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By Sean Moriarty



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WELCOME TO THE 261 MOTORING GUIDE

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There's no doubt that the car-buying public in Kerry is spoilt for choice. From the latest electric innovations to trusted petrol and diesel favourites, motorists in the county have access to an incredible range of vehicles across every major brand.

While the shift toward electric motoring continues to grow, traditional power units still have a strong presence in showrooms across Kerry. For such a small corner of the global motoring market, it's remarkable to think that nearly every major manufacturer is represented right here in the county from compact city cars and SUVs to luxury performance models

and commercial vehicles.

Anyone looking to buy in 2026 can look forward to a wide selection of new models, some of which have already landed in Kerry dealerships, as well as updated versions of familiar favourites. The new year brings fresh technology, improved efficiency, and more choice than ever before for Kerry drivers.

As you make your way around the showrooms of Tralee, Killarney, and Castleisland, remember to mention that you read about it in the Killarney Advertiser's 261 Motoring Feature your complete local guide to what's new on the road for 2026.

SEAN MORIARTY

Editor, 261 Motoring Feature

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Model shown is the Extreme MHEV 4x4. RRP €34,840. Finance example Essential Tce 100 LPG. OTR €26,965 includes delivery. Deposit €13,308. Term 36 monthly payments €379. APR 0%. Total cost of credit €0. Offer is made under a hire purchase agreement. Subject to lending criteria. Terms and conditions apply. See Dacia.ie [Warning: If you do not meet the repayments on your hire purchase agreement your account will go into arrears. This may affect your credit rating, which may limit your ability to access credit. Paying off this agreement early may result in charges]. Mobilize Financial Services Ireland is a trading name of RCI Banque Branch Ireland and is authorised and regulated by the French banking authority and supervised by the Central Bank for conduct of business purposes. Offer available at Dacia participating dealers.

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McElligott's Kia leads the way in Kerry EV sales

Figures published by the Society of the Irish Motor Industry (SIMI) show 99 new Kia electric vehicles registered in The Kingdom so far this year.

The result highlights the continued shift by Kerry motorists towards electric motoring and confirms McElligott's Kia as the leading supplier of EVs in the county. The family-run business has served local motorists for generations and is now firmly established as Kerry's main electric

vehicle dealer.

Kia's current EV line-up includes The EV3 World Car of the year 2025, The just launched EV4 Hatchback and Dynamic Hatchback, award winning EV6 and EV9 models, along with plug-in hybrid and hybrid versions of the popular Sportage. To mark their success, McElligott's Kia has introduced several offers on new 261 models ordered before December 23. These include 0% finance on selected

EVs and Sportage models, 3.9% finance across the full Kia range, a €500 Super-Valu gift card with every new order, and a free home charger * on all new EV and PHEV cars.

Customers trading in any Kia model before the deadline will also receive a three-year service plan.

More details on the current range and offers are available at McElligott's Kia on the Listowel Road, Tralee www.mce.ie

McElligott's Kia in Tralee has been confirmed as Kerry's top electric vehicle dealer for 2025.



All-new BYD Dolphin Surf now on show at BYD Kerry

BYD Kerry, part of the Ahern's Group in Castleisland, has unveiled the all-new BYD Dolphin Surf, the latest addition to the growing BYD electric range.

Prices start from €23,880, with an eight-year battery warranty and six-year vehicle warranty included as standard.

The Dolphin Surf delivers a range of up to 322 km (WLTP Combined) and has achieved a 5-star Euro NCAP safety rating, underlining BYD's focus on quality and reliability. Using DC fast charging, the car can charge from 30% to 80% in just 22 minutes, making it a practical choice for everyday motoring. Two trim levels are available, Boost and Comfort, each well-equipped and designed to suit different needs.



Built on BYD's advanced e-Platform 3.0, the Dolphin Surf features the brand's unique Blade Battery, known for its safety, durability, and long lifespan. Inside, the Dolphin Surf offers a spacious and modern cabin with high-quality finishes, a 10.1-inch rotating touchscreen, Apple

CarPlay and Android Auto, and voice control via the "Hi BYD" command. Standard features include LED lighting, adaptive cruise control, NFC keyless entry, vehicle-to-load (V2L) power capability, and a comprehensive suite of driver-assistance systems such as lane-departure warning and automatic emergency braking.

