people • 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. A capsule collection of 60 titles covering the topics of low mood and depression, worry, stress and anxiety, general mental health and wellbeing, addiction, parenting, relationships and social issues. Also a series of lectures and workshops to support and promote the collection have been well attended in the 7 main libraries and at NUIM <p>Progress 2014 Arts Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The making of 'All About Eva', a feature film shot on location in Athy in May. The film was produced by Kildare County Council and directed by Ferdia Mac Anna. It was written by a team of local writers and featured local cast and crew. A screening for Cast and Crew took place on the eve of Culture Night. • The biennial Dance Summer School took place in Maynooth University in July 2014. It attracted 68 health care professionals, actors, dancers, teachers and community workers. • The Laban Guild Community Dance Leaders course participants graduated with certificates in September. Participants travelled from across Ireland to attend this year long prestigious course. • The Creative Well - An integrated arts and health programme, was offered in Newbridge and Naas, in association with the HSE mental health services and supported by the ISP.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Menu of Poems', was distributed on hospital wards, in waiting rooms, Community and Day Care Centres and other health settings for patients, visitors and staff to enjoy on 3rd October. Menu of Poems is a project of Arts and Health Coordinators Ireland and was supported in 2014 by The Arts Council, Kildare County Council Arts Service and Arts + Health Coordinators of Ireland. • 'If I had an artist for a day ...' 3,600 children in 40 primary schools countywide participated in the arts and education programme, with local visual artists, musicians, dancers, architects and circus practitioners. • Culture Night - now in its fifth year, 6,350 adults and children attended 59 events countywide. First time participants included Derry Beg Farm, Celbridge, Ballymore Eustace Brass Band, Celbridge Manor Hotel and Nissan Car Showrooms, Naas, demonstrating the diversity of arts opportunities across the county. • Grant aid - € 42,400 grant aid was provided to 42 professional artists and community groups throughout the county, for the creation of new works, collaborative arts initiatives, professional development opportunities, amateur drama and Youth Theatre productions and artists in schools.
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 councillors are provided with timely information.
	1.13 To continue to engage in open consultation procedures to ensure broad representation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Directorate has engaged in open consultation procedures to ensure broad representation for planned works.

	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 in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water.. ▪ Staff training in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water Services Department, as necessary and appropriate, 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 protocols 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 and 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"> To build strong, inclusive and sustainable communities. 	<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, grants schemes
	2.3 Work to create opportunities for sustainable employment and high quality residential areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a Community and Economic Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting the consultation and development stage of Community and Economic plan
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. Draft regional waste management plan prepared.
	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 and energy efficiency works. Provision of loans for private dwellings under approved schemes.
Information Technology	2.8 To ensure that all Local Authority premises comply with sustainability requirements through energy audits and low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the key initiatives in 2014 to reduce power consumption is to implement a managed print service. Using smart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New MPS (Managed Print Solution) in place in the Áras. Rationalisation of printers and move to modern multi-function devices complete and placed under contract in outlying offices.

	carbon emissions.	printing devices energy consumption will be dramatically reduced in this whole area. By defaulting the majority of all printing to double-sided the amount of paper being consumed will also be significantly reduced.	
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"> ▪ LEO supported: ▪ 10 business start-ups ▪ 4 business expansions ▪ 138 jobs created ▪ 477 jobs sustained ▪ 532 participants on core business development programmes ▪ 14 grants approved ▪ 14 schools through Student Enterprise
	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"> ▪ Support and protect the natural, built and cultural heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to implement the County Biodiversity and County Heritage Plans. ▪ 100 events were organised during Heritage Week 2014 with over 5.000 attendees. ▪ Over €48,000 was paid out to groups to develop 55 community heritage projects in Kildare.
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 maintain and upgrade the water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure/network in collaboration with Irish Water and through the Small Schemes Programme.

	<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"> ▪ Worked with Irish Water to maintain and improve the existing standard of water supply as well as the waste water treatment facilities.
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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 and 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 and Drehid Grant scheme. Development of Kildare Public Participation Network 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 18 existing playgrounds in the county Playground installed in Athy and Naas and work commenced on provision of a playground in Suncroft. Installation of adult gyms in Newbridge and Athy. Installation of skateparks in Athy and Naas Renovation of the playground in Rosconnell Housing scheme and provision of a mini pitch 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 Ballybracken, Kildangan. Works planned to extend cemeteries at Newbridge and Derrinturn. Site selection ongoing for recycling facilities in north of county being examined. Ongoing monitoring of rollout of brown bin by waste contractors.
Housing	3.9 To assess and provide appropriate housing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing assessment and update of housing applications Preparation for the introduction of the Housing Assistance

	measures to meet housing needs in the county.		<p>Payment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation of a Housing Strategy for County Kildare in line with the National Housing Strategy 2020. ▪ Ongoing liaison with Voluntary Housing Associations ▪ Provision of Homeless Service and Tenant Liaison Service. ▪ Continue 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. ▪ Preparation and ongoing implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2014-2019 ▪ Preparation for implementation of National Rent Scheme 2015 ▪ Establishment of the Housing and Disability Steering Group
Information Technology	3.5 Continue to provide improved access to information on services provided by the Council via Kildare.ie website.	Maintain the kildarecoco.ie website presence to the highest standards.	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. ▪ Strengthen reader development programmes and collection management across the library network. 	<p>In 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free membership for all library members. • A series of remedial works to Maynooth, Kilcullen, Local Studies, Clane and Celbridge • An energy conservation project in Kildare Town Library. • Conservation works at Castledermot Community Library. • Upgrade of Celbridge and Rathangan library exhibition and multi purpose spaces. • Extension of online service provision, ereference. • Wi fi installed across library network. • Upgrade of library website to include events calendar and readers pages. • Further roll out of 'Stories for the Ear' programme for local

