



Annual Report 2001

Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

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Chairman's Statement



Mar Cathaoirleach Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh ba mhaith liom fíor fáilte a chur roimh foilsíú an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil seo 2001. Bliain mhaith ab ea l seo maidir le Rialtas Áitiúil agus deireadh dul chun cinn suntasach l gcuid mhaith rannóga oibre.

I take great pleasure in introducing the Annual Report 2001 as Chairman of Kilkenny County Council. This has been an exciting year in Local Government with considerable progress made in

many areas of operations.

Continued achievements in the Housing Programme, Road infrastructure, Major Water and Sewerage Schemes and Environmental infrastructure are all very encouraging as they will help to improve the quality of life for the people of County Kilkenny and the many visitors who visit the County each year.

2001 will be seen as a watershed in local government in County Kilkenny as it heralded an era of change in organisational and management structures within Kilkenny County Council. These structures have begun to facilitate a more participative democracy allowing the elected members to work in partnership with a diverse group of sectoral representatives. It is a new way of doing our business but I am thankful to the members and staff of the County Council for having risen to the challenge and embraced the changes with enthusiasm. It is important that we continue to ensure that the Strategic Policy Committees, County Development Board, Community Fora and our Electoral Area Committees continue to be flexible, meaningful and responsive to the various needs of our communities.

During my tenure as Cathaoirleach I had the privilege of officiating at many memorable events. I was proud to represent the people of our County at the St. Patrick's Day celebrations in New York and to share with the people of that great city, and indeed the Kilkenny Association in New York, the hurt and loss they feel following those awful events of September 11th. My visit to the Kilkenny Association in Manchester which allowed me to renew acquaintances with many friends of old will also be one of my abiding memories of my tenure as Cathaoirleach.

It has been a privilege and memorable experience to serve as Cathaoirleach. I would like to compliment and thank my fellow Councillors for their cooperation, commitment and support during the year. I would also like to thank the County Manager and his equally dedicated and hardworking staff for their cooperation and commitment.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude and that of all previous Cathaoirleach, all Councillors, both past and present, and indeed the people of County Kilkenny to the County Manager, Paddy Donnelly who retired from the post after 26 years of dedicated service to the County.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my thanks to my predecessor, Councillor T Brennan, all members of the Council, the management and staff for their support and effort during the year.

Sa deireadh, ba mhaith liom mo bhuiochas a chur in iúl do Cllr. James Brett mo réamhtheachtaí, gach comhairleoirí, an bainistíocht agus na foirne mar gheall an tacaíocht agus iarracht a thabhairt siad ar feadh na bliana

Manager's Statement



Is athas liom failtiu roimh an Tuarascail Bhliantúil seo do 2001. Leiríonn an Tuarascail Bhliantúil scala an tsaothair chomh maith le mion anailis a chur ar fail ar an tionscadail is tionscnaimh a rinneadh l rith na bliana.

I am very pleased to welcome the Annual Report for the year 2001.

The report details the scale of operations while providing a

detailed analysis of the various projects and initiatives undertaken during the year. Kilkenny County Council continues to demonstrate its ability to undertake major projects and to carry them to a successful conclusion. However it is not just in major projects that the Council has been active. The continued effective and efficient provision of day to day services such as road maintenance, housing maintenance, potable water supplies, planning and environmental regulation etc. is vital and I am happy to compliment the dedication and commitment of all the Council staff involved in the delivery of these services.

This year saw the Council undergoing a period of change as both the representational and staff structures encountered the changes and challenges contained in the Better Local Government programme. I am glad to say that these changes have been embraced and the opportunities presented by the challenges have been recognised. The result has been a more focused approach to our activities and, while the full benefits of these changes will take some time to become evident, the end result will be an enhancement in the delivery of services in the County.

The adoption of a Corporate Plan for the period 2001-2004, the result of a partnership process between the staff of the Council and the elected members augurs well for the future. The Plan sets out policies and directions that the Council will pursue over the next four years in order to ensure the achievement of the highest levels of efficiency and effectiveness. A series of key objectives and supporting strategies are incorporated into the Plan, which will point the way to the achievement of these objectives.

This will be the last Annual Report that I will have the pleasure of introducing as I am retiring after 26 years as Kilkenny County Manager. I would like to express my gratitude to the current Cathaoirleach and members of Kilkenny County Council and indeed all the former Cathaoirleach and members that I have had the pleasure of working with over that period. My gratitude also to the dedicated staff of the County Council, current and past, for their service to the people of Kilkenny.

P. J. Donnelly

P. J. Donnelly
County Manager



Elected Representatives and their Electoral Areas

Kilkenny Electoral Area



(L-R): Cllrs. John Coonan, Phil Hogan, Teresa Mullen, Paul Cuddihy, John McGuinness, Michael Lanigan, Joe Cody.

Councillor John J. McGuinness (Fianna Fáil)

11 O'Loughlin Road, Kilkenny.
Member of I.A.P. Monitoring Committee, County Enterprise Board.

Councillor John Coonan (Fianna Fáil)

17 Willow Close, Ardmore, Kilkenny.
Member of Vocational Education Committee, Goul Joint Drainage Committee, Water Safety Committee, County Development Board

Councillor Joe Cody (Labour)

11 Noremount, Kilkenny.
Member of Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Councillor Philip Hogan (Fine Gael)

1 High Street, Kilkenny.
Member of I.A.P. Monitoring Committee.

Councillor Michael Lanigan (Fianna Fáil)

12, Greenfields, Kilkenny.
Member of General Council of County Councils, Kilkenny Airport Ltd., County Enterprise Board, County Development Board.

Councillor Paul Cuddihy (Fine Gael)

Granges Road, Kilkenny.
Member of Kilkenny Airport Ltd., County Development Board.

Councillor Teresa Mullen (Non Party)

Kilfera, Kilkenny.
Member of Kilkenny Community Action Network Ltd., Rural Water Monitoring Committee, Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Vocational Educational Committee.

Ballyragget Electoral Area



(L-R): Cllrs Pat Millea, Catherine Connery, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Martin Carroll, John Brennan (below).

Councillor Mary Hilda Cavanagh (Fine Gael)

Whiteswall, Crosspatrick, Co Kilkenny.
Member of Vocational Education Committee, Goul Joint Drainage Committee, County Enterprise Board, County Development Board.

Councillor Patrick Millea [Chairman] (Fianna Fáil)

Gaulstown, Tullaroan, Co Kilkenny.
Member of Barrow Nore Suir Rural Developments Ltd., Goul Joint Drainage Committee, County Development Board.

Councillor Martin Carroll (Fianna Fáil)

Donaguile, Castlecomer, Kilkenny.
Member of S.E.R.A., Castlecomer District Community Development Network, Goul Joint Drainage Committee, County Development Board.

Councillor John Brennan (Fine Gael)

Crutt, Clogh, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.
Member of S.E.R.A., Goul Joint Drainage Committee, County Development Board.



Councillor Catherine Connery (Fine Gael)

Jeninstown, Co Kilkenny.
Member of Goul Joint Drainage Committee, County Kilkenny Water Safety Committee.



Piltown Electoral Area



(L-R): Cllrs. Robert Aylward, Cora Long, Richard Dowling, Ann Blackmore, John Paul Phelan, Pat Dunphy

Councillor Robert Aylward (Fianna Fáil)

Knockmoylan, Mullinavat, Co Kilkenny.
Member of S.E.R.A., Waterford Port Company Board,
South East Regional Assembly.

Councillor Dick Dowling (Fine Gael)

"Glencara", Newrath, Co. Kilkenny.
Member of Vocational Education Committee.

Councillor Cora Long (Fianna Fáil)

Ballygriffin, Carrigeen Via Waterford.
Member of S.E.H.B., Kilbride Joint Drainage Committee.

Councillor John Paul Phelan (Fine Gael)

Smithstown, Tullogher, Co Kilkenny.
Member of Kilbride Joint Drainage Committee, Traveller
Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Councillor Ann Blackmore (Fianna Fáil)

Tybroughney, Piltown, Co Kilkenny.
Member of S.E.H.B., Kilbride Joint Drainage Committee.

Councillor Pat Dunphy (Fine Gael)

Ballygorey, Mooncoin, Co Kilkenny.
Member of Water Safety Committee, County Enterprise
Board.

Thomastown Electoral Area



(L-R): Cllrs. Tom Brennan, Andy Cotterell, Joan Murphy,
William Ireland, Dixie Doyle

Councillor Dixie Doyle (Non-Party)

Carrickmourne, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.
Member of Vocational Education Committee, Kilbride
Joint Drainage Committee.

Councillor Joan Murphy (Fianna Fáil)

Newtown, Graignamanagh, Co. Kilkenny.
Member of Vocational Education Committee, S.E.R.A.,
Kilbride Joint Drainage Committee, Water Safety
Committee, Restoration of Woodstock Gardens
Committee, County Development Board.

Councillor Tom Brennan (Fianna Fáil)

Clarrabracken, Clara, Co Kilkenny.
Member of I.P.B.M.I. Ltd., Water Safety Committee,
Rural Water Monitoring Committee, County
Development Board.

Councillor Andy Cotterell (Fine Gael)

Kilmacshane, Inistioge, Thomastown, Co Kilkenny.
Member of S.E.R.A., New Ross Port Company Board,
Kilbride Joint Drainage Committee, Rural Water
Monitoring Committee, Restoration of Woodstock
Gardens Committee.

Councillor William Ireland (Fine Gael)

Danesfort, Co Kilkenny.
Member of Vocational Education Committee, Kilbride
Joint Drainage Committee, L.A.M.A., County
Development Board.



Callan Electoral Area



(L-R): Cllrs. Tom Maher, James J. Brett, Liam Aylward (below).

Councillor Liam Aylward (Fianna Fáil)

Aghaviller, Hugginstown, Co Kilkenny.
Member of Vocational Education Committee, County Enterprise Board.



