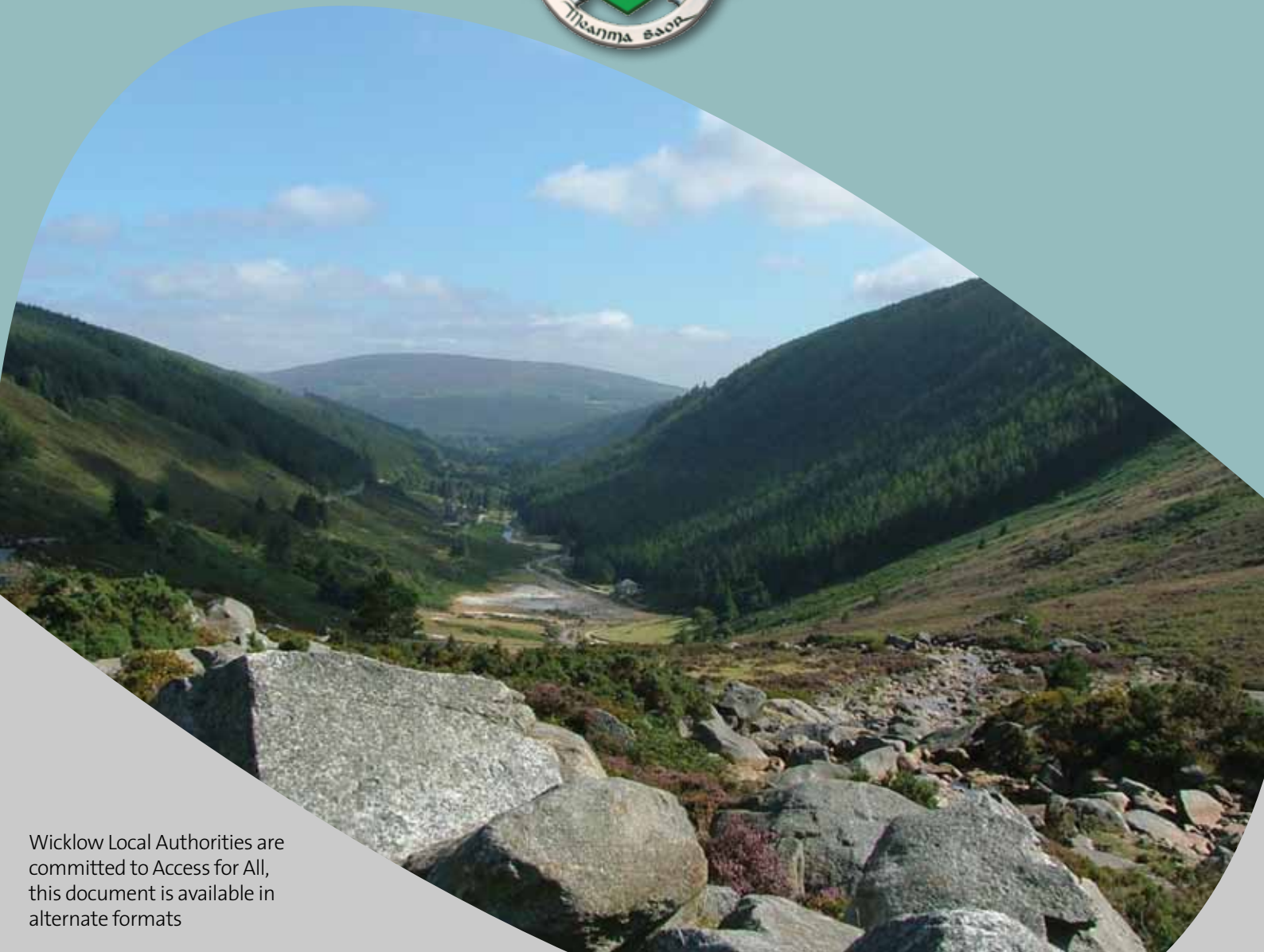


# WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Wicklow Local Authorities are committed to Access for All, this document is available in alternate formats

# Mission Statement



To improve the quality of life for the people and communities of County Wicklow through sustainable development, efficiently delivered effective services, democratic civic leadership, and co-ordination with other public, community and private organisations to optimise available resources.



*Wicklow Local Authorities are committed to Access for All, this document is available in alternate formats*

# Contents

3	Cathaoirleach's Message	38	Special Projects
4	County Manager's Foreword	39	Financial Management
6	Wicklow County Council Members	41	Enterprise and Corporate Services
8	Management Team		Enterprise & Development
9	Housing & Corporate Estate		Joint Policing Committee
14	Transportation & Roads Infrastructure		Conferences attended by Members 2009
18	Motor Tax		Wicklow Film Commission
19	Water & Environmental Services		Partnership in Wicklow Local Authorities.
	Fire Service	52	Information Systems
	Civil Defence	54	Arklow Town Council
26	Planning & Economic Development	57	Bray Town Council
29	Community, Cultural & Social Development	59	Greystones Town Council
	Wicklow County Arts Office	60	Wicklow Town
	Library Service		

*Universal Access: This document is available in a variety of formats on request - please contact Community and Enterprise at 0404-20100 if require further assistance*

# Cathaoirleach's message



As Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report for the year 2009. This report outlines the very many and varied activities of Wicklow Local Authorities across all services.

Some projects undertaken during the year and worth mentioning are:-

- The Wicklow Port Access and Town Relief Road - work continued on this 5.4 km very important project in 2009 and it is expected that the road will be open to traffic in early 2010.
- Delgany By-pass extension – 380m of single lane carriageway with footpaths and cycle tracks on both sides and due for completion in 2010.
- 136 housing units completed under the Social Housing Construction programme at Rathnew, Roundwood, Carnew, Baltinglass, Rathdrum and Delgany.
- Some 36 Affordable housing units were provided throughout the County in locations such as Roundwood, Rathdrum, Kilcoole, and Blessington.
- Significant advances were made on the construction of water and sewerage schemes in 2009 such as the Wicklow Sewerage Scheme, the Wicklow Water Supply Scheme, the Bray/Shangannagh Sewerage Scheme (in partnership with Dunlaoghaire/Rathdown County Council) and the Rathdrum Sewerage Scheme.
- Work to the extension of the Greystones Library and Restoration of the Dunlavin Library Dome and installation of a new clock which chimes on the hour.

The announcement in April, 2009 by the NRA of its intention to procure the construction of the N11 Rathnew to Arklow Road Improvement Scheme under a PPP arrangement was very much welcomed and will greatly increase traffic safety on this stretch of road.

As Chair of the Planning & Development SPC I am particularly pleased that the consultation process for the new County Development Plan for 2010-2016 which commenced last year progressed significantly during 2009 and the Draft Plan went on public display in October of this year.

Developing education resource programmes and focusing attention on sustainable living and increasing awareness

on energy and water conservation measures were key to the work of the Environmental Services Section in 2009. The County's recycling centres are unique in Ireland in that they offer comprehensive education and information resources to users as well as displaying best practice in waste minimization and community/charity shops. I am also very pleased that the Council secured 3 blue flags in 2009 for our beaches at Greystones and Brittas Bay North and South. The awarding of these coveted blue flags acknowledges the cleanliness and good condition of these beaches.

Social Inclusion forms a very central part of the services that the Council provides and the social inclusion unit of Wicklow County Council facilitated a number of initiatives in 2009 including the Wicklow Local Anti-Poverty Strategy and the production of a guide to social inclusion for members and staff of the Council. Engagement on a county wide basis with ethnic and minority groups in County Wicklow was ongoing in 2009.

I would like to pay tribute to my fellow elected members and to thank them for their co-operation and assistance to me during the year, particularly the members of the Corporate Policy Group and each of the five strategic policy groups who were instrumental in contributing to the policy and decision making forum affecting the entire Council. I would also like to take the opportunity to extend my thanks to Mr. Eddie Sheehy, County Manager, and all the staff of Wicklow County Council for the manner in which they assisted me in the performance of my role as Cathaoirleach.

**COUNCILLOR PAT VANCE**  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

# County Manager's Foreword



I am delighted to welcome the publication of the 2009 Annual Report. 2009 was a very difficult year for the Irish economy across all sectors and Wicklow County Council like all other Local Authorities was not immune to the challenges that 2009 presented. However, I am pleased, notwithstanding the difficulties faced that Wicklow Local Authorities

continued to work towards the goal of improving the economic, social and cultural life of our community and progress was made. The progress achieved can be clearly identified from the various reports on the activities contained in this annual report.

Underpinning all our activities is the Council's Corporate Plan and its Annual Operational Plans. These Plans clearly set out the various policies and objectives of Wicklow Local Authorities and progress on the implementation of the objectives contained therein continues to be closely monitored within each Council department. During the last twelve months, Wicklow Local Authorities continued to implement an ambitious modernization programme in accordance with the principles contained in "Better Local Government – A Programme for Change".

In these difficult and challenging times economic development and the creation of an environment conducive to employment and job creation is a priority for Wicklow County Council. In 2009 work continued on the provision of infrastructural services to Avondale Business Park, Rathdrum where the Council is offering fully serviced industrial sites in a 30 acre business park for sale to potential businesses.

Significant progress was made at Wicklow County Campus in 2009. Wicklow County Campus is an exceptional development established by Wicklow County Council in conjunction with the Institute of Technology, Carlow offering part-time life long learning, education and training courses. The Campus acts as a catalyst for economic development in the County and the facility is being developed as a centre of excellence in enterprise development and education provision. During 2009 work continued on renovating the building and the classrooms to a very high standard to accommodate the

courses organised and run by IT Carlow. The 2009 academic year saw circa 180 students attending Wicklow County Campus for part-time evening courses and this figure is expected to grow considerably over the lifetime of the Plan for the Campus with the introduction of new academic programmes. In November 2009 the first batch of 29 students graduated from the College with Bachelors of Arts in Applied Social Studies, Bachelor of Business Studies, Diplomas in Law and Higher Diplomas in Business Management and a further 200 are continuing education this academic year.

In early 2009 the Council made a submission to the Joint Committee on Enterprise, Trade and Employment, for the establishment of a Solarteur School at Wicklow County Campus the aim of which is to provide training in renewable energy technologies to students and skilled workers in building and other sectors. During 2009 the campus hosted many prestigious events such as the Freedom of the County to Daniel Day Lewis, Enterprise and Student Awards Day run by the Wicklow County Enterprise Board and the County Wicklow Camber Business EXPO Event.

I would like to commend the elected members of Wicklow County Council, the Members of the SPC's, the CPG, the County Development Board and all of the other hardworking committees for their continued work and contribution in the delivery of effective services to the public in what has been quite a challenging year. I would especially like to thank the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Pat Vance, as well as the staff of all Wicklow Local Authorities for their ongoing support and assistance during the year.

**EDDIE SHEEHY**  
**WICKLOW COUNTY MANAGER**

# Wicklow County Council Members

## NAME & ADDRESS

### Arklow Electoral Area

- FG Vincent Blake, Coolruss, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow
- FG Sylvester Bourke, Three Oaks House, Killiniskyduff, Arklow, Co. Wicklow
- FF Pat Doran, Tomacork, Carnew, Co. Wicklow
- FF Pat Fitzgerald, 32 Oaklands, Arklow, Co. Wicklow
- LAB Nicky Kelly, 15 Anchor Mews, Arklow, Co. Wicklow

### Baltinglass Electoral Area

- NP Thomas Cullen, Deerpark, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow
- NP James Ruttle, Lisheen, Manor Kilbride, Blessington, Co. Wicklow
- FG Edward Timmins, Grangecon, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow

### Bray Electoral Area

- SF John Brady, 63 Kilbride Grove, Bray, Co. Wicklow
- LAB John Byrne, 1, Roselawn Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
- NP Christopher Fox, Calary Lower, Kilmacanogue, Bray, Co. Wicklow
- FG Mick Glynn, 19 The Headlands, Putland Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
- LAB Barry Nevin, 7 Sidmanton Gardens, Bray, Co. Wicklow
- FG John Ryan, "Huntingdun", 13 Ardmore Lawn, Bray, Co. Wicklow
- FF Pat Vance, Beachmount, Putland Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

### Greystones Electoral Area

- LAB Tom Fortune, 'DeLacey', Sea Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow
- FG Simon Harris, 79 Redford Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
- FG George Jones, 2, La Touche Close, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
- FG Derek Mitchell, "Kiltoorish", Manor Avenue, Greystones, Co. Wicklow

### Wicklow Electoral Area

- FF Pat Casey, Glendalough Hotel, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow
- LAB Conal Kavanagh, 12 Springfield, Wicklow Town.
- LAB James O'Shaughnessy, Woodside, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow
- SF John Snell, 81 Seaview Heights, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow
- FG Irene Winters, 23 Wicklow Heights Court, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow

# Electoral Area Map



Vincent Blake   Sylvester Bourke   Pat Doran   Pat Fitzgerald   Nicky Kelly



Thomas Cullen   James Ruttle   Edward Timmins



John Brady   John Byrne   Christopher Fox   Mick Glynn   Barry Nevin   John Ryan   Pat Vance



Tom Fortune   Simon Harris   George Jones   Derek Mitchell



Pat Casey   Conal Kavanagh   James O'Shaughnessy   John Snell   Irene Winters



www.wicklow.ie

# Council Membership and Meetings

The County Council comprises of 24 members elected from five electoral areas i.e. Arklow, Baltin-glass, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow. Council meet-ings are held on the 1st Monday of each Month with the exception of August, when there are no meetings. The Council is represented on a number of committees including: -

- Housing & Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee
- Water & Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee
- Transportation & Roads Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee
- Community, Cultural & Social Development Strategic Policy Committee
- Planning & Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee
- Wicklow Harbour Authority
- Arklow Harbour Authority
- Wicklow County Tourism Ltd.
- General Council of County Councils
- Midland & Eastern Regional Tourism Authorities
- Wicklow County Enterprise Board
- Rathdrum & Wicklow Joint Burial Board
- County Development Board.

## Corporate Policy Group

The Corporate Policy Group is designed to enhance the democratic mandate and policy-making role of the elected members. It is supported by the County Manager and comprises the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council and the Cathaoirleach of each of the five Strategic Policy Committees.

The main function of the Corporate Policy Group is to co-ordinate the work of the different Strategic Policy Committees and provide forum where policy decisions affecting the whole Council are agreed for submission to the full Council for decision. The Corporate Policy Group also play a key role in the preparation of the Annual Financial Budget.

## Wicklow County Council

### Management Team 2009

**Mr. Eddie Sheehy**  
Wicklow County Manager



**Mr. Seamus Walker**  
Director of Services  
Transportation & Roads  
Infrastructure



**Mr. Bryan Doyle**  
Director of Services  
Water & Environmental  
Services



**Mr. Des O'Brien**  
Director of Services  
Planning & Development



**Mr. Michael Nicholson**  
Director of Services  
Housing & Corporate  
Estate



**Mr. Joe Lane**  
Director of Services  
Community & Enterprise



**Mr. Sean Quirke,**  
Director of Services  
Special Projects



**Mr. Thomas Murphy**  
T/Director of Services  
Enterprise and Corporate  
Services



**Mr. David Sweetman**  
Law Agent



**Mr. Liam Fitzpatrick**  
Head of Information  
Systems



**Ms. Loraine Lynch**  
Head of Finance



# Housing & Corporate Estate

## Housing & Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee

### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Nicky Kelly

### Wicklow County Council

#### Up To June 2009

Cllr. Nicky Kelly  
Cllr. Michael Lawlor  
Cllr. Kathleen Kelleher  
Cllr. Pat Byrne  
Cllr. Thomas Cullen  
Cllr. Tom Fortune

#### Post June 2009

Cllr. Nicky Kelly  
Cllr. John Snell  
Cllr. George Jones  
Cllr. Thomas Cullen  
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke  
Cllr. Simon Harris

### Director of Services

Michael Nicholson

### Senior Executive Officer

Catherine Halligan

### Senior Engineer

Marc Devereux

### Town Authority

Cllr. John O'Brien (WTC)  
Cllr. Bernie O'Halloran /  
Cllr. John Byrne (ATC)

- Housing Provision & Planning
- Social Housing
- Housing Management
- Social Inclusion
- Corporate Estate
- Building Control

### Outside Agencies

#### Trade Union

Joe Byrne (Congress)  
Derek Casserly

#### Disadvantaged

Jim O'Brien (Wicklow Community Platform)  
Elizabeth Doyle (HSE)

#### Business/Commercial

Eileen Cullen (Wicklow Communities Networking)  
Cllr. Tommy Annesley (ATC)

#### Community

Jim O'Brien (Wicklow Community Platform)

## Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee

The Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee met on four occasions in 2009 and focussed on a number of key areas including:

- Preparation of new Corporate Plan for Wicklow Local Authorities 2010-2014
- Dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour
- Provision of Voluntary Housing by Voluntary Housing Sector
- Traveller Accommodation Plan
- Social Housing Leasing
- Receiving presentations on a number of relevant issues

The Housing and Corporate Estate's strategies are enshrined in the Councils Corporate Plan. These strategies are also echoed in the strategic objectives of the County Wicklow Housing Strategy and 'Outlook' – the strategic plan of Wicklow County Development Board.

# Housing Provision and Planning

Wicklow County Council continued to work throughout 2009 to meet the needs of those requiring accommodation through the Council's own housing construction programme by constructing both social rented and affordable houses. The Council also assisted people in meeting their housing need in ways other than through direct provision of housing. This included promoting a range of housing options to assist households in accessing affordable dwellings of good quality, suited to need, in a good environment and in so far as possible at a tenure of choice.

## House Building Programme

The Council was approved a capital allocation of €15 million by the Department of the Environment, to fund its housing construction programme for 2009 as detailed below:

### Works completed in 2009 on the following Housing Projects

Scheme Location	Number of Units
Drumkay, Rathnew	9
Ashwood, Roundwood	31
Carnew	25
Brewery Bends, Rathdrum	9
Ardglass, Baltinglass	7
Farrankelly, Delgany	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>

## 2009 Housing Allocations

Wicklow County Council allocates houses in accordance with the Scheme of Letting Priorities adopted by Council Members and approved by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Any person in need of housing and is unable to obtain it from their own resources may be included on the Council's Housing Waiting List.

A total of 2152 applicants were on the Council's housing list as of 31 Dec 2009. A total of 185 houses were allocated during 2009 at various locations throughout the County as per the table below:

### Lettings as of 31st December 2009

	01/01/2009 – 31/12/2009
Casual Vacancies	56
New Houses	126
Rural Cottages	3

Purchases	0
Refurbishments	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>

## Role of the Voluntary Housing Sector

Wicklow County Council encourages the involvement of the voluntary housing sector in the provision of social housing in County Wicklow. Voluntary Housing Bodies are assisted under the Capital Assistance Scheme, Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme and also through the provisions of Grants for Communal Facilities for the provision of accommodation for letting to eligible categories of persons e.g. elderly, persons with disabilities, homeless persons or small families.

During 2009 funding was provided to:  
Sunbeam House Services – Rosanna Gardens, Ashford  
Sunbeam House Services – Fairgreen Terrace, Bray

## Housing Strategy and Part V of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and 2002

Wicklow County Council's Housing Strategy encompasses both the role of the Authority as the provider of social and special housing and its broader land use planning responsibilities.

In light of the above, and using updated analysis of requirements, the Housing Strategy 2004 - 2010 proposes:

- Increasing the required overall level of housing delivery for the period to 2005 and beyond
- Vary the mechanisms for affordable housing delivery in accordance with the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2002
- Maintain the 20% rule for affordable housing within new housing developments.

## Part V

Extensive preplanning discussions took place with developers in relation to compliance with Part V and a large number of applications were submitted for Planning at a variety of locations throughout the County during 2009.

Construction commenced on social and affordable units at various locations throughout the County in 2009. These units will be available for sale and allocation during 2010.