			<p>professional writers</p> <p>Progress 2014 Arts Resource Organisations - Grant aid and ongoing support was continued for the County Kildare Orchestra, Leinster Printmaking Studio, Clane, Athy Community Arts Centre, The Performance Corporation, Celbridge, Moate Theatre, Naas and Riverbank Arts Centre - key organisations that enhance the cultural fabric of the county.</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"> Variation No. 3 of the County Development Plan initiated to incorporate provisions to address high tension voltage transmission power lines. Variation subject to Draft Ministerial Direction. Proposed Variation No. 4 background research continued on a proposed wind energy strategy for the County which will be progressed following issuing of revised guidelines from the DoEHLG. Completed the Newbridge and Kilcullen Local Area Plans Work continued on proposed LAPs for Monasterevin, Kilcock, Clane and Sallins due for publication Q1 2015. Public consultation completed at appropriate stages of plan processes. Strategic Environment Assessment and Appropriate Assessment completed on all plans as required. 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
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directorate has ensured that there is existing or planned

	infrastructure to service new development.		<p>infrastructure to service new developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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"> ▪ A Feasibility Report was carried out in 2014 by Nicholas O'Dwyer on the Kilmacreddock / Barrogstown Group Sewerage Scheme. <p>It should be noted that since the beginning of 2014, the Small Public Water and Sewerage Schemes are funded by Irish Water either as Major or Minor Capital Schemes.</p>
	3.6 To ensure that there is existing or planned infrastructure to service new development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To develop flood alleviation strategy and implementation programme 	<p>Flood Alleviation Strategy projects relevant to 2014:</p> <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 - Dara Park, Newbridge

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	<p>4.6 Focus on teamwork and the importance of cooperation across disciplines, sections and geographic areas.</p> <p>4.7 Support staff to reach their full potential through learning, experiences sharing and skills transfer.</p>	<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"> Took charge of all playgrounds parks and landscaping duties previously carried out by Town Councils.
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 and development of I.T. and Social Media networks to optimise service delivery to members and customers.
	4.2 To ensure value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and compliance with national procurement policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce a procurement system for stationery items. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop centralised procurement and storage arrangement introduced 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"> Continue to work with the IT Department to identify and develop a Customer Relationship Management System [CRM] for the organisation to manage customer queries and members representations. Continue to develop plans for Customer Service Centre at Level 1 Áras Chill Dara, as part of local government reform programme and in line with customer service strategy contained

			<p>in the Action Programme for Effective Local Government: Putting People First.</p> <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. ▪ To record complaints submitted to the organisation 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. ▪ Support departments to improve telephone management and provide further training as required. ▪ 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.
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			<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 register of land-based assets, comprising text and maps relating to all lands in the Council's ownership.		<p>A dedicated Property Interest Register Team is using specialised software to capture historic and current data from in-house files and Land Registry records. 811 records were added to the Property Interest Register system in 2014, bringing the overall total of live records to 2,002.</p> <p>This work also impacts positively on other corporate objectives by enhancing local democracy, supporting economic growth, developing infrastructure and improving services levels by: Dealing with queries on land-based assets from staff, elected representatives and members of the public (103 in 2014). Implementing Property Registration Authority initiatives such as standardisation of name variations and deconstruction of Omnibus Folios.</p> <p>Updating 4,000+ Land Registry maps on a regular basis (2-year intervals at present).</p>
Finance	4.1 Optimise the use of new IT and communications technologies to improve service delivery.	<p>Ensure effective collection of income Early issuing of bills.</p> <p>Automation of payments</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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. An Post cards were issued to Rent customers to facilitate an additional payment method. Local Government Act 2014</p>
	4.13 To facilitate and support effective internal, national and EU financial oversight.	<p>Financial Planning and Treasury Management Preparation of the annual budget and financial statements in a professional, clear and timely manner.</p>	<p>The Budget for 2014 was prepared in November 2013 and adopted by Council on 16th December 2013 There is a statutory responsibility to have the Annual Financial</p>

		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.	Statement published by 1 st July of the following year. In 2014 the 2013 AFS was brought to Council on 28 th April 2014. 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.	<p>Budgetary Strategy and Financial Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Budgetary Control ▪ Assessment of future needs with a view to ensuring provision of adequate resources. 	<p>Monthly monitoring of income and expenditure against budget was continued to ensure targets were met and overspending was avoided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 2014-2016 anticipates Kildare County Council spending in the order of €90 million on infrastructure.
	4.13 To facilitate and support effective internal, national and EU financial oversight.	<p>Ensure collection of income</p> <p>Review of aged debtors and debtors reconciliations to reduce bad debts.</p>	<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, Organisational Structure and Payroll Systems, incorporating modules for superannuation, recruitment and training,	Move to MyPay Shared Services Centre for payroll	Kildare County Council commenced the pre-implementation phase of the transition to MyPay in Quarter 4 2014. It is expected that the move will be finalised in Quarter 1 2015.
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. ▪ Implementation of PASS system (Homelessness)

	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. Preparation/implementation of framework agreements for the procurement of housing maintenance services
	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"> Manage the entire town to county council merge from an ICT perspective in terms of merging of systems and data. Complete the rollout of the wireless Wide Area Network to link external offices to the Áras. Migrate mail to a Linux platform to improve performance. Support the local elections and support the increase in the number of county councillors. Upgrade key security software and hardware platforms in the face of increasing complexity of the ICT security landscape. Implement the Management Print Services (MPS) solution in Áras Chill Dara, recycle the best of the existing equipment to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merge completed. Last site delivered Q4 2014. Move Completed Elections Supported. Ongoing work in this area. MPS tendered for, contract awarded and solution implemented.

