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Age Friendly news

6th February 2026

National Updates

Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport

Our Chief Officer, Catherine McGuigan, joined by National Programme Manager, Emer Coveney Coveney, were invited to speak at the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport yesterday to discuss the important issue of road safety for older people.

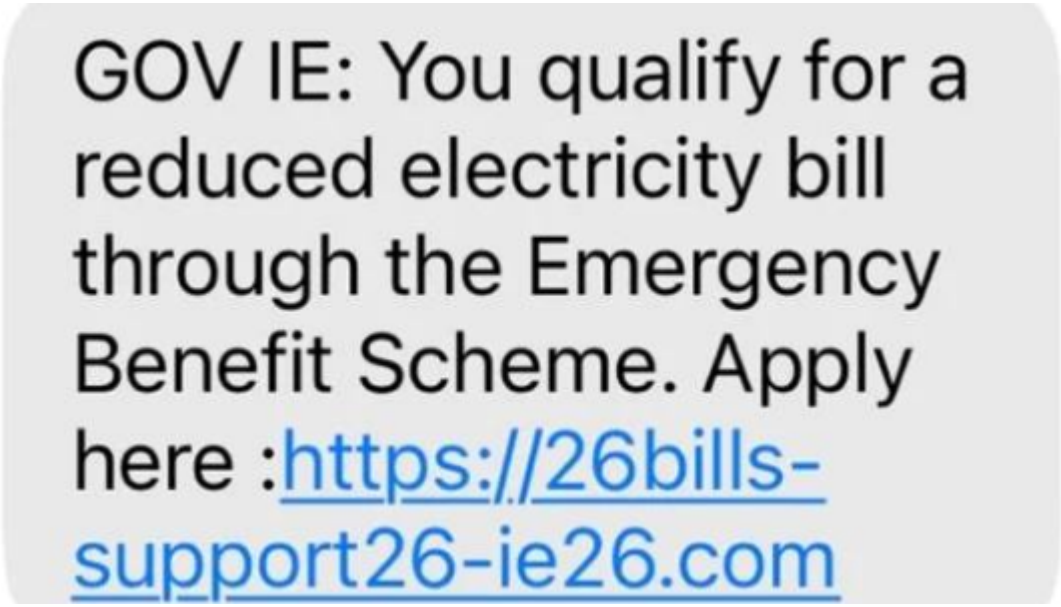
As highlighted by Catherine in her opening statement, some key road safety issues that have been identified by older people through consultation, not only as drivers, but particularly as pedestrians and cyclists, include the following:
- The increased use of E-scooters poses a particular risk to older pedestrians due to their speed, lack of sound and inappropriate use on footpaths.

- Traffic light timings at pedestrian crossings do not always allow sufficient time for an older person to safely cross the road.

- Older people have reported difficulty in negotiating uneven footpaths and high kerbs, however many of these issues can be successfully addressed through community engagement in Age Friendly walkability audits.

Progress on road safety depends on sustained collaboration and the active involvement of older people at every level. Through stronger local engagement, targeted education, intergenerational initiatives and using Age Friendly design, we can deliver practical, long-term improvements that make our roads safer for everyone.

Warning of scam text messages for reduced electricity bill



The Department of Social Protection is warning people to be vigilant of scam text messages purporting to be from 'GOV IE' telling them they are eligible for a reduced electricity bill.
Officials fear some people may confuse the scam attempts with legitimate financial assistance schemes available to those affected by Storm Chandra.

One of the text-message scams seen by RTÉ News states: "You qualify for a reduced electricity bill through the Emergency Benefit Scheme."
The message also provides a fraudulent link for people to click on.

The Department has confirmed the message is a scam.

Learn More ›

Irish Hospice Foundation latest Newsletter

Irish Hospice Foundation
To die and grieve well wherever the place

The Irish Hospice Foundation have released their latest newsletter, February edition.
Click below to see all the highlights from 2025 and what happening in 2026.