Councillor James J. Brett (Fianna Fáil)

Sheastown, Co Kilkenny.
Member of S.E.R.A.

Councillor Tom Maher (Fine Gael)

Broadmore, Callan Co. Kilkenny.
Member of S.E.R.A., Kilbride Joint Drainage Committee,
Member of S.E.H.B., County Development Board.

Dail Constituency of Carlow/Kilkenny

Liam Aylward T.D. (Fianna Fáil)

Aghaviller, Hugginstown, Co Kilkenny

Philip Hogan T.D. (Fine Gael)

1 High Street, Kilkenny

Seamus Pattison T.D. (Ceann Comhairle) (Labour)

6 Upper New Street, Kilkenny

John J. McGuinness T.D. (Fianna Fáil)

Windsmoor, Brooklawn, Ballyfoyle Road, Kilkenny

John Browne T.D. (Fine Gael)

Ballinacurry, Carlow

Michael Lanigan, Senator (Fianna Fáil)

"St. Jude's", Chapel Avenue, Kilkenny

Jim Gibbons, Senator (Progressive Democrats)

"St. Anne's", Athy Road, Carlow



Lory Meagher Homestead • Kilkenny County G.A.A. Museum • Grace Cultural Centre, Craft Shop and Restaurant,
Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny.



Human Resources

MANAGEMENT TEAM

County Manager	PJ Donnelly
Director of Housing & Corporate	John McCormack
Director of Transport, San F&E	Tom Gunning
Director of Planning & Env.	Philip O'Neill
Director of Community & Enterprise	Tony Walsh
A/Head Of Finance	Anne Maria Walsh

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Human Resources	Martin Mullally
Housing	Rose Kenny
Planning	Michael Delahunty
County Librarian	James Fogarty
Senior Social Worker	Liam Keane

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Finance	Tim Butler
Roads/Sanitary Services	Martin Butler
Internal Audit	Michael Shortall
Planning	Annette Fitzpatrick
Housing	Mary Brophy
Road Project Team	John Walsh
Corporate Affairs	Jimmy Gibbons

SENIOR STAFF OFFICERS

IT Officer	Tadhg McSherry
Environment	Adrian Waldron
Sanitary Services	Catherine Millea
Finance	Phil Curran
Human Resources	Anne Delaney
Motor Taxation	David Shortall

SENIOR ENGINEERS

Roads	Oliver Mannion
Planning & Env	Pat Foley
Sanitary Services	Frank O'Dwyer

SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS

Sanitary Services	Dermot Druhan
Planning	Joe Wall
Environment	Carol McCarthy
Housing	Kieran Fitzgerald
Road Design	Ian Gardner
Kilkenny Area Office	Frank Gray
Castlecomer Area Office	Michael Murphy(A)
Callan Area Office	Pat Graham
Thomastown Area Office	John Dowling
Newrath Area Office	Frank Stafford (A)

Chief Fire Officer Ciaran Cormican

Senior Executive Planner Denis Malone

Executive Architect Evelyn Graham

Special Project Piltown /Fiddown By-Pass John McGinty

Roads Project Co-ordinator N9/N10 Joe Gannon

(A) Acting (T) Temporary (JS) Job Sharing



County Management Team



(L-R): Don O'Sullivan, County Engineer, Anne Maria Walsh, County Finance Officer, P.J. Donnelly, County Manager, Philip O'Neill, County Secretary, Tony Walsh, Director of Community & Enterprise

The following is a breakdown of persons employed by the Council by grade, both permanent and temporary, at 31st December. In all a total of 439 persons were employed.

Managerial, Administrative and Clerical

Grade	No.
County Manager	1
Director Of Services	4
A/Head Of Finance	1
Senior Executive Officer	3
Administrative Officer	7
Senior Staff Officer	6
Staff Officer	11
Assistant Staff Officer	28
Clerical Officer	50
County Librarian	1
Assistant Librarian	3
Senior Library Assistant	3
Library Assistant	8
Branch Librarian	9
Revenue Collector	10
Community Development Officer	1
Senior Social Worker	1
Total	147

Staff Who Retired in 2001

MICHAEL QUIGLEY

PATRICK BOURKE

RESIGNED

Mr. Daniel O'Sullivan resigned from his position of County Engineer on 29th July 2001 to take up a new position with the Construction Industry Federation.

Engineering & Technical

Grade	No.
Senior Engineer	3
Senior Executive Engineer	10
Senior Executive Planner	1
Executive Engineer	7
Executive Planner	3
Chief Fire Officer	1
Asst. Chief Fire Officer	2
Assistant Engineer	4
Assistant Planner	1
Executive Architect	1
Landscape Architect	1
Senior Executive Tech	4
Executive Technician	7
Technician Grade 1	3
Technician Grade 1 1	2
Graduate Engineer	3
Total	53

Outdoor & Other Staff

Grade	No.
Foreman	1
Foreman	5
Assistant Foreman	3
Chargehand	1
Craftsman	23
Craftsmans Mate	4
Apprentice	5
Road Overseer	13
Labourer/Gen Operative	70
Refuse Collector	6
Ganger	13
Drivers	43
Mobile Library Driver	2
Waterworks Caretakers	16
Caretaker	7
Gardener	1
Litter Warden	1
Dog Warden	1
Fire Fighter (Full Time)	3
Special Works Foreman	1
Messengers	2
Canteen Operator	1
Spray Bar Operator	1
Tar House Attendant	1
Storeman	1
Handyman/Fitter	1
Waste Water Inspectors	3
Pumping Station Supervisor	1
Sewerage Works Operator	2
Waste Water Supervisor	1
Sludge De-Watering Operator	1
Dutymen	3
Rosco Machine Driver	1
Community Assistant	1
Part-time Workers	
Total	239

Interviews 2001

The following interviews were held during the year for various permanent and temporary positions:

- Open Competition 25 interviews
- Confined Competition(BLG) 17 interviews

The gender breakdown is as follows:

OPEN COMPETITION			CONFINED COMPETITION [B.L.G.]		
	Male	Female		Male	Female
Interview Board	44	23	Interview Board	36	12
Successful Candidates	17	7	Successful Candidates	43	35



SPC 1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING POLICY

Elected Members:	Cllr Michael Lanigan [Chairman] Cllr. Liam Aylward Cllr John McGuinness Cllr. Dick Dowling Cllr. Paul Cuddihy Cllr. John P. Phelan Cllr. Dixie Doyle
Corporation Member:	Cllr Joe Reidy
Development/Construction:	Mr. Denis Guilfoyle
Environmental/Conservation/Culture:	Ms. Afra Cronin
Agriculture/Farming:	Mr. Kevin Connolly
Community/Voluntary/Disadvantaged:	Ms. Eileen Sommer-Ronan
Business/Commercial:	Ms. Alison McGrath

SPC 2 TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Elected Members:	Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh [Chairman] Cllr. Billy Ireland [Chairman from 23rd October, 2001] Cllr. Cora Long Cllr. Pat Millea Cllr. Teresa Mullen Cllr. Pat Dunphy
Agriculture/Farming	Mr. Tom Heffernan
Community/Voluntary/Disadvantaged	Mr. Martin Riches
Business/Commercial	Mr. John Wallis
Trade Union	Mr. Gerry Heffernan

SPC 3 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY INCLUDING SANITARY SERVICES, FIRE SERVICES, EMERGENCY PLANNING

Elected Members:	Cllr. Joan Murphy [Chairman] Cllr. Martin Carroll Cllr. James J. Brett Cllr. John P. Phelan Cllr. Andy Cotterell Cllr. Catherine Connery
Environmental/Conservation/Culture	Mr. Pat Durkin
Agriculture/Farming	Mr. Pat Murphy
Community/Voluntary/Disadvantaged	Mr. Pat Walsh Mr. Seamus Kennedy
Business/Commercial	Ms. Deirdre Gough