		<p>external offices and place under a single maintenance contract. Securely recycle all old machines.</p> <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. • Manage the Database Storage of Data for the council including backups, archiving and restore functions. • Upgrade the Housing Disability Grants system in line with customer requirements, move database to SQL cluster and make it compatible with latest .NET framework. • Continue to support and maintain existing council applications (HOME, RAS, Agresso, Travel System, TMS etc). Again this is a challenge as these systems are supported by 1-1.5 people. • Further develop existing Invoice Management System and Energy & Communications Portal to record a baseline/threshold figure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing. This works represents a significant portion of ICT work in every year. • Ongoing work. Constant upgrading. • Completed. • Ongoing work. • Completed. New portal being used.
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		<p>for each Electricity MPRN to facilitate user management of electricity invoices and to allow budget-holders to quickly identify excessive bills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise rollout of Legal Tracking System to all Departments requiring legal services under the new framework. • Deliver replacement GIS application software to replace existing PRD application as a pilot test of new Open Source GIS tools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed. • Delivered.
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 2014 contained audits spread across all Directorates. Seven final reports were issued and one draft report with a further five audits also commenced. ▪ There was one new investigation plus the following up on some minor cash discrepancies ▪ 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. ▪ Internal Audit worked closely with and followed the guidance of the Audit Committee throughout 2014
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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research and align opening hours countywide, reacting to service needs and staffing shortfalls in each 	<p>In 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extensive use of social media tools to promote and inform citizens of all library and arts events. Library service twitter account shortlisted for the Rabo Tweetie Awards in 2014. ▪ Extension of service hours at Clocha Rince community library

	4.12 Continue to promote ease of access for all to council services and premises.	<p>community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote, facilitate and support access for citizens to information, education and cultural opportunities within the Library and Arts Service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of the Toys Technology and Training Collection and new lecture series. Extensive consultation with focus groups (age friendly, youth services, accessibility, electronic users) to inform Library Development Plan due in 2015. Continuation of Age Friendly Library programme <p>Update 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dancer in Residence programme developed with Maynooth University/Froebel Education Dept Arts and Health programmes developed with Nas Na Riogh Housing Association and Naas Hospital
Planning	4.1 Optimise the use of new IT and communications technologies to improve service delivery.	<p>Planning Application and Licence Process</p> <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 system implemented, providing access to planning files documentation PDC Planning Development Contribution system implemented Management of Naas & Athy Town Council files now integrated into the administration of county files using one I-plan system. Implementation of the new Building Control Management System (BCMS)
	4.9 Continue to respond to citizens' needs through best practice models and an integrated approach for delivery of services.	<p>Information and Public Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a comprehensive service to the public. <p>Enforcement and Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue the development of enforcement and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the counter validation for all one off houses and extensions Outreach services – Pre-Planning clinics continued to be held in Aras Chill Dara on a regular basis – advertised in January each year. Individual pre planning clinics for commercial and/or employment potential developments facilitated at Aras Chill Dara as required. Continued enforcement action by issuing Warning Letters, Enforcement Letters and taking legal action against unauthorised developments.

		compliance functions.	
		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. Implementation of the new Building Control Management System (BCMS). Work is ongoing in the roll out of this system The taking in charge process as recommenced in accordance with Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government circular 5-2014 All active residential developments are being monitored on an ongoing basis and enforcement procedures are 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 & connection of new customers ongoing. Regional and non-regional leak detection. Continued water conservation activities have resulted in the unaccounted for water levels being reduced from a high of 32 % in January 2011 to 23.3 % average for December 2014. This is a significant achievement given that the average unaccounted figure for water levels in the country is approximately 40%.

	<p>4.5 Working with Irish Water under the Service Level Agreement to extend water supply to as many locations as possible within the County.</p>	<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 followed by commissioning of Water Conditioning plant in Nov 2014 Maintain, repair and upgrade reservoirs, pipes and fittings. Commissioning of Castlewarden to Ballygoran scheme and Ballygoran to Collinstown to provide and protect security of supply to Intel
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Objective 5: Promote and develop Kildare as a place to live and do business			
Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Community and Enterprise	5.2 To work to enhance the links with Maynooth University 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, develop and co-ordinate the Local Community and Economic plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First piece of research completed, planning stages of development of plan.
	5.5 To enhance and develop the appearance and environment of Kildare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain, provide and improve recreational and amenity facilities within the county, through the provision of parks, open spaces, playgrounds and landscaping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscaping of roundabouts at Maynooth, Kill and Palmerstown . 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 2014. Installation of seating in Carton Avenue, Maynooth Drainage plan for the Bawnogues completed Landscaping of Village Park in Nurney completed. Installation of Sentinel Sculpture and landscaping in Newbridge. Work commenced on rebuilding of Pound Park Wall. Landscaped grotto in Celbridge
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 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,