Find out more ›

New initiative launched in Meath to support vulnerable households during emergencies

A new initiative aimed at supporting residents who may need extra help during adverse events has been launched in Meath by The Meath Community Preparedness Alliance and is open to all households in the county. By registering, residents can receive early text alerts about severe weather or other emergency events, along with guidance on how to prepare. Welfare checks by phone or in person will also be provided if a household is affected during an emergency.

Find out more ›

Exploring What Fuels Anxiety and How to Manage It

aware®
Your supporting light through depression

Join us for our free February webinar 'Exploring What Fuels Anxiety and How to Manage It' (Wed 11th Feb at 12pm), a practical, compassionate session designed to help you better understand anxiety, burnout, and where they come from.

Find out more ›

Local Updates

Age Friendly Event, Bunclody Library, Co.Wexford

German Bauhaus Architecture with John Power - Thursday 12th February at 7.00pm

Bauhaus holds a very important place in the culture and history of Germany, and in this talk John will unpack the subject from its origins to its current place in the modern world.

John Power is an artist from, and based in, Bunclody, Co. Wexford. Living in eastern Germany for seventeen years, he has exhibited sculpture in the cities of Leipzig and Dresden, as well as exhibiting work, organising and curating large group exhibitions in Berlin. A keen interest in European history he trained as an official tour guide, receiving his certificate from the city of Leipzig's chamber of commerce. Booking required, telephone 053 9375466 or book online at wexfordcoco.libcal.com.

Age Friendly Events, Kilkenny Libraries

Loughboy Library Weekly Online Clinic
Tuesday 10th February from 2.30 - 3.30 pm
Would you like to learn more about the wealth of online resources available from Kilkenny Libraries?
Pop in to see us at our weekly online clinic and we can demonstrate to you how to use such fabulous online resources as Borrowbox, Universal Class and more!
No booking required. Just drop in!

Ciorcal Comhrá Gaeilge / Irish Conversation Group in Loughboy Library
Wednesday 11th February from 11.00 – 11.30am
This is an enthusiastic gathering, seeking to use their cúpla focail. It is open to all levels of fluency, beginners, improvers and advanced.
Just come along any Wednesday agus beidh fáilte romhat!

One-to-One Tech Support in Loughboy Library
Friday 13th February from 11.00 am - 1.00 pm
Do you need assistance with your mobile phone, tablet or laptop, or other digital devices
and services?
One-to-One Tech Support will be available in Loughboy Library on Friday 13th February from 11.00 am -1.00 pm.
We are grateful to the Transition Year students from Presentation Secondary School Kilkenny for their support.
No booking required. Just drop in!

Adult Smart Tech Sessions in Thomastown Library
Wednesdays (during the academic term) from 2.00 - 4:30pm. Funded by KCETB.
No booking required.

Knitting & Crochet Group in Thomastown Library
Every Wednesday from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.
No booking required.

Thomastown Library Adult Book Club
meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 6.30 pm.
New members welcome.

Word Games in Ferrybank Library
Every Friday from 2.30 - 3.30 pm
Are you a fan of wordle, crosswords and scrabble? Indulge your passion by dropping in to our Friday afternoon word game group.
A good exercise for the brain cells but lots of laughter guaranteed.

Knitting and Crafting Group in Ferrybank Library
Every Tuesday from 10.00 am – 12.30pm
Do you enjoy getting creative with crafts Meet fellow craft lovers at our weekly get together, where you can share tips, swap inspiration, and work on your own projects in great company.
All are welcome - no booking required.

Morning Mug Club in Castlecomer Library
Every Friday from 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
Join us every Friday from 10am to 1pm at Castlecomer Library for our Morning Mug Club. Relax with a hot cup of Tea or Coffee, enjoy a biscuit or two, tackle a jigsaw or crossword, read the morning paper or simply pop in for a friendly chat. It is a cosy way to start your Friday.