# 1999 Affordable Housing Scheme

The Affordable Housing Scheme was introduced to assist lower income household's purchase their own homes. Under the terms of this Scheme the Council can provide new houses, at cost price, on land owned by them, to persons who qualify under the scheme. This scheme continued to be offered in 2009.

## Affordable Housing - Wicklow County Development Plan

Wicklow County Council continued to advance its house acquisitions from new private developments as part of the policy objective of the Wicklow County Development Plan i.e. that 20% of proposed residential units on unzoned land are dedicated as social/affordable housing. (This policy objective predates Part V and still generates houses from private developments). Houses acquired by the Council under this objective are sold to eligible applicants using the criteria of the Affordable Housing Scheme. Site subsidies are sought from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in order to make the sale price of the dwelling more affordable where applicable.

### *In 2009, thirty-six Affordable Houses were allocated in:*

Ashwood, Roundwood	11
View Mount, Rathdrum	8
Holywell, Kilcoole	6
Djouce Meadow, Roundwood	5
Glending, Blessington	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>

### *The corresponding breakdown according to the various Affordable Housing schemes is as follows:*

Under Part V	6
Under 1999 Scheme	17
Under County Development Act	13

In terms of other housing options, Wicklow County Council continues to promote a broad range of additional housing options including:

- Tenant Purchase Schemes
- Mortgage Allowance Scheme
- Shared Ownership Loan
- Incremental Purchase Scheme

- Small Dwelling Acquisitions
- Private acquisitions
- Rural Housing
- Housing Grants<sup>1</sup> including:
  - DPG – Disabled Persons Grant
  - ERG – Essential Repairs Grant
  - HOP – Housing Aid for Older People
  - HAG – Housing Adaptation Grant
  - MAG – Mobility Aid Grant

<sup>1</sup>Please note that no housing grants were allocated in 2009 pending the receipt of Government funding for these schemes

Other Housing options promoted by Wicklow County Council in 2009 included RAS and the Long Term Social Leasing Scheme

## RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme)

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) caters for the accommodation needs of persons who are in receipt of rent supplement, normally for more than 18 months and who have a long-term housing need (excluding asylum seekers or non-nationals who do not have leave to remain in the state permanently, students and persons in receipt of rent supplement such as a “back to work” incentive).

The aim of RAS is to improve the quality and standard of rented accommodation and to provide greater security of tenure for the tenant

### *As of 31st December 2009, the following statistics applied to the RAS scheme in Co. Wicklow:*

RAS Statistics	Total from commencement of scheme as at 31st December 2009
Voluntary Agency Transfers	20
Number of Tenant Interviews	613
Number of Property Inspections	526
Tenancy Agreements/ contracts Signed	194

## Regulation of the Private Rented Accommodation Sector

Wicklow County Council is responsible for the enforcement of the regulations in relation to standards of private rented accommodation under the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2008. Funding is allocated to the council for this purpose from the proceeds of registration fees collected by the Private

Rented Tenancy Board (PRTB). In 2009 the Council inspected 276 rented dwellings in accordance with the legislation.

### **Introduction of Building Energy Rating (BER) in Ireland**

In 2006, the Government enacted legislation (S.I. No. 666 of 2006), European Communities (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2006 requiring persons selling or renting dwellings in Ireland (and their agents) to provide prospective purchasers or tenants with a Building Energy Rating (BER). A BER makes the energy performance of a house visible, making it a key consideration in the house purchase or rental decision.

A building owner (and their agent) is legally required to provide a BER to prospective buyers or tenants for:

- New homes where planning permission was applied for on or after the 1st January 2007.
- All homes for sale or rent on or after 1st January 2009.

Over 600 letters were issued from Wicklow County Council in 2009 to landlords and letting agents advising them of this requirement. Additionally in 2009, the Housing Directorate continued to encourage best practice and innovation in building design and construction standards in Co. Wicklow. This included ensuring compliance with the Building Control Act 2007 and Building Regulations.

### **Long Term Social Housing Leasing**

In 2009, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government established a new leasing initiative for the delivery of social housing.

This new initiative represented an expansion of the options available to local authorities for the delivery of social housing. Properties will be leased from the private sector and used to accommodate households from local authority waiting lists. Leased properties will be allocated to tenants, in accordance with the local authorities allocations schemes.

The main features of the new arrangements are as follows:

- Local authorities will enter into lease arrangements with property owners for periods between 10 – 20 years
- Properties will be tenanted, managed and maintained by the local authority or Voluntary Housing Bodies
- Rent will be guaranteed for the whole lease period.

On two occasions in 2009, Wicklow County Council advertised, seeking expressions of interest in this scheme – no suitable replies were received as of 31st Dec 2009.

### **Housing Management**

#### **Maintenance of Council Housing Stock**

A lack of funding at national level and a significant drop in the number of Tenant Purchases, resulting in a shortfall in the Internal Capital Receipts fund, resulted in a reduced maintenance programme in 2009. Wicklow County Council was unable for example, to deliver upon a number of upgrade schemes in 2009 including the Windows and Doors Replacement Programme and the Central Heating Programme. Every effort was made however to deal with emergency situations as they arose and to address cases of specific need. In addition, in terms of re-lets and repairs, the Council ensured that all such houses received the following in 2009:



- Electrics check and repair/rewire
- Plumbing check
- Replacement of kitchen units/sanitary ware where necessary

### **Estate Management and Development**

Throughout 2009, the Estate Development Officer continued to provide a support service to Residents Associations in the county.

A total of twenty-nine groups were supported in 2009 as part of Wicklow County Council's annual Estate Development Awards. Applicants were assessed under four categories – General Appearance, Absence of Lit-

ter, Maintenance of Open Space and Evidence of Use of Previous Grant Aid. The overall award in 2009 went to Riverfield Estate, Aughrim.

Pre-tenancy training courses were held in conjunction with all new housing allocations in 2009. These courses provide valuable opportunities for new residents to meet their new neighbours. Other support services contributed to the pre-tenancy training courses in 2009 including the Wicklow Money Advice and Budgetary Service, Wicklow Fire Services, the Gardai as well as Wicklow County Council's own Housing Construction team. Topics included Household Budgeting, Fire Safety in the Home, Community Policing and Community Alert initiatives.

### **Tenant Liaison Officer**

Throughout 2009, the Tenant Liaison Officer (TLO) continued to provide a support service to local authority estates in the county. As well as supporting tenants experiencing specific issues with their tenancy, the TLO played a pro-active role in addressing Anti-Social Behaviour issues as and when they arose.

### **Housing Rents**

As of 31st Dec 2009, Wicklow County Council had a total of 2194 rented dwellings. The average rent for 2009 was €52.49 with a minimum rent of €20 and a maximum rent of €200. As in previous years, the issue of rent arrears was closely monitored and managed by Wicklow County Council.

### **Traveller Accommodation**

#### **Traveller Accommodation Plan 2009 - 2013**

The Wicklow Traveller Accommodation Plan 2009 - 2013 was developed by the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) and adopted by Wicklow County Council in 2009. This Plan seeks to meet the accommodation needs of Travellers living in Co. Wicklow up until 2013. This includes standard housing, halting sites, group housing, rural houses and temporary/emergency sites.

A number of proposals are included in the current plan, including new traveller facilities and the refurbishment of existing facilities. The Traveller Accommodation Committee monitors the implementation of the plan.



### **Homelessness**

In 2009, work was progressed by the Wicklow Homeless Forum on the development of a Homeless Action Plan for Co. Wicklow. This work was facilitated by Wicklow County Council's Homeless Outreach worker in partnership with a broad range of agencies, both statutory and non-statutory. The role of the Homeless Forum is to oversee the implementation of this action plan upon completion.

### **Corporate Estate**

The Housing Directorate of Wicklow County Council is responsible for delivering upon an annual planned maintenance programme to effectively manage and maintain County Buildings, Wicklow. In 2009, part of the roof (over 30 years old) was re-felted and a number of strategic internal doors were automated to facilitate ease of access for everyone using County Buildings. The re-cycling of office waste was also improved with the creation of new internal re-cycling banks to try and further reduce waste going to landfill.

Work also continued in 2009 to maintain and update the Property Asset Register of Wicklow County Council resulting in a joint project with the Information Systems department to digitize the Council's land data.

# Transportation and Roads Infrastructure

## Strategic Policy Committee

### Cathaoirleach

CLlr Conal Kavanagh

### Wicklow County Council

CLlr Christopher Fox

CLlr Derek Mitchell

CLlr Jimmy O'Shaughnessy

CLlr Pat Fitzgerald

CLlr Jim Ruttle

### Town Authority

CLlr Eugene Finnegan, Bray Town Council

### Outside Agencies

Agricultural/Farming

Awaiting submission

### Community

Richard Burke (Communities Networking)

### Development Construction

John Coughlan, Avery Weightronix,

Nominated by IBEC

### Trade Union

Kieron Connolly (Congress)

### Director of Services

Seamus Walker

### Senior Engineer

Frank Clarke

- Road Construction
- Road Maintenance
- Road Safety
- Implementation of government policy in relation to roads and transportation
- Regulatory Functions
- Planning for future development

To promote and facilitate the provision of all transport in an integrated manner and so to foster social and economic development, having regard to environmental considerations, sustainable development and social inclusion

## Road Safety

### Road Safety Education

Road Safety is a national concern as outlined in the Road Safety Strategy 2007 - 2012. Wicklow County Council is fully committed to providing education for all road users to ensure that they are aware of best practise in road safety.

The Road Safety Together Committee met four times during 2009. The membership of the committee consists of representatives from An Garda Siochana, National Roads Authority (NRA), Road Safety Authority (RSA) and Wicklow County Council. It is intended to broaden the membership during 2010 to include a representative from the Fire Services and Bray Town Council.

The Committee commenced the preparation of a Road Safety Plan for the period 2010 - 2012 for County Wicklow during 2009. The actions contained in the plan will be based on the four 'E's' Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Evaluation.

The Committee has established co-operative linkages in the promotion of road safety through the delivery of road safety education, funding and scheduling of safety improvement works.

Wicklow County Council fully supports the Road Safety Strategy and works with the Road Safety Authority in promoting national initiatives at a local level.

To construct and maintain the national, regional and local roads networks to the highest possible standard for each road type, current and future usage and best value for money.

## National Roads

### **N11 Rathnew to Arklow Road Improvement Scheme**

Wicklow County Council commenced the Tendering Process for the construction contract on two occasions, the first in 2005 and again in 2008. On both occasions following the assessment of “Expressions of Interest” a panel of suitably qualified contractors was chosen to proceed to tender stage. Regrettably the process did not proceed beyond this point due to unavailability of funding.

On the 23rd April 2009 the National Roads Authority (NRA) advised the Council of its proposal to procure the construction of the N11 Rathnew to Arklow Road Improvement Scheme under a PPP arrangement. The entire project will be known as N11 Arklow/Rathnew PPP Contract and will consist of four elements:

#### **a) Section A – N11 Arklow/Rathnew**

Construction of the N11 Rathnew to Arklow Road Improvement Scheme.

#### **b) Section B – Gorey to Arklow and Arklow Bypass**

Improvement works on this section of N11/M11 including installation of Information Technology System.

#### **c) Section C – Gorey Service Area**

The PPP Contract includes the construction of this service area on the M11 at Ballyellen, Inch, Co. Wexford. The operation of the service area will be subject to separate procurement procedure.

#### **d) Section D – N7 Newlands Cross Upgrade**

Construction of new interchange at Newlands Cross, Co. Dublin.

On completion of the works the PPP Contractor will operate and maintain the Project Road Area (PRA). This includes the following:

- a)** The N11/M11 between the section of M11, 1.6km north of Clough Roundabout and the section of the N11, 1.4km north of Junction 18 Beehive Interchange.
- b)** The road network between the M11 and Gorey Service Area.
- c)** A section of N7 at Newlands Cross Interchange.

### **The Tendering Process**

The tender process for this scheme is now underway and following receipt of Expressions of Interest the following consortia will proceed to the next stage.

- a)** Atlantic Roads Group
- b)** BAM Balfour Beatty
- c)** Direct Route
- d)** Eurolink
- e)** Gasta Roads.

### **National Primary N11 Maintenance/Improvements/M11**

#### **Works Undertaken in 2009**

- Traffic Calming at Lil Doyles, which includes Bus Bays, footpaths and safe crossing zone.
- Annual Resurfacing Works at Ballinameesda Bends (Patching)
- Provision of Emergency Detour Signage
- Drainage Improvements at Old Creamery, Ballyclough North
- Drainage Improvements at Barndarrig Service Station
- Drainage Improvement Works at Quill Road junction, Kilmurray North
- Provision of a Driver Feedback Sign for speed at Ballinameesda
- Upgrading of a section of the N11 to M11 with associated signage and lighting

### **National Secondary N81**

#### **N81 Constraints Study**

The NRA National Design Office undertook a Constraints Study of the N81-Tallaght to Hollywood. This involved three Local Authorities – South Dublin County Council, Kildare County Council and Wicklow County Council. A Constraints Study Report was prepared which has been approved by the NRA. This report addressed the following issues:

- Population Trends
- Road Development Policy
- Journey Time Assessment
- Traffic Volumes
- Accident Data
- Safety Review.

## Works Undertaken in 2009

### Pavement Rehabilitation

Pavement Rehabilitation Works at Blessington and Baltinglass

### Sign Refurbishing

The NRA Regional Design Office is co-ordinating the contract for the maintenance and refurbishment of signs on the N81

### Annual Resurfacing Programme

Resurfacing works were carried out at Hollywood Crossroads.



### N81 Route Selection

Following on from the Constraints Study the National Roads Design Office is undertaking the Route Selection Process.

## Non National Roads

### Wicklow Port Access and Town Relief Road

This project involves the construction of 5.4km of carriageway with pedestrian and cycle facilities. It includes the construction of four bridges, two of which cross the railway line and one, which crosses the Broadlough Estuary. This new major road infrastructure will relieve long-standing congestion within Wicklow Town and facilitate development, including housing, commercial and industrial development.

S. M. Morris Coffey Joint Venture Limited is the main contractor. Works commenced in January 2008 and the road is due for completion in early 2010.

### Delgany Bypass Extension

The Delgany Bypass Extension consists of the construction of 380m of single lane carriageway with footpaths and cycle tracks on both sides from Delgany Woods linking to a new roundabout on Convent Road. The scheme also involves the laying of a new 180mm water main, a gas main, a foul sewer and 600mm and 1500mm surface water pipelines. The scheme also provides new public lighting and the under grounding of existing services for Eircom and ESB. The scheme will cater for ongoing local development and will reduce traffic levels in Delgany Village.

This project was undertaken by the Council's Non National Roads Team and is due for completion in January 2010.

### DTO Traffic Management Funding

The Dublin Transport Office funded the following projects in 2009

- Wicklow Port Access & Town Relief Road
- x(Off-road Cycle tracks)
- Greystones Green Routes (design)
- Improvement of Greystones Park & Ride and Associated Walkway to DART Station (Preliminary Design) due to commence 2010
- Improvement to Greystones Transport Interchange (Design & Construction) due for completion early 2010

### Non National Road Improvements 2009

Specific Improvement Grant works were carried out at the following locations:

L4377 Ballysmuttan Bridge  
L5099 Rocky Road, Wicklow  
L8783 Rampere Bridge, Baltinglass  
R747 Templelusk to Aughrim

Low Cost Safety Works were carried out at the following locations:

L4321 Castleruddery  
L4310 Grangecon  
R752/L6168 Meeting of the Waters  
L8371 Red Lane  
L7276 Redwells Crossroads  
R747 Woodfield  
L52011 Rathdown Park

Restoration Improvement Works were undertaken at the following locations:

Craffield  
Kilmount Ballybrew  
Askanagap – Slievemweel  
Castlekevin  
Brewery Lane/Back Street, Rathdrum  
Ballyhurtin – Ballylea  
Trinity Road  
Moneystown Hill  
Ballinaclea – Drumreagh  
N11 to Killadreenan  
Hillbrook Lower – Kilcavan Lower  
Trudder – Gregory’s Garage  
Furnace Bridge to Laragh  
Ballinascullogue – Oldcourt  
Annacarter Cross – Millers Road  
Blackditches – Lockstown  
Scalp Road (County boundary to Monastery)  
Coolattin – Stoops  
Three Wells  
Johnstown – Harristown  
Glencree Road (Curtlestown to R115 at Aurora)  
Ballcapple - Kilcandra

### **Regional Road Signage 2009**

Route Signage was Designed, Purchased and Erected at the following locations:

R725 Tullow to Carnew via Shillelagh  
R759 Manor Kilbride to Roundwood via Sally Gap  
R115 Laragh to Glencree via Sally Gap

To facilitate and promote walking and cycling and use public transport as a means of reducing congestion, promoting healthier lifestyles and providing access to facilities for those who do not drive or have access to public transport.

### **Footpaths Programme**

Footpaths were provided in the Greystones, Tinahely, Arklow and Blessington Engineering Areas.

### **Liaison with Transport Providers**

During the year the Public Transport Providers Steering Group comprising of representatives from the Roads Directorate, Iarnród Éireann, Bus Éireann and Dublin Bus met to explore ways to improve the public transport service for County Wicklow.

Issues discussed included:

- Provision of Park and Ride facilities
- Bray Transport Interchange
- Frequency and enhancement of transport services.

### **Current Projects**

Work is underway on the construction of the Transport Interchange at Greystones. This project is being substantially funded by the Dublin Transport Office (DTO), now known as the Dublin Transport Authority (DTA) since 1st December.

To incorporate the principles of best practice and sustainable development into the planning and design of roads network, thus promoting social inclusion and eliminating access barriers for all through good layout and design practices, especially for older people, young families and those with physical disability

### **Disability Access**

Wicklow Local Authorities have completed the access auditing of 17 major towns and villages. Work plans are in progress for these areas. These plans will also take into consideration other ongoing works and recommendations from local Disability and Accessibility advocacy groups in each area. The Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Directorate is continuing to keep up to date with the guidelines from the National Disability Authority, ensuring that the highest standard of ‘access for all’ is achieved.

### **Speed Limit Review**

Changes to the Speed Limit Byelaws were passed by the Members of the Council on 11th May 2009. The amendments to the speed limits affected the following towns and villages in the County:

Arklow  
 Bray  
 Enniskerry  
 Fassaroe (N11)  
 Gleneally  
 Glen of the Downs  
 Greystones and Delgany  
 Kilmacanogue  
 Kilpedder  
 Lacken  
 Rathdrum  
 Red Lane Blessington  
 Roscath/Ballinacor (N11)  
 Talbotstown  
 Wicklow  
 Rathnew

On the 8th September 2009 the Members adopted a further amendment to the Byelaws, which introduced a periodic speed limit of 50km per hour on the N11 at Barnarrig. The speed limit comes into effect during school pick up and drop off times.

### Health and Safety

The Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Directorate is committed to promoting Health and Safety as an integral part of its operations. In this regard plans and policies have been and are continuing to be developed to improve our health and safety procedures. During 2009 a series of workshops were facilitated in conjunction with the Council's Health and Safety Advisor. An extensive Training Programme, which included Signing Lighting and Guarding, was provided for staff to ensure compliance with construction regulations. The implementation of good health and safety practices has resulted in additional costs for various projects, but notwithstanding this, the Council remains committed to health and safety.

## Motor Tax

### Increase in Motor Tax Rates

Motor tax rates were increased again with effect from 1st January 2009. The increases were 4% for cars below 2.5 litres and CO<sub>2</sub> bands A to D; and 5% for cars above 2.5 litre threshold and CO<sub>2</sub> bands E, F and G.

### Increase in Driving Test Fees

Driving Test Fees were increased from 7th April 2009 as follows:

Categories	Fee
A, A1, B, EB, M + W	€75
C, C1, D + D1	€110
EC, EC1, ED, + ED1	€110
Bus Category (CPC)	
Part 1	€110
Part 2	€32

### Online Change of Vehicle Ownership by Motor Dealers

Continuing the development of E-Government services, motor dealers are now able to notify vehicle ownership changes to the National Vehicle and Driver File over the Internet as an alternative to the existing paper based arrangements. Motor dealers who wish to use the on line service have to first register for access.