With a clean design, efficient performance, and generous equipment, the BYD Dolphin Surf brings affordable electric driving to Kerry motorists.

The model is now available to view and test drive at BYD Kerry, Castleisland. To arrange a test drive or learn more about the full BYD range, call 066 7143000 or visit Ahern's BYD showroom today.



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YEAR	MODEL	PRICE	YEAR	MODEL	PRICE
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252	Duster Extreme HEV 140 Full hybrid Shadow Grey delivery mileage	€34,900	221	Audi Q2 30 TFSI 110 SE White 49km	€31,900
252	Sandero Essential TCE 90 Urban Grey delivery mileage	€19,500	222	Captur TCE 90 Limited Edition White/Black 79km	€19,995
251	Rafale E-TECH 200 Hybrid Esprit Alpine Flame Red delivery mileage	€49,900	222	Duster Essential dci 115 Fusion Red 100km	€18,900
251	Symbioz E-TECH 145 Techno Full hybrid Iron Blue delivery mileage	€36,490	212	Duster 1.5 dci Essential Black Alloys A/C 86km	€17,900
251	Duster TCE 130 Journey Sandstone 8km	€29,900	202	Koleos Iconic dci 150 X-Tronic 2WD Auto Silver 81km	€27,900
ELECTRIC			201	Volvo XC60 D4 190 R-Design Fusion Red 98km	€39,950
242	Megane E-Tech EV60 Launch Edition Blue 18km	€29,900	201	Duster Prestige dci 115 Slate Grey 96km	€18,900
222	Zoe Play ZE50 Black 81km	€15,490	191	Duster Essential dci 115 Mocha Brown 88km	€14,900
191	Nissan Leaf SV Premium 40Kw Grey 111km	€11,900	181	Kadjar Dynamique Nav dci 115 Cosmos Blue 148km	€14,900
DIESEL			172	Stepway Alternative dci 90 Azure Blue 97km	€9,900
181	Mazda 6 Executive SE 2.2 TDI Grey 145km	€12,900	171	Kadjar Dynamique Nav dci 115 Flame Red 172km	€13,900
PETROL			171	Kia Sportage 1.7 LX Black 138km	€15,900
241	Sandero Essential TCE 90 Urban Grey 39km	€16,950	171	Dacia Logan MCV Signature Azure Blue 113km	€10,900
241	Sandero Essential TCE 90 Iron Blue 45km	€16,950	COMMERCIALS		
231	Peugeot 308 Allure 1.2 130 Auto Red 26km	€27,750	252	Master MM35 130 Start MWB Van Blue Grey	€33,400 + Vat
222	Clio Iconic 1.0 TCE 90 Titanium grey 49km	€18,900	242	Trafic LL30 130 Start Van LWB White 2km	€26,900 + Vat
221	Clio Iconic 1.0 TCE 90 Titanium grey 42km	€18,900	222	Master LM35 135 Business + Roof Rack White 146km	€19,750 + Vat
211	Sandero 1.0 Alternative Black 58km	€12,900	222	Master LM35 135 Business White 146km	€19,000 + Vat
FAMILY, SUV, ESTATE			212	VW Crafter 35 MWB 140 White 100km	€19,900 + Vat
232	Duster Expression TCE 90 Petrol Urban Grey 39km	€20,900	202	Master LM35 135 Business Van 143km White	€14,995 + Vat
			191	Master MM35 145 Refrigerated Van White 198km	€12,995 + Vat

Something for everyone at Kelliher's Toyota in Tralee

There's something for every driver at Kelliher's Toyota in Tralee as the full 2025 Toyota range arrives, offering options from traditional petrol and diesel to hybrid, plug-in hybrid and fully electric.

With Toyota continuing as Ireland's top-selling car brand for the fifth year in a row, Kelliher's remains Kerry's go-to dealership for affordable, reliable and future-ready motoring.

The expanded Toyota line-up now includes city cars, family cars, SUVs and commercials, ensuring that every customer — from first-time buyers to fleet operators — can find the right model to suit their needs.

Dealer principal Tim Kelliher says the 2025 range reflects the changing needs of Kerry drivers.

