

## “A Plan WITH Older People NOT FOR Older People”

The Kilkenny Older People's Forum was established during 2010. The structure of the forum was agreed by Older People during consultation meetings and comprises representatives from Older People's Groups and individuals. New members are always welcome and participation is key to the development of Kilkenny as an Age Friendly County. The Forum has members from all areas of the City and County, with a variety of skills and interests, who work together to help delivery the strategy and continue to develop Kilkenny as a great place to grow old. The elected Executive working group of 12 older people has formally met on a monthly basis since its inception. Thanks to the Forum members, Older People now have representation on the Housing Action Group, The Traffic Management Forum, The Service Providers Forum and The Age Friendly County Programme Alliance Group.

To find out more information about the becoming a members of the Older People's Forum contact , County Development Board Secretariat, Community and Culture, Kilkenny County Council. John's Green Kilkenny or email [lindsey.butler@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:lindsey.butler@kilkennycoco.ie)

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## A Brief Guide to Kilkenny's Age Friendly County Programme

## The basic idea

Throughout the developed world, people are living longer. Ireland has also experienced an increase in overall life expectancy with a predicted rise in people aged 65 and over to approximately 1.1 million in 2036, an increase of almost 250% over 2006 census figure. In 2006 the World Health Organisation brought together 33 cities from across the globe to develop a checklist for Age Friendly Communities. Using this checklist and working with the Ageing Well Network, County Kilkenny launched its Age Friendly County Programme in March 2010 and was the second County in Ireland to do so. Following twenty one public consultation meetings with older people in the City and County in June and July 2010 Kilkenny produced a report entitled "Having you Say" which formed the basis for Kilkenny's Age Friendly County Strategy. The strategy was launched by Hollywood Legend Maureen O' Hara in March 2011. The Kilkenny Age Friendly County Strategy was adopted by the County Development Board in April 2011.

Since then a number of initiatives for older people in Kilkenny City and County have been established and Kilkenny has become approved as a Member of the WHO Global Network of Age Friendly Cities in September 2011.

## What is an Age Friendly Community?

"An Age Friendly Community is one is an inclusive and accessible environment that promotes active ageing"

The World Health organisation has identified eight main areas that influence the health and quality of life of older people;

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings;
2. Transportation;
3. Housing;
4. Social participation and activities;
5. Respect and social inclusion;
6. Civic participation and employment;
7. Communication and information
8. Community support and health services.



## Kilkenny's Age Friendly Alliance:

Each county's programme is led by an Alliance, chaired by the County Manager, comprising the most senior decision makers from the key public, private and not-for-profit agencies involved in providing supports and services to older people. These stakeholders are responsible for the delivery of the strategy e.g. Local Authority, HSE, Gardaí, Leader Partnerships, Carers groups, Community and Voluntary groups. They often include individual leaders and influencers in the community, with respected track records for achieving important societal gains. Lastly, but most importantly representatives from the Older People's Forum.