There are four services available on this website:  
[www.motortrans.ie](http://www.motortrans.ie)

- Online vehicle purchases
- Online vehicle sales
- View transactions processed online
- View current vehicles in their ownership

### Certificate of Professional Competence for Truck Drivers

New EU Regulations to promote road safety for truck drivers came into force on 10th September 2009. From this date all truck drivers who drive for a living are required to have a Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC).

Any drivers who held a valid full licence in the truck category on or before 9th September 2009 were automatically entitled to the new Driver CPC.

A driver applying for a truck licence on or after this date is now required to pass a further theory and practical driving test in addition to the original truck-driving test, if they wish to become a professional truck driver.

All drivers who hold a Driver CPC, will be required to complete a 35 hour training programme during the following five years in order to retain the Driver CPC.

These new changes are being introduced in all European Union Member States as part of a Europe-wide initiative to improve road safety.

# Water & Environmental Services Directorate

## Introduction

The Water and Environmental Services Section in Wicklow County Council deals with a wide range of issues, which include:

### Sanitary Services (water and wastewater provision)

Waste Management and Environmental Awareness  
Pollution Control  
Fire Service and Emergency Planning  
Burial Grounds  
Veterinary Services

### Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

The Strategic Policy Committee has been re-established since the local elections in June 2009. The Committee comprises of six County Councillors and one Town Councillor along with four members from sectoral interest groups. The Strategic Policy Committee holds regular meetings throughout the year at which various policy issues are discussed.

- Cllr Vincent Blake
- Cllr John Brady
- Cllr John Byrne
- Cllr Pat Doran
- Cllr Conal Kavanagh
- Cllr Irene Winters
- Cllr Sean Smullen (Wicklow Town Council)
- Paul Leahy - Environment/Conservation
- Eamon Grant - Agriculture/Farming
- Development/Construction - Brendan Dunne
- Business Commercial - John Nolan

During 2009 the following areas were covered by the SPC Committee:

- Waste Management
- H1N1 Virus Pandemic
- ERBD
- SERBD
- Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012
- Waste Water Discharge Licensing
- Estimates / Budgets
- Coastal Protection
- County Buildings Green Team
- Water Services / Charging Methodology

In 2009 the SPC received the following presentations:

- Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Programme
- Water Conservation
- Role of EPA
- SERBD & ERBD
- Waste Enforcement

## Water Services

2009 was a busy year for Water Services, with the ongoing implementation of the new Drinking Water Regulations, the progression of the National Water Pricing Policy, the continuing advancement of the Water Services Investment Programme 2007- 2009 (based on the 2006 Assessment of Needs) and continued work with the lead Local Authorities on the River Basin District Projects under the EU Water Framework Directive.

The underpinning objectives are the provision of clean drinking water and the protection of the natural environment.

## Water Supply

Work continued under the current Water Services Investment Programme 2007-2009. Good progress was made in the delivery of these schemes. There were significant advances on the schemes in Arklow, Wicklow Town, Blessington, Aughrim and Enniskerry. Construction commenced on the Enniskerry and Blessington Water Supply Schemes in 2008 and both schemes will be completed in early 2010. In Aughrim, the Civil and Mechanical and Electrical works were completed and commissioning of the new water treatment plant is ongoing. Site investigation works were carried out for the Newtown Regional Water Supply Scheme.

A new Needs Assessment 2010 – 2012 was prepared and submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in October 2009. This new Needs Assessment subdivides each scheme into contracts and the Council are required to prioritise each contract on the basis of 4 categories. Greater prominence is also given to water conservation under the new assessment, as such Wicklow County Council has an extensive rehabilitation programme for older water mains planned.

## Drainage

Works continued under the Water Services Investment Programme 2007-2009. Wicklow Sewerage Scheme began construction in November 2007 and the new treatment plant at Knockrobin Murrough was commissioned in 2009. The scheme will be completed in 2010 with the connection of Rathnew & Ashford to the Wicklow Town network. The Rathdrum and Blessington Treatment Plants are both being operated under an O & M contract. An application was made to the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government for the upgrade of the Greystones Sewerage Treatment Plant under the Serviced Land Initiative scheme. Planning and Site Investigation works on the Dunlavin Sewerage Scheme have also been advanced.

## Water Conservation

The County Wicklow Water Conservation Project has been running since 2004. Funding from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government finished in 2007 and Wicklow County Council must now meet the cost of the programme.

The Programme includes:

- Updating of mapping and leakage data on an ongoing basis.
- Active Leakage Control
- Working with the Non-Domestic Water Metering Staff to identify leakage and save money for our customers.
- Working with the Environmental Awareness Officers to educate schools and the Public on water conservation.

## Environmental Services

### Complaints Procedure

The total complaints received in 2009 by Water & Environmental Services breaks down as follows:

Category	Number of cases subject to complaints concerning	Number of complaints	Number of Complaints resolved where no further action was necessary (Assume Closed)	Number of enforcement procedures taken
	A	B	C	D
Waste	1676	1676	1321	189
*Litter	549	549	412	662

Water Pollution	38	38	21	3
*Noise	16	16	15	0
*Air	96	96	76	18
*Waste Water	14	14	10	0
Other	131	131	102	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2520</b>	<b>2520</b>	<b>1957</b>	<b>1105</b>

## Blue Flags

Wicklow County Council secured 3 Blue Flags in 2009 for our beaches at Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Greystones South Beach. The cleanliness and good condition of these beaches has been acknowledged with the awarding of these coveted Blue Flags. Bathing waters are tested on a regular basis and the beach must have the necessary facilities and standards to comply with the Blue Flag criteria. Every effort will be made to maintain this status for 2010.

## Waste Management

### Waste Enforcement Team

The Waste Enforcement Team is dedicated to enforcing waste management legislation and has proven to be a great asset to the County. 2009 was another successful year for the team with many prosecutions under the Waste Management Act 1996 to 2008 secured and 608 Litter Fines, County Wide, issued.

## Recycling Facilities

2009 again saw large tonnages of waste brought to facilities provided by Wicklow County Council. Other recycling initiatives progressed in 2009 include:

- Bottle Banks
- Mobile Collections
- Hazardous Waste Collection

## PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments)

PURE is a new regional initiative, which incorporates local authorities including: Wicklow County Council, Dublin City Council, South Dublin County Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council as well as Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, ESB, and a number of non-statutory organisations represented by the Wicklow Uplands Council, to discourage incidents of small scale illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin upland regions.

Although large scale illegal dumping has effectively ceased in the Wicklow/Dublin region, fly-tipping and habitual dumping activities on a smaller scale have increased in

recent times. The management committee responsible for establishing the PURE project are eager to involve all members of the community in assisting with their objectives by both promoting the Lo-Call phone line, 1850 365 121, to report fly-tipping or dumping incidents, and identifying those involved in dumping activities.

Other areas of Waste Enforcement covered and progressed during 2009 include:

- Producer Responsibility Initiatives
- Battery Recycling
- End of Life vehicles
- Packaging Regulations
- Plastic Bag Levy
- Waste Electrical items
- Tyres
- Waste and Waste Collection Permits

### Environmental Awareness and Education

The Environmental Awareness Office has been developing educational resources and programmes since 1998, which focus attention on sustainable living with the key themes of waste and, litter, and in recent years, increasing attention to energy and water conservation. The education programme has been developed in tandem with the development of waste reduction and recycling infrastructure programmes in the county. The county's recycling centres are unique in Ireland in that they offer comprehensive educational and information resources to users as well as examples of best practice in waste minimisation, for example, the Oxfam and Five Loaves Community shops and our summer school-book shops.

It is a core objective to encourage the population to get involved at a local level and take more responsibility for environmental management. The Environmental Awareness Office works with community groups such as Tidy Towns, residents associations, youth groups and clubs, offering talks, an advisory service and partnership programmes targeting local issues. In 2009 a one-day seminar was held in Aughrim for Tidy Towns groups to facilitate networking between committees.

Areas of Environmental Awareness and education covered and progressed during 2009 include:

- Green Schools
- Community Education
- Composting Workshops
- Children's Summer Activities
- Environmental Competitions
- Waste prevention and Reuse programme

- School Book Exchange
- Seasonal, commercial and schools recycling
- In House recycling and energy management in County Buildings

### Green Award

Wicklow County Council has won the annual Green County Council Award, for the second year running, in recognition of its efforts, across all sections of the council, to provide an array of sustainable services and actively encourage businesses and consumers to become greener in outlook and practice. The awards recognise organisations and individuals for their outstanding achievements in tackling climate change and addressing environmental issues took place in February 2010 and award was in recognition of achievements in 2009.

### Local Authority Waste Prevention Demonstration Programme

Wicklow County Council was successful in 2007 and 2009 in securing grant funding under this EPA Programme to research, over a two year period, ways of preventing environmental waste generated at commercial locations.

Results from Phase II working in partnership with Topaz included a 28% decrease in waste production and an increase in recycling by 24% for the remaining waste, the identification and repair of a water leak, profiling of the public's attitudes and behaviours with relation to convenience packaging, and an inventory of packaging used in convenience retail.

In Phase III, which commenced in 2009 food waste in a range of catering facilities is being researched. Audits of waste have been undertaken in five catering facilities including the canteen of County Buildings, a hostel, a public house, a day care centre and the Glencree Centres. Opportunities to prevent food waste have been identified and we are working in partnership with participating organisations to develop pilot on site composting projects.

### Derelict Sites

The Derelict Sites Act, 1990 requires the local authority to maintain a register of derelict sites and provides local authorities with enforcement powers against dereliction. The Council continues to investigate ownership of derelict properties with a view to enforcing the legislation.

## Pollution Control

### Water Framework Directive - South Eastern River Basin Management Plan & Eastern River Basin Management Plan

The transposition of the EU Water Framework Directive into Irish Law established the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD) and the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD). The majority of County Wicklow is situated within the ERBD and small parts of the southwest and northwest of the county are in the SERBD.

The Eastern River Basin Management Plan has been adopted by the Elected Members of the Council in October 2009 and the Final Draft River Basin Management Plan for South Eastern River Basin District will be considered in early 2010.

The aim of the plans will to achieve minimum of good ecological status of all waters and prevent deterioration of waters by 2015 where feasible.

Wicklow County Council has been assigned responsibility for operational and investigative monitoring rivers and lakes under the WFD National Monitoring Programme. While the NMP will replace some existing programmes, it will not replace other specific directives for which existing arrangements shall continue as appropriate. For example, monitoring requirements under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations, Salmonid Regulations and Bathing Water Regulations will remain.

### Avoca River Remediation Study / Avoca Mines Feasibility Study/Action Plan

CDM (Camp, Dresser, McKee) have just completed a most Comprehensive Feasibility and Action Remediation Plan for the derelict mines area. This project was financed by the DCENR (0.5M). The report outlines various options and timeframes for remediation of the mines area and Shelton Abbey. The report also contains a detailed costing exercise to match the various actions proposed. This report will be presented to the Minister with a view to obtain funding to allow remediation works commence at Avoca.

All other areas of Pollution Control continue to be progressed and include:

- Surface Water Abstraction Regulations 1989
- Drinking Water Regulations 2007
- Nitrates Directive 1991
- Urban Wastewater Regulations 1998
- Phosphorous Regulations 1998
- Freshwater Fish Directive
- Dangerous Substances Regulations 2001

- Water Framework Directive 2000
- Ground water protection scheme
- Air Pollution Act 1987

### Sludge Management Plan

The Good Agricultural Practice Regulations 2009 restricts the application of sludge to land to certain times of year and under suitable conditions. This means that covered storage for sludge must now be provided over winter. As before, Nutrient Management Plans must be prepared for all lands on which sludge is to be spread.

The Council is obliged to maintain a Sludge Register showing details of all lands on which sludge is spread, the type and origin of sludge, etc., and this is available for public inspection. This includes sludge originating outside Co. Wicklow.

The installation of mechanical fine screens at wastewater treatment plants around the county will make the sludge more suitable for recycling to agricultural land.

The Council continued the process of issuing certificates under the Emission of Volatile Organic Compounds for Organic Solvents Regulations 2002 and Deco Paints Regulations 2007. Dry cleaners and Vehicle Refinishers are amongst those activities that must be registered.

### Fire Service And Emergency Planning Major Emergency Planning

A revised Major Emergency Plan for the Wicklow Local Authorities was completed in September 2008. Wicklow County Council is part of the Eastern Region for Emergency planning with the Dublin Local Authorities and Kildare. A Regional Working Group with representatives from the Local Authorities in the region, An Garda Síochána and Health Service Executive operates in the Eastern Region to co-ordinate Emergency Planning for the Region.

A Major Emergency Management Committee is in place in Wicklow County Council and comprises of Senior Personnel from all sections of Wicklow County Council and the town authorities. Regular meetings were held in 2009 and ongoing review of emergency planning arrangement together with the provision of appropriate training in different aspects of Major Emergency Planning is the continued focus of the committee.

### Training of Fire Service Personnel

Training for new personnel and ongoing training for existing personnel is essential to ensure that new recruits are

equipped with basic skills and knowledge and that experienced Fire-fighters maintain skills and receive instruction in advanced areas of fire fighting and other areas related to their role. During 2009 training was provided with regard to road traffic collisions, first responders, compartment fire behaviour, breathing apparatus refreshers and confined spaces. In addition induction training and breathing apparatus was provided for new recruits. Command and Control courses were provided for Senior and Junior Fire Officers.

### Asset Tracking and Management System

An asset management system was piloted in two stations in 2009 and will be rolled out to all County Wicklow Fire Stations during 2010 for the purpose of:

- Collating basic information on all equipment
- more expeditious flagging of maintenance/servicing requirements
- tracking frequency of usage
- providing readily accessible information based on specific queries or on a general basis recording movement of equipment between Stations.

### Fire Appliances

A new Class B Water Tender was delivered to Greystones Fire Station in early 2009. This was purchased from the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government's (DoEHLG) capital programme.

Approval is awaited, from the DoEHLG, for the purchase of a further Class B Water Tender and also for the purchase of a new Emergency tender and the refurbishment of a hydraulic platform.

### Fire Stations

Design proposals for New Fire Stations for Rathdrum and Baltinglass have been submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and approval is awaited to seek tenders for the construction of the Stations.

### Community Fire Safety

The Fire Authority considers this to be an important issue and devotes considerable time and resources to it. Primary schools and community groups are particular targets. During 2009 all third Class Primary School pupils were involved in a Fire Safety programme, delivered by local Fire fighters, under the Primary Schools Programme. An art competition was held for Primary Schools as part of Fire Safety Week in October.

Fire safety presentations to Local Authority pre-tenancy groups and presentations to community and local voluntary groups are also important in spreading the message of fire prevention.

Other areas of Fire Service activity progressed during 2009 include:

- Inspection of Fire Hydrants
- Inspections and enforcement under Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003
- Inspections and licensing under Dangerous Substances (Retail and Private Petroleum Stores) Regulations, 1979.

### Veterinary Services

#### Food Safety

Wicklow County Council as an official agent of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) makes provision for food control services for five abattoirs and six low-capacity meat premises in the county. Inspections are carried out by the Council's Veterinary Inspectors.

#### Dog Control

The ISPCA provides a dog control service on behalf of Wicklow County Council. Two Dog Wardens and a Kennel-man are employed to operate this service, which is based in the dog pound located in Rathdrum. A subsidised neutering scheme is available for dogs rehomed by the pound and for problem breeders in the community in an effort to reduce the production of unwanted puppies. Re-homed dogs are micro chipped at the dog pound to aid in their future identification.

### Promotion of Interest of Local Community

Individual Water Grants paid (159 Grants)	€267,000
Tree Planting Grants to Residents Groups and Tidy Towns Associations	€10,500
Tidy Town Awards	€8,000
Children's Art Competition	€3,000
Projects Funded under LA21 Grants 2009	€25,000
Litter Grant Aided Projects	€30,000

## Local Performance Indicators For Water & Environmental Services

Number of Industrial discharge Licences reviewed	0
Number of pollution occurrences successfully dealt with	122 – Water, Waste Air & Noise
River Basin District Management Plan	Plan adopted in 2009.
Dangerous Substances Regulations	Further monitoring for Dangerous Substances was carried out during 2009 (2 Rounds of 55 samples each). Investigative monitoring will be undertaken at those stations exhibiting elevated concentrations of any of these substances.
Population served by Water and Sewerage Facilities	Water 112,500 Sewerage 75,000
Reduction in unaccounted for water	31% to 25%
Number of Blue Flags	3

## Veterinary Services

Food Safety Statistics 2009	
No. of ante and post-mortem inspections	309
No. of hygiene inspections	148
No. of cattle inspected	440
No. of sheep inspected	7,374
Microbiological analysis (meat)	15
Microbiological analysis (water)	27
Veterinary residues analysis	2
Chemical Analysis (meat)	14

## Dog Control

Dog Control Statistics 2009	
No. of dog licences issued	6,079
No. of general dog licences issued	12
No. of stray/unwanted dogs surrendered/brought to the pound	165
No. of dogs reclaimed by their owners	29
No. of dogs re-homed	81
No. of dogs euthanased	52
No. of on-the spot fines issued	10
No. of prosecutions	1

## Civil Defence

### General View

2009 saw the final year of our Corporate Plan during the year an assessment was made of the objectives that were set in the Plan and for the most part these objectives have been achieved. The main objectives were

- To put in place a cohesive Flood Response Plan
- To develop and enhance the Search and Rescue capability.
- To introduce appropriate training
- To commence a re-equipment programme

All of these objectives are ongoing and will continue into the Corporate Plan in the coming years.

### Training

During the year in line with our Corporate Plan a number of Instructors were trained in the following disciplines

#### Technical Rescue

3 Volunteers completed a comprehensive Technical Rescue course, which brought them to a very high level of expertise.

#### Rest Centre Managers

In line with the Major Emergency Plan requirements 2 Volunteers completed a course at the Civil Defence College in Rest Centre Management and have begun implementing this training in the various Local Authority Plans.

#### Information Manager

As part of the Major Emergency Plan 1 of our Volunteers trained as an Information Manager

#### Casualty Training

1 Volunteer completed training as a Paramedic and is currently teaching basic first aid courses.

## Boats

2 Volunteers successfully qualified as Coxons during 2009.

## Recruitment

During 2009 we became more proactive in our recruitment and a significant number of young people have joined in the later part of the year. It is intended to maintain the recruitment momentum throughout 2010. The Civil Defence Board is introducing new recruitment procedures including Garda Vetting and Protection of Minors this will be in place from the 1st January 2010.

## Community Activities

As in previous years the organization responded to many local community groups who looked for assistance running various charitable events throughout the County. The most noticeable of the events were the

- Visit of the Relics of St. Theresa to the Carmelite Monastery
- A major air show in Bray
- Major pop concerts
- Major charity walks

We also rolled out our community Volunteer Programme as part of the Bray Flood Protection Plan and the Volunteer Programme was subsequently short listed for the Chamber of Commerce Ireland Award. It is intended to introduce this programme in other areas of the County in 2010.

## Emergency Responses

During the year the organization saw an increase in the calls for assistance particularly calls to flooding. Flood response calls were to Bray, Newtown, Wicklow Gap, Hempstown, Glending, Wicklow Gap, Greystones, Delgany, Kilincarraig.

Our flood response capability is improving and by 2010 it will be complete. Also 2009 the organization was involved in a number of searches the most significant being in the Redcross area at the request of the Gardai over 130 Civil Defence personnel were involved over two days with logistical support from Kildare, Dublin, Meath and Wexford.

## Exercises and Competitions

There were a number of exercises throughout the year the most significant being an exercise to test the Bray Flood Emergency and Evacuation Plan. This exercise incorporated the resilience element of the Major Emergency Framework Document. A very successful exercise took place in which the following objectives were tested: -

- Command & Control at Bray Town Council
- Activation of Community Volunteers
- Activation of Civil Defence Volunteers
- Activation of the Rest Centre
- Transportation of Evacuees
- Communications

It is hoped that further exercises of this nature will be held in different areas of the County throughout 2010.