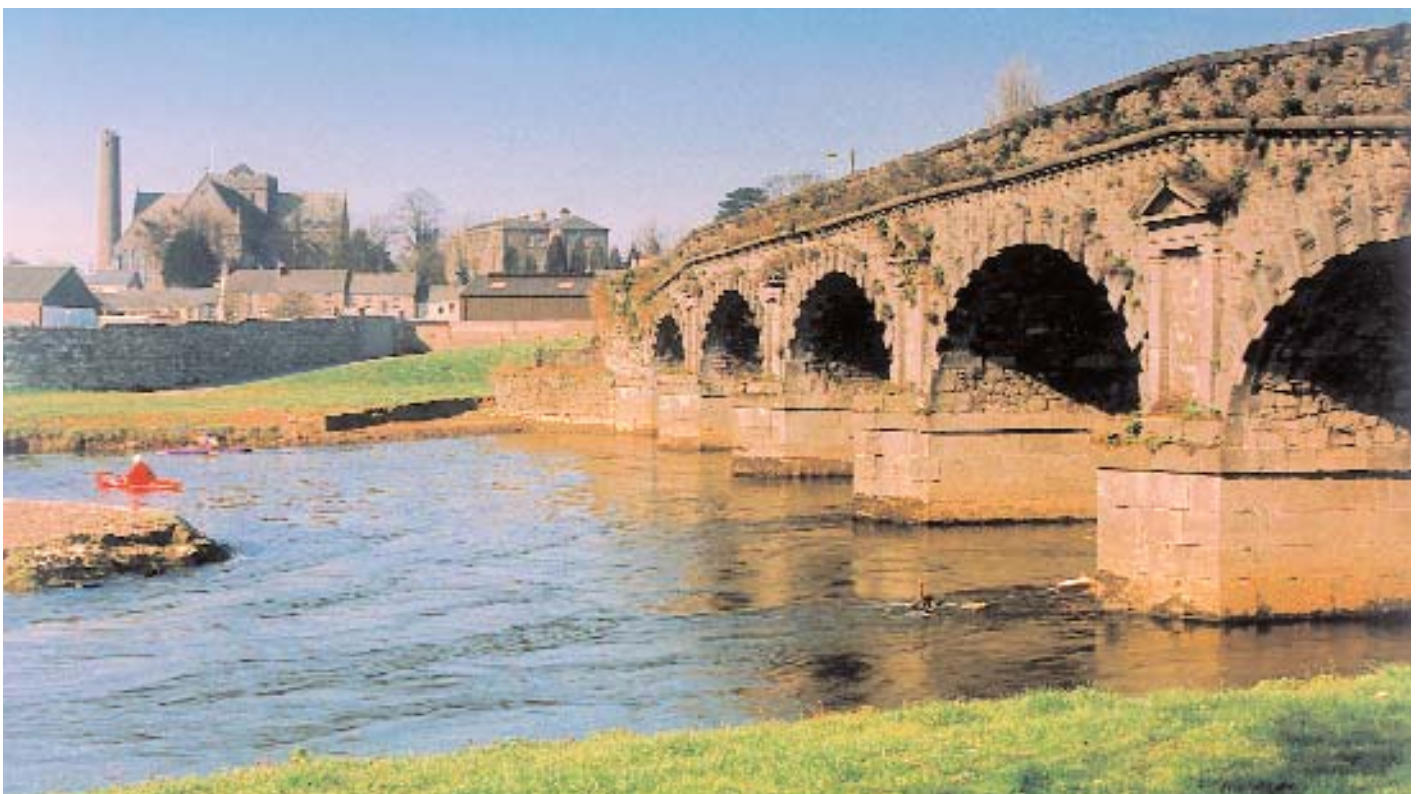


SPC 4 HOUSING POLICY, SOCIAL

Elected Members:	Cllr. Tom Maher [Chairman] Cllr. John Brennan [Chairman from October, 2001] Cllr. Teresa Mullen Cllr. Ann Blackmore Cllr. Joan Murphy Cllr. Bobby Aylward Cllr. Joe Cody
Development/Construction	Mr. Ivan Shannon
Agriculture/Farming	Mr. Jim Hennessy
Community/Voluntary/Disadvantaged	Mr. Aidan Brennan
Trade Union	Ms. Yvonne Moriarty

SPC 5 ARTS, CULTURE HERITAGE TOURISM, EDUCATION

Elected Members:	Cllr. John Coonan [Chairman] Cllr. Martin Carroll [Chairman from November, 2001] Cllr. Tom Brennan Cllr. Catherine Connery Cllr. Philip Hogan
Corporation Member:	Cllr. Pat Crotty
Environmental/Conservation/Culture	Mr. Vincent Dempsey
Community/Voluntary/Disadvantaged:	Mrs. Nellie Brett
Business/Commercial:0	Mr. Tom Manning



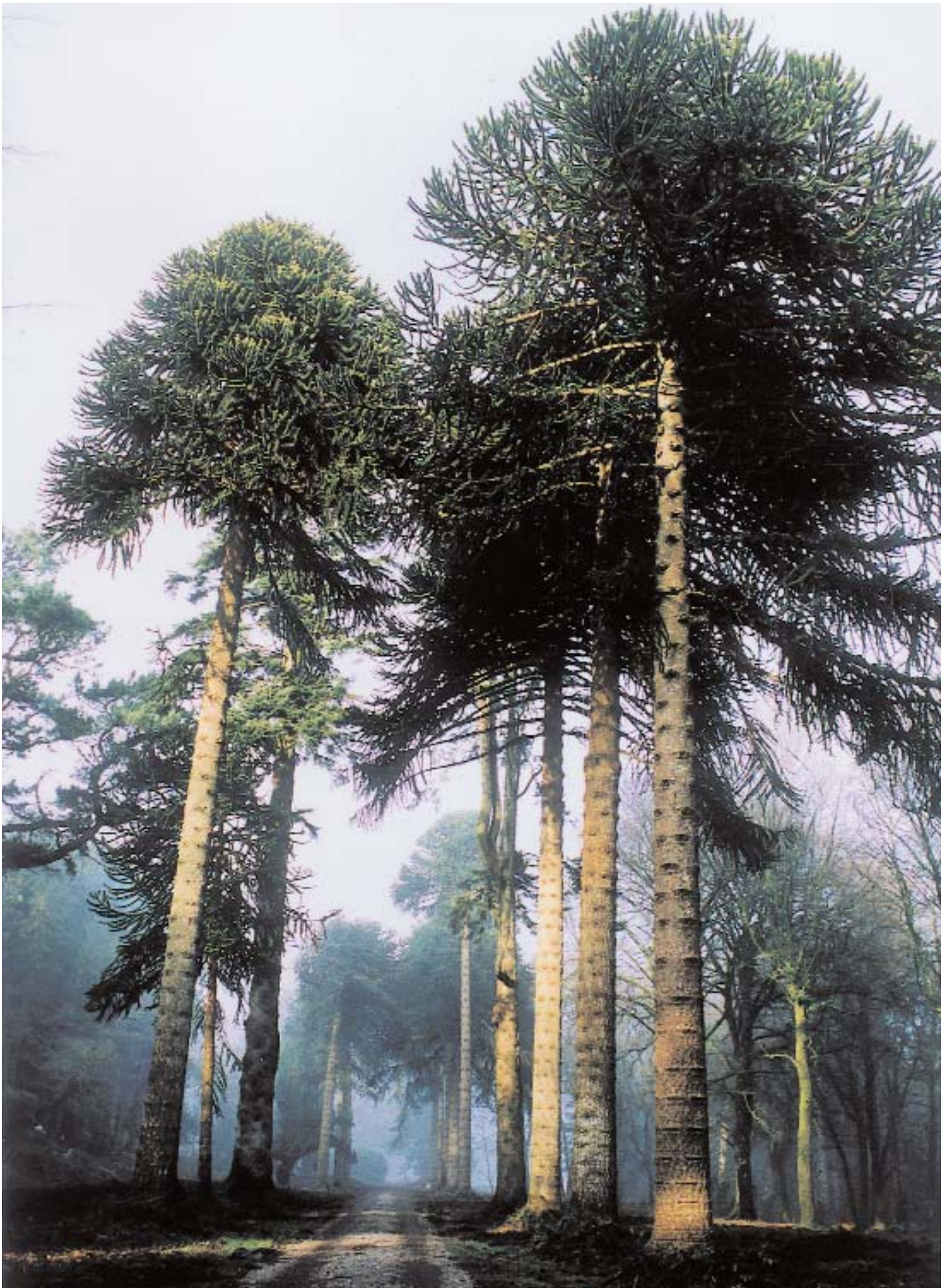
Greens Bridge & St. Canice's Cathedral



Woodstock Gardens Restoration – Visit by Councillors in July, 2001.



Woodstock Gardens Restoration – Visit by Councillors in July, 2001.



Wookstock Gardens Restoration – Monkey Puzzle Avenue



Housing and Accommodation

Kilkenny County Council has always adopted a pro-active and flexible approach in meeting the challenge of providing accommodation for those in need and assisting others, who can afford it to obtain their own accommodation.

Housing Construction/Acquisition Programme

- Kilkenny County Council was notified of 260 housing starts for period 2000-2003 under the Multi-Annual Housing Programme.
- 72 houses were under construction while 18 dwellings were purchased on the open market for allocation to persons on the waiting list.
- There were 37 casual vacancies during 2001.
- 2 Rural Cottages were constructed and allocated to families on the housing waiting list in 2001.
- Renovation works were undertaken on 3 private dwellings under the Improvement Works in Lieu of Housing Scheme.
- 6 local authority houses were extended under the Extensions Programme costing £142,739 (€181,241).
- Schemes were completed and allocated at Paulstown (2), Johnstown (6), Bennettsbridge (4) Thomastown (14) Kilkenny (17) Mount William, Castlecomer (3) , Nuenna Court, Freshford (14).
- The total expenditure incurred for this programme in 2001 was £5.6 (€7.1) million

Voluntary Housing Sector

- 4 projects consisting of 22 units of accommodation for the elderly and 15 for the disabled were completed during 2001. Total expenditure incurred in 2001 for this sector was £900,000 (€1,142,764).
- 8 units of accommodation for homeless women were completed at the Kilkenny Womens Refuge Centre.

Housing Loans

In 2001, 45 shared ownership loans were paid while 24 annuity loans were paid.

- A Total of 25 house improvement loans were paid out during 2001 and 12 tenants purchased their homes under the Tenant Purchase Scheme with loans from Kilkenny County Council.
- A total of £8 million (€10.16 million) expenditure was incurred in loans of which £2.4 million (€3.04 million) was in respect of affordable housing.
- At 31st December 2001 the total housing loans arrears due was £267,000 (€339,020) which was a reduction of £85,000 (€107,928) on the previous year.

Community Development/Tenant Participation

The following initiatives were carried out within the Estate Management Programme in 2001:

- The provision of skips to twenty-three local authority estates.
- A facilitator was provided to the following areas in Castlecomer (Church Avenue, Kilkenny Road, Hillside View, Marymount, Maryville and Donaguile) to develop a vision for their area.
- The management committee of the Archers Street community centre were funded for necessary structural improvements.
- The residents of Comeragh View, Mooncoin were assisted with a landscaping project.
- A further six estates were assisted with small landscaping projects. Eighteen estates were assisted with clean ups.
- The residents of Bishop Birch Place were facilitated with a pilot management training programme in 2001.
- In conjunction with the Environment Section, ten paper pickers were allocated to ten estates in 2001.
- The Travelling Community were also assisted with management training in 2001.

Private Rented Sector

- A total of 199 dwellings were registered with the



Council as being privately rented and were entered in the register which is available for public inspection.