			<p>removal of graffiti, tree planting and development of local plans undertaken with the Tidy Towns network, to enhance communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement river basin management plans ▪ Enforce air quality and noise pollution legislation.
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 Maynooth University in November 2014. ▪ 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 Service	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 	<p>In 2014</p> <p>Extension of cultural, arts, educational and information provision based events hosted throughout the library network 2014, new events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engineers Weeks ▪ Age Friendly Festival ▪ Extension of Secondary School Programme ▪ National Programming events ie, Seachtaine na Gaeilge, Heritage Week and Maths Week. ▪ Intergenerational Choirs <p>The Arts Service as a key player in HSE cultural programmes Increased supports for Kildare Youth Theatre and Greise Youth</p>

		Genealogy/Archives and Local Studies.	Theatre Enhanced profile for the Arts Service at national level, through participation on Arts and Education portal project and Encountering the Arts Ireland.
Water Services	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.	<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 in respect of water quality and waste water treatment.

Service Indicators

FIRE SERVICE

Fire Service Mobilisation

- Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full time stations in respect of fire
No full time fire services in the county of Kildare
- Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire..... 5.37
- Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full-time stations in respect of all other emergency incidents
No full time fire service in county of Kildare
- Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents5.03

Percentage of attendances at scenes

- Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes28.24
- Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes58.24
- Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes13.51
- Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes23.87
- Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes61.71

- Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes14.41
- Total number of incidents in respect of fire 740
- Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes209
- Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes431
- Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes100
- Total number of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire)222
- Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes53
- Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes137
- Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes32

Fire Prevention

- Total number of fire safety certificate applications received145
- Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)166
- Total number of applications deemed Invalid 6

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

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

- Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og Scheme72%
- Total number of local schools and youth groups54
- Number of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og Scheme.....30

Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum

- Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum590

CORPORATE ISSUES

Working days lost to sickness

- Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave4.80
- Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave0.36
- Number of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave.....8853
- Number of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave661
- Total number of staff (whole time equivalent) at the end of December 2012 (as per DECLG staffing return for the end of 2012)813

Staff Training and Development

- Expenditure on training and development as a percentage of total payroll costs4.25

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

WATER

Unaccounted For Water

- Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for27.15
- Total volume of water supplied (m3/per day) under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for73768
- Volume of unaccounted for water (m3/per day) under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for20031

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Segregation

- Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables 99.93
- Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics49.40
- Total number of households provided with a waste collection service58801
- Number of households provided with a segregated waste collection service for recyclables58761
- Number of households provided with a segregated waste collection service for organics29045

Housing waste sent for recycling

- Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling49.45
- Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling30322
- Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)4087.92
- Total tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside61,368

Household waste sent for landfill

- The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill39.18

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Household waste sent for landfill

- The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill24028
- Total tonnage of household waste collected61,322
- Tonnage of household waste which is sent to landfill24028

Recycling facilities

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

	Glass	Cans	Textiles	Batteries	Oils	Other
Total number of facilities for recycling	43	39	72	3	2	10
Total number of locations for recycling per 5000 of the population	1.02	0.97	1.71	0.07	0.05	0.24
Number of bring sites for recycling	41	37	70	1	0	8
Number of civic amenity sites	2	2	2	2	2	2

Litter

Litter Prevention and Enforcement

- Number of full-time litter wardens1
- Number of part-time litter wardens 6
- Number of litter wardens (both full and part-time) per 5,000 population0.17
- Number of on-the-spot fines issued 655
- Number of on-the-spot fines paid 332

- Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines37
- Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines20
- Number of notices issued (under Sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)48

- Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)37
- Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)20
- Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted52
- Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter30
- Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter16
- Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter2
- Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter0

Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

- Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)1,515
- Number of complaints investigated1,463
- Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary1,280
- Number of enforcement procedures taken (including litter fines) 861

Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns

- Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns89.72
- Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns84
- Total number of primary schools107
- Number of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns96
- Total number of secondary schools 25

- Number of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns21

HOUSING

Housing Vacancies

- The total number of dwellings in local authority stock3,581
- The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects ...3,581
- The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)1.12
- The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting87.50
- The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting12.50
- The average number of dwellings in local authority stock3,581
- The average number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects3,581
- The average number of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)40
- The average number of empty dwellings unavailable for letting 35
- The average number of empty dwellings available for letting 5

Average time taken to re-let available dwellings

- The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling7.83
- The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit0.36

Housing Repairs

- Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received86.13
- The number of repairs completed2837
- The number of valid repair requests received3294

Traveller Accommodation

- Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme100%
- Number of traveller families accommodated 7
- Target number of traveller families to be accommodated in the year, as set out in the Local Traveller Accommodation Programme7

Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector

- Total number of registered tenancies.....11229
- Number of dwelling units inspected470
- Number of inspections carried out503
- Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)4.19%

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

- Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application1.6
- Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant

for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt, to the date of decision on the application2.7

Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses

- Total number of new local authority tenants109
- Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses100
- Number of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses109

LIBRARY SERVICES

Library Public Opening Hours

- Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries38.07
- Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)12.17
- Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings100
- Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings100
- Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings86
- Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries38.07
- Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)12.17
- Number of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings7
- Number of full time libraries that have evening openings 7
- Number of full time libraries that have Saturday openings6

Library visits

- Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population2861.46
- Total number of visits to full-time libraries.....601800

