

Doing Business on the Barrow Blueway



INFORMATION GUIDE

Information Guide for Doing Business on the Barrow Blueway

Do you have a business idea for the Barrow Blueway?

The Barrow Blueway is a partnership project between Waterways Ireland, Kildare and Laois County Councils and LEADER.

The processes vary depending on your business idea and are there to ensure that all Barrow Blueway businesses are well regulated and are of good quality.

Safe operation is particularly important if you are proposing to offer food & beverage or on-water activity services.

This information guide has been prepared to inform and raise awareness about what you need to do, and to connect you to the right organisation. The guide does not provide legal advice or replace the need to obtain the advice of an independent regulated professional.

Trading on the Waterway

Any activity on the waterway itself such as water sports, or on other Waterways Ireland property, requires an operating licence from Waterways Ireland. Businesses must maintain adequate insurance and demonstrate a robust approach to managing Health & Safety. Water based activity providers can make an application online.

Visit Waterways Ireland | Commercial Operating Licences or contact carey.robinson@waterwaysireland.org

[See link](#)

Trading as a Mobile Activity Provider

Equipment hire operators (e.g. bike hire from a van) often need to be mobile in order to bring equipment to their customers. Where there is no requirement for the exclusive use of public property, and provided no physical obstruction or nuisance is being caused by the drop off/pick up activities, no formal regulation is needed.

Email info@waterwaysireland.org Waterways Ireland to ensure your business is listed for promotional purposes

Trading on Private Property

This includes businesses such as hospitality, a bike hire shop, or facilities such as car parking:

Planning Permission

Planning permission is required for any proposed property development from the relevant Local Authority, whether this entails physical works to your own property or just a change of use. If you consider that your project involves Exempted Development, a S5 Declaration of Exemption is needed.

Kildare County Council

[View all planning services](#)

[Find out how to make a Planning Application](#)

[Apply for a Declaration of Exemption](#)

Laois County Council

[View all planning services](#)

[Find out how to make a Planning Application](#)

[Apply for a Declaration of Exemption](#)

Tourism Accommodation providers should comply with the Fáilte Ireland industry standards.

[Fáilte Ireland Tourism Standards](#)

Food & Beverage Businesses must also meet Environmental Health Certification Standards

[HSE Standards](#)

Trading on Public Property

Casual Trading

Licences for proposed pitches (e.g. mobile coffee truck) on public property are required if the proposed pitch is on public property. Businesses must follow any statutory regulation applicable to their operations such as Health & Safety, Environmental Health etc. and maintain adequate insurance. Licences can only be granted in areas designated under casual trading bylaws.

Kildare County Council

Casual Trading is managed by Corporate Services Department.

[See link](#)

Only The Slip in Celbridge and Market Square, Maynooth are currently designated as areas for casual trading licences to be granted. Bylaws are currently being reviewed.

Laois County Council

Casual Trading is managed the by Roads Section.

[See link](#)

Only Portlaoise and Stradbally are designated as areas for casual trading licences to be granted.

Outdoor Signage & Seating

Items such as signage, awning and pavement café/outdoor seating on public property require a licence from either Kildare County Council or Laois County Council.

Business Development & Funding Assistance

LEADER Programme

Your Local Development Company in both Kildare and Laois can advise on eligible projects and support you to apply for LEADER funding.

County Kildare LEADER Partnership CLG

Web: <https://www.countykildarelp.ie/>

Email: helen@countykildarelp.ie

Laois Partnership CLG

Web: <https://laoispartnership.ie/>

Email: jennycollier@laoispartnership.ie

Local Enterprise Office

Your **Local Enterprise Office** is the first stop for enterprise support and can provide training and mentoring in your area as well as financial supports.

[See link](#)