## Equipment

During 2009 significant advances were made in the area of new equipment to deal with our functions under the corporate plan. We have invested heavily in flood response equipment to include

- Flood suits
- Thermal wear
- Life Jackets
- Waterproof Radios
- Additional pumps
- A new Flood Response Vehicle
- New GPS equipment

As part of our Health & Safety programme an external Company did a Health & Safety check on our Technical Rescue equipment and a significant amount of this equipment had to be withdrawn from service for various reasons. It is intended to purchase a reduced amount of Technical Rescue equipment throughout 2010.

## Footnote

Looking forward it is envisaged that the long awaited Headquarters for Civil Defence will commence in 2010, with this building and the significant equipment input the organization will grow significantly and fulfil all the roles it is tasked with under the Major Emergency Plan.

# Planning and Development

## Strategic Policy Committee

### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Pat Vance

### Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Jim Ruttle (up to May 2009)

Cllr. Derek Mitchell (up to May 2009)

Fachtna Whittle (up to May 2009)

Cllr. John Byrne (up to May 2009)

Cllr. Edward Timmins

Cllr Tom Fortune (from June 2009)

Cllr Vincent Blake (from June 2009)

Cllr Pat Casey (from June 2009)

Cllr Barry Nevin (from June 2009)

### Town Authority

Cllr. Chris Maloney

(Greystones Town Council) (up to May 2009)

Cllr Kathleen Kelleher

(Greystones Town Council) (from June 2009)

### Development/Construction

Jim Wood (CIF)

### Agriculture/Farming

Declan O'Neill (IFA) (up to May 2009)

James Hill (from June 2009)

### Environment/Conservation

Judy Osborne (Wicklow Planning Alliance)

(up to May 2009)

Caroline Burrell (from June 2009)

### Business/Commercial

Theo Phelan

(Wicklow & District Chamber of Commerce)

### Director of Services

Des O'Brien

### Senior Executive Officer

Sheila O'Leary

### Senior Planner

Paddy Hooper

### Senior Engineer

Fergal Keogh

### Functions Include:

- Preparation of County Development Plan and Local Area Plans.
- Monitoring of the effectiveness of policies of Development Plan.
- Development Management.
- Enforcement.
- Heritage

## Goal

“To provide for proper and effective planning balancing the need for sustainable development, the rights of individuals, the protection of the environment and the social and economic needs of each area.”

## Development Management

Development Management is the general term used to describe the functions relating to the processing of planning applications.

Year	No. of Applications
1997	1418
1998	1671
1999	1844
2000	1758
2001	1607
2002	1460
2003	1889
2004	2118
2005	2326
2006	2560
2007	2799
2008	2146
2009	1359

## Enforcement

The functions of the Enforcement Section within the Planning & Economic Development Department include:

- Implementation of Part VIII (Enforcement) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.
- Monitoring the development of residential projects in compliance with Section 180 of the above Act for the purposes of taking in charge of such developments by Wicklow County Council.
- The management of commencement notices in accordance with the Building Control Act 1990 and the associated Building Regulations.

Part VIII of the Planning and Development Act enhanced the role of the Planning Authority within the area of Enforcement. There is now greater obligation on the Planning Authority to consider and respond to complaints from the public with regard to alleged unauthorised developments.

## Forward Planning Wicklow County Development Plan

The current County Development Plan covers the period 2004-2010. A new development plan must be prepared every six years.

The Planning & Development Acts require that a development plan shall set out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County and shall consist of a written statement and plans or plans indicating the development objectives for the County. In general, a development shall include objectives for: -

- the zoning of land for the use solely or primarily of particular areas for particular purposes
- the provision or facilitation of the provision of infrastructure including transport, energy and communication facilities, water supplies, waste recovery and disposal facilities waste water services, and ancillary facilities;
- the conservation and protection of the environment including, in particular, the archaeological and natural heritage and the conservation and protection of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed
- the integration of the planning and sustainable development of the area with the social, community and cultural requirements of the area and its population;
- the preservation of the character of the landscape,

including the preservation of views and prospects and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest;

- the protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest;
- the preservation of the character of architectural conservation areas;
- the development and renewal of areas in need of regeneration;
- the provision of accommodation for travellers, and the use of particular areas for that purpose;
- the preservation, improvement and extension of amenities and recreational amenities;
- the provision, or facilitation of the provision, of services for the community including, in particular, schools, crèches and other education and childcare facilities.

The first stage in the preparation of a new County Development Plan is the seeking of the input of the public as to the content of the new plan. This 1st stage public consultation for the review of the 2004 County Development Plan commenced in October 2008 and involved the production of an information booklet and the holding of series of public and stakeholder meetings around the County. During this consultation stage, written submissions were invited from the public, interest groups and prescribed bodies.

Following the receipt of submissions, a report on all consultation was prepared by the Manager and issued to the elected members of Wicklow County Council for their consideration. Subsequently, the Draft County Development Plan 2010 –2016 went on public display in October 2009, inviting submissions up to 23rd December 2009.

## Local Area Plans / Town Plans

The following Local Area Plans / Town Plans were adopted during 2009:

- Bray Environs
- Carnew
- Enniskerry
- Tinahely

The following Local Area Plans / Town Plans were in progress through 2009

- Arklow Town and Environs Development Plan
- Blessington Town Plan

## Wicklow Heritage

The aim of the Heritage Office is to promote pride, raise awareness, provide advice and propose policy in relation to Heritage in County Wicklow. These functions are carried out through the planning section of the council and through liaison with other departments.

### County Wicklow Heritage Plan

The following Heritage Plan actions were completed in 2009:

- Production of the 5 year Heritage Plan for the county that was adopted on 7th September 2009.
- Holding of annual Heritage Day for Heritage Week
- Production of a Landscape Character Study of the Great and little Sugarloafs; Production of a Heritage office newsletter (x1 issue)
- Allocation of funding to 20 Community Groups under Heritage Category of Wicklow County Council's Community & Heritage Awards and co-ordination of events for Heritage Week.



# Community, Cultural & Social Development

## Members of the Community, Cultural & Social Development Strategic Policy Committee:

### Cathaoirleach

Cllr George Jones

### Wicklow County Council

Cllr Pat Vance

Cllr John Ryan

Cllr Nicky Kelly

Cllr Christopher Fox

Cllr Mick Glynn

### Town Authority

Cllr Rossa Murray

(Bray Town Council)

### Outside Agencies

#### Business/ Commercial

Ms. Gráinne McLoughlin

(Chamber of Commerce)

### Sport

Mr. Tom Gregan

(Local Sports Partnership)

### Arts/Youth

Ms. Norah Hickey

(Mermaid Arts)

### Rotating Seat

Mr. Gareth Bradshaw

(Comhairle na nOg)

### Disadvantaged

Mr. Jermey Kynaston

(Wicklow County Childcare)

### Director of Services

Mr Joe Lane

The members of the SPC met regularly during 2009 and dealt with a range of issues including:

- Monitoring the implementation of Wicklow County Council's Play Policy & Sport & Recreation Policy.
- Supporting the development of a number of community based policies including new thresholds and standards for the provision of community facilities in 2009.
- Reviewing the Community Strand of Wicklow County Council's Development Levies Scheme.
- Supporting the development and rollout of the Library and Arts Programmes for County Wicklow.
- Allocation of Wicklow County Council's Community Awards Funding Scheme for 2009.
- Supporting Wicklow Local Authorities involvement in a range of Community / Voluntary based Awards Schemes.

### Wicklow County Development Board

Wicklow County Development Board continued to meet through 2009 and supported the following initiatives:

- Implementing a number of actions from the Traveller Interagency Strategy for County Wicklow, particularly in terms of increasing Traveller partici-

pation rates in the workforce.

- The new Local Sports Partnership for County Wicklow.
- Strengthening Comhairle na nOg structures throughout the county in partnership with County Wicklow VEC.
- The launch and roll out of the Anti-Racism Diversity Strategy "Recipe for Harmony" for County Wicklow.
- Strengthening the role of County Wicklow's Older Persons Network.
- Development of Countryside Recreational Strategy for County Wicklow.
- Supporting Community Fora structures within County Wicklow.

The following examples illustrate the range and breadth of community activity engaged in by Wicklow County Council throughout 2009:

### Comhairle na nÓg 2009

Wicklow County Council, in partnership with County Wicklow VEC made a successful application to the Office of the Minister for Children for funding to further develop Wicklow's Comhairle na nÓg structures. A part-time Comhairle na nOg co-ordinator was appointed and a huge amount of development work has been undertaken. There are some 30 local schools and youth

groups involved in the Local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme.

There are now 5 regional youth councils in the five electoral areas of County Wicklow, namely:

- Wicklow
- Bray
- Greystones
- Arklow
- Baltinglass

The 5 Regional Youth Forums meet regularly and link to their local Town Council and other decision-making bodies. They have elected representatives to the county based Comhairle na nÓg, which will link with the County Council, County Wicklow VEC, Wicklow Local Sports Partnership, HSE and other decision making bodies in the area. This structure will also elect delegates to the national Dáil na nÓg.

### Playgrounds

The following are the list of playgrounds provided to date by Wicklow Local Authorities:

Local Authority Playgrounds In County Wicklow.

- Arklow : Seaview Avenue,
- Arklow : St. Peter's Place,
- Arklow : South Green, Arklow.
- Bray : Ballywaltrim, Bray.
- Bray : Peoples Park, Dargle Rd.
- Bray : Sidmonton Park, Bray.
- Bray : Fassaroe, Bray.
- Bray : Giltspur Heights, Southern Cross Road.
- Wicklow Town: Ballynerrin.
- Wicklow Town: Hill View.
- Greystones: Mill Road.
- Kilmacanogue: Rockfield.
- Blessington: Business Park.
- Newcastle: Wicklow Road.
- Enniskerry: Monastery Grove.
- Baltinglass Park.
- Charlesland Sport and Recreation Park, Greystones.
- Charlesland Skatepark, Greystones.

### Community Awards 2009

The Community & Heritage Awards Scheme for 2009 had an overall fund of €100,000 with a total of €80,000 granted to applicants under the Community Awards Scheme and €20,000 under the Heritage Award Scheme across the following categories: -

- Community Activity Award.

- Social Inclusion Award.
- Heritage Award.

### Baltinglass Community Park

Baltinglass Community Park is an impressive new recreational facility, developed jointly by Wicklow County Council and the Baltinglass Park Committee.

The Park has many fine features including a playground, accessible boardwalk along the River Slaney, picnic areas, pitches, and a series of walkways throughout the Park. Deriving funding from a number of sources, this park is a very good example of partnership in action between the local authority and local community.

### Pride of Place 2009

Wicklow County Council was proud to be involved again in the 2009 Pride of Place Competition.

This is an All Ireland competition, organised by Co - Operation Ireland in conjunction with Local Authorities North and South to promote civic pride and to celebrate community activity.

Wicklow County Council nominated the following three groups to represent County Wicklow in the 2009 competition.

- Population Category > 2,000 : Greystones Pride of Place Steering Committee.
- Single Issue – Integration : Wicklow Travellers Group.
- Single Issue – Youth: Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg.

### Greystones Swimming Pool, Gymnasium and Community/Sports Centre

This is a new state-of-the-art, six-lane 25m swimming pool, gymnasium and community/sports hall (retractable seating for c.500) at Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

This complex is now run by Shoreline Leisure.

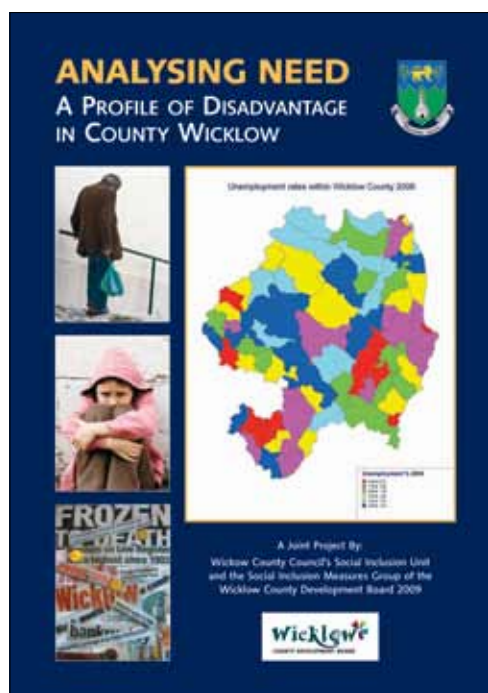
### Work of the WICKLOW TRAVELLER INTERAGENCY GROUP

The Wicklow Traveller Interagency Group was established on foot of a Government initiative to improve supports and services to the Travelling community nationally. Again in 2009, Wicklow County Council, was a lead agency on two actions including:

- Supporting employment of a Tenancy Sustainment Worker to provide a vital link between the Traveller community in County Wicklow and Wicklow Local Authorities in terms of supporting Traveller families

moving into local authority accommodation in County Wicklow.

- Developing a traveller apprenticeship scheme within Wicklow County Council. This is a positive action measure by Wicklow County Council to increase participation by members of the travelling community in its workforce.



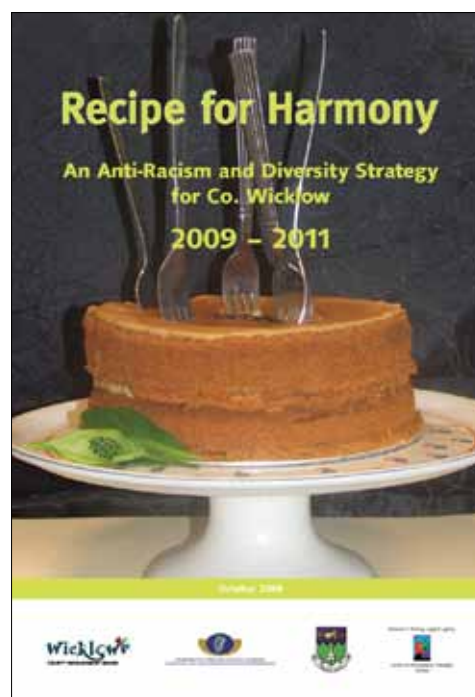
The Social Inclusion Unit (SIU) continued with its role of supporting anti-poverty initiatives and raising peoples' awareness of key social inclusion issues. During 2009 the SIU supported and facilitated the following:

- as it worked to provide a unified advocacy voice on behalf of all older people in County Wicklow.
- Provision of up-to-date data and statistical support to all Sections within the Council and Local Development Agencies. Published in 2009 "Analysing Need-A profile of Disadvantage in County Wicklow"
- Co-ordination of the first Social Inclusion week in October 2009. This will now become an annual event.
- Continued with the roll out of the Community Smoke Alarm Programme in 2009.

### Anti-Racism and Diversity Strategy (ARDS)

Funding was received from the Office of the Minister for Integration for an Anti - Racism strategy for County Wicklow. A committee made up of the statutory agencies, community development workers and members of Ethnic minorities undertook to work on the project.

The Social Inclusion Unit was involved in every step of the process, from initial planning to the actual research with ethnic minorities to the writing up of the strategy. The strategy, entitled "Recipe for Harmony", continues to be rolled out across the County, overseen by the ARDS steering committee and chaired by the Social Inclusion Unit.



### RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development)

The Bray RAPID Programme aims to ensure that priority attention is given to tackling the spatial concentration of poverty and social exclusion within the 5 designated estates through targeting state resources, available under the National Development Plan. The Programme also calls on Government Departments and State Agencies to bring about better co-ordination and closer integration in the delivery of services.

One of the main developments of the Bray RAPID programme in 2009 was the launching of the strategic themes on physical environment, education and employment and training. These strategic themes have stemmed from the review of the RAPID programme nationally by Fitzpatrick & Associates and have led to a more strategic focus being put on the different themes highlighted in the report.

A number of projects have taken place throughout the year, which could not have taken place without the support of the RAPID programme. These include the following:

- Estate Enhancement/Traffic Calming Scheme – This is a leverage scheme, which has led to the funding of such projects as the provision of speed ramps in Fassaroe the dishing of footpaths in the estates, extra landscaping in the estates and the provision of parking bays. The final works of the 2008 scheme were completed in early 2009 and a new works list drawn up in conjunction with the relevant estate management committees and the Local Authorities.
- A further announcement of €150,000 in funding under this heading was launched in 2009 and an application was submitted to the Department for approval.
- The refurbishment of the Community Centre in Fassaroe was completed during the year with a new heating system, electrics, windows and plastering of walls being completed at this stage. This project is vital to the area with over 1,000 young children living in the Fassaroe estate.
- The allocation of funding through the Health Leverage Scheme. There were two projects forwarded to the Department under this scheme (Homelinks & Little Bray Family Resource Centre) with Homelinks receiving approval and the other application being delayed at present.
- The provision of play equipment in Fassaroe and Oldcourt. This equipment has proved a great success and is targeted at older children.
- The AIT has also supported other organisations applications under the Dormant Accounts Fund (St Fergal's & St Peter's National Schools, Bray Travellers Network, St Peter's Bhoys AFC, St. Fergal's Resource Centre)



## WICKLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP Annual Report 2009

### Introduction:

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership is an Irish Sports Council funded initiative, which commenced operations in Novem-

ber 2008 with appointment of a full time Sports Co-ordinator. The Local Sports Partnership is based at Shoreline Leisure Centre, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow and is a subgroup of the County Development Board overseen by a Board of Management. The Board of Management comprises of representatives from all statutory bodies, organisations and groups operating in Wicklow with a responsibility for or an interest in sports development. The Board of Management brings all stakeholders of local sport together to discuss needs identified by the local community and implement programmes and initiatives to cater for those needs. In 2009, there were sixteen representatives on the Local Sports Partnership Board of Management. Listed below are the agencies and representatives:

### Agency Representative

Elected Representatives	CLLr's Pat Vance & George Jones
Wicklow V.E.C.	Mr Kevin Lewis (Chairperson)
An Garda Siochana	Mr Declan Lynch (Vice-Chairperson)
H.S.E.	Mr Jim Gorman
Wicklow Recreation Services	Mr Dominic Gunshenan
Wicklow Uplands Council	Ms Helen Lawless
The County Wicklow Partnership	Mr Tom Gregan
Special Olympics Wicklow	Ms Pam Beacom
Baltinglass & District Forum	Ms Mai Quaid
Comhairle Na Nog	Mr Danny McDevitt
Wicklow County Childcare Committee	Mr Jeremy Kynaston
Wicklow Sports Forum	Mr Andrew Kavanagh
Wicklow Sports Forum	Mr Terry Kavanagh
Wicklow Older Adults Forum	Mr John Smith
Wicklow County Council	Mr Joe Lane

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership is part of a National Network of Local Sports Partnership's of which there are 33. The outcomes that are sought from Wicklow Local Sports Partnership are:

- Club Development
- Volunteer training
- Enhanced planning of sport at a local level
- Local directories of sports bodies & facilities
- School, club, community and National Governing Body (NGB) links.

- Increased participation among specific target groups such as girls/women, older adults, people with disabilities, unemployed and those living in disadvantaged communities.

The main functions of Wicklow Local Sports Partnership are:

1. Information provision: involving the co-ordination of local sports information, initiating research, compiling sports directories/database, identifying needs and resources to form the basis of local planning and establishing a consultative forum.
2. Education & Training: provision of opportunities for education and training at a local level, including generic training courses in areas such as Code of Ethics, First Aid and Active Leadership while also supporting the delivery of sports specific courses in conjunction with the National Governing Bodies of Sport.
3. Implementation: implementation of a range of national programmes to encourage participation e.g. Buntus, Women in Sport, Go for Life. Programmes are delivered in areas such as Sports Development, Community Sport & Physical Activity, Schools Sport, Youth Sport and Sport Inclusion. Wicklow Local Sports Partnership will also implement sports programmes in the context of the local strategic plan for Sport and Physical Activity and in line with Irish Sports Council priorities.