Library Stock

- Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)€1.75
- Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books2.75
- Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items0.61
- Annual expenditure on stock €369,000
- Total number of books issued578,119
- Total number of other items issued 136,779

Internet access through libraries

- Number of internet sessions provided per 1,000 population 202.43
- Total number of internet sessions provided 42,573

MOTOR TAXATION

Number of motor tax transactions

- Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter88,058
- Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post14,763
- Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)147,604
- Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter35.16
- Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post5.90

- Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)58.94

Time taken to process motor tax postal applications

- Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application6856
- Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application3668
- Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application920
- Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application3,319
- Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application46.44
- Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application24.85
- Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application6.23
- Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application22.48

Time taken to process driving licence applications

- Number of driving licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application669

- Number of driving licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application2,741
- Number of driving licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application333
- Number of driving licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application17946
- Percentage of overall driving licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application3.08
- Percentage of overall driving licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application12.64
- Percentage of overall driving licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application1.57
- Percentage of overall driving licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application82.74

Public opening hours

- Average number of opening hours per week28.3

RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Children's Playgrounds

- Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority0.08
- Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority0.1

- Number of children's playgrounds directly provided by the local authority17
- Number of children's playgrounds facilitated by the local authority2

Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities

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

ROADS

Road Restoration Programme

- Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum100.14
- Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum4825

PLANNING

Planning applications – decision making

	Individual House	New Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA
Number of applications decided	196	16	508	3
Number of decisions decided within 8 weeks	95	7	295	1
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	101	9	213	2
Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under Section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	0	0	0	0
Average length of time (in days) taken to determine an application where further information is sought	80	82	80	76
No. of applications granted	139	13	426	3
% of granted	70.92	81.25	83.86	100
% of refusals	37.83	18.75	16.14	0
No. of applications refused	57	3	82	0
% of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	73.33	0	75.00	0
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	26.67	0	25.00	0

Planning Enforcement

- Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated298
- Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed548
- Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations202
- Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters105
- Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices40

- Number of prosecutions10

Planning public opening hours

- Average number of opening hours per week35

Pre-Planning Consultation

- Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held277
- Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual

formal meeting for pre-planning consultation.....	12.74
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New buildings inspected

- Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority22.73
- Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority 352
- Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected80

Taking Estates in Charge

- The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year (Column A)20
- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question (Column B)28
- Number of dwellings in respect of column B (Column C)2227
- Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission (Column D)0
- Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in0
- Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard0
- Number of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission0

REVENUE COLLECTION

House Rent

- Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from house rent84.04
- Percentage of arrears on house rent that are up to 4 weeks old4.35
- Percentage of arrears on house rent that are 4-6 weeks old4.55
- Percentage of arrears on house rent that are 6-12 weeks old7.45
- Percentage of arrears on house rent that are more than 12 weeks old83.65
- Amount due at year end from house rent €10,489,709
- Amount collected at year end from house rent€8,815,844
- Amount of arrears at year end from house rent€1,673,865
- Amount of arrears on housing rent that are up to 4 weeks old€72,819
- Amount of arrears on housing rent that are 4-6 weeks old€76,117
- Amount of arrears on housing rent that are 6-12 weeks old.....€124,690
- Amount of arrears on housing rent that are more than 12 weeks old€1,400,236

Housing Loans

- Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from housing loans43.70
- Percentage of arrears on housing loans that are up to 1 month old0.34
- Percentage of arrears on housing loans that are 1-2 months old0.67
- Percentage of arrears on housing loans that are 2-3 months old0.66
- Percentage of arrears on housing loans that are more than 3 months old98.33

- Amount due at year end from housing loans
.....€6,890,763
- Amount collected at year end from housing
loans€3,011,199
- Amount of arrears at year end from housing
loans.....€3,,879,565
- Amount of arrears on housing loans that are up
to 1 month old€13,137
- Amount of arrears on housing loans that are
1-2 months old€25,940
- Amount of arrears on housing loans that are
2-3 months old€25,563
- Amount of arrears on housing loans that are
more than 3 months old.....€3,814,923

Commercial Rates

- Amount collected at year-end as a percentage
of amount due from commercial rates74.15

Refuse Charges

- Percentage of households paying refuse
charges (including waivers) at year end
.....61.15

Non-Domestic Water Charges

- Amount collected at year end as a percentage
of amount due for non-domestic water charges
.....61.82

Town Councils

The Local Government Reform Act came into effect on 1 June 2014, following the local elections on 23 May 2014. The town councils of Athy, Naas Leixlip and Newbridge were abolished by the Reform Act and the functions previously carried out by our town councils are now carried out by the council council.

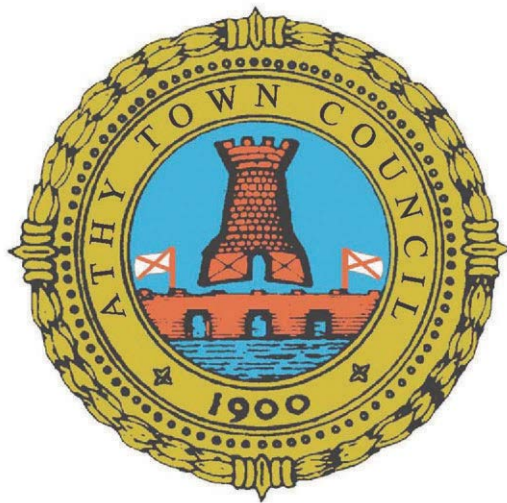


Former Mayors of the town councils

Left to Right: Mark Wall (County Mayor), Emer McDaid (Naas Town Council), Teresa Byrne (Leixlip Town Council) and Thomas Redmond (Athy Town Council)

Absent: Mick Deely (Newbridge Town Council)

Athy Town Council



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

Prior to the Local Elections in May 2014, Athy Town Council members were 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 Municipal District).