"As our customers, who have enjoyed over 25 years of low-cost reliable hybrid motoring, migrate to plug-in or full electric alternatives, Toyota is ramping up options in all three engine sources with



new models in Hybrid (Aygo and Corolla Cross), Plug-In Hybrid (C-HR and Prius) as well as Full Electric (bZ and C-HR+). This dramatically advances Toyota's cost-effective and environmentally friendly motoring options while also copper fastening Toyota's determination to protect residual values, allowing for best-in-class long-term cost to change and cost of ownership factors. As demand is high, Kelliher's recommend calling to our showroom to take a test and explore the full Toyota range and see for yourself why Toyota has been voted the top-selling car brand in Ireland for the fifth year

in a row."

Among the standout models for 2026 is the all-new Toyota bZ, a fully electric SUV with a range of up to 567 km and a completely redesigned interior. The Toyota C-HR+, another new addition, is a battery-electric SUV with a 77 kWh battery that delivers a range of up to 609 km, combining sharp styling with practicality. For hybrid fans, the RAV4 Hybrid and Plug-in Hybrid continue to lead the way, both benefitting from Toyota's latest sixth-generation hybrid technology. The Aygo X Hybrid, arriving in early 2026, brings full hybrid technology to



Toyota's smallest model for the first time. Compact but with SUV styling, it's the most affordable Toyota hybrid, designed for urban drivers who want efficiency without compromise.

The Corolla range remains a best-seller with hatchback, saloon and touring sport versions available in hybrid form, while the Corolla Cross bridges the gap between SUV practicality and car-like comfort.

Buyers looking for value can take advantage of Toyota's 261 offers, including trade-in boosters of up to €2,500 and finance rates starting from 3.9% APR on selected models.

Whether customers are looking for a practical family hybrid, a stylish new electric SUV, or a dependable commercial, Kelliher's Toyota in Tralee offers the complete Toyota experience under one roof with expert advice, flexible finance, and the trusted reliability that has made Toyota the top choice for Kerry motorists for generations.



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Finance Example: Toyota Yaris Luna Hybrid. Retail Price €27,830.00[^]. On the Road Price €28,830.00. Deposit €10,373.40. Finance Advance €18,441.60. 37 monthly payments of €216.33^{**}. Total cost of credit €2,824.46 (including document fee & purchase fee of €63.49 each). Guaranteed Minimum Future Value €13,351.20. Fixed Annual Percentage Rate 5.90%^{*}.

Toyota Easy Personal Contract Plan is a form of hire-purchase agreement. Lending criteria, Terms and Conditions apply. A deposit of between 0% and 36% may be required and a maximum term of 37 months applies. Available on Toyota Yaris Hybrid models from October 11th to December 31st 2025. Guaranteed Minimum Future Value payable if vehicle renewed or retained when agreement ends. Further charges may apply. Illustrative model shown. Finance is provided by Toyota Financial Services (Ireland) DAC. Toyota Financial Services (Ireland) DAC trading as Toyota Financial Services is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

Warning: You may have to pay charges if you pay off a hire-purchase agreement early.

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[^]Including VAT, excluding delivery and related charges.



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Choose either a €4,000 finance contribution or a €4,000 trade in booster. Only one retail offer available per consumer. One of the above offers can be combined with 4.9% finance offer until 30th of December 2025. Finance only available with AIB. Offer may be withdrawn at any time at Nissan Ireland's discretion.

Nissan brings back '€4k Your Way' offer for 261 buyers

Nissan has brought back its hugely popular '€4k Your Way' promotion for the upcoming 261-registration period, giving Kerry car buyers the chance to save €4,000 on a new Nissan at Randles Bros Nissan, the brand's main Kerry dealer.

The offer allows customers to choose between a €4,000 finance contribution or a €4,000 trade-in bonus on several of Nissan's best-selling models — including the Qashqai, X-Trail, Juke, and Ariya. The promotion proved a massive success earlier this year and is expected to be just

as popular as the new registration period approaches.

Nissan Ireland's Head of Sales, Neil O'Sullivan, said the offer gives buyers unbeatable value:

Randles Bros salesman Damien O'Halloran said "It's a real win-win for custom-

ers — either way, they save €4,000 on their new Nissan."