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership commenced delivering sports and physical activity programmes, coach education and training and information provision in 2009. The Local Sports Partnership also began the consultative process for its three-year sports strategy to be published in 2010. It is under these three headings that the work of Wicklow Local Sports Partnership during 2009 will be categorised.

### Training & Education

During 2009, Wicklow Local Sports Partnership delivered the following Coach and Volunteer Education and Training Programmes:

**Buntus Generic:** is delivered to primary schools within the Local Sports Partnership area. The training is available to all primary school teachers and complements the games strand of the PE curriculum. It is designed to give children a fun and high quality introduction to sport & physical activity.

**Buntus Start:** Is a child centred physical activity programme for children aged 2-5 years and is designed to be used in pre-school settings to provide learning opportunities for young people to develop their fundamental

motor, manipulative, co-ordination and balancing skills. Buntus Start is delivered by Wicklow Local Sports Partnership in conjunction with the Wicklow County Child-care Committee.

**Code of Ethics:** The Irish Sports Council and the Sports Council for Northern Ireland published a joint Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in 2000. This major publication and training recognised the commitment of both Sports Council's to ensure that young people are safeguarded in their participation in sport. Wicklow Local Sports Partnership has been delivering Code of Ethics workshops to sports clubs, volunteers, coaches, leaders and parents throughout 2009.

**Sports Inclusion Training:** Wicklow Local Sports Partnership in conjunction with Enable Ireland, the FAI, the Irish Wheelchair Association- Sports Section and Cerebral Palsy Sport Ireland delivered two targeted Sports Inclusion Training Workshops in 2009. The first workshop was aimed at summer camp providers, managers and leaders and focused on disability awareness training and the provision of games and sports, which are inclusive. Following this a second workshop in the series was delivered to primary school teachers and Special Needs Assistants. This training focused on inclusive PE.

**Lucozade Sport Education Programme:** Wicklow Local Sports Partnership teamed up with Coaching Ireland to offer sports coaches, players, athletes, PE Teachers and sports development officers the Lucozade Sports Education Programme in 2009. Two workshops were delivered in the four workshop series, Getting Fit for Sport and Fuel and Fluid for Sport.

### 2009 Training & Education Statistics

**Buntus Generic:** 14 schools received training, 93 primary schools teachers were trained, 1,504 primary school students in primary schools that received training.

**Buntus Start:** 23 childcare facilities received training, 108 childcare practitioners were trained, 529 children in the childcare facilities that received training.

**Code of Ethics:** 7 Code of Ethics courses were delivered in 2009, 94 volunteers, sports coaches, leaders and parents were trained, 17 sports clubs were represented as part of the training.

**Lucozade Sports Education Programme:** 2 Lucozade Sports Education workshops were delivered in 2009, Getting Fit for Sport and Fuel and Fluid for Sport. 25 sports coaches, volunteers, players, athletes and teachers attended the workshops.

**Sports Inclusion Training:** 2 Sports Inclusion training days were held in 2009. 42 participants took part in a summer camp providers workshop and a PE inclusion workshop.

### Sports & Physical Activity Programmes

During 2009, Wicklow Local Sports Partnership delivered or assisted in the delivery of the following sports and physical activity programmes along with key stakeholders.

**Football for All:** Wicklow Local Sports Partnership along with the FAI piloted a 4-week Football for All Programme in Wicklow for young people with an intellectual, sensory or learning disability.

**Wicklow Blazers Junior Sports Club:** A new inclusive sports club was established in 2009 for young people aged 4-12 years with a physical disability and their siblings. The club grew in response to the sporting needs of young Wicklow people with a physical disability. The club is supported by Wicklow Local Sports Partnership, The Irish Wheelchair Association- Sports Section, Enable Ireland, volunteers and parents. The club has also received support from Wicklow County Council.

**Wicklow Disability Sports Day 2009:** As part of Accessibility Awareness Week 2009, Wicklow Local Sports Partnership along with Wicklow County Council & County Wicklow Arts Office delivered a Disability Sports Day in Greystones. The day showcased a number of sports and activities such as athletics, badminton, archery, soccer, new age kurling, boccia, hand cycling and a sports art mural, which were facilitated by local coaches, Regional & Sports Development Officers and County Wicklow Arts Officers.

**Multi-cultural Soccer Open Day & Futsal Tournament:** Wicklow Local Sports Partnership & The FAI worked closely together a number of times throughout 2009 to promote soccer amongst intercultural and ethnic communities in Wicklow. An Intercultural Soccer Open Day was held in Bray in May, where young people from Russian, Asian, Phillipino and Irish took part in the event. A Multi-cultural Futsal tournament was organised in conjunction with the County Wicklow Partnership and targeted adult males from ethnic backgrounds. Teams from Algerian, Chinese, Irish, Polish and Egyptian backgrounds all residing in County Wicklow participated in the event.

**Soccer Sisters:** Wicklow Local Sports Partnership in conjunction with the FAI's Women's Football Development Officer and Greystones Utd F.C. delivered the Soccer Sisters programme to females aged 7-11 years. The programme which aims to introduce girls with little or no experience playing soccer to the game, proved to be a huge success with all participants joining the girls section at Greystones

Utd F.C. In addition to this a Soccer Sisters Blitz was held at Greystones Utd F.C. in 2009.

**Women's Reasons to Run 5k:** Wicklow Local Sports Partnership supported Athletics Wicklow in running a Women's only 5km in Greystones in April 2009. The Run was a prelude to the Women's Mini-Marathon and linked Meet & Train programmes which are operating in athletics clubs throughout the county.

**Wicklow Sports Forum:** The Wicklow Sports Forum was established in 2009 to provide a platform for local voluntary sports clubs to communicate with the Local Sports Partnership on key areas such as training and education, club development, funding and to tackle issues of mutual interest. The Wicklow Sports Forum met three times in 2009.

### 2009 Sports & Physical Activity Programmes Statistics

**Football for All:** 12 young people aged 4-12 years participated in the Football for All Programme which was run over 4 weeks in 2009.

**Wicklow Blazers Junior Sports Club:** There are currently 12 young people with a physical disability and their siblings participating in the Wicklow Blazers Junior Sports Club. The club meets every Monday evening from 5.30-7.00pm in Greystones.

**Wicklow Disability Sports Day 2009:** 50 people participated in the Wicklow Disability Sports Day 2009 from 7 disability service providers and organisations.

**Multi-cultural Soccer Open Day & Futsal Tournament:** 40 young people participated in the Multi-Cultural Soccer Open Day in Bray in 2009. While, 48 adults participated in the Inter-Cultural Futsal Tournament.

**Soccer Sisters:** 21 females aged 7-11 years participated in the Soccer Sisters programme which was run over 10 weeks. 85 females from 5 soccer clubs participated in the Soccer Sisters Blitz held at Greystones Utd F.C. in June 2009.

**Women's Reasons to run 5k:** 100 females aged 16-65 years participated in the Women's Reasons to Run 5k in Greystones during April 2009.

**Wicklow Sports Forum:** There were 28 representatives from 13 sports members of the Wicklow Sports Forum in 2009. The Wicklow Sports Forum met 3 times during 2009.

### Information Provision & Support:

Within its remit Wicklow Local Sports Partnership aims to provide information on sport, physical activity, recreation and active living. Information is provided on sports clubs

operating in the County, opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity locally, training, courses, events and leisure providers. In addition to this, the Local Sports Partnership provides financial support to voluntary sports clubs and coaches through its two funding streams: Club Development Grant Scheme and Coach Education Fund. Wicklow Local Sports Partnership established and awarded funding through the Club Development Grant Scheme and the Coach Education Fund in 2009.

### 2009 Information Provision & Support Statistics

Club Development Grant Scheme: €10,000 was awarded as part of the Club Development Grant Scheme in 2009. 9 Wicklow based sports clubs were successful in their applications as part of the Grant Scheme. In total 100 sports clubs were provided with funding and grant information by the Local Sports Partnership in 2009.

During 2009, Wicklow Local Sports Partnership commenced work on its Sports Strategy for the County. Consultations took place in September 2009 with all key internal and external stakeholders of the Local Sports Partnership and the public to gain their opinions and views on sports provision and needs in Wicklow. The Strategic Plan will be completed and published in 2010.

## Arts

### Policy Development 2010 Update

In September 2008, the next policy framework document to define arts development for the period from 2008 – 2012 was launched. The County Arts Strategy was formulated after much research and consultation with internal personnel in Wicklow Local Authorities, the Arts Sector locally, the Arts Council and other key stakeholders. The development of a strategy for the arts by a local authority complies with the statutory provision legislated for under the Arts Act 2003. This is the third such plan or strategy document to be developed for County Wicklow since the inception of the post of Arts Officer in Wicklow Local Authorities in 1997.

The five core principles are as follows:

- The Creative practitioner
- Youth Arts
- Infrastructure
- Arts in the Public Realm
- Public Art

These areas have been particularly referenced as the key development concerns for arts development for the lifetime of the Strategy. Within the document there are core principles, which will underpin developments in this area, and direct actions.

### Public Art

Wicklow County Council's Public Art Commissioning Programme 2006 – 2008 was developed and launched in 2006. This marked the first time that Wicklow Local Authorities had a dedicated Public Art Programme. The commissions, eight in total were all publicly advertised and all but one was awarded. The result has been an imaginative, vibrant and diverse programme with national and international artists participating. In addition there were three significant commissions for new civic amenities that were commissioned in late 2008 for completion in 2009 outside of this original programme.

The completed projects commissioned were as follows in 2009: -

### The Shoreline Leisure Centre Commissions

Wicklow Local Authorities developed three commissions as part of the Per Cent for Art Scheme allocation for the development of swimming pool, recreational and community centres in Bray and Greystones. Commissioned in late 2008, these were completed and launched in 2009.

### Body in Motion

A site-specific permanent photographic installation at Shoreline Swimming Pool and Community Centre, Greystones.

*Artist:* Clare Langan

*Photographer:* Eugene Langan

### Stepping Stones

A site-specific glass, photographic and architectural steel installation at Shoreline Swimming Pool and Community Centre, Greystones.

*Artist:* Dan Savage

*Photographer:* Dan Savage

### Bray Hare

An indoor sculptural installation comprising illumination, steel and glass at Shoreline Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre Bray.

*Artist:* Vivienne Roche

### The Blessington Per Cent for Art Commission

Artist Brian Maguire continued to develop his visual arts commission as part of Wicklow County Council's Per Cent for Art Scheme Commissioning Programme. The project will finish in 2010 and will include an art-

ists research phase, an arts educational element as well as the production of large and small scale canvas works and prints that will remain in the ownership of the Local Authority. This Commission is arising out of structural development in the Blessington area to which the Pet Cent for Art Scheme has applied.

### **Grants & Bursaries**

In line with the publication of the new Arts Strategy 2008 – 2012, the following bursaries were awarded in 2009 to artists and arts groups who requested funding in support of either a particular project or professional development.

### **Individual Artist Bursaries**

- Project Award – for Individual Artists
- Arts Groups and Organisations Award
- Arts Festival Fund

### **Artlink**

Artlinks is a shared service initiative to support artists in five Local Authority regions in the Southeast. The Arts Offices in the counties of Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wicklow and Wexford developed Artlinks in 2006, as a result of a pilot research programme. Artlinks is designed to provide additional supports to artists in the region in the areas of training, mentorship, funding, networking and profiling avoiding duplication in the region. The service is a user led professional development service for practitioners in all creative disciplines: dance, film, literature, music, theatre and the visual arts. In 2009, the programme included mentorship for visual artists, courses in many disciplines including film, and business elements of artist development, bursaries, networking and website development.

### **Bealtaine**

In 2009, the Arts Office continued to develop a number of short-term resident programmes, workshops and events including music performances, theatre performances and participatory art programmes to celebrate creativity in older age throughout the county. The focus of these events is to involve older persons in the arts through attending performances or participation. Many of these opportunities are offered to those in long-term care settings or for those living in inaccessible outlying regions in the county.

### **Visual Artist in Residence**

Artist Dominic Thorpe was engaged as the Artist in Residence through a competitive process to work for a period of one year on a project in the county. The timeframe for the delivery of this project extended from 2008 through to the end of 2009. The Artist is looking at the farming tradition and the landscape through the county, and will focus on intensively researching farms, farmers and farming life and their relationships with the landscape. The result of his work will be presented in 2010, and will include some

installation work and diamond mounted photographic works, which will be retained in County Wicklow's Art Collection.

### **Curator in Residence Programme**

Curator Cliodhna Shaffrey was appointed in 2008 for residency spanning from late 2008 into 2009. For the period of her research in 2008, she has supported 11 artists and two curators in a mentorship style programme for that period. This has included a series of workshops, talks, a reading group, blog and studio visits. From mid-way through 2009, the programme began to focus around developing a collaboration with all the participating artists and curators to produce a large-scale visual arts event/programme for 2010. This support programme is designed to assist artists in their creative thinking and in developing new successful artwork.

### **Wicked Young Filmmakers Festival**

The film festival was run in 2009 in partnership with County Wicklow Film Commission and with the support of the Courthouse Arts Centre, Kilruddery Arts and Greystones Theatre. It was possible to facilitate three weeks of training for young people at the three locations in Tinahely and Bray. Two filmmakers supported over 56 young people to learn how to write, shoot, edit and produce their own short films. The works were then showcased at the Courthouse Arts Centre with an overall audience of 100 people, and the Greystones Theatre with an audience of in excess of 100 people.

### **Wicklow Young Filmmakers Bursary Awards**

The bursary was awarded to four emerging filmmakers in County Wicklow in two age categories between 18 and 25 years. The awards are designed to support young practitioners based on the strength of the work that they have done to date. Each applicant submitted a short film for adjudication by an expert panel. The bursaries are the most significant of their kind offered to young emerging filmmakers in Ireland. In 2009 four awards were made.

### **Arts Office Residencies involving Community**

In 2009 two key residency programmes were supported in the following communities following their establishment in 2008.

### **Dunlavin – Music Education Programme**

West Wicklow Music Development Programme, a voluntary group was established to support the tuition and educational programme that arose out of the 2008 residency in Dunlavin. In 2009, 63 students were given an opportunity at a low cost to avail of instrumental lessons in flute, recorder, violin and cello. In addition the Crash Ensemble facilitated a wind education and outreach programmes in a number of schools.

### **Hollywood – Traditional music education programme and concert series**

Support for Hollywood Traditional music education programme and concert series continued with instrument master classes and concert series.

These residencies were awarded to these communities on the basis of the potential development they offered to each one based on the existing voluntary commitment to arts development in their areas.

### **Library Service**

Wicklow County Council Library Service operates 13 branch libraries throughout the county and serves 33 locations in the county via its mobile library. A library service is also provided to Avoca IT Centre, and Shelton Abbey Open Prison. In addition, a monthly service is provided to approximately twenty nursing homes in the county, including Carnew Community Care, Cheshire Home Shillelagh and Rathdrum Hospital.

### **Greystones Library Extension**

Greystones library relocated to Shoreline Leisure Centre in February 2009, in order to facilitate a major extension to Greystones Carnegie library. The project will take one year to complete. The total cost will be approximately €1.3 million. Of this €900,000 has been received in grant aid, primarily from the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government. The balance is being funded by Wicklow County Council.

The completed project will provide a first floor extension to the Carnegie library. The new first floor will have a quiet study / reference / leisure reading area, with relaxing sea views over the south beach. In addition, there will be a public IT area and a heritage area, celebrating the La Touche family, whose influence in Ireland and Greystones dates back to the 17th century.

Stock for borrowing will be located on the ground floor, new services they're being a public self-service facility and library catalogue computers.

### **Dunlavin Library**

An application to the Department of Environment's Civic Structures Conservation Grant Scheme, successfully secured finance for the restoration of the Dunlavin library dome, in 2009. Funding for the project was also provided by Wicklow County Council.

In addition to conservation works on the dome itself, the dome clock, which had not been functioning effectively

in recent times, has been tastefully fitted with a new dial and workings. The dial is finished black with gilded Roman numerals and is in keeping with the original design. The clock now rings out on the hour. The work was completed in late October 2009 and just in time for Wicklow County Council to host a gathering of visitors from its twin city of Wurzburg, who were charmed by the beautiful building and its architecture.

The building was constructed in the 1740s by the Tynte family at a cost of £1,200, to a design of the ancient Doric style of Grecian architecture by architect Richard Cassels. The dome clock originally belonged to the Dominicans of the Black Abbey of Kilkenny and was restored by the Tynte family in the 1920s. The building was purchased by Wicklow County Council, from the Tynte family, in the 1950s and was restored in the 1970s. Dunlavin library was relocated there from Imaal Hall in 1979. Richard Cassels also designed Russborough House, Carton House and Leinster House.

### **Outreach and Social Inclusion**

Wicklow County Council Library Service's outreach programme for 2009 targeted specific groups within the community, while continuing to promote the facilities of the service to all.

During the Bealtaine Festival, celebrating creativity in older age, storytelling and music and reminiscence sessions were provided in partnership with Wicklow County Council Arts Office in centres such as Baltinglass Day Care and Carnew Community Care and libraries. Many more craft and literary activities took place, which were organised and run in-house by library staff. Internet mentoring sessions for the older age group provided by library staff year round are an easy introduction to the World Wide Web and always well attended. Local history talks and information sessions on health-related issues were organised in Bray and Arklow.

World Book Day events in 2009 focused around literacy and took the innovative form of a travelling puppet show spreading the message of the fun and enrichment of reading to classes of primary school children throughout the county. This was received with such enthusiasm by both children and teachers it was employed with equal success during the Children's Book Festival in addition to author visits and fun reading competitions.

As always, Wicklow County Council Libraries provided ongoing reading and story time activities for children, with summertime programmes such as the Reading Challenge between Wicklow and Blessington - vying for the coveted Library Shield for the most books read.

Programmes were also run in Bray, Tinahely, Arklow and Ballywaltrim. Arts and crafts activities for children are regularly organised by library staff, and innovative events such as pyjama party story times at Halloween and Christmas are a highlight for the younger children.

For young adults, much effort was made to organise activities to bring them to the libraries, such as mask-making in Blessington Library, teenage book clubs and library tours organised with secondary schools, to introduce the students to the range of stock targeted at teenagers, and the benefits of using the library service for research and study.

Focusing on CV preparation and interview skills for job seekers and those affected by the economic climate, a series of talks by the Communications Clinic was organized, with displays highlighting helpful titles, free internet access and the provision of daily newspapers in the libraries.

Regular activities continued year round - book clubs for adults children, families and people with special needs, the ever-popular Knitting Café in Blessington library, Irish conversation groups, story times in Irish and English, music appreciation and creative writing groups

A listing of events at your local library is available by consulting the relevant library location at [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

## Special Projects

### Greystones Harbour and North Beach Development Project.

The Greystones Harbour Project is one of the most innovative and challenging Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects proposed to be undertaken in Ireland. The PPP contract was signed in December 2007 between Wicklow County Council and Sispar following the grant of planning approval by An Bord Pleanála in August of that year. Sispar is a joint venture consortium of John Sisk & Son Limited and Park Developments and was chosen by Wicklow County Council as its partner for the project following a public procurement process.

The development will include a 230-berth marina, new retail facilities including cafes and restaurants, 341 residential units and a new public square at the Harbour with substantial public parking.

Amongst the community benefits of the planned development are the construction of a new harbour, a public park together with clubhouses, storage and launch facilities for the Greystones Sailing Club, Ridge Angling Club, Rowing Club, Diving Club, Sea Scouts and the Wicklow Aquanauts.

Construction work commenced in January 2008 and progress has continued through 2008 and 2009 notwithstanding some delays due to inclement weather.



# Financial Management

## Financial Statement

The Income and Expenditure Statement summarises all revenue related receipts and expenditure. It shows the surplus/deficit for the year.