Nattering Knitters in Castlecomer Library
Every Thursday from 10.00 am – 12.00 pm
Join this talented bunch of knitters for a knit and a cuppa every Thursday morning 10am to 12pm. No need to book, everyone welcome.

Age Action Computer classes in Mayfair Library
Classes are held on Wednesdays, lasting 2 hours each, over a period of five weeks. Each learner is matched with a dedicated tutor and receives personalised, one-on-one instruction tailored to their specific needs and the device they use, i.e. iPhone/Android/tablet/laptop.
Age Action's Getting Started programme provides classes to anyone seeking support with using their smart devices. This includes topics like setting up an email, downloading an app or using video to connect with loved ones.
To register for future classes, email Niamh Budds at info@ageaction.ie

Information session on "Voices of Heritage" Community Group Training Project in Mayfair Library
Saturday, 7th February, 11am - 1pm

Join Kilkenny Leader Partnership and Abarta Heritage Consultants for a story-sharing and information session about a new, free community heritage training programme.

This free training programme will support community heritage groups to build practical skills in documenting and sharing local heritage. Delivered through a series of accessible modules, the programme will cover oral history collection techniques, digital audio and video recording, archiving best practice, and heritage mapping. The training will be delivered in public libraries across the north and south of County Kilkenny, providing local, welcoming venues that encourage participation, learning, and collaboration.

For further details contact Julie in KLP - email: julie.kavanagh@cklp.ie or phone: 056 7752111

Music Performance with The Kitchen Sessions in Mayfair Library
Friday, 20th February, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Experience the magic of live traditional Irish music with the Kitchen Sessions! Join us for a morning of lively tunes, heartfelt songs, and warm community spirit. Whether you want to sit back and enjoy or bring an instrument and join in, everyone is welcome. Come for the music, stay for the craic it's the perfect way to celebrate Irish culture together!

No booking required.

Talk on Kilkenny Railway Station in Mayfair Library
Thursday 5th of March | 6.00pm – 7.30pm

We are delighted to welcome Kilkenny Railway Historian Donie Butler who will present a Talk on Kilkenny Railway Station at the library this March. This lecture will feature the history and stories about Kilkenny/MacDonagh Railway Station which first opened to traffic on 12th May 1848. The railway station stands on a very prominent elevated site in the townland of Highhays and dominates the landscape of Upper John Street and the Dublin Road. The talk will also address some of the issues concerning the protected structure, the passenger capacity as well as passenger access issues.

Donie has held lectures at Corbetstown, Castlecomer, Ballyragget as well as several in Kilkenny City on the Kilkenny to Maryborough (Portlaoise) line including the branch line from Dunmore West to Deer Park Colliery, Castlecomer.

Booking Required: Phone: 056 779 4174 / Email: mayfair@kilkennylibrary.ie

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Raheny Age Friendly

We had a special Valentine's Day themed coffee morning, and we also returned to our original home in Cara Hall.

The wind and rain couldn't prevent 66 people from attending and listening to some great music and singing from the local Rose Garden Singers.

A lovely morning enjoyed by all!

Energy Workshop - Co.Donegal

International Updates

IFA Global Café in Conversation with Ms. Shainoor Khoja

IFA Global Café in Conversation with Ms. Shainoor Khoja on "Ageing and Artificial Intelligence (AI)"
12 February 2026, 8:00 a.m. EDT | 5:00 a.m. PDT | 12:00 p.m. GMT | 1:00 p.m. CET

Find out more ›

If you would like a PDF version of the newsletter, please click **HERE**

- This Newsletter is prepared and circulated by Age Friendly Ireland
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- If you wish to provide information that may be included in the Newsletter please email it to: **agefriendlyireland@meathcoco.ie** no later than midday on the Thursday. Age Friendly Ireland retains full editorial responsibility for content of the Newsletter.

Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service, Meath County Council

Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service Office
Telephone: 046 9032170
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Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme (Referrals)
Telephone: 046 9248899
Email: healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie

HSE Advice Line: Call save 1850 24 1850

Call from 8am – 8pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday

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