In addition to the main offer, Nissan is providing 4.9% PCP and HP finance on deals completed before December 30, which can also be combined with the €4k incentive.

The Qashqai, Ireland's favourite family SUV, is included in both Mild Hybrid and e-POWER formats. The e-POWER system delivers the smooth, electric-style drive of an EV with the practicality of petrol

power, offering impressive efficiency and comfort.

The larger X-Trail e-POWER, available in five- and seven-seat configurations, starts from €49,495 and has already been voted Best Family Car at the National Parenting Product Awards.

Those looking for something sportier can apply the offer to the distinctive Nissan Juke, available in petrol or hybrid form, while EV buyers can take advantage of the €4k deal on the Nissan Ariya, Nissan's 100% electric SUV, which offers a range of up to 529 km and prices starting from €39,995.

Full details and booking for test drives are available now at www.randlesbros.com or by visiting Randles Bros Nissan, Kerry's authorised Nissan dealership.





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CITROËN



September battery-electric sales increased 73%

The Society of the Irish Motor Industry (SIMI) released their official 252 new vehicle registration statistics for September.

New car registrations for September were up 9.8% when compared to September 2024. Registrations year to date are up 3.7% on the same period last year. Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) increased by 7.5% compared to September last year. Year to date, LCVs are up 3.1%. Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) registrations are up 3.7% compared to September 2024. Year to date, HGVs are down 8.3%.

Imported Used Cars have seen a 36.8% rise in September 2025, when compared to September 2024. Year to date imports are up 12.4% on 2024.

In September 1,737 new electric cars (battery electric cars) were registered, which was 73.2% higher than the 1,003 registrations in September 2024. So far this year, 22,382 new electric cars have been registered, representing a 38.8% increase compared to the same period in 2024, when 16,125 electric cars were registered.



John Healy of Healy Insurances.

In the new car market share by engine type for 2025, Petrol cars continue as the new car market leader at 25.41%, followed by Hybrid (Petrol Electric) at 22.62%, Electric at 18.39%, Diesel at 17.15%, and Plug-in Electric Hybrid at 14.82%.

HEALY INSURANCES



NEW OPEL FRONTERA: The much-anticipated all-new Opel Frontera SUV has arrived at Ahern's Opel Castleisland with prices and equipment just announced. Armed with a 5-year unlimited mileage warranty as standard for the Irish market, the new Frontera is available in three trims at launch. Representing excellent value for money, the new Frontera Electric retail prices are in from €24,606 inclusive of SEAI grant and VRT rebate, and from €27,995 plus delivery related charges for the new Frontera Hybrid.

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All-new Hyundai Inster van arrives at Adams of Tralee

The all-new Hyundai Inster van has arrived in Kerry and is now available at Adams Hyundai at the Mile Height in Tralee.

The fully electric van was launched earlier this month at Hyundai Ireland's national dealer conference and marks the latest addition to the expanding Inster range.

Designed with small businesses and tradespeople in mind, the Inster Van combines compact dimensions with a surprisingly spacious load area. Built on the same platform as the Inster city car, the van version features a flat electric vehicle floor and fold-flat seats, allowing the space to be adapted for carrying tools, goods, or equipment.

Powered by Hyundai's all-electric drivetrain, the Inster Van offers zero emissions while maintaining the per-

formance and reliability expected from the brand. Its electric range and compact size make it well-suited to urban deliveries and everyday business use around towns like Tralee, Killarney and Listowel.

Adams of Tralee, Hyundai's main Kerry dealership, says the new model offers a practical and environmentally friendly option for local trades and small enterprises looking to make the move to electric vehicles.