- The annual registration fee is £40 (€50.79) and a total of £8,880 (€11,275) was collected.

Homeless Assistance

- A total of £162,252 (€206,018) was expended on accommodation for homeless persons.
- A total of £926,183 (€1,176,009) was paid and recouped in full for the accommodation of Asylum Seekers.
- The Good Shepherd Centre which provides accommodation for homeless men and which is funded by the Council, provided accommodation for a total of 133 men during the year.

Other Housing Services Highlights

- 27 Council dwellings were sold to tenants under the Tenant Purchase Scheme at a total cost of £894,190 (€1,135,387).
- 67 Disabled Persons Grants totalling £557,000 (€707,244) were paid out to disabled persons to assist them in undertaking necessary renovation works.
- 41 essential repairs grants totalling £72,000 (€91,421) were paid to elderly persons to assist them with essential repairs to their dwelling.

Affordable Housing

- Phases 1 & 2 at St. Kierans Crescent were completed and only 2 houses remained to be sold out of 36 at the end of 2001.
- Phase 3 of the St. Kierans Crescent Scheme commenced in 2001 consisting of 28 houses (2 & 3 bed). House prices commenced at £71,000 (€90,151).
- A further Affordable Housing Scheme is in the planning stage for Graiguenamanagh. Tenders have been received.
- Loan finance arranged by the Council and subsidy available to assist borrowers if income under £20,000 (€25,500).

Housing Highlights

- 411 families assisted in obtaining suitable housing accommodation.
- 141 housing loans totalling £8 million (€10.15 million) advanced.
- 108 housing grants totalling £629,000 (€798,665) paid.
- 9 travelling families housed.
- £162,252 (€206,018) expended on accommodation for homeless persons.



Good Shepherd Centre, Kilkenny – Accommodation for Homeless Men.

Affordable Housing Scheme at St. Kieran's Crescent, Kilkenny





Road Development and Transport

MILEAGE OF ROADS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2001

	Km	Miles
National Primary Roads	147.82	91.85
National Secondary Roads	68.27	42.43
Regional Roads	315.90	196.30
Local Roads	2532.24	1573.50
TOTAL	3064.20	1904.10

Road Construction/Improvement/Maintenance

The total expenditure on roads in the County was £23.396 million (€29.707 million) in 2001 as follows:-

National Primary Roads	£12.743	€16.180
National Secondary Roads	£1.086	€1.379
Regional Roads	£3.216	€4.084
Local Roads	£6.351	€8.064

The major schemes funded included:-

N8 Design	£1.000	€1.270
N9 Design	£0.800	€1.016
N8 Johnstown Village	£0.900	€1.143
N10 Paulstown/Kilkenny Pavement Improvement	£0.900	€1.143
N10 Knocktopher Streets	£0.200	€0.254
N24 Piltown/Fiddown By-Pass	£8.000	€10.158
N24 Design - Mooncoin By-Pass	£0.100	€0.127
N77 Design - Kilkenny Ring Road Extension	£0.150	€0.190

N24 Limerick-Waterford Road Improvement Scheme - Piltown/Fiddown By-Pass Section

The Piltown/Fiddown By-pass road scheme in South Kilkenny consists of 9.4 km of National Primary road realignment and is now nearing completion. The scheme is part of the N24 Limerick-Waterford road, which has been designated by the Government as part of the 'Western Corridor'.

The Contract for the construction of the scheme was awarded to Jons Civil Engineering Ltd who commenced work on site in August 1999. The works covered by the Contract comprise generally of:

- 9.4 km of National Primary Road Realignment including a by-pass south of Piltown village and north of Fiddown village.
- Approximately 3 km of new local roads and realignment of existing roads.
- 5 No. bridges including 100m four span bridge over the Pil River and its flood plane and an interchange bridge linking the two communities of Piltown and Fiddown.
- 3 No. farm underpasses
- Approximately 2 km of farm service lanes

- Various accommodation works including relocating domestic entrances and driveways.

The total cost of the Project is approximately £20 million (€25.395 million) including land, design fees and construction expenses. As part of the Project and the National Percentage Art Programme, a budget of £50,000 (€63,487) was made available to be spent on a work of art. A contract was awarded to Sculptor Austin McQuinn who produced an original permanent piece, which has been erected on the site.

Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme

2001 Statistics:

Total number of roads repaired	29
Total length of roads repaired	15.28km
Total number of residents who benefited	65
Total expenditure incurred	£579,508 €735,823
Total value of voluntary contributions paid	£144,876 €183,955

Local Improvement Scheme

The scheme refers to non-public roads. Residents are required to cover at least 10% of the costs of the works required to bring the roads to a good standard. The Council will undertake the works and cover up to 90% of the cost in the form of a DOELG grant.

2001 Statistics:

Total number of roads repaired	3
Total length of roads repaired	2.4km
Total number of beneficiaries	18
Total expenditure incurred	£95,925 €121,800
Total value of voluntary contributions	£13,991 €17,765

Public Lighting

Total number lights:	3,890
Cost of electricity/maintenance	£325,000 €412,665

In 1996 a decision was taken to upgrade all public lighting in the county and provision was made for expenditure of £50,000 (€63,500) annually. In 1998 a total of 1711 Mercury Lights were identified as being in need of upgrading a contract was entered into with the ESB to upgrade same and provide 10% infill lighting before the end of 1999. The works were completed in May 2000 and will be paid for in full by 31/12/2003.



Road Safety

Kilkenny County Council is committed to accident prevention and in 2001 completed 11 Low Cost Remedial Schemes. The value of these schemes totalled £166,222 (€211,058) – 8 were funded by the NRA on National Roads and 3 were on Non National Roads. The works involved improving the road marking, traffic signs and lighting at high accident location sites.

The following are the latest Road Traffic Accidents statistics for Kilkenny from the Road Accidents Facts 2000.

No. of Accidents per 1,000 Population	1.9 – National Average 2.2
No. of Accidents per 1,000 Reg. Vehicles	3.7 – National Average 4.6
No. of Accidents per 10million Veh. kilometres of Trave.	0.7 – National Average 2.1

Kilkenny County Council continues to emphasise the importance of safety on our roads by means of education, accident prevention and publicity.

The Junior Warden Scheme operated by the boys in 5th and 6th class in the CBS is now in its thirteenth year. It plays a very important role in safeguarding children in that area. A local competition was held among the daily groups and prizes were presented by Garda Garry Gordon, Garda Co-ordinator of the scheme.

Kilkenny College, were the winners of the annual debating competition sponsored by the Bank of Ireland.

A number of visits took place to National Schools around the county promoting Road Safety awareness among students.

Local Radio and Newspapers were also used on a regular basis to help spread the Road Safety message.

Motor Taxation

A total of 3654 new vehicles were registered in Co. Kilkenny in 2001 compared with 5375 in 2000 and 4169 in 1999.

The National Vehicle & Driver File system was implemented in Kilkenny Motor Tax as and from the 1st December, 2001. The National Car Test now requires that all cars over four years old qualify to be tested.

2001 Statistics:

Amount Collected	£9,283,992	€11,788,238
Number of Vehicles Taxed		40,638
New Registrations		3,654
New Registrations (Used Car Imports)		652
Driving Licences		12,362
Trailer Licences		158
Certificates of Roadworthiness		3,058
Annual Discs Issued		27,981
Half Yearly Discs Issued		10,909
Quarterly Discs Issued		28,808

- 40/50% of applications are postal.
- Postal applications are generally dealt with (disc issued) on the third or less.
- Opening Hours: 32.5 per week including lunchtime opening.



N24 Piltown/Fiddown By-Pass – Section of the new road showing the Tibberaghny Road Bridge



Road at Ballynooney, Mullinavat before and after being repaired under the Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme 2001.



Sanitary Services

Rural Water Programme

Kilkenny County Council is responsible for the administration of a number of grant and subsidy schemes which are aimed at resourcing the Group Water and Sewerage sector in addition to individual house owners who finance the supply of water from their own resources.

1. Private Well Grants

- 263 applications
- 172 paid
- £199,295 total of grants paid
€253,053

2. Group Water Scheme Subsidies

- 30 applications
- 30 paid
- £44,379 total of subsidies paid
€56,350

3. New Group Scheme Grants or Improvement Grants

- Total monies spent £103,183 (€131,016)

Small Schemes Programme

Small schemes are those schemes estimated to cost less than £250,000 (€317,435). A grant of 75% is obtained from the Department of Environment and Local Government and the Council funds the balance from its own resources. The total allocation for 2001 was £400,000 (€507,895). The schemes undertaken during the year included:

- ❖ Bennettsbridge Water Supply
- ❖ Ballyragget Water Supply (Water Tower Repairs)
- ❖ Urlingford/Johnstown (Mains Replacement)
- ❖ Castlecomer (Mains Replacement)
- ❖ Piltown (Mains Replacement)
- ❖ Kilkenny (Mains Replacement)
- ❖ Kilkenny WSS (Improvement Treatment Process)
- ❖ Urlingford Sewerage Works (Contribute to upgrading)

Water and Sewerage Services

Water Supply Schemes Characteristics

- No. of schemes 14
- No. of households served 14,000
- Water produced (gallons per day) 5 million
- Cost of maintenance £1,410,000
(€1,790,331)

Sewerage Schemes Characteristics

- No. of schemes 12
- Population equivalent 120,000
- Cost of maintenance £890,287
(€1,130,431.30)

Capital Schemes

Sludge Management Plan

The Draft Sludge Management Plan was published in September 2001 and is at present under consideration.

Thomastown Sewerage Scheme

The scheme involves the provision of a new pumping station and treatment works, refurbishment of an existing pumping station and collection network and provision of new sewers and rising mains. Construction commenced in October 2001 and completion is expected by the end of Summer 2002.