### Income And Expenditure Account Statement For The Year Ended 31st December 2009

Expenditure By Programme Group	Gross Expenditure 2009	Income 2009	Net Expenditure 2009	Net Expenditure 2008
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	7,626,340	8,759,861	(1,133,522)	(577,813)
Road Transportation & Safety	20,633,143	11,140,814	9,492,329	12,862,616
Water & Sewerage	15,014,269	3,768,802	11,245,467	8,828,052
Development Incentives & Control	6,098,693	1,248,886	4,849,807	4,358,751
Environmental Protection	15,966,066	8,873,211	7,092,855	5,139,441
Recreation & Amenity	5,633,969	1,294,629	4,339,340	4,582,645
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	8,487,780	8,757,312	(269,533)	474,061
Miscellaneous	13,627,693	8,671,146	4,956,546	5,081,078
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>93,087,952</b>	<b>52,514,662</b>		
<b>Net Cost Of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund</b>			40,573,290	40,748,832
<b>Pension Related Deduction</b>			1,390,591	
<b>Local Government Fund Received</b>			18,537,305	21,974,808
<b>County Charge</b>			8,030,477	8,085,526
<b>Commercial Rates</b>			16,574,472	15,086,952
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year before Transfers</b>			3,959,555	4,398,454
<b>Transfers From/(To) Reserves ie, Provisions/Fixed Assets</b>			(4,223,940)	(4,370,291)
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>			(264,385)	28,164
<b>General Reserve @ 1st January</b>			(1,733,350)	(1,764,514)
<b>General Reserve @ 31st December</b>			(1,997,735)	(1,733,350)

### Capital Account Statement of Balances For The Year Ended 31st December 2009

			€	
<b>Housing &amp; Building</b>			(13,404,892)	
<b>Road Transportation &amp; Safety</b>			32,697,466	
<b>Water &amp; Sewerage</b>			(8,609,739)	
<b>Development Incentives &amp; Control</b>			(2,400,362)	
<b>Environmental Protection</b>			(3,527,909)	
<b>Recreation &amp; Amenity</b>			(150,845)	
<b>Agriculture, Education, Health &amp; Welfare</b>			773,158	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			13,600,378	
<b>Total</b>			<b>18,977,255</b>	

### Balance Sheet For The Year Ended 31st December 2009

			2009	2008
			€	€
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Operational			548,210,658	512,852,326
Infrastructural			1,441,574,175	1,137,936,270
Community			13,369,333	13,511,175
Non-Operational				
			<b>2,003,154,166</b>	<b>1,664,299,771</b>
Work In Progress And Preliminary Expenses			255,386,917	536,258,950
Long Term Debtors			31,653,274	29,069,217
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Stock			317,841	333,918
Trade Debtors And Prepayments			35,186,172	28,659,733
Bank Investments			40,759,963	16,764,146
Cash at Bank				1,003,650
Cash in Transit			231,097	141,855
Urban Account			4,701,621	4,742,490
			<b>81,196,694</b>	<b>51,645,792</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Bank Overdraft			4,738,291	
Creditors & Accruals			24,778,325	20,019,220
			<b>29,516,616</b>	<b>20,019,220</b>
<b>Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>			<b>51,680,078</b>	<b>31,626,572</b>

<b>Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)</b>				
Loans Payable			96,387,603	68,380,821
Finance Leases				
Refundable Deposits			14,120,925	14,586,188
Other				
			<b>110,508,528</b>	<b>82,967,009</b>
<b>Net Assets / (Liabilities)</b>			<b>2,231,365,907</b>	<b>2,178,287,501</b>
Financed By				
Capitalisation Account			2,003,154,166	1,664,299,771
Receipts WIP			281,756,119	557,680,943
Specific Revenue Reserve			1,146,798	1,146,798
General Revenue Reserve			(1,997,736)	(1,733,350)
Other Balances			(52,693,439)	(43,106,658)
<b>Total Reserves</b>			<b>2,231,365,908</b>	<b>2,178,287,504</b>

## Enterprise and Corporate Services

### Enterprise & Development

County Wicklow is one of the most rapidly growing Counties in Ireland. Less than one hour from Dublin, with easy access to the M50 and national motorways the County has many benefits to offer by way of strategic location, infra-structural development, proximity to Universities and Institutes of Technology.

The Enterprise Unit of the Council is responsible for the promotion and marketing of County Wicklow and its towns as a location for enterprise and job creation. It promotes and assists in the development of enterprise centres and acquires land to facilitate industrial and commercial development. The Unit plays a huge role in the economic development of the County and is committed to growing a third level education base in conjunction with IT Carlow at Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College, Rathnew.

The Council works closely with other development agencies such as the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and the Wicklow County Enterprise Board, and maintains and broadens links with potential industrial/commercial developers/promoters to achieve job creation and economic growth. It promotes County Wicklow as a premier film location through the County Wicklow Film Commission.

The staff of the Enterprise unit are available to guide and assist potential business developers who may be considering Wicklow as a business location and a number of initiatives to promote the County as a place to locate were undertaken during 2009.

### Development of Enterprise Centres

The Council in partnership with national and local development agencies in conjunction with local chambers of commerce work to provide Enterprise Centres throughout the County.

The Wicklow Enterprise Centre/Business Park, comprises 74,000 sq ft of enterprise space providing a complete turnkey facility to existing and new developing businesses. It comprises workspace units, research & development, manufacturing and distribution and food production training in size from 180sqft up to 5,000 sq ft along with hi-

spec office accommodation, training facilities and conference room.

The Arklow Enterprise Centre is a community initiative set up to provide workspace for new embryo and small expanding businesses together with a range of support facilities. The centre offers approx 30,000 sq ft of workspace consisting of 14 small/medium sized production units and 14 offices and facilitates 34 businesses.

It is proposed to develop new enterprise centres in Greystones and Bray also.

### **Provision of land to facilitate industrial development and new employment**

In 2009 work continued on the construction of internal roads and water and sewage infrastructure on the industrial lands at Rathdrum by the Council's direct labour crew. The Council's vision for the sites, which will form part of the overall development, is the creation of a high quality, innovative, business/light industrial type environment, complete with ancillary services and landscaping works with a strong emphasis on job creation. The Council is liaising with interested parties with regard to the sale and development of the sites.

In addition to this the Council has varying size land banks at a number of locations throughout the County including Arklow, Aughrim, Blessington, Ashford and Tinahely.

### **Development of Promotional DVD for Wicklow County Campus**

In 2009 the Council commissioned a promotional DVD for Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College, Rathnew, which will set out and highlight the attractions of the Campus. The DVD, which contains a professional voice over, describes the vision for the development of the campus and Agencies the Council is in collaboration with. The excellent modern facilities available on the campus are also highlighted as well as its strategic location.

Central to the theme of the DVD is the unique partnership, which exists with It Carlow to provide higher education and training programmes and supporting enterprise development.

Facilities available on the campus are:-

- Fully equipped modern office space available for letting
- Spacious meeting rooms equipped with state of the art audio-visual facilities
- Modern educational facilities including tiered seating for future expansion

- Individual work stations networked with high speed broadband as well as a library
- IT and broadband infrastructure to meet all business needs
- Super spacious conference venues with seating for up to 200 delegates catering for all types of events.
- On site catering facilities

### **Business Exp 2009 (Wicklow County Campus) and 'Information Days' – Preparing for the Turnaround**

The County Wicklow Chamber of Commerce held its first Business Expo in November 2009 at Wicklow County Campus. The Expo is designed to promote and market businesses in County Wicklow as well as assist them to grow and prosper. Wicklow County Council Enterprise Unit participated in this event as well as a series of information days, which were organised by the County Wicklow Partnership in conjunction with the County Wicklow VEC and other local agencies.

### **Daniel Day-Lewis is presented with Freedom County Wicklow Award**

Oscar winning movie star and Wicklow Resident, Daniel Day-Lewis was the first recipient of the Freedom of the County honour presented to him by the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Derek Mitchell, on the 29th of April 2009. The Freedom of the County is the highest accolade the Council can bestow upon a person, and Daniel Day Lewis was chosen for his remarkable contribution and outstanding achievement in the international film industry and in doing so bringing honour to County Wicklow.

The Freedom of the County was conferred on him at a special ceremony in the Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow in the presence of his wife, Rebecca Miller and their three children.

The resolution passed by the Council at their meeting of the 12th of May, 2008 was read formally by the County Manager, following which Daniel Day Lewis signed his name into the Book of Honorary Citizens.

'Be it known that Wicklow County Council being the Council for the administrative area of County Wicklow, in exercise of its powers under section 74 of the Local Government Act, 2001, resolved at its meeting on 12th May, 2008, to confer on Mr. Daniel Day-Lewis the Honorary Freedom of the County in recognition of his work and outstanding achievements in the international film industry and in so doing bringing honour to the county of Wicklow, and furthermore that the Cathaoirleach and members of Wicklow County Council consider him worthy to have his name into the roll of its honorary citizens. Dated this the 27th day of April 2009.



### The Sun Disc

The Sun Disc, created by Brian Hackett, is made of sterling silver and is based on a Bronze Age pin. The disc may have been used as a tool for navigation, measuring time, or even astronomy. Using a lode stone to find North, by counting the rings on the edge of the disc it was possible to give directions and navigate safely.



### Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee

Daniel Day-Lewis is presented with specially commissioned commemoration piece – The Sun Disc – created by Brian Hackett by the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Councillor Derek Mitchell in the presence of the Wicklow County Manager, Mr. Eddie Sheehy. Daniel Day-Lewis's in front of the Roll of honour wall plate, which shows his name, entered as the first honorary citizen thereon.

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee was reconstituted following the local elections in June 2009. The purpose of the JPCs are to provide a forum where the local authority and senior Garda Officers, responsible for the policing of that area can consult and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area and in particular to keep under review the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour occurring and the factors underlying and contributing to it.

Daniel Day- Lewis signs his name into the Roll of Honour Book in the presence of the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Councillor D. Mitchell and the Wicklow County Manager, Mr. Eddie Sheehy.

The committee is chaired by Councillor Simon Harris its membership consists of the Chief Superintendent, Senior Members of the Gardai, the County Manager, Public Representatives and representative from the voluntary and community sectors.

Daniel Day-Lewis is presented with a framed copy of the scroll of honour by the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Councillor Derek Mitchell in the presence of the Wicklow County Manager, Mr. Eddie Sheehy.

The Wicklow County Council JPC held two public meetings during 2009, hosted jointly with Wicklow and Greystones Town Councils. The meetings focussed on

local policing issues and obtaining the co-operation of the public in preventing crime. The local Community had the opportunity to make their views known and to ask questions of the members of the committee.

### Recruitment

Wicklow County Council recognises the importance of its workforce and the Corporate Services Section endeavours to recruit qualified staff and provide appropriate incentives and a suitable working environment to retain those staff.

During 2009 Wicklow County Council held 6 competitions, details of which are set out below.

	Male	Female
Number of Applications Received	84	27
Number of Candidates who Qualified	39	21
Number of Candidates Appointed	17	9

### Freedom of Information

A total of 11 requests were received by Wicklow Local Authority during 2009 under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003. The following table shows an analysis of the decisions made on those requests.

No. of live cases as at 1st January 2009	2
No. of requested received	11
No. of requests granted	3
No. of requests part-granted	6
No. of requests refused	1
No. of requests withdrawn/handled outside FOI	1
No. of live requests as at 31st December 2009	4

\* No. of internal reviews 1

### Fees Collected

Initial Application	€ 165.00
Internal Review	€ 75.00

### Ombudsman

Any person who is dissatisfied with the manner in which they have been dealt with by the Local Authority may appeal to the Ombudsman.

Wicklow County Council had a total of 35 cases outstanding with the Office of the Ombudsman at the end of 2009. Complaints received by the office of the Ombudsman against the Town Councils are not included in the above figures.

### Higher Education Grants

In 2009, Wicklow County Council assisted over 700 students under the 2008/2009 Higher Education Grants Scheme. To be eligible for a grant under the scheme a candidate must fulfil the conditions as to residence, age, academic attainments, nationality and means. The income limits for full maintenance were based on the Tax Year ended 31st December, 2008 and were as follows:

No. of Dependent Children	Income Limits for full maintenance	For 50% fees or Service Charge only (i.e. no maintenance)
Less than 4	€41,110	€51,380
4-7	€45,165	€56,460
8 or more	€49,045	€61,295

These limits are increased where two or more children (or the candidate's parent) are pursuing an approved course of study. The value of the full maintenance grant for the 2008/2009 academic year was €3,420. Partial maintenance grants are also available.

The student Service Charge for undergraduates is €1,500 and this grant is paid directly to the College/Institution in respect of candidates who qualify for a maintenance grant. The maximum fee limit for courses not covered by the free fees initiative was €6,270. In addition to normal maintenance grants there are also increased rates of maintenance grants i.e. "Top-up Grants" payable to students who fulfil specific criteria regarding reckonable income and dependence on certain long-term Social Welfare payments.

Expenditure on Higher Education Grants is recoupable from the Department of Education and Science with the exception of the fixed contribution of €6,019.83 payable by this Local Authority under Section 3 of the Local Government (Higher Education Grants) Act, 1968.

## Register of Electors

Fieldworker is carried out each year by the Local Authority in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in order to attain the highest possible degree of accuracy. During the months of July, August and September 2009 Fieldworkers carried out comprehensive research work calling to each household in the County (where accessible – difficulty has been experienced with regard to access to some apartment and gated complexes). The returned data is then updated on the eReg system and the Draft Register prepared and published on 1st November. Since 2004 registration authorities publish two versions of the register – the edited register and the full register. The edited register contains the name and addresses of persons who have indicated that their details can be used for the purpose other than electoral or other statutory use, e.g. for direct marketing use by a commercial or other organisation. The full register which is printed on 1st February of each year and comes into force on the 15th February each year lists everyone who is entitled to vote and can only be used for electoral or other statutory purpose. The electorate on the 2008/2009 Register of Electors for County Wicklow was 90,046. Depending on your citizenship you can vote as follows:

- Irish citizens can vote in every election and referendum
- British citizens may vote at Dáil, European and local elections
- Other EU citizens may vote at European and local elections
- Non-EU citizens can vote at local elections only.
- To be eligible to be included on the Register of Electors, you must:
- Be at least 18 years old on the day the Register comes into force (15 February)
- Have been ordinarily resident in the State on 1 September in the year preceding the coming into force of the Register.

## Training

Wicklow County Council is committed to ensuring that every member of staff has the opportunity, resources and support to allow for continuous organisational and personal development and to facilitate the achievement of the organisational goals.

Training is provided on a wide variety of topics including IT, Customer Care, Induction, Supervisory Development, Preparing for Interview, Grievance, Disciplinary & Absence management, Forklift, Wastewater.

A total of 12 in-house courses were held in 2009.

In 2009 the following staff members received awards:

*Certificate in Local Government Studies from the Institute of Public Administration 2008/2009*

- Annette Keenan
- Ruairi O'Hanlon

*Diploma in Local Government Studies from the Institute of Public Administration 2008/2009*

- Jennifer Bell
- Liam Cullen
- Alvina Brehony
- Fiona Healy
- Treasa Houlihan
- Anne Shannon
- Robert Butler
- Garvan Hickey
- Fiona Flynn
- Teresa Byrne

## Approved scheme for assistance to staff undertaking courses of education and training

During the year staff members continued to avail of this scheme. The scheme continues to be a significant factor in facilitating self directed learning and development among staff of the organisation.

## No. of staff who participated in training & development opportunities

20 members of staff availed of the scheme for financial assistance for staff undertaking courses of education and training

Staff members also regularly attended seminars and conferences directly related to their area of work and expertise in 2009.

## To measure funding for training and development against the 3% target specified in Better Local Government

4.7%

## Health and Safety

Wicklow County Council subscribes to a dynamic and interactive Health and Safety process. Accordingly the Health and Safety Office avails of every opportunity to reflect these principles in terms of consultation, train-

ing and the development of a comprehensive Health and Safety Management System.

Training is provided throughout the year on a proactive basis. Training provided includes: Safe Pass, Safety Awareness, Basic and Advanced Chainsaw, Confined Spaces Entry, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling, Construction Skills Certification Scheme (C.S.C.S.), Managing Safely in Construction Projects, First Aid, Chemical Awareness, Signing, Lighting & Guarding and Locating Underground Services.

Policies and procedures in Wicklow County Council are constantly being reviewed in line with new best practices and legislative changes. Staff participation in the process is encouraged and the input of the Safety Representatives is valued.

## **Access & Equality**

### **Access Audits of Towns & Villages**

During 2009 Wicklow Local Authorities have continued to work on the Access Audits of 17 towns and villages, which were completed and presented in June 2008. The focus during the year has been on priority one actions, which are deemed most in need of attention. Work throughout the year has been successful which many areas throughout the County now relatively access barrier free. Work will continue on priority one actions into early 2010. Implementation of the access audits will ensure Wicklow County Council's compliance with the Disability Act 2005 and ensure greater access for all members of the public. Wicklow Local Authorities secured national Disability Strategy Funding of €418,000 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to improve access to local authority buildings and services throughout the county.

### **Wicklow Local Authorities Access Group (WLAAG)**

WLAAG continued to support and advise Wicklow County Council on access issues throughout 2009. This group, which consists on people with disabilities and disability organisations resources the local authority with experts in the area of disability & access. A total of eleven meetings were held throughout the year. WLAAG also held a joint meeting with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Disability Consultative Group on November 11th 2009, which allowed for networking and joint learning. The group have established a work plan, which will lead them into 2010 and have reviewed the running of their own meetings to insure equal access for all members.

### **'Inspirations'**

On Monday 13th July 2009 Wicklow Local Authorities Access Officer in conjunction with REHAB Care launched an

art exhibition entitled 'Inspirations. This exhibition showcased a range of professional and inspirational artwork created by people with disabilities and provided awareness raising on the need to focus on abilities rather than disabilities. Bray Town Council Cathaoirleach John Ryan officially launched this exhibition.

### **National Access Officer Network**

In September 2009, Wicklow County Council's Access Officer was appointed Chairperson of the national network of Access Officers. This role has allowed Wicklow County Council to be at the forefront of access issues at a national level and has meant increased learning for the Local Authority in the area of access and universal design.

### **Wicklow Disability Group (WDG), Arklow Disability Action Group (ADAG) & Bray Disability Cluster Group**

Wicklow County Council's recognises the importance of supporting other disability and access groups within the County. The Access & Equality Officer attended the meetings of the above three groups offering support and advice.

On November 4th 2009 training in committee skills and developed was provided by Wicklow County through Carmicheal House. This training provided the skills required for committees to be successful in their work and was specifically developed for those in attendance on the day.

On November 26th WDG in conjunction with the Access & Equality Officer and the HSE held a consultation day in County Buildings. In excess of 30 different organisations and groups were in attendance. The results of this day will form part of the work plans for the above groups into the future.

### **Disability Sports Day**

Wicklow Local Authorities Access & Equality Officer in conjunction with the Arts Office and Wicklow Local Sports Partnership held the first Disability Sports Day on December 4th 2009. 50 individuals with different levels of ability attended the event, which was held in Shoreline, Greystones. The day showcased a number of sports & activities and raised awareness of the opportunities, which are available in disability sports.

### **Staff Awareness Road Shows**

Throughout March to July the Access & Equality Officer travelled to all the Fire Stations, Town Councils and area offices in the County delivering awareness training on access and equality issues. Training related to internal staff needs as well as the needs of customers who may have disabilities. This training will ensure that Wicklow Local

Authorities provide equality of access in service delivery to all our customers.