The Inster Van is now on display and available for test drives at Adams Hyundai, where the sales team can provide full details on specifications, range, and finance options





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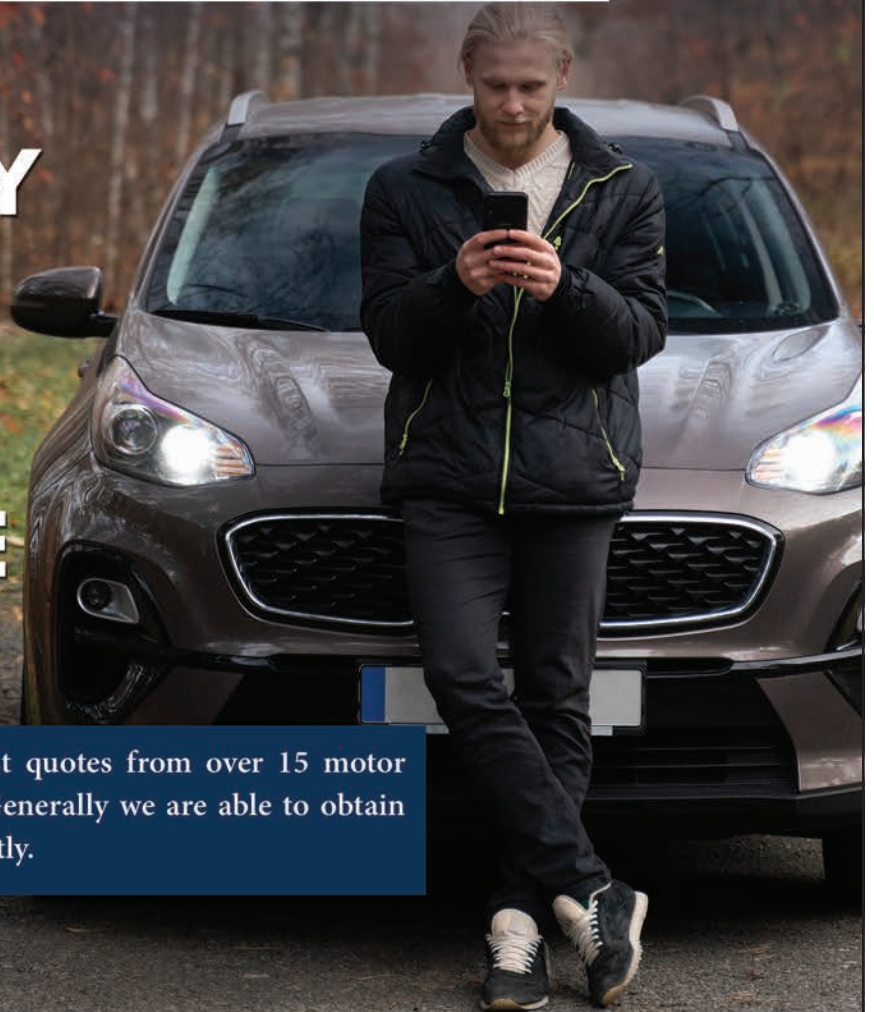
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New BMW iX3 to make Kerry debut in Castleisland

Ahern's BMW in Castleisland will be the place to be this Friday, October 31, when the all-new BMW iX3 makes its first public appearance in Kerry.

The new all-electric SUV will be on display at the company's showroom with two viewing times available – 3pm and 6pm, giving local customers and motor-ing enthusiasts the opportunity to see BMW's latest technology up close.

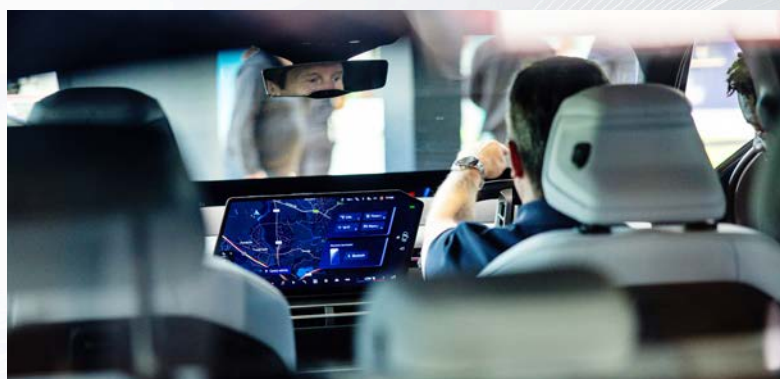
The iX3 50 xDrive is the latest version of BMW's popular mid-size electric SUV. It combines the brand's traditional build quality and design with a new generation of electric performance. The model delivers an official WLTP range of between 679 and 805 kilometres on a single charge, depending on specification, and has a combined energy consumption figure of between 17.9 and 15.1 kWh per 100 kilometres. As with all fully elec-

tric BMW models, the iX3 produces zero tailpipe emissions.