Graiguenamanagh Sewerage Scheme

This scheme involves the provision of two pumping stations, a wastewater treatment works, upgrading of the town's sewerage system and surface water network. Construction commenced in May 2001 and completion is expected by the end of Summer 2002.

Kilmacow Sewerage Scheme

A brief in respect of this project for Design, Build Operate (DBO) was submitted to the Department of the Environment and Local Government for their approval during they year. The Civil Works will be carried out in the traditional manner. At the end of 2001 negotiations were in progress in respect of the purchase of a new site for the treatment plant.

South Kilkenny Water Supply Scheme (Belview Port)

Exploratory well drilling has been completed and a final Report from the Consultants on the feasibility of the Scheme is awaited.



Graiguenamanagh Wastewater Treatment Plant



Planning for Development and the Future

Forward Planning

- **County Development Plan – Development Plan for Kilkenny City & Environs**

The process of preparing a new County Development Plan including Development Plans for the Scheduled Towns of Callan, Castlecomer, Graiguenamanagh, Thomastown and for the Waterford City Environs (including Belview Area Action Plan and Kilmacow Village Plan) and the Environs of New Ross continued. Council Members met on 17 occasions to consider and decide on 350 submissions. The process of preparing a new Development Plan for Kilkenny City and Environs also continued and individual and joint meetings of both Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Borough Council were held to discuss various submissions and issues. Amendments to both Plans will be published in 2002.

- **Conservation**

1100 structures were listed in the Record of Protected structures and a scheme of Conservation Grants were administered in respect of these structures during 2001. A sum of £136,872.70 (€173,792.48) was paid in grants. The need to give greater priority to Conservation issues was recognised and a commitment made in the 2002 Estimates to employ a Conservation Officer with responsibilities for both Kilkenny City and County.

- **Strategic Assessments**

A Joint Retail Strategy was developed in 2001 and will be published as an Amendment to both Draft Development Plans in 2002.

A Joint Housing Strategy was adopted by both Authorities in 2001 which is aimed at boosting the supply of land for private and public housing.

Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Borough Council commissioned the preparation of a joint Cycle Routes Study for Kilkenny City & Environs and it is expected to be completed in 2002. The recommendations of the Study will be incorporated as Amendments to the Draft Development Plans.

Work continued on Phase 2 of the Kilkenny Active & Recreational Open Space Needs Study. It is expected that the Study will be completed in mid 2002 and will form the basis for the future development of this sector.

- **Area Plans**

Work commenced on the preparation of the Area Plans for Gowran and Inistioge which will be made in 2002.

Preliminary work was undertaken in relation to the preparation of an Area Plan for the Poulgour Wetlands Area of the Western Environs of Kilkenny City. The process will be further developed on the adoption of the Kilkenny City and Environs Plan.

Development Control

- 1767 planning applications were received in 2001.
- Enforcement proceedings were instituted in 79 cases.
- 8 tree felling licence applications and 24 deforestation applications were received and processed.
- 776 commencement notices received.
- 120 Fire Safety Certificates received.
- £378,359.63 (€480,417.63) received in planning application fees.
- £1,044,052.30 (€1,325,673.00) received in development contributions.

Urban & Village Renewal

The Urban and Village Renewal Programme 2000-2006 commenced in 2001. Kilkenny County Council prepared their Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Measure in County Kilkenny over the six-year period. The projects are carried out in consultation with the local communities. Thirteen projects were selected for 2001, with five projects being selected for each of the remaining five years.

An allocation of £198,050 (€251,471.63) was received in 2001 enabling the Council to carry out the following projects:

- Lisdowney – Restoration of stone walls in village centre.
- Freshford – Development of Millennium Community Part.
- Newpark Marsh – Installation of visitor facilities in wildlife reserve.
- Castlecomer – Improvement of streetscape in Market Square.
- Booleyglass – Development of village green.
- Tulla – Remedial tree surgery in grounds of listed building.
- Graiguenamanagh – Streetscape improvements at Well Lane.
- Kilmanagh – Development of abandoned quarry as amenity area.
- Windgap – Upgrading historic cemetery.
- Coon – Streetscape improvements in village.
- Ballyouskill – Streetscape improvements.
- Gathabawn – Undergrounding of services.
- Kilkenny Corporation – Streetscape improvements.



Town Renewal

The Town Renewal Scheme has been extended to 31st December, 2003. This is a tax incentive scheme and applies to the following towns in County Kilkenny:

- Castletomer
- Callan
- Thomastown
- Urlingford
- Piltown
- Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch

Commercial incentives and additional residential investor incentives were introduced in 2001.

To avail of the tax incentives a Certificate of Consistency with the Town Renewal Plan is required from the local authority. Guidelines on the Certification procedure are available together with application forms from the Planning Section. Kilkenny County Council granted two First Stage Certificates of Consistency in 2001.

Derelict Sites

The Council continue in their efforts to eradicate derelict sites. It is hoped that the tax incentives under the Town Renewal Act 2000 will encourage redevelopment of derelict sites in the designated areas.

The Council acquired two derelict sites in Kilmoganny and one in Graiguenamanagh in 2001 under the Derelict Sites Act 1990.

Woodstock Garden Restoration Project

In 2001, Woodstock Gardens in Inistioge were in their third year of restoration with major changes evident in the gardens. Visitor numbers increased significantly this year indicating great interest and support for the project. There was no allocation of grant funding in 2001, but indications from Bord Failte are that a grant would be announced in February 2002. This year therefore was predominantly a maintenance phase. The Council provided £120,000 (€152,368) which covers the cost of staff, materials and plant hire. When further grant aid becomes available, other major projects such as the Winter Garden, Kitchen Garden and Canal are proposed for development.

Several features of the gardens have been restored during

Phase One and Two. These include the terraced flower garden, the bathhouse (or grotto), Lady Louisa's Walk which contains an arched rose trellis, the Walled Garden (or Kitchen Garden), and the most popular features, the Monkey Puzzle and Noble Fir Walks.

An automatic barrier was erected in the car park to collect a fee of £2 (€2.50) per vehicle. An amount of approximately £8,000 (€10,158) was collected between July and December 2001. Two caretakers were appointed in July to look after the gardens and provide help and assistance to visitors particularly at weekends

Finally, Kilkenny County Council, in conjunction with Grennan College, Thomastown, established a two-year gardening course at Woodstock. A large element of the course will be practical work which will take place in Woodstock Gardens. County Council staff are involved in teaching on this course which started in September 2001.

Planning & Development Act 2000

Parts of the Planning & Development Act 2000 had been brought into operation in 2001.

The majority of the Act will not commence until the 11/03/02. The Act has significant implications for planning applicants, the general public, Council Members and Officials of the Planning Authority and will impact significantly on day to day activities of the Planning Department in its dealings with planning applications, objectors, complaints and enforcement. The implications and planning application activity will be subject to on-going review. The legislation provides for greater access, more accountability and a more efficient and transparent planning system.



Newpark Marsh



Environmental Protection and Awareness

Dunmore Landfill (annual report)

- An application was made to the EPA in March, 2001 for a review of the waste licence to incorporate four extra lined cells
- The EPA issued a proposed decision on the licence on the 19th December, 2001.
- In association with the Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce and Industry, IBEC and the Waste Contractors, there was a reduction of over 20% in the amounts of waste consigned to the landfill from commercial and industrial premises in 2001, with an overall reduction of 11.5%.
- Further environmental controls were introduced at the site, including a gas flaring system. Full environmental monitoring at the site throughout the year.
- A Community Information Group was set up in July, 2001 to disseminate monitoring information and discuss concerns of the local residents

In 2001 Kilkenny County Council continued to develop its policies on increasing environmental awareness among the general public and developing controls to help protect the environment.

Conservations and Amenity Grants

- ❖ £20,000 (€25,394.76) was allocated to local groups e.g. residents associations, tidy towns associations etc. to help improve recreational amenities and facilities.
- ❖ £140,000 (€177,763.33) was allocated in conservation grants to encourage the preservation of items of architectural, archaeological or historical interest.

Tidy Towns

- ❖ There were 38 entries from Kilkenny in the National Tidy Town's competition.

Litter Control

- ❖ The Litter Warden continued with Anti-Litter Promotion in schools and businesses and Enforcement of Anti-Litter Legislation
- ❖ A Litter Patrol Crew was employed for the summer period to keep the Environs of Kilkenny City clean
- ❖ Skips were provided during Clean-up Kilkenny Week to

assist voluntary groups clean up their areas

- ❖ A number of legal proceedings against unauthorised dumping were instituted

Burial Grounds

- ❖ There are 170 burial grounds in County Kilkenny
- ❖ 13 burial grounds are used on a regular basis and fees for grave spaces are charged

Air Pollution Control

- ❖ Kilkenny County Council monitored the emissions from the premises of three licensees.

Water Quality

- ❖ All the major rivers in County Kilkenny are covered by Water Quality Management Plans
- ❖ The Council monitors 16 licences to discharge to waters and 9 licences to discharge to sewers. A number of larger industrial developments are now licensed by The Environmental Protection Agency.
- ❖ Farm surveys came to a halt very early in the year due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ River Water Quality Monitoring – 636 samples were taken by the Council's Environmental Laboratory.
- ❖ River Water Quality Monitoring – 107 sample stations were monitored at regular intervals by the E.P.A. This monitoring programme was seriously disrupted in 2001 by the Foot and Mouth crisis.
- ❖ A report by the E.P.A. on River Water Quality in County Kilkenny was commissioned by Kilkenny County Council.
- ❖ The Groundwater Protection Scheme for the County in association with the Geological Survey of Ireland is in the final stages of completion.



Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations 2001

- ❖ Kilkenny County Council are the nominated authority for the South East region: this comprises the Local Authorities - Carlow Co. Co., Kilkenny Co. Co., Tipperary South Riding Co. Co., Waterford Corporation, Waterford Co. Co. and Wexford Co. Co.
- ❖ Companies wishing to collect waste in this region have to make an application for a Waste Collection Permit to Kilkenny County Council.
- ❖ The closing date for applications for companies continuing or proposing to collect waste was the 30th of November 2001. An amended date of 30th of June 2002 applied to those involved in the collection of slurry or residual sludge from septic tanks.
- ❖ Kilkenny County Council has received 134 applications to date.
- ❖ A public register was set up.
- ❖ Applications were checked for compliance with article 5/7 of the regulations.
- ❖ If the application did not comply further information was requested from the applicant until such time that it did so.
- ❖ If the application complied, either immediately or after information was received an acknowledgement of receipt of the application was sent to the applicant. Copies of applications that complied were sent to all relevant local authorities and the EPA (if Hazardous). Further information to support the application could be requested from the applicant at this stage.
- ❖ Submissions received by the public were acknowledged, a copy sent to the applicant and to the relevant Local Authorities for comment.
- ❖ Based upon all the information supplied by the applicant during the application process and any submissions received from other parties Kilkenny County Council reach a decision to grant or refuse a permit.
- ❖ The applicant, all relevant local authorities, the EPA and anyone who made a submission shall be informed of the decision.
- ❖ A copy of any permit issued is forwarded to the applicant, all relevant local authorities and the EPA.

- ❖ The applicant can appeal the conditions attached to any permit issued to Kilkenny District Court.

Environmental Protection and Awareness

"In 2001, an Environmental Education and Awareness Officer has been appointed for the first time to promote public awareness of better waste management, composting and recycling."

Waste Management and Recycling Activities

- ❖ The number of bring sites for glass and aluminium cans was increased from 11 to 29 by the end of 2001. The Council participated in Repak Ltd.'s Christmas recycling campaign in 2001 by providing facilities for recycling PET bottles, newspapers and cardboard at 5 locations.
- ❖ Kilkenny County Council's environmental awareness officer visited over 30 national schools and one new Green Flag was awarded to a primary school in County Kilkenny bringing the total number of Green Flags to four.
- ❖ 56 National and post-primary schools joined Kilkenny County Council's battery recycling campaign and had battery boxes installed.
- ❖ Kilkenny County Council's home composting scheme progressed and over 800 composters were sold in 2001.
- ❖ The first Chemcar collection for household hazardous waste was held on the 8th of December 2001. Over 2600kg of household hazardous waste and 151 fluorescent tubes were collected.



The Chairman of Kilkenny County Council Cllr. Pat Millea and Council staff at the Chemcar collection in County Hall on the 8th December, 2001.



Kilkenny County Library Service

Websites www.kilkennylibrary.ie
www.clik.to/castlecomerlibrary

Branches

- Callan
- Castlecomer
- City, John's Quay
- Co. Library H.Q.
- Loughboy
- Graiguenamanagh
- Mobile Service
- Schools' Service
- Thomastown
- Urlingford

Services

The libraries hold a wide range of fiction and non-fiction titles for adults and children. In addition to the core bookstock, there is a large selection of large print books, books on tape, music (cassettes & CDs), language courses, periodicals, educational videos and CD-ROMs available. There is a reference section in each branch together with a small local studies collection. The main local studies section is at Library H.Q. Other services on offer include:

- Public Internet Access
- Book Requests and Inter Library Loans
- Photocopying

- Exhibition Facilities
- Career Information
- Citizens Information
- Children's Activities

John's Quay Branch was featured on the adult literacy programme Read Write Now. Caitriona Kenneally, Sen. Assistant, was filmed, loaning a book to a member of the public. In March, an open evening for the local Adult Literacy Group was held to encourage use of the library by this section of the population.

The Mobile Service did not operate from 1st March to 16th March due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak. When it resumed, its computerised lending system was upgraded to provide a more efficient service. Borrowers at its 60 stops around the county availed of the stock of books, tapes & cd's and language courses.

The Schools Service operated during term time, calling to 77 schools three times per annum. Over 9,500 children benefited from this service. There is a special "Teachers' Collection" and increasing book support for the resource teachers of the county.

Callan and Thomastown Branches were extensively renovated during the year.



Urlingford Branch Library



Graiguenamanagh Branch hosted the RTE travelling exhibition "From the Wireless to the Web". This audiovisual experience included themed archives of Kilkenny interest and a display of vintage radios. Booklets on local facilities in the area were prepared by the library staff and enhanced their tourist information stand.

Urlingford Branch was a hive of activity during the year. Classes in knitting, music, French and crafts were held. The homework club was organised. There was a variety of exhibitions held through the year including a photographic display of the work being undertaken by the Woodstock Gardens Restoration Project, the Write-a-Book project by local schoolchildren, painting and sculpture by Kilkenny artists and crossstitch work completed in the library classes.

Castlecomer Branch worked with the Transition Year at Castlecomer Community School and held a hands-on Christmas crafts session in the library. The library prepared and distributed a Welcome Pack for the residents of the new Oakhill estate in the town. The pack contained information on the library and locality, which would help in the integration of the new residents into the community.

A range of **Activities for Children** took place in all the libraries throughout the year. Reading clubs, storytime, facepainting, arts & crafts, chess and draughts competitions were among such activities. The City branch hosted a sign language course for children and a talk on the Donkey Sanctuary. Loughboy ran an integrated library club where children were encouraged to

join in all the activities of the club e.g. reading club, arts and crafts and games. Reading clubs were organised in Callan and Thomastown branches for the first time and judging by their popularity, not for the last. The slogan for the Reading club in Castlecomer was "Kids who read, succeed". The Ranting and Raving Poetry Club was also very popular in Castlecomer. During Arts Week, the Banyan Puppet Theatre presented the History of Tom Thumb in all of the libraries.

The Children's Book Festival in October was another occasion to pay special attention to the junior members of the libraries. Urlingford branch hosted author visits from Don Conroy, Terry Hassett Henry, Stephanie Dagg and Mary Arrigan. Cora Harrison visited Graiguenamanagh, Thomastown and Loughboy. A Viking enthralled adults and children with his depiction of life in Viking times. Other events included a candlelit Story at Bedtime, visits from the Fire Service, the Wildlife Ranger and Kilkenny Youth Theatre.

Local Studies and Archive Section

Kilkenny County Library continued with its active policy of acquiring items of local interest with the acquisition of the 'Correspondence of James Butler, 1st and 2nd Dukes of Ormonde'. The trend towards 'e-queries' continued with e-mail queries now far in excess of postal and phone queries. With this trend in mind, the Library has now a website at 'kilkennylibrary.ie', which gives extensive listings of our local holdings.



Graiguenamanagh Branch Library



Emergency Services and Safety Concerns

Fire Service

2000 - Operational Statistics

Number of fires attended by brigades	442
Number of Road Traffic Accidents attended	81
Oil Spillages	86
Miscellaneous calls	159
False Alarms	195
Total Number of Incidents	963

Major Emergency Exercises

A number of major training exercises took place during the year. These exercises are designed to update skills and knowledge of the firefighters and are part of the ongoing training that all firefighters undergo.

The exercises involved incidents at Glanbia, Ballyragget, Kilkenny Castle, The Old Secondary School, Freshford, Mount Juliet, Thomastown and Ormonde Brick, Castlecomer.

Kilkenny Fire Service wishes to express its thanks to the people and agencies involved in running these incidents..

Stations/Equipment

At the end of the year 2001 approval was received from the Department of Environment and Local Government to prepare tender documentation for the construction of new fire stations at Callan and Freshford.

In additions, two new fire engines were ordered, one for Urlingford and one for Kilkenny. These should be delivered in spring and summer 2002. A second hand fire engine was also purchased through funding from the Department of Environment and Local Government

Fire Safety

A number of premises have been inspected under the Public Dance Halls Act, various Licensing Acts, Gaming and Lottery Acts, Dangerous Substances Act, Building Control Act and Fire Services Act.

Fire brigades personnel throughout the county were involved in promoting fire safety during the Fire Safety Week in October 2001. A number of competitions were organized and prizes awarded.

Other Activities

1. The Fire Service together with the Ambulance Service and An Garda Síochana were involved promoting awareness of road safety.
2. In December 2001 Kilkenny Fire Service and the South Eastern Health Board Ambulance Service collected over £6,300 (€8,000) for St Patrick's Centre, Kells Road and the School of the Holy Spirit, Gaol Road. This is the third year that the fire service and ambulance service have fund raised for local causes.



Road Traffic Accident Exercise



Education/Health

Higher Education Grant Scheme

Kilkenny County Council pays Higher Education Grants to students attending approved courses in various Third Level Institutions. The 2001 scheme prepared by the Minister for Education was considered and adopted by the Higher Education Grants Committee in September 2001. A total of 403 students applied for grants for the first time in 2001. A further 482 students renewed their grants in 2001. Expenditure of £1,491,281 (€1,893,536) was incurred in 2001.

The closing date for receipt of Higher Education Grant Forms in 2001 was Friday, 27th July, 2001. All second level schools were visited before the end of the school year informing Leaving Certificate pupils as to the availability of grants and advising regarding the completion of application forms and the need for inclusion of necessary documentation with the application. An information evening was also held in the Desart Hall in early July together with an interview explaining the application process on the Radio Kilkenny Youth Links Programme.

Cur Chun Cinn na Gaeilge i gComhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

Lean Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh lena hiarrachtaí an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i rith na bliana agus leis an bpolasaí dátheangachais ar ghlac an Chomhairle leis i 1995 a chur i bhfeidhm. Tá Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh sásta gnó a dhéanamh tri Ghaeilge le aon duine sa chontae a lorgáinn a leithéid.