Town Manager/ Director of Services

Joe Boland

Town Clerk: Brian O'Gorman

Town Engineer: Diarmuid Donohue

Finance

Notwithstanding budgetary constraints, the combined revenue and capital expenditure of circa. €5.4 million (including revenue expenditure of circa. €4.5 million) in 2014 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 Town Council Members



Presentation to former County Manager, Michael Malone on his retirement

Housing

The Town Council currently has a housing stock of 326 housing units, following the sale of 3 units under the Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2014. Housing applicants are considered for vacancies that arise within the new and existing accommodation under the council's social housing programmes, which includes vacancies occurring in units managed by voluntary housing associations (Respond! And Cluid), the rental accommodation scheme (RAS) and long-term leasing.

Over the past 6 years, the council progressed a proactive programme of capital type improvements, which continued during the year. This approach to refurbishing and upgrading existing and vacant units, which has resulted in vacant units being re-let within the shortest possible timeframe.

Roads

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

Southern Distributor Road

The proposed Southern Distributor Road (SDR) capital project is now listed on the

Department of Transport's list of priority schemes (Special Non-national Road Programme), with a project cost of circa. €34 million. The route will link the N78 Kilkenny Road to the south west of the town centre to a new roundabout to the east of Athy. The new 3.2km road includes bridges over the River Barrow and Dublin Waterford railway line.

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.

The following future schemes are being progressed;

- 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 Barrow footbridge remains a priority and was further progressed during 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.

Emily Square Enhancement

The council commenced a process to advance an environmental enhancement scheme for the town's principal civic space. It is envisaged that a formal design, with engagement from relevant stakeholders, will be progressed.

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 maintained and operated the water services (water supply and waste water) infrastructure in its administrative area under agreement, on behalf of Irish Water which assumed responsibility for water services from 1 January 2014.

Water Supply

The new Barrow Abstraction Scheme (commissioned in 2013) provides an allocation of 7 megalitres (from the total 31

megalitres produced) in addition to the ½ megalitre per day from the Monasterevin wellfields supply. It is 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.

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. 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.

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 are being progressed.

Development Management

The two year progress report of the towns Development Plan 2012-2018 was noted by the council at their February monthly meeting.

The administration of the planning function is now centralised within Kildare County Council, with the Town Council remaining as the statutory planning authority.

Environment

Athy continues to focus on improvements that will help achieve further success in the national tidy towns competition. The town's 16th anniversary entry increased its grade in the Large Town Category (E) achieving 272 marks. The Tidy Towns Committee (Town Council Sub-Committee) progressed work on a new five year plan 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, 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 advanced plans for an upgrade of the playground in the People's Park and a design was progressed during the year with works being finalised in early 2015. In addition, Kildare Youth Services, with financial assistance from both the council and the Kildare Leader Partnership Company, advanced works on a youth skate park at Meeting Lane, located close to the Athy Youth Café.

General Projects

Further to a review of the work of the Athy Investment Development and Employment Forum (AIDEF), the group progressed actions from its business and marketing initiative for the town. During the year, Athy received a major boost by being

included for the first time in a new Regional Aid Map, where capital and employment grants can be paid under European Union rules. The inclusion will mean that businesses contemplating setting up in the area are eligible for state aid of 30% for small enterprises, 20% for medium-sized enterprises and 10% for large enterprises. The AIDEF, in association with the Kildare Local Enterprise Office, also facilitated participants to undertake business mentoring and training locally.

The Interreg Outdoor Tourism Project, based in Athy, continued during 2014 and promotes the development of tourism opportunities in the county, in conjunction with partners in other counties and Wales.

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) continued to actively promote the 'Celebrate Athy' theme through festival and events including the annual St. Patrick's Day parade, Dragon Boat Regatta, Tri Athy triathlon 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.



Launch of 'Athy Open For Your Business' Promotion

The Town Council hosted its final Civic Reception on 9 April 2014 to mark the achievements of Mr. Aiden McHugh, on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Mr. McHugh has a long history of supporting local sporting and community projects, in particular the development of activities promoting enjoyment of Athy's waterways.

The Athy Heritage Centre Museum, which achieved Interim Accreditation on the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme, prepared a Business Plan for its future development with the support of the council. It is envisaged that the centre will progress to full museum status on successful achievement of the specific standards. The centre hosts the world's only permanent theme exhibition

celebrating the Polar expeditions of Athy's Sir Ernest Shackleton. The 14th Annual Shackleton Autumn School in October was formally opened by the Council's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Peter Carey.

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

The Athy Community Arts Centre, located in the Methodist Church (Woodstock Street), celebrated its fourth anniversary of operation during 2014 and continues to host 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. During the period 2006 to 2014, the JPC met on a quarterly basis and discussed issues relating to local policing and proactively engaged with the community and other agencies to advance measures. Particular success was achieved in issues relating to anti-social

behaviour, estate management, alcohol and substance misuse, control of horses and traffic management improvements. The Chairperson of the JPC was Councillor James Mahon.

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.