### **Wicklow County Council Audit Committee**

The Wicklow County Council Audit Committee was established in 2007 under the Local Government (Business Improvements Districts) Act 2005. The Membership of this Committee comprises of

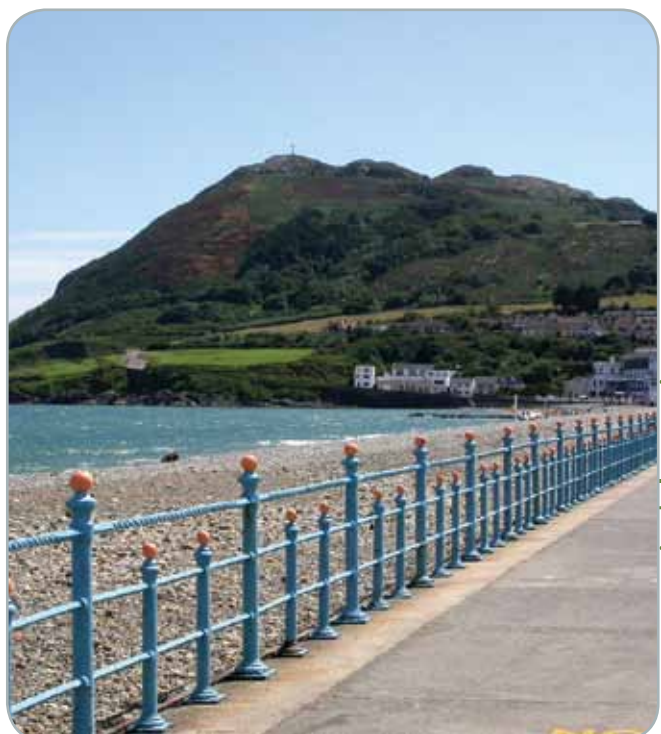
- Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman.
- Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice-Chairman
- Cllr. Pat Casey.
- Ms. Mary Savage.
- Cllr. Edward Timmins.

Earlier this year the Audit Committee presented their Annual Progress Report to the Council. In their report they welcomed the completion of assignments by the Internal Audit Team including

- (a) A Stores stock-take review and follow-up.
- (b) Review of Motor Tax Service Indicators and follow-up.
- (c) Completion of the In-house Cash Receipting system review in respect of Wicklow County Council.
- (d) Preliminary work done on the review of the in-house cash receipting system in Arklow Town Council.
- (e) Re-coupmnt process review.
- (f) Audit of Wicklow County Council stationery costs
- (g) Internal Audit awareness training provided for all staff.

The Audit Committee continues to closely monitor the collection performance in respect of the development contributions scheme.

During 2009, the Committee received Mr. Peter F. Christian, outgoing Local Government Auditor as well as Mr. Conor Cummins, Local Government Auditor who has recently been assigned to Wicklow. The Committee has recently assured the Council that it will continue to play an active role in promoting good accounting practices ensuring better and more informed decision-making and improving the focus on value for money throughout the organisation. The Committee has also indicated that it will continue to support the work of the Internal Audit Unit and advise the County Manager in relation to the operation and development of the unit.



www.wicklow.ie

<b>Conferences attended by Elected Members in 2009</b>			
<b>Conferences At Home</b>		<b>Venue</b>	<b>Cost €</b>
15th - 17th February 2009	Renewable Energy - Planning the Future	Sligo Park Hotel Pierce road Sligo	980
19th - 20th Feb-09	Mid - West Regional Authority 15th Annual Conference "Irelands Water"- what is real cost?	Woodlands House Hotel Adare Co. Limerick	540
20th - 21st February 2009	North South Confederation of Councillors "Review and Reform of Local Government in Ireland, North and South"	Bellingaham Castle Hotel Co.Louth	585
3rd - 6th March 2009	International Local Government Convention Ireland 2009	INEC conference Centre Killarney	980
4th - 8th March 2009	17th Annual 2009 Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference	Golf Hotel Ballybunion	1060
6th - 8th March 2009	The Institute of Professional Training "Climate change, alternative energies and the nuclear experience" Seminar	Raheen House Clonmel Co. Tipperary	735
30th - 31st March	National Housing Conference Readjustment, Resilience Resurgence	Radisson Hotel Sligo	395
2nd April 2009	BMW Regional Assembly Annual Conference	Abbey Hotel Roscommon	300
2nd - 3rd April 2009	ACCC Annual Conference	Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel	1350
16th - 17th April	Annual Spring Seminar Local Authority members Association LAMA	The Heritage Hotel Portlaoise Co. Laois	1750
27th - 28th April	National Housing Conference Readjustment, Resilience, Resurgence	Radisson Hotel Sligo	395
30th April - 3rd May	Tipperary International Peace Conference	Ballykisteen Hotel & Golf Resort, Limerick Jctn, Tipperary	450
7th May 2009	Respond National Conference Is combating Poverty a Dead Agenda	Osprey Hotel & Spa Devoy Quarter, Naas	750
7th & 8th May 2009	Sherkin Island Marine Station 25th Annual Environmental Conference "Energy from Waste"	Carrigaline Court Hotel, Carrigaline, Co Cork	1820

28th June - 3rd July 2009	Synge Summer School	Avondale House Rathdrum Co. Wicklow	885
15th - 17th July 2009	Richard Cantillon Summer School	Ballyheigue, Co Kerry	450
15th - 21st July 2009	Percy French Summer School	Castlecoote House, Castlecoote, Roscommon.	100
10th-12th September 2009	Assoc of Municipal Authorities of Ireland, Annual Conference	Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney	1000
24th-26th September 2009	Carlow Tourism National Conference	The Talbot Carlow Portlaoise Rd Carlow	380
25th-26th September 2009	Local Government Seminar for Councillors	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick	300
2nd - 4th October 2009	2009 La Touche Legacy Seminar	Charlesland Golf & Country Club, Greystones, Co Wicklow	
8th-9th October 2009	Conference on Substance & Alcohol Misuse for Local Authorities & The Public Service	The Europe Hotel & Resort Killarney Co Kerry	460
16th-18th October 2009	Douglas Hyde Conference 09 Culture & the Economy	Abbeyfield Hotel Ballaghaderreen Co Roscommon	1500
6-7th November 2009	Local Authority Members Assoc Annual Winter Seminar	Carlton Castletroy Park Hotel Dublin Road, Limerick	975
26th-28th November 2009	Promoting Partnership in Tourism	The Falls Hotel Ennistymon Co Clare	1,494
<b>Conferences Abroad</b>		<b>Venue</b>	
23rd - 24th January 2009	Antrim Tourism Conference Activities Tourism	Dunadry Hotel Muckamore Dunadry Hotel Co. Antrim	735

### County Wicklow Film Commission

The County Wicklow Film Commission is the longest established film commission in Ireland, committed to attracting audio-visual production into the county.

Funded by both Wicklow County Council and Bray Town Council, the film commission is based in the county buildings in Wicklow Town, but represents the whole county.

The main objective of the County Wicklow Film Commission is to market and promote the county as a film location for any kind of production ranging from feature film to commercial, short film, television production or music promo.

The film office assists any project regardless of the size of the budget with the aim of bringing economical benefits into the area.

As a secondary objective the County Wicklow Film Commission is committed to maximise the tourism spin off of film activity. Film tourism is a growing market as many holidaymakers decide their destination based on films and television series they have seen. Films such as 'PS I love You' and 'The Tudors' are used to attract visitors here by featuring them on our website and through a brochure.

The trend in the Irish film industry toward an increasing number of television productions and less feature films continued during 2009. Over 250 shooting days were recorded during 2009, containing a mixture of all types of audio-visual production. The financial benefit from audio-visual productions tends to be higher from feature films than from television, with the exception this year of period drama series The Tudors series IV.

Services that the Wicklow Film Commission offers to any of these productions include location scouting, advice, assistance and suggestions through personalised web brochures, liaison with Local Authorities personnel and local communities.

The County Wicklow Film Commission assists location managers with extensive location scouting and liaison with Wicklow County Council personnel.

The following projects received assistance on several levels during pre-production and production from the Wicklow film commission.

#### Feature Films

##### Leap Year

A romantic comedy about an American woman (Amy Adams) who travels to Ireland to propose to her boyfriend inspired by an Irish tradition that allows women to propose to men on Leap Day. After landing on the wrong side of Ireland, she must enlist the help of the handsome and carefree local Declan (Matthew Goode) to get her across the country. Along the way, they discover that the road to love can take you to very unexpected places.

*Starring:* Amy Adams, Kaitlin Olson, Matthew Goode, Adam Scott, Peter O'Meara *Director:* Anand Tucker.

Locations that were used in County Wicklow include Lug-gala Estate, Enniskerry, Glen of Imaal, Glendalough, Quinsboro Road, Bray and Park as well as the road at the Glenmacnass Waterfall.

##### Happy Ever Afters

This is a romantic comedy about two wedding parties who have booked the same venue for their wedding.

*Starring:* Sally Hawkins, Tom Riley, Jade Yourell, Ariyon Bakare and Simon Delany.

*Locations:* Ardmore Studios and The Bray Head Hotel as well as various locations around Bray.

##### Sensation

'Sensation' is a darkly comic love story that details the relationship between Donal and an aging escort, Kim. They begin as client and call girl, evolve into lovers and finally business partners.

*Starring:* Kelly Campbell, Domhnall Gleeson, Luanne Gordon, Owen Roe and Eleanor Methvyn.

*Locations:* Newtownmountkennedy and Bray.

##### The Guard

Irish comedy thriller in which Brendan Gleeson plays an unorthodox Irish policeman who joins forces with Don Cheadle's strait-laced FBI agent in a bid to take on an international drug-smuggling gang.

*Starring:* Don Cheadle, Brendan Gleeson, Liam Cunningham and Fionnuala Flanagan

Locations that were used include Wicklow Harbour, Sally Gap and Brittas Bay.

#### Television Production Assistance

##### The Tudors IV

The Tudors, Series IV is a ten part US period TV drama series starring Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Peter O'Toole, Maria Doyle Kennedy and Pádraig Delaney.

This Showtime series has a budget of approximately €28m. Amongst the locations used are Killruddery, Humewood Castle, Dunran Demesne, Powerscourt, Ardmore Studios and Brennanstown riding school in Bray.

The series will have worldwide television distribution, and will have a prime time US broadcast on the Showtime Network. Tudors, series 1 reached an audience of 5 million. This is very high for a US "Pay TV" channel.

The County Wicklow Film Commission assisted the locations personnel with locations scouting and location consultation.

## **Raw**

Second Series of the RTE television drama set in a restaurant. Much was shot in Ardmore Studios and around Bray.

## **Assistance to Commercials**

Television commercials provide the bread and butter to Irish crew working in the film industry. The County Wicklow Film Commission receives a substantial number of requests from producers and locations managers for assistance.

Adverts that have been shot in County Wicklow this year include Bord Gais, Vodaphone, an RTE trailer and Guinness.

## **Assistance to unconfirmed projects and short films**

Numerous small shoots and short film producers contact the Wicklow Film Commission for assistance with finding locations and getting local crew and services details.

The Film Commission also offers pre-production services to projects that either doesn't get made or go elsewhere in the end.

## **Services Development**

Throughout the year, the County Wicklow Film Commission strives to enlarge the digital locations database which is searchable through the website and which provides instant feedback to enquiries from filmmakers.

## **Youth Film Training**

The County Wicklow Film Commission and the Arts Office of Wicklow County Council continue to run and develop the Youth Film Training programme started in 2006. In 2009, 48 young people participated in a week-long film introduction course to film making resulting in six high quality short films. The films were showed at the Wicked Wicklow Film Festival in the Tinahely Courthouse in August.

## **Young Film Maker Bursary**

During the two day Wicked Young Film makers Festival in Tinahely all short listed films for the two Film Bursaries.

## **Workplace Partnership**

The strategic plan entitled "Deepening Partnership in Local Government 2003-2005" sets out as a core objec-

tive the mainstreaming of the Workplace Partnership process within the local government.

In recent years the Workplace Partnership Committee initiated a number of very worthwhile projects including:

### **Return to Learning**

The return to learning project has proved very successful in Wicklow Local Authorities. This programme is run in conjunction with the County Wicklow VEC and has been rolled out in a number of Wicklow Local Authorities.

### **Long Service Awards**

These awards are presented to staff in recognition of 25 years service on a bi-annual basis. These awards took place on Friday 9th October 2009. There were 50 awards presented to staff with 25 years service and 4 awards to staff with 40 years service.

### **Customer Newsletter**

There were 4 editions of the County Wise Newsletter produced in 2009. It is distributed to households throughout the County. The newsletter promoted Wicklow Local Authority activities and service provision.

### **Health Screening**

The Health Screen Programme took place in October 2009. It was made available to all staff of Wicklow Local Authorities.

### **Staff Support Service**

The confidential staff support services continues to operate successfully.

As a result of a need identified through the staff support service, a Bereavement Policy and Guidelines Document was produced in 2008 by a working group established through the partnership process and it was implemented in 2009.

While recent events at National level have impacted on Workplace Partnership at local level throughout the Country it is hoped that the many successes achieved through this initiative will encourage all stakeholders to recommit to the process in the short-term.

# Information Communication Technology (ICT)

## Information Technologies

Information Technology in an organisation the size of Wicklow County Council is the key enabler to better service delivery.

In the Information Systems Department, the principles of diversity and inclusion are key drivers of creativity, invention and innovation. The aim is to connect all stakeholders to the power of technology both in their workplaces and communities. The creation of a diverse and inclusive environment is an ongoing journey of continuous change for many years now. This journey is underpinned and guided by the aims contained in the Council's Corporate Plan: -

- To support quality customer service through innovative use of ICT
- To promote methods of participation by citizens in local self government
- To enhance the role of local councillors by facilitating representational role and allowing easier access to information necessary to support policy making role
- To support and encourage internal business process improvement

This customer-focused approach continues to be developed, harnessing Information Technology in enabling the citizen to interact easily and meaningfully with the Council.

The Information Systems Department operates administrative and technical computer applications, and provides support to local and wide area computer networks, with in excess of 500 nodes, spread over a number of local and remote sites.

Supporting this environment includes the operation and maintenance of more than 60 server based systems that facilitate the business functions of the organisation. In addition, generic services applicable across the organisation are provided. These include common network maintenance, file and print services, e-mail and scheduling, internet access and desktop support. Technical support is managed by a help desk management suite of computer software. Tailored applications are developed and maintained by the information systems function that meet specific non 'off the shelf' requirements.

Project management, systems implementation and train-

ing services are provided on all new and upgraded computer applications and infrastructure projects. This range of tasks is undertaken by a team of 12 within the function that include programmers, analysts, infrastructure/pc and server system support staff, team and departmental management, database administrators, and administrative support.

## Broadband

Construction of the Metropolitan Area Networks (MAN's) for the towns of Blessington and Newtownmountkennedy / Kilcoole have been completed and we are currently working with eNet to raise awareness and promote broadband availability and use in Wicklow.

## Information Technology Applications

- Together with the Finance department we completed the installation of our new corporate debtors system for Non Domestic Water Metering bills and this function is now run from our customer contact centre.
- With HR we continued to implement a new Integrated HR, Superannuation and Payroll System. This project will be multi-year and will run into 2010.
- An application to facilitate the certification and processing of telephone accounts was implemented during the year

## Websites

Wicklow County Council maintain and update our public website [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) for the varied services we provide.

Significant enhancements to design and usability of the website were undertaken.

## Geographic Information Systems

Provision of support to generation of draft County Development Plans and other development plans;

Upgraded in house intranet mapping system and trained c.80 users;

Built infrastructure for public map viewer system - to be put onto Wicklow website in 2010.

Corporate databases continue to be integrated with a Corporate Address Database that is based on An Post Geo-Directory, currently providing spatial information for 95% of Wicklow County Council customers. Work is ongoing to provide 100% coverage and this will result in improved customer communication within corporate applications as intra-application electronic communication via email and text becomes the norm

## Information Technology Infrastructure

Provision of technical support and online access to submissions submitted to the Planning Dept in their formulation of Development Plans.

Further consolidation of our investment in the Local Area Network (LAN) and the Wide Area Network (WAN) infrastructure. Projects for 2009 included:

- catering for any infrastructural changes that occurred during the course of the year, most particularly the implementation of virtualization in the Arklow Town Council offices and installation of Broadband and PCs in all 10 Fire Stations,
- continued investment in protecting our network,
- continued improvement of our network performance level, both LAN and WAN thereby underpinning customer service and systems initiatives in other areas,
- ongoing testing of the backup and recovery of systems and data in the event of a disaster,
- creating a more resilient security system on the Wide Area Network,
- integrated input of IT resources in planning for Major Emergency Management and associated issues regarding business continuity.

The implementation of the items outlined above along with the support and maintenance of our existing systems and infrastructure, and the provision of a support service to our staff, elected members and public, all form part of our five year ICT strategy, and supports Wicklow County Council's objective of providing a service that will improve the quality of the economic, social and cultural life of the citizens of the Garden County.

# Arklow Town Council

## Members of Arklow Town Council – 31st December 2009

### Cathaoirleach:

Cllr. Peter Dempsey

Cllr. Tommy Annesley  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Vincent McElheron  
Cllr. Bernie O'Halloran

Cllr. John Byrne  
Cllr. Nicky Kelly  
Cllr. Miriam Murphy  
Cllr. Donal O'Sullivan

### Senior Staff

Director of Services  
Town Clerk  
Senior Staff Officer  
Staff Officer  
Town Engineer  
Town Foreman

Bryan Doyle  
Des Nichols  
Michael McNamara  
Annette O'Donovan  
Pacelli Flood  
Willie Heaney

### Contact Details

#### Municipal Offices:

Civic Offices, North Quay, Arklow, Co. Wicklow  
Telephone: 0402-32819  
Fax: 0402-41200  
E-Mail: tclerk@arklowudc.ie  
Town Clerk: Des Nichols  
Town Engineer: Pacelli Flood  
Area: 1650 acres  
Population: 11,721

### Housing Programme

The stock of rented council houses stands at 420 with a further 84 Tenant Purchase houses.

The regeneration programme schemes for the replacement of doors and windows and fascias and soffits continued in 2009 and are now nearing completion. The electrical upgrade of all houses in the housing stock and it is hoped that the surveys of all houses were completed during 2009. A full programme of works will commence in 2010.

The Council acquired 8 social houses during 2009.

Discussions regarding the commencement of a phase of 14 houses of the Emoclew scheme with the Department of the Environment, heritage & Local Government continued. As this phase contains 4 houses for applicants with special needs the Council is hopeful that permission to go to tender will be forthcoming from the Department.

### Roads

The initial grant of €287,000 received from the Department of the Environment & Local Government was reduced to €177,000 during the year. The Council match funded the latter amount from planning levies collected for road improvement works.

### Summary of Jobs completed in 2009

Location	Description of works
Abbey Heights	Paths
Mother Kevin's Tce	Overlay
St Michaels Terrace (Rear)	Overlay
Seaview Avenue	Overlay & Paths
South Quay	Paths
Coolgreaney Rd	Overlay
Oaklands	Overlay & Paths
Marian Villas	Paths
Emoclew Rd	Paths
Condrens Lane	Overlay

In addition to the above works a special project was also completed at the junction of Yellow Lane/Mellows Avenue/ Navy Bridge. Funding for this project was provided for in the Council's Annual Budget.

### Pay Parking

Following public advertisement and the consideration of tenders received Park Rite were appointed to operate the pay parking enforcement on behalf of the Council. The new operators took over from APCOA in December 2009.

### Water Supply

Arklow Town Council by way of an agreement under section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 continues to carry out the functions of the Sanitary Authority in the Town Council area.

The Arklow Water Supply Scheme progressed during 2009 with the contractor for the collector main being awarded late in the year. The well at Woodenbridge was brought on stream also and now augments the existing supply from the Goldmine River.

It is hoped that the contract documents for the new treatment works will be approved in 2010 and the contracts can be awarded in order to have the new supply in place before the end of 2012.

Improvement works required by the EPA at the existing treatment works at Ballyduff were carried out during the year. These will maintain the quality of drinking water in Arklow.

### Arklow Wastewater Treatment

The Supreme Court case was heard in December 2009 and judgement was reserved.