Bhí an fochoiste Gaeilge an gnóach roimh deireadh an bliain chun an chéad céim a dhéanamh athbhreithniú ar Phlean Gníomaíochta don Ghaeilge na Comhairle. Socraigh an Fochoiste cuairt go dtí ár macasamhla i Corcaigh chun féachaint ar na reachtanna a rinne siad go gairid. Socraigh an fochoiste ranganna neamhhoirmiúil a freastail roimh cruinniú an Chomhairle chun caighdeán Gaeilge na daoine ar an Fochoiste a feabhsáim.

Bronnadh scoiláireachtaí do bheirt ball den fhoireann le freastal ar chúrsaí Ghaeleagrais i mBaile an Fheirtéaraigh. D'fhreastail an Oifigeach Gaeilge ar chursa í Dún Chíomháin a bhí i gcomhar le Roinn na Gaeilge Labhartha U.C.C.

Freedom Of Information

The Freedom of Information Act applies to all local authorities and Health Boards with effect from 21st October, 1998.

Mr. James Gibbons, Administrative Officer, was appointed Freedom of Information Officer for Kilkenny County Council in 2000.

A total of 51 Freedom of Information requests were received in 2001.

Payment of Accounts

Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 which came into effect on the 1st of January 1998 requiring Local Authorities to pay interest on payments which are not paid within the prescribed period i.e. 45 days.

The amount of penalty interest incurred by the Council during 2001 was Nil.

New Financial Management System

A new Financial Management System (FMS) is currently being implemented nationwide in all Local Authorities. Both Kilkenny County Council and Borough Council successfully implemented Phase 1 of the FMS during 2001 with Phase 2 being introduced in late 2002. The FMS will facilitate the timely reporting of key financial and management information which will lead to improved budgetary control and accountability while assisting in future planning/strategy development. It is planned that all Local Authorities will produce both a Profit & Loss account plus a full Balance Sheet for 2003.



Service Indicators in Kilkenny County Council

Housing

- 16 houses empty @ 31st December, 2001
- 37 casual vacancies during 2001
- 17 houses available for letting/after minor repairs
- 20 houses required improvement (external and internal)
- Average time taken to relet dwellings: 25 days

Roads

- £1.18 to £1.58 (€1.50 to €2.00) per square metre for surface dressing [depending on preparation required].
- 6.88% of local roads surface dressed per annum
- 6.24% of regional roads surface dressed per annum

Motor Taxation

- 40/50% of applications are postal
- All postal applications are dealt with [disc issued] on the third day or less
- Opening Hours: 32.5 per week including lunchtime opening

Environmental Services

LITTER [Combined Council & Corporation Areas]

- No. of On the Spot fines 461
- No. of Prosecutions 15
- No. of Litter Wardens 2
- No. of School Visits carried out 66
- No. of Community Groups involved in litter measures 52
- No. of Meetings with local business groups, Chambers of Commerce, Repak 20

ENVIRONMENT SERVICES: [Combined Council & Corporation Areas]

- Bring facilities
- Numbers and type of facility 23 No glass bottles, beverage cans and textile
- Number of locations per 5,000 population 1.44

Revenue Collection

House Rent

- 86.2% collected in Year 2001
- 1-3 weeks old
- 4-6 weeks old
- more than 6 weeks old

Percentage of Arrears

9.1%
11.5%
79.4%

House Repayments

- 92% collected in Year 2001

Percentage of Arrears

- 1 month old 2%
- 2-3 months old 9%
- more than 3 months old 89%

Rates

- 95.6% collected in Year 2001

Corporate Health

- 2.88% of working days lost to sickness absence in Year 2001

Library Services

- Opening hours per week 26
- No. of Items issued per head of population for
 - (i) Books 5.93
 - (ii) Other Items 0.98

Planning

- No. of Planning Application Made 1828
- No. of Decisions Made 1652
- % Determined within 8 weeks 58% [958 No.]
- % Granted 78% [1289 No.]
- % Refused 22% [363 No.]



Financial Statement (Figures are quoted in Euro only for ease of reference)

Year Ended 31st December, 2001

1. REVENUE ACCOUNT			
2000		2001	
Actual		Estimate	Actual
€		€	€
40,531,277	Expenditure	44,895,271	46,994,923
40,531,277	Total Expenditure (A)	44,895,271	46,994,923
26,023,651	Receipts – State Grants	27,286,900	27,800,765
15,173,413	Receipts – Goods/Services	16,675,114	18,208,318
1,388,513	Receipts – From other Local Authorities	933,257	1,573,832
42,585,578	Total Receipts (B)	44,895,271	47,582,915
2,054,300	Surplus (A-B)	—	587,992
6,189,295 Db	Balance C/F at 31/12/2000	—	4,134,996 Db
4,134,995 Db	Closing Balance 31/12/2001	—	3,547,004 Db

2. CURRENT ASSETS/LIABILITIES			
2000		2001	
€	Current Assets	€	
3,496,691	Debtors (Net)	2,783,411	
525,646	Cash on Hands	27,998	
479,899	Urban Account	535,223	
4,502,236	Total	3,346,632	
€	Current Liabilities	€	
136,317	Bank	981,354	
3,466,342	Creditors (Unpaid Bills)	4,494,747	
59,138	Sundry Credit Balances	69,878	
3,661,796	Total	5,545,979	



3. DEBTORS

2000		2001
€		€
701,395	Government Grants	340,246
2,615,030	Goods & Services	2,212,725
180,266	Commercial Rates	230,440
3,496,691	Total	2,783,411

4. CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Balance 31/12/00 €'000	Programme	Expenditure 2001 €'000	Receipts 2001 €'000	Balance 31/12/01 €'000
3,894 CR	1. Housing	27,153	21,862	1,398
538	2. Roads	20,742	21,709	429 CR
1,276	3. Sanitary	5,086	4,993	1,368
1,016	4. Development	218	181	1,053
518	5. Environment	402	1,098	178 CR
159	6. Recreation, etc.	62	311	90 CR
—	7. Agriculture/Education etc	—	—	—
457 CR	8. Miscellaneous	3,384	4,051	1,123 CR
844 CR	Total	57,047	54,205	1,999

COMMERCIAL RATES COLLECTION 2001

Arrears at 01/01/2001	180,265
Accrued in 2001	5,245,212
Struck-Off in 2001	190,776
Total for Collection	5,234,701
Amount Collected	5,004,260
Arrears at 31/12/2001	230,441
Percentage Collected	96%



Attendance at Seminars/Conferences for 2001

Payments	Amount £
Council Meetings/Committee Meetings	£83,252.78 €105,709.22

Meetings Held	
No. of Council Meetings	19

Number of Council Meetings, Committee Meetings held from 1st January, 2001 to 31st December, 2001.

Council	19
Thomastown Electoral Area	4
Kilkenny Electoral Area	5
Callan Electoral Area	4
Piltown Electoral Area	7
Ballyragget Electoral Area	5
Rural Water Monitoring	6
Traveller Accommodation	4
SPC 1	4
SPC 2	3
SPC 3	4
SPC 4	4
SPC 5	2
Planning	13
Woodstock	2
Intigrated Area Plan	2
Goul	2
Kilbride	2

Conferences, Seminars and other similar events at which the Local Authority was represented

Conference	Dates Held	No. of Members Attended
SPC 3 Meeting – Dublin.	17.01.01	1
SPC 2 Meeting, Hotel Kilkenny.	18.01.01	1
SPC 1 Meeting, Tullamore.	25.01.01	1
G.C.C.C. Conference – Mayo	26/27.01.01	13
Irish Committee Meeting - Cork.	29.01.01	5
Confederation of European Councillors – Brussels	27/31.01.01	1
Kilkenny Assoc. Manchester, Annual Dinner Dance	2/4.02.01	1
County Development Board Meeting – Waterford.	5.02.01	1
Assoc. of Municipal Authorities of Ire. Spring Seminar - Tralee	9/10.02.01	3
County Development Board Meeting – Dublin Castle	13.02.01	1
National Assoc. of Councillors N. Ireland Region Conference – Belfast.	23/25.02.01	1
Colmcille Heritage Trust – Donegal.	23/25.02.01	4
Kilkenny Association, N.Y., St. Patricks Day Parade	14/18.03.01	1
Kinsale UDC Spring Seminar. – location.	30.03 - 1.04.01	1