Local Government Reform

The programme of reform for local government structures and activities were set out in *Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government* (October 2012). These plans were implemented by the Local Government Reform Act, which saw significant changes in local government structures, including a new system of municipal districts, replacing the 80 town councils countrywide. These changes became effective from 1 June 2014,

following the local elections in May. With the abolition of the Town Council on 1 June 2014, the functions previously carried out by the town council will be carried out by the county council.

A special meeting of the council to celebrate '114 years of Local Government in Athy' was hosted by the council on the 28 March 2014 and a presentation was made to serving and former members and their family representatives.



Celebrating 114 years of Local Government



Athy Town Council Staff



Athy Town Council Staff

Droichead Nua Town Council



Droichead Nua Town Council

Housing

The town council continued to administer its housing function in 2014. 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. The tidy towns committee continued to enhance the town with minor clean up and visual improvements.

Joint Policing Committee

2014 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 2014 include the following:

- Safe routes to school - The Gables car-park/Liffey Linear Park

Town Hall

During 2014 progress was made on plans to refurbish the town hall. Contractors have been appointed and it is hoped to progress this project further in 2014.

Representational Functions

Twinning with Bad Lippspringe

Newbridge and Bad Lippspringe have been organising meetings for the past fifteen years. There is co-operation between various sporting, cultural, community, and historical groups in the town. Communication between these groups leads to well organised events throughout the year. Activities were arranged over the St Patrick's Day weekend in 2014 to mark the occasion.

Twinning with Ocala

In March 2014 a delegation from Ocala visited Newbridge for the St. Patrick's Day parade. The delegation of 12 people included fire fighters, police officers and equine representatives. The fire fighters and police officers took part, in uniform, in

the St Patrick's Day parade in Newbridge. Representatives from the business community in Newbridge visited Ocala. Apprentice jockeys from Newbridge continue to undergo work experience on farms in Ocala.

Other functions

The town council offered financial support and assistance to local organisations in

2014. These included groups involved with the 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. Financial assistance for some organisations will be a feature of the annual budget for the forthcoming year.



Liffey Linear Park

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 Teresa Byrne served as Cathaoirleach until June 2014. 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.

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 2014 was €343,233 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
- Arts and Heritage.

Environment and Waste Management

Members: Councillors Denis McCarthy (convenor), Anthony Larkin, 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 Open Space Improvement Grant scheme.

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 committee organised green waste recycling days at the Wonderful Barn in April.

There was an electrical re-cycling day at Confey GAA in March.

The committee, in conjunction with the area engineer, installed the pump at Galvins Cross.

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.

Open Spaces Improvement Grants Scheme

Grants totalling €5,596 were awarded to Leixlip Residents Associations.

Town Improvements

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

Non-council members: Declan Kenny, Matt Crehan, Albert Larkin, Pat Martyn, Enda Kinnane, Mary Foley and Tony O'Sullivan

The committee organised an Easter event at the Wonderful Barn highlighting this unique building and beautiful area. The event included viewing of the barn, history talk, nature talks/walks and treasure/egg hunt.

The committee continued with monthly clean-ups in various locations in the town.

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 another successful St. Patrick's day parade in Leixlip with the parade from the Mill Lane to Arthur Guinness Square.

Community Grants

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

Civic Awards

For the 22nd 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 200 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 Teresa Byrne presented the awards at a function in Leixlip House Hotel on 24 April 2014.

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.

The town council held a farewell event in the Springfield Hotel on 10 April 2014 to acknowledge all members, past and present of Leixlip Town Council.

Deputations

During the year Leixlip Town Council received deputations from Confey GAA,

Leixlip Festival, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann and Intel.

Joint Policing Committee

The committee continued to meet on a quarterly basis in 2014. 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. The annual maintenance of strimming the meadow areas and maintaining the site was also carried out.

Town Twinning

The Twinning Committee for 2013/2014 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 €3,000 was allocated to the association.

Christmas Lights

The town council continued to support the work of the Christmas Lights Committee in the provision of the very festive lighting in the town. A grant of €14,000 was allocated to the committee.

Leixlip Festival

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

Leixlip Tidy Town Association

The town council appreciates the hard work and dedication of the Tidy Town Association and their volunteers. A grant of €7,500 was awarded to the Tidy Town Association.

Conferences

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland

Councillor Teresa Byrne attended the AMAI spring seminar in Bundoran in February 2014.

Naas Town Council



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 served as Mayor during 2013/2014. Councillor Ger Dunne is Deputy Mayor.

The councillors of Naas Town Council in 2014 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. The members are represented on a number of local community groups as well as the county council Strategic Policy Committees.