Contract documents are now completed in respect of the upsizing of pipes serving the South Green area of the town. It is hoped that the contract documents will be completed shortly for the Harbour Road area.

### Flood Relief Scheme

The Environmental Impact Study in conjunction with the above scheme is nearing completion, at which stage it will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for approval.

Arklow Town Council continued its own works on maintaining the towns drainage system and the clearance of major blockages at several locations in the town together with remedial works. These works were invaluable during the heavy rains experienced through November and December last when no flooding was experienced.

### Planning & Development

A total of 57 applications were lodged with Arklow Town Council in 2009.

This is a significant reduction on previous years and reflects the slow down in construction. The number of applications received in the past year was the lowest in the past 11 years and was almost half of those received in 2008. It is also worth noting that only 4 applications were received in the last quarter of the year. The total amount of planning fees received during the year was €26,000.

### Community Involvement

The continued support and encouragement for community activities was evident in the issuing of grants under the headings of the Community and Arts Grant Schemes. €36,000 was awarded under the two schemes with 54 beneficiaries.

Community Grants	Arts Grants
Arklow Community Games	Robert & Margaret Tyrell
Arklow Vikings Special Olympics Club	Arklow Music Festival
Arklow Disability Action Group	Avonmore Musical Society
Arklow Maritime Museum	Masquerade Drama Group
Arklow Parish Lourdes Group	St. Mary's College Musical
Arklow C D P	Chairde le Cheile
Arklow Coastcare	Arklow Silver Band
Arklow United F.C.	Avoca Singers
Arklow Rock Parnell G.A.A.	Revival Gospel Choir
Arklow Racquetball Club	Inver Ladies Choir
Arklow Lawn Tennis Club	Liam Mellows Traditional Group
Arklow Celtic F.C.	Arklow Historical Society
Arklow Handball Club	Inbhear Mor Marchers
Arklow Racing Pigeon Club	Arklow Youth Marching Band
Arklow Asgard Swimming Club	A.V.A. Community Art Centre
Patches Senior Citizens Annual Social	Arklow & District Bird Keepers Society
Arklow Parish Youth Exchange	Arklow House of Stories, Music & Singing
Arklow Friendship Centre	Arklow Creative Arts Workshop
Arklow & District Asthma Society	South Wicklow Canine
East Wicklow Youth Service	Arklow Writers Circle
Arklow Active Retirement	Arklow Arts Festival
Arklow Seafarers Memorial Garden	Friends of Philo
Circle of Friends Youth Club	Pat Power
Patches Disco Social Group	Jakub Syriste (Artist)
Arklow Positive Ageing	Niamh Jackman (Artist)
Inbhir Mor ICA	Madbird Design
Arklow Bible Clubs	Marine & Maritime Heritage

In addition the Council awarded one-off special grants to other groups. Arklow Pipe Band received a grant set-aside specifically in the Annual Budget 2009 and the Foreign Travel budget of €3,500 was issued in grants to Arklow Geraldines/Ballymoney G.A.A, Arklow Town F.C., Arklow Racquetball Club and Cholaiste Na Mara.

During 2009 the Council decided to assist this Youth Centre project by contributing €100,000 towards the initial capital costs of setting up this much needed facility in the town. Funding will be provided over a two to three year period.

### **Parks and Open Spaces**

A new children's playground was provided in St. Peters Place and was officially opened in May 2009. The playground in South Green received a face-lift with new equipment being provided. Work on the long awaited skateboard park commenced in November 2009 and will be completed in early 2010. This facility is being financed by way of a grant from the Sports Council and funding from the Council.

### **Office Accomodation**

Arklow Town Council moved to new offices at North Quay in early 2009. The plans to provide a permanent home at a site in Castlepark is being pursued although due to the financial constraints in the public service it is unlikely to bring both the library service and the courts service with it at this time. It is hoped to advance this project further in 2010.

### **Valuations**

The rise in the net effective valuation has lessened the impact of the financial downturn for the Council, however the worry of an increasing number of vacant premises will impact on the Annual Budget for 2010 in so far as the provision for bad debts will have to be provided for.

# Bray Town Council

## Council Members

### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor John Ryan (Fine Gael)

### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor David Grant (Fianna Fail)

### Council Members

Councillor John Brady (SF)  
Councillor John Byrne (Lab)  
Councillor Eugene Finnegan (Ind)  
Councillor Mick Glynn (FG)  
Councillor Ronan McManus (Lab)  
Councillor Rossa Murray (SF)  
Councillor Ciarán O'Brien (GP)  
Councillor Tracy O'Brien (Lab)  
Councillor Pat Vance (FF)  
Councillor Sarah Wray (FG)  
Councillor Caroline Burrell (GP)  
Councillor Bríd Collins (FG)  
Councillor Anne Egan (Lab)  
Councillor Anne Ferris (Lab)  
Councillor Michael Lawlor (FF)  
Councillor John McManus (Lab)  
Councillor Steve Matthews (GP)

### Senior Staff

#### Director of Services

Des O'Brien

#### Town Clerk

Christine Flood

#### Town Engineer

Sean O'Neill

#### Senior Executive Engineer

Liam Bourke

### Administrative Officers

Finance/Personnel David Forde  
Housing/Planning/Environment Triona Irving  
Contact Details

### Address:

Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, Co Wicklow.  
Telephone: 01 2744900  
Fax: 01 2860930  
Email: tclerk@braytc.ie  
Website: www.braytowncouncil.ie  
Area: 1,444 hectares  
Population: 31,951 (including environs)

### Municipal Policy Committees

Bray Town Council has two Municipal Policy Committees, which meet on a quarterly basis. They comprise of elected Councillors and representatives of sectoral interests. These are:

### (1) Infrastructure, Planning & Development, Chairperson Councillor Ronan McManus

#### Members:

Councillor John Brady  
Councillor John Byrne  
Councillor Eugene Finnegan  
Councillor John Ryan  
Councillor Pat Vance  
Mr. Joe Byrne, Bray & District Council of Trade Unions  
Ms. Helen Howes, Wicklow Community Platform  
Mr. Steve Matthews, Feasta  
Mr. David Tew, Bray & District Chamber of Commerce

#### Key activities in 2009 include:

- Commencement of the review of the Development Plan

### (2) Community, Cultural, Social & Environmental, Chairperson Councillor Ciaran O'Brien

#### Members:

Councillor Mick Glynn (FG)  
Councillor David Grant (FF)  
Councillor Rossa Murphy (SF)  
Councillor Tracy O'Brien (Lab)  
Councillor Sarah Wray (FG)  
Mr. Peter Brennan Bray Area Partnership  
Mr. John Doyle Bray & District Chamber of Commerce  
Ms. Noreen Kelly Seafront Traders Association  
Key achievements and adopted policies include:

- Litter Management Plan 2009 - 2011
- Bye-Laws for Prevention & Control of Litter
- Bye-Laws to Control Skips on Public Roads (updated)

### Planning Applications

Bray Town Council received a total of 150 Planning Applications in 2009.

No decision has been made by An Bord Pleanála regarding Planning Permission for development at Bray Golf Club lands by Pizarro.

### Promotion of Interests of Local Communities

Tenant Participation	€106,150
Playground/Civic Park	€15,500
St Patrick's Day Festival	€17,500
Bray Summerfest	€12,500

Playground Maintenance	€95,000
Christmas Lighting	€15,000
Water Safety	€28,000
Green Estates	€4,000
Community Employment Projects	€580,000
Arts Grants	€10,000
Bray Jazz	€5,000
Twinning	€16,050
Grass Cutting Grants	€58,000
Arts Centre	€222,000
Junior Council	€2,600

The Council's total revenue expenditure for 2009 was €18,305,547.

The Annual Rate on valuation was 67.64.

### Town Twinning

The town of Bray continues to develop its links with its twinned towns of Würzburg, Germany; Bégles, France; and Dublin, California. A Marching band from Würzburg participated in the Saint Patrick's Day parade. In July 2009 The Bray Bégles Association hosted a group of visitors from Bégles. A very exciting programme of events was arranged for the French visitors, including a dinner at Bray Golf Club hosted by Bray Town Council. On 31st October, a special Gala Concert was held in the Mermaid Arts Centre to mark the tenth anniversary of the twinning of Bray and County Wicklow with Würzburg, Germany. A group of fifty representatives of the Würzburg community, including the Mayor and some of the elected members were based in Bray during their weeklong visit.

The following list represents just some of Bray Town Council's key involvements in 2008

- As part of the development of the Flood Emergency Response Plan, Bray Town Council and County Wicklow Civil Defence, assisted by Bray's Community Volunteers and the Management of Little Bray Community Resource Centre held an exercise to test the plan. A number of members of the community in Little Bray volunteered to participate in the exercise, which successfully tested out the communication and evacuation procedures.
- Halcrow Barry Consulting Engineers were appointed as Client Representative to prepare the contract documents for the River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme.
- Arising out of localised flooding in August 2008, Bray Town Council made an application to the Office of

Public Works for funding for flood mitigation measures on the Boghall Road. Funding of €180,000 was awarded and work commenced in late 2009.

- Bray on Ice: following the success of the shop local campaign, Bray Town Council agreed to support the provision of a covered ice-rink right in the heart of the town. The 450 square metre covered ice-rink featured a heated food court and viewing area, children's funfair rides, and a disco on ice and was a resounding success.
- Local Elections 7 new members elected to Bray Town Council.
- Bray Town Council was short listed for a Chambers of Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award for the Flood Volunteer Scheme.
- Following our programme of water leakage reduction over the last 2 years, water leakage in Bray averaged below 10% in 2009 which was the lowest in the Country.

### Civic Receptions

- 27th January 2009: Bray Town Council held a Civic Reception to acknowledge the participation of the Community Volunteers in the Bray Flood Emergency Response Plan.
- 16th March 2009: Bray Town Council held a Civic Reception to honour the Marching Band and the photography group from Würzburg.
- 21st April 2009: Bray Town Council held a Civic Reception to honour the following representatives elected to Bray Town Council in the 2004 Local Elections: Councillor Bríd Collins, Councillor Anne Egan, Councillor Anne Ferris, Councillor John McManus, Deputy Joe Behan and Senator Deirdre de Burca.

# Greystones Town Council

## Members of Greystones Town Council:

Councillor Tom Fortune (L) MCC (elected June 2009)  
Councillor Simon Harris (FG) MCC (elected June 2009)  
Councillor Ciaran Hayden (FF) (elected June 2009)  
Councillor George Jones, (FG) MCC (Outgoing Mayor)  
Councillor Kathleen Kelleher, (FF) MCC  
Councillor Pat Killilea, (FF) (Outgoing)  
Councillor Chris Maloney (NP) (Incoming Mayor)  
Councillor Grainne McLoughlin (FG) (Outgoing)  
Councillor Derek Mitchell, (FG) MCC  
Councillor Margaret O'Callaghan, (L) (Outgoing)  
Councillor Veronica O'Reilly (NP) (Outgoing)  
Councillor James O'Sullivan (FG) (elected June 2009)  
Councillor Eleanor Roche, (FF) (Outgoing)  
Councillor Stephen Stokes (L) (elected June 2009)

## Senior Staff:

Director of Services:	Sean Quirke
Town Engineer:	Eoin Heslin
Town Clerk (Acting):	Myra Porter
Town Secretary:	Kay Coughlan

## Contact Details:

Municipal Offices:  
Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.  
Telephone No: 01 – 2876694.  
Fax No: 01 – 2877173.  
E-mail: greytic@wicklowcoco.ie  
Area: 2,383 acres  
(Greystones/Delgany)  
Population: 10,303

The offices of the Town Council are situated on Mill Road, Greystones.

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month, except August.

## General

Greystones Town Council continued its promotion of the social cultural and economic development of the town.

The local elections in June resulted in the election of five new Councillors, Tom Fortune, Simon Harris, Ciaran Hayden, James O'Sullivan and Stephen Stokes. Members of the outgoing Council paid tribute and made a presentation to Councillors who were not seeking re-election, at the May meeting.

The Community Affairs Committee were active as usual promoting and organising annual events, the glorious weather on St. Patrick's Day contributed to the parade, which attracted large crowds and a wide variety of events. In contrast the Christmas Lights ceremony had to be re-scheduled due to inclement weather conditions in November. However Santa finally arrived to switch on the Christmas lights on December 6th and an afternoon of festive fun was enjoyed by all.

The Council received funding for footpaths under the special grants available to former Town Commissioners. This years funding facilitated footpath improvements on Kinlen Road, Quarry Road, Burnaby Road, Portland Road, Rathdown Park, Hillside Road, Bellevue Heights and Park Lane.

The People of the Year Awards attracted a large number of nominations as usual. The gala presentation night was held in Greystones Rugby Club. The awards honour people in the town who have contributed to and promoted sport, culture, community and economic activity in the town.

The Greystones Town Council Joint Policing Committee held a number of meetings throughout the year.

The monthly Town Council meetings provided lively debate on a variety of issues relating to the town. Members received representatives from Dublin Bus, Comhairle na nÓg, Greystones and District Chamber of Commerce and IDA Ireland.

Work continued on the new harbour development in 2009. The redevelopment of the harbour will provide major benefits to the community in Greystones and bring significant new amenities including a new harbour, coastal protection works, facilities for local sporting clubs, new public square and park, a boardwalk and improved access to the cliff walk. Also included will be a 230-berth marina, retail facilities including shops and restaurants and 341 new homes.

Greystones Town Council celebrated its 25th Anniversary during 2009, the event was marked by an anniversary lunch which was hosted by the La Touche Legacy Committee and was held in Charlesland Golf and Country Club Hotel, former members and officials were invited back for the occasion.

Members of Greystones Town Council and the community participated in the presentation of the application for the National Pride Of Place Awards. Greystones secured first place in its category and the prize was accepted on behalf of the community, by Mayor of Greystones, Councillor Chris Maloney.

# Wicklow Town Council

## Members of Wicklow Town Council (up to 6th June)

### Mayor:

Cllr. John O'Brien (Lab)

### Members

Cllr. Conal Kavanagh (LAB)

Cllr. Denis Teevan (F.F.)

Cllr. Pat Byrne (F.G.)

Cllr. Irene Winters (F.G.)

Cllr. Robert Kearns (Ind.)

Cllr. Oliver Lalor (Ind.)

Cllr. Eamonn Long (S.F.)

Cllr. Fachtina Whittle (F.F.)

### Senior Staff

Director of Services:

Michael Nicholson

Town Clerk:

Helen Purcell

Staff Officer:

Esther Breslin

Town Engineer:

Pacelli Flood

### Contact Details

Municipal Offices:

Town Hall, Market Square, Wicklow.

Telephone:

0404 67327

Fax:

0404 69158

E-mail:

tclerk@wicklowtc.ie

Area:

765 Acres

Population:

6,930

## Members of Wicklow Town Council (as from 6th June)

### Mayor:

Cllr. Irene Winters (F.G.)

### Members

Cllr. Eamonn Long (S.F.)

Cllr. Pat Byrne (F.G.)

Cllr. Mervyn Morrison (IND)

Cllr. Conal Kavanagh (LAB)

Cllr. Gail Dunne (F.F.)

Cllr. Malcolm Earls (F.G.)

Cllr. Sean Smullen (IND)

Cllr. Patricia Kavanagh (IND)

### Planning and Development

A total of 44 planning applications were lodged with the Council in 2009. The bigger applications submitted during the year included:

1. Alterations and extension to existing clubhouse incorporating new first floor area, balcony, changing rooms, welfare facilities, lifeguard store and look out tower together with ancillary site development works at the seafront in Wicklow Town which is currently out on further information.
2. Construction of 81 additional car parking spaces (incl. 4 disabled spaces) and 3 bus spaces, landscaping, pay stations, CCTV and lamp posts, retaining wall, new vehicular entrance, signage and re-alignment and upgrade works to part of existing footpath to the south along the bank of the Leirim River at the Railway Station was granted.
3. Construction of a three storey mixed use development 664sqm comprising ground floor retail unit (186sqm) first floor restaurant (217sqm) and second floor consulting rooms (99sqm) together with associated site works at Batchelor's Walk Wicklow Town. Planning Permission was granted.

### Wicklow Town Public Realm Plan

A Public Realm Plan for Wicklow was finalised in June 2008. The Plan assessed the quality of Wicklow's public spaces and landmarks and proposed a series of co-ordinated initiatives by which they could be improved. It was agreed at Monthly Meeting in October 2009 to incorporate into the Town Development Plan.... "to have regard to the public realm plan ...".

Proposed Variation Number 1 of the Town Development Plan 2007, Architectural Conservation Area.

The Proposed Architectural Conservation Area was placed on display on the 10th November 2008 for 4 weeks. 24 submissions were received with the manager's report going to the members for their consideration over a 6-week period in January of 2009. Following a vote by the Members at Monthly Meeting in February, this Variation was narrowly defeated.

### Wicklow Town Habitats Study

In November 2008 a Habitat Study of the Town is published by Merc Consultants in conjunction with the Heritage Council and Wicklow Town Council. A presentation of this Study to Members took place at Monthly Meeting in February 2009.

### Access Audit

An access Audit was undertaken of Wicklow Town in March 2008. Following on from this Audit, a number of the proposed measures were undertaken in 2009: 2 roads contracts, 1 playground contract and one Town Hall Contract. A

presentation was made to Members at the April meeting by the Young Social Innovators on “accessibility in the town for disabled”. This group met with Aoife Flynn, Access Officer for Wicklow County Council and received some funding. This group of enthusiastic students put in place the “yellow footpath” campaign, which is hoped to be a great success.

## Environmental Protection

### Tidy Towns

Wicklow Tidy Towns Committee was re-activated in 2006 and a number of Council staff are active on the committee. The Town Council continues to work closely with the committee in formulating and implementing its programme of works. The Council greatly acknowledges the success, which the committee & volunteers have achieved to date, with high praise for the Tidy Towns Committee expressed at the September Meeting, following results of National competition. Wicklow Town achieved 3rd in the County.

A budget of €6,000 was approved in 2009 to assist Wicklow Tidy Towns in their efforts.

### Litter Enforcement

In addition to its own warden service, the Town Council works very closely with the County Council, which is the Waste Management Authority, in policing and following up on illegal dumping within the town. Although most of the fines issued for littering are paid prior to going to court, those found responsible for repeat offences will face the full rigors of the law.

### Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping continues to be a serious problem in isolated areas of Wicklow Town. The Council employs Traffic Wardens, who combine their functions as Litter Wardens, in the course of their daily patrol of the town. They respond to litter/dumping incidents brought to their attention.

A total of 12 litter fines were issued in 2009. Few fines were paid and almost half of the notices came back undeliverable. Unpaid fines are subject to legal proceedings. The Council also avails of the confidential Free phone Litterline at 1890 LITTER. All calls to this line are registered and investigated.

## Housing General

Construction commences on 2 units at Convent Road by the direct labour crew, Wicklow Town Council.

House Allocations	33
Houses Under Construction	2
Tenant Purchase Applications Received	1
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	3
Transfer Allocations	9
House Extensions	2
Ground Rent	0
Windows & Doors Replacement Programme	0
Central Heating Programme	0

## Roads – Improvement Works

1. Under grounding of utilities was completed early in 2009.
2. South-Quay works: 2009 saw the completion of the design & procurement stage. Construction is due to commence early 2010.
3. The 2009 Department of Environment Road Grant was substantially reduced. The following are some of the larger works carried out:
  - a) Overlay at Bayview Road & footpath works
  - b) Salthouse lane overlay
  - c) Brick paving repair to Market Square
  - d) Overlay at Glebemount
4. In relation to the Multi-storey car park – Wicklow Town Council purchased two plots of land in Abbey Grounds in 2008. New walls have been constructed in 2009 around the revised boundaries.

# Notes

# Notes

# Wicklow County Council

County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow

**Phone:** 0404 20100

**Fax:** 0404 67792

**Website:** [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

**Email:** [cosec@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:cosec@wicklowcoco.ie)