LAMA – Cork.	19/20.04.01	10
IPA National Housing Conference – Galway.	25/27.04.01	4
Association of Health Boards – Bundoran.	27/28.04.01	5
County Development Board Meeting, Portlaoise.	30.04.01	1
Sherkin Island 17th Annual Environmental Conference – Carrigaline, Co. Cork.	3/4.05.01	2
N. 9/N. 10 Meeting, Dolmen Hotel, Carlow.	14.05.01	5
Southern & Regional Assembly 2nd Annual Conference – Cork.	18/19.05.01	1
Blackwater Valley Tourism/Newmarket Devel. Association Three Day Conference – Cork.	25/27.05.01	1
Irish Public Bodies Meeting.	31.05.01	1
Mid West Regional Authority 7th Annual Conference – Adare, Co. Limerick.	15/16.06.01	2
IPA Policy Seminar for Elected Members – Hotel Kilkenny	19.06.01	3
Social Study Conference, 49th Annual Summer School - Mayo	21/23.06.01	5
G.C.C.C. – Carlow.	5/7.07.01	14
Dr. Douglas Hyde Conference, 2001 – Ballaghadereen	20/22.07.01	4
Austrian Ploughing Committee – “European Reversible Ploughing” C’ships, 2001 – Austria.	29.08 - 2.09.01	1
Parnell Summer School – Rathdrum.	12/17.08.01	2
N. 9/N. 10 Meeting, Dolmen Hotel, Carlow.	September, 2001	4
AMAI Annual Conference, Letterkenny.	13/15.09.01	4
ICSH National Social Housing Conference – Wesport	18/20.09.01	1
Blackwater Valley Tourism – Cork.	21/23.09.01	1
BMW Regional Assembly – Pontoon, Co. Mayo.	27.09.01	1
County Development Board Meeting – Enniscorthy.	27.09.01	2
University College Cork.	27/29.09.01	1
Greystones Town Commissioners 2001 La Touche Legacy Seminar – Greystones	28/30.09.01	1
Tipperary Co. Co. N.R. - Third World Conference – Clare	4/5.10.01	2
Joint LAMA/NAC Conference, 2001 – Slovakia.	11/14.10.01	4
Agriculture Science, Galway.	11/12.10.01	1
Broadcasting and the Law – Belfield, Dublin.	11.10.01	1
Cloone Aughavas Community – Leitrim.	12/13.10.01	1
Association of Irish Regions – Monaghan.	17/18.10.01	1
N. 25 Meeting, Mount Brandon Hotel, New Ross.	23.04.01	5
Feed Forum 2001 – Dublin.	1/2.11.01	1
LAMA Weekend Seminar – Monaghan.	9/10.11.01	15
Enterprise Kiltullagh Limited – Ballinlough	01.11.01	2
Muintir na Tire – Meath.	16.11.01	1
IBEC HR Conference, 2001 – Dublin.	22.11.01	1
Clare Co. Co. - 13th National Tourism Conference – Ennistymon	23/24.11.01	3
Fertilizer Association of Ire. Winter Scientific Meeting	23.11.01	1
N. 25 Meeting, Mount Brandon Hotel, New Ross.	26.11.01	4
Waste Water Treatment Conference – RDS Dublin.	28/29.11.01	1
Water Framework Directive – Tullamore.	4.12.01	1
Ireland – Neutral About What – Newbridge.	6.12.01	1
Launch of Waste Management Plan – Clonmel.	7.12.01	4
Rural Economy Research Centre, Teagasc – Dublin.	11.12.01	1



Kilkenny County Enterprise Board

Kilkenny County Development Board was established as a result of government action to promote co-ordination and integration of public services in County Kilkenny. The Board was established in 2000 to address the challenge of social service integration by preparing and overseeing the implementation of a County Strategy for Social, Economic & Cultural Development.

The County Development Board has developed a consensus-based and integrated framework for future planning in the County. The Board brings together key players at local level. It is representative of local government, local development bodies, the state agencies and social partners.

The primary function of the board has been to prepare a Strategy for Social Economic and Cultural Development for County Kilkenny.

The board has approached this task, firstly by agreeing its own aims philosophy and operating principles.

An audit of existing services has been developed and is

currently being Web enabled to allow for easy updating. Along with this a range of statistics on the county have been gathered to draw together a profile of the current social and economic situation in the county.

A key element in the preparation of the Strategy was an extensive consultation process in mid 2001 which involved 14 meetings across the county with 5 additional meetings with specific target groups. In all approximately 500 people participated in the process.

The board are now in the process of developing areas for strategic action which will address the key issues which emerged in the consultation process.

It is expected that the strategy will be finalised by the end of March 02. Kilkenny County Council's role to date has been to primarily to facilitate the development of board and the strategy overall. It also plays an important role in developing responses along with other agencies to the issues identified.



Acknowledgement from Mayor of New York



October, 2001

Thank you for your kind letter concerning the attack on the World Trade Center. I know that all New Yorkers deeply appreciate your thoughts and prayers on behalf of the victims and their families.

In the aftermath of this unimaginable tragedy, New Yorkers and Americans have united as never before. Inspired by countless examples of courage and generosity, we have met the worst of humanity with the best of humanity.

God bless America.

Sincerely,

Rudolph W. Giuliani
Mayor

On the 11th September, 2001 news broke of the horrible events that were unfolding in New York with the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre.

A meeting of Kilkenny County Council which was taking place broke off from their deliberations to pray for the victims of the attack. The above is an acknowledgement received from Rudolph Giuliani, Mayor of New York City to the expression of sympathy sent by the Council, on behalf of the people of County Kilkenny, to the people of New York City.



Kilkenny Corporation



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TOWN CLERK: DONAL O'BRIEN
BOROUGH ENGINEER: JOE GANNON

WILLIAM MERNAGH (JULY 2001)



Kilkenny City and Corporation

Membership of the Corporation

The Corporation comprises twelve members, elected for a five year term of office. The current Corporation was elected in June, 1999, and membership at 31st December, 2001 was as follows:

Mayor:	Ald. Joe Cody
Deputy Mayor:	Cllr. Marie Fitzpatrick
Aldermen:	John McGuinness John Coonan Michael Lanigan
Councillors:	Betty Manning Pat Crotty Paul Cuddihy Joe Reidy Martin Brett Evelyn White Tony Patterson
Administration:	County & City Manager Mr. P. J. Donnelly Town Clerk Mr. Donal O'Brien Senior Executive Engineer Mr. Joe Gannon Mr. Billy Mernagh (from July, 2001)

The Municipal Rate for 2001 was £41.16 / €52.26

It is the role of Kilkenny Corporation to administer local services within the Borough. Such duties include infrastructure, community and social services and the promotion of Kilkenny as a major tourist centre.

Role of the Corporation

Kilkenny Corporation is the local authority which administers local services within the Borough. The role of the Corporation, through its elected members and administrative staff, is to co-ordinate and provide infrastructural community and social services to ensure the economic well-being of the citizens of Kilkenny.

Planned future developments and expansion of the City is contained in the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 1994-1999 which was jointly adopted with Kilkenny County Council.

The Corporation also plays a major role in the preservation of Kilkenny's medieval heritage, and in the promotion of Kilkenny as a major tourist centre. Kilkenny Civic Trust augments the work of the Corporation in these areas.

Profile of the City

The City of Kilkenny has played an important role in the history of Ireland since its foundation in the 6th century by St. Cainneach (St.

Canice). The "faire Kilkenny" of Edmund Spenser's poem is also referred to as the "Marble City" from its abundance of Black Limestone. It is essentially a medieval town of the thirteenth century: a product of the Norman Conquest.

Kilkenny was constituted as a City by a Royal Charter of James I in 1609. The Sovereign and Council of Twelve have since been replaced by a Mayor, Alderman and Councillors.

The City has an area of 373.5 hectares (923 acres) and a population estimated at 8,500. The Borough and Environs has a population of 25,000 approx. The medieval character of the city has been maintained, particularly by the preservation of such historic buildings as Kilkenny Castle, St. Canice's Cathedral, Rothe House and Shee Alms House.

Road Transport and Development

- Phase III of a Five Year Roads Programme was completed in 2001 including pavement renewal at New Building Lane and Abbey Square.

Sanitary Services

- Charges for non-metered commercial premises were set at £220/€280 with metered charges set at £2.40/€3.05 per thousand gallons.
- The waterworks at Radestown services parts of the city and environs and produces 1.7 million gallons of water per day. This is augmented by water from the Kilkenny County Council operated plant at Troyswood, Kilkenny.

Environmental Protection and Awareness

- The collection and disposal of refuse in the Borough is carried out by the Corporation.
- Street cleaning takes place on a daily basis.
- The Corporation liaises with the Keep Kilkenny Beautiful Committee and in conjunction with Kilkenny County Council, employed a Litter Warden in 2001.

Swimming Pool

- Plans for the provision of a new Swimming Pool and Leisure Complex were advanced in 2001, with the approval by the Department of Tourism Sport & Recreation of a feasibility study submitted following adoption by the Members of Kilkenny Corporation.



James' Street



**Old School Yard –
Patrick Street**



Abbey Square



Michael Street



**Francis MacManus Housing Scheme –
Michael Street**





Register of Electors

Conditions for Registration

- Age:** A person must be at least 18 years of age on the day the register comes into force (15th February). A person may be included on a Supplement to the Register on reaching 18 and after the 15th February. Every resident aged 18 and upwards is entitled to be on the register or the Supplement.
- Citizenship:** A person's citizenship determines the election a person may vote at. The right to vote is as follows:
- Irish Citizen:** May vote at every election and referendum
- British Citizen:** May vote at Dail, European and Local Elections.
- Other EU Citizens:** May vote at European and Local Elections.
- Non-EU Citizens:** May vote at local elections only.
- Residence:** A person must be ordinarily resident at the address in question and may register at one address only.

Supplement to the Register of Electors

If a person is not included in the Register of Electors currently in force but considers that he/she qualifies for registration, the person may apply for entry in a supplement to the register. In order to qualify, a person must meet the citizenship, residence and age requirements which apply to the register concerned. Applications for entry in the supplement must be received by Kilkenny County Council at least 14 working days before an election or referendum. Persons entered in the supplement are entitled to vote at elections/referenda held during the currency of the register.

Postal Voters

The following categories may now vote by post:

1. Whole-time members of the Defence Forces.
2. Irish Diplomats posted abroad and their spouses.
3. Members of the Garda Siochana.
4. Disabled persons living at home who cannot vote at a polling station due to physical illness or physical disability,
5. Persons who due to circumstances of their occupation, service or employment. This includes students participating in a full time course in this state.

Special Voters

Electors who are ordinarily resident in a hospital, home or other institution for persons with a physical illness or physical disability are eligible for entry on a special voters list. This is where a special presiding officer is accompanied by a Garda, whose role is to guard the ballot papers (in the same way as in a polling station) and to act as an independent witness to ensure that the voting procedure is carried out properly.

Inspecting the Register

Any person may inspect the draft register during working hours at the offices of Kilkenny County Council, Kilkenny Corporation, Public Libraries, Post Offices and Garda Stations.

2001/2002 Register

Dail Constituency Carlow-Kilkenny	Presidential Electors 59,508	Dail Electors 59,759
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European Parliament Constituency Leinster	European Electors 59,819
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Local Government Electors in each Electoral Area

Ballyragget	11,163
Callan	7,574
Kilkenny	3,896
Kilkenny City	13,648
Piltown	12,721
Thomastown	10,936
Total	59,938