The new model also introduces the next step in BMW's interior design language, featuring the latest curved display, new materials, and an updated operating system. It is expected to become one of BMW's key models for the Irish market in 2026 as demand for premium electric vehicles continues to rise.

Friday's unveiling will be an opportunity for the public to experience first-hand what BMW describes as the next evolution of its electric SUV range.

The event will take place at Aherns BMW, Tralee Road, Castleisland, on this Friday, October 31. Staff will be on hand to discuss the car's new features and to provide details on orders and availability. If interested please book the time that would suit you best by emailing info@ahernsbmw.ie





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AHERN'S MOTOR GROUP: Five brands, one destination for Kerry motorists

Ahern's Motor Group in Castleisland continues to provide one of the most complete motoring offerings in Kerry, with five major car brands under one roof: BMW, Opel, Renault, Dacia and BYD.

The family run business has been serving Kerry motorists since 1927 now operating on a state of the art five-acre site in Castleisland that includes showrooms and service facilities for all five manufacturers including CVRT and NCT test centre. Opel has launched the all-new Frontera SUV, available in both electric and hybrid versions. The electric "Extended Range" model offers up to 408km (WLTP) on a single charge, combining practicality with the brand's latest design direction. Renault's line-up continues to grow with the retro-inspired Renault 4 E-Tech electric and the new Symbioz full hybrid joining the refreshed Clio E-Tech hybrid range.

The Scenic E-Tech electric recently claimed the title of 2025 Irish Car of the Year, while the 5 E-Tech electric is already generating strong demand. Dacia Ireland has introduced its 261 registration offers, headlined by zero per cent finance on the all-electric Spring through Hire Purchase. The wider Dacia range — Sandero, Sandero Stepway, Jogger, Duster and the upcoming Bigster benefits from 4.9 per cent finance options, with the Bigster potentially available from €214 per month. Aherns BMW have an extensive product range available to order for 261 in Hybrid, Petrol, diesel and full electric so a BMW to suit everyone. This has helped make



BMW number 1 premium car in Kerry for 2025. BYD, the latest addition to the Ahern's portfolio, has quickly gained ground in Ireland and Kerry with models such as the Sealion 7 helping the Chinese manufacturer enter the Irish Top 10 for new car sales in 2025 they also have a range

of plug in Hybrid options with the Seal U SUV and many more models coming in early 2026 like the Seal 6 Hybrid with over 1550km range. Together, these brands make Ahern's Motor Group a one-stop destination for Kerry motorists from family-friendly hybrids to premium electric vehicles.



Motorsport in 2026

The Kerry motorsport calendar for 2026 will be officially ratified this weekend at Motorsport Ireland's Annual Congress in Athlone, with confirmation that both Kerry Motor Club and Killarney and District Motor Club will again host a full slate of events next season.

Killarney will once again take centre stage over the May Bank Holiday weekend with the Rally of the Lakes, the jewel in Kerry's rallying crown and a cornerstone of the Irish Tarmac Rally Championship. Later in the year, the Killarney Historic Rally celebrates its 30th edition on November 29, continuing its reputation as one of the country's most popular end-of-season classics. The big news for 2026 is a date change for Kerry Motor Club's Mini Stages Rally,

which is set to move to July 5, a shift from its traditional winter slot. The new summer date should be confirmed at Saturday's congress and is expected to attract strong interest from competitors and spectators alike. Both clubs also plan to run endurance trials next season. Killarney and District Motor Club will retain its traditional July 11-12 slot, while Kerry Motor Club is targeting October 11 for its new endurance event, with October 18 listed as a reserve date. Kerry Motor Club will also expand its popular Autosolo series, returning to the calendar with two events. The first on April 12 and the second on August 15. In a unique "double-header" weekend for motorsport fans, Killarney and District Motor Club will follow with its Autotest on August 16.



A cheque for €5,000 was presented to Kerry Mental Health Association following the Killarney Valley Classic and Vintage Rally, which took place at Muckcross Traditional Farm on August 17. The event was organised with the support of the Trustees of Muckcross House and the Muckcross Traditional Farm team, working in partnership with the Killarney Valley Classic and Vintage Club