Monthly Meeting in the Council Chamber

Representatives to Various Bodies

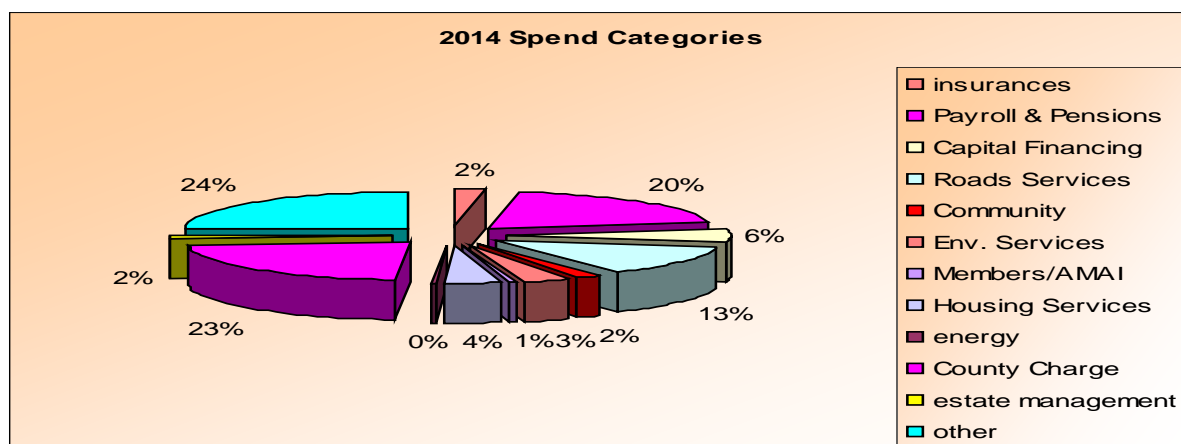
Vocational Educational Committee	Councillor Rioghnagh Bracken Councillor Emer McDaid
A.M.A.I.	Councillor Willie Callaghan Councillor Seamie Moore
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.	Councillor Darren Scully
Kildare Strategic Policy Committees	Councillor Anne Breen Councillor Ger Dunne
Naas Joint 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

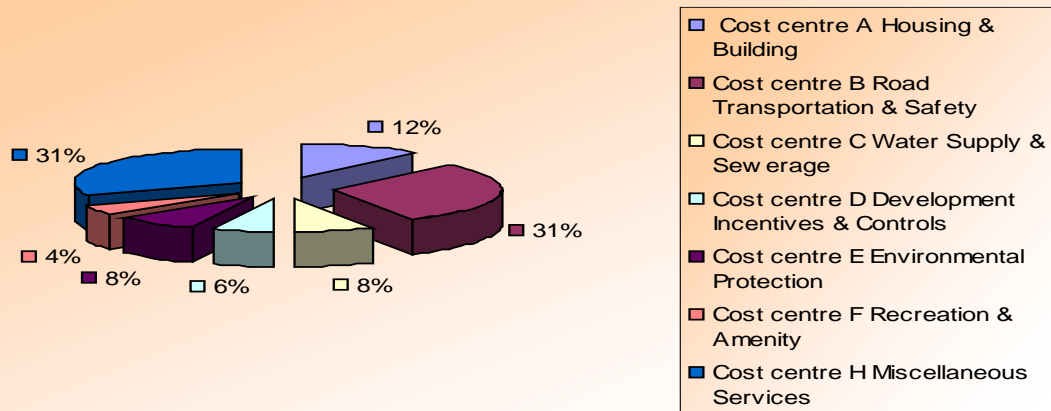
Total budgeted revenue expenditure for 2014 was €8.49 million (excluding rates adjustment figure) compared with €10.09 million for 2013. This is a significant level of expenditure and it is clearly important to ensure best value for money while taking into consideration the social and

community development component of the council's work.

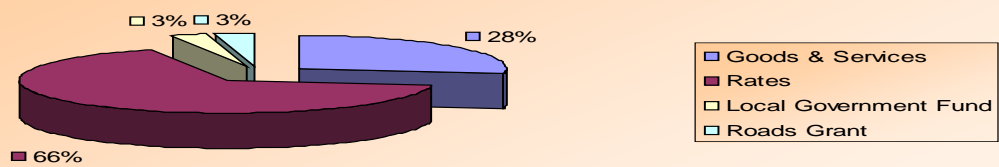
The annual rate of valuation adopted by Naas Town Council in respect of 2014 was €67.41 which maintained the 2013 rates figure.



2014 Estimated expenditure by cost service centre



2014 estimated sources of income



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. A sum of €662,000 was provided in the annual budget for general road improvements and maintenance.

The regional roads within the town remain the remit of Kildare County Council.

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. The council avails of the Kildare Local Authority Framework agreements for the procurement of contractors to address significant projects and where particular expertise is required. A sum of €444,000 was provided for general maintenance and repairs to vacant houses.

Naas Town Council continued to work throughout 2014 to meet the needs of those requiring accommodation through

the allocation of casual vacancies and the transfer of tenants to accommodations suited to their needs.



Former Mayor's of Athy, Naas and Leixlip Town Council and County Mayor

Recreation and Amenity

Naas Town Council provides three playgrounds in Naas located at Monread Park, Ballycane and at the Caragh Road.

The range of play equipment caters for children of different age groups. The playground and skatepark at Caragh Road opened 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 trials are in place.

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

Community

The town council awarded grants in the sum of €85,000 to various residents associations, sporting groups, theatrical groups and organisations.

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. Naas continued to build on its status as an Age Friendly Town during 2014.

Also in 2014, Naas received a gold 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.

The Naas Easter parade continues to be a successful event with a large attendance enjoying the wide array of entries. Naas Town Council provides financial support to the parade organisers.



An Post Rás, Naas

Naas Joint Policing Committee

The committee was established to provide a forum where local authority and senior Garda Officers, 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).

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 of 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.



Promoting Naas during the Punchestown Festival

Local Government Reform

Plans for changes to local government structures and activities were set out in Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government which was published in October 2012. These plans were implemented by the Local Government Reform Act, which saw significant changes in local government structures, including a new system of municipal districts, replacing the 80 town councils nationwide. These changes became effective from 1 June 2014, following the local elections on 23 May 2014. With the abolition of Naas Town Council on 1 June 2014, the functions previously carried out by the town council will be carried out by the county council.