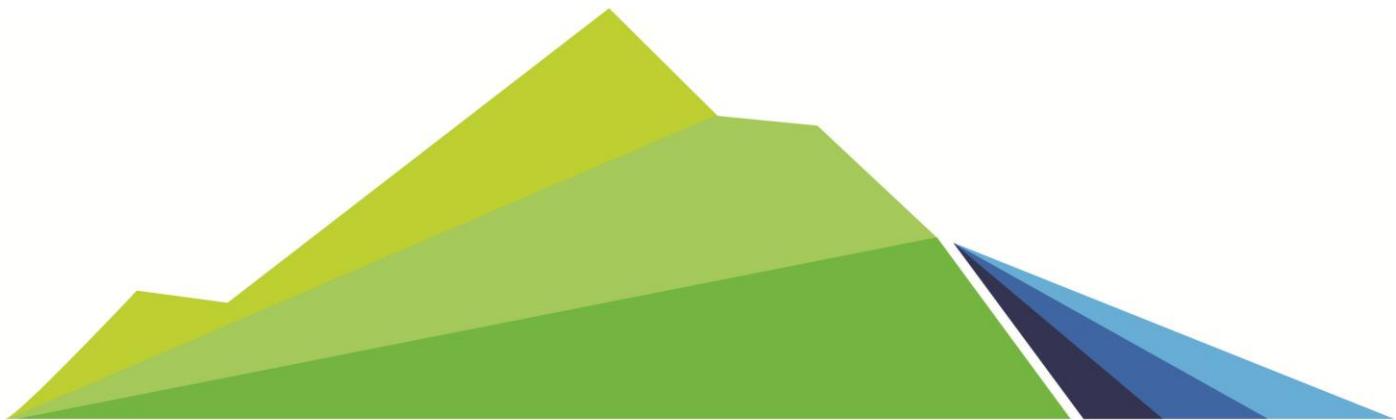




Wicklow County Council

Annual Report 2018



W I C K L O W

E N D L E S S O P P O R T U N I T I E S



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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."



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As Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report for the year 2018. This report outlines the very many and varied activities of Wicklow County Council across all services. Wicklow County Council provides and funds a broad range of services including; housing, roads, playgrounds, libraries, fire stations, sports facilities, arts centres, recycling centres, as well as serving as a platform for local democracy.

During 2018 a large number of community groups and voluntary organizations participated in the Wicklow County Council's community awards scheme benefiting from grants totally €150,000. I was delighted to be present at the 2018 Pure Mile Awards to acknowledge the participation of over 50 groups and organizations in making a positive contribution to their locality and environment. I would like to congratulate all of the tidy towns groups around the county who participate annually in the Tidy Towns competition and to commend the dedication of all the volunteers.

In February, the Council unveiled the much welcomed skate park for Baltinglass, a playground for Rathdrum and a multi-use games area for Knockananna. This was followed in October, by the opening of an all inclusive



playground in Greystones, catering for the needs of children of all abilities.

Following on the success of Blessington and Greystones towns last year, Wicklow had two further successes in the Bank of Ireland Enterprise town Awards with Arklow Town winner of the Town Initiative Prize – Town of Gardens Theme and Bray Town being recognized for the collaboration between the Town Team, Chamber of Commerce and the Municipal District. I would like to commend and congratulate the Town Teams throughout the County who are making a valuable contribution to the revitalization and economic viability of our towns.

We are proud to have hosted the 2018 National Convention of Older Persons' Councils in November. The County Wicklow Older Persons' Council role it to ensure the voices of older people are heard: promoting diversity, participation, dignity, equality, independence and self fulfilment. The Convention was a huge success and a magnificent showcase for Wicklow. We were also delighted to be among 18 Council who took part in the first ever national 'Make Way Day' highlighting to the public to make way for people with disabilities.

Finally, 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.

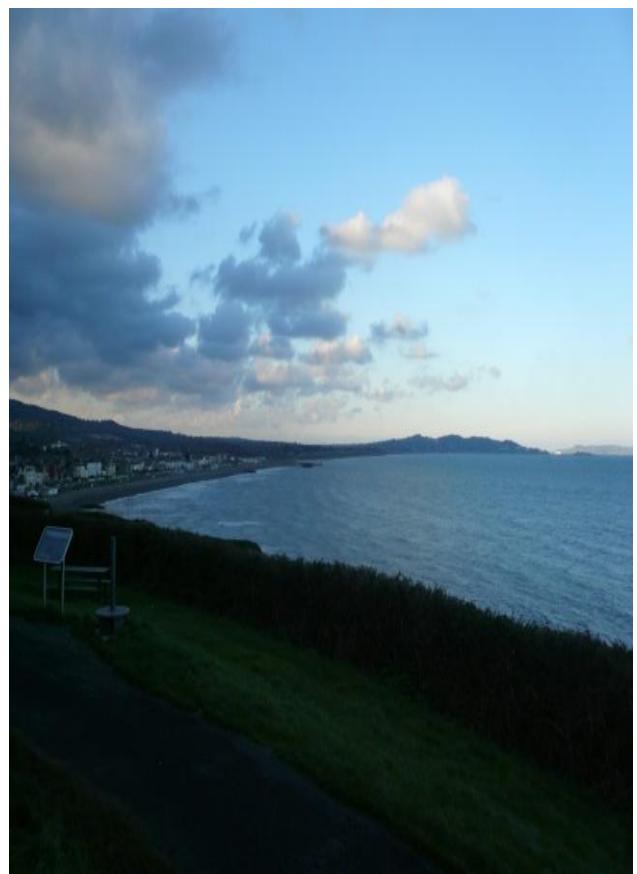
I would also like to take the opportunity to record my appreciation to Chief Executive, Frank Curran and to the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for the manner in



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which they assisted me in the performance of my role as Cathaoirleach. I would especially like to commend and highlight the work carried out by the outdoor crews, the emergency services, the Fire Service and the Civil Defence, all year round and their hard working efforts and dedicated response to severe weather incidents throughout the year.

**COUNCILLOR PAT VANCE
CATHAOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**





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It gives me great pleasure as Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council to welcome the publication of the 2018 Annual Report and to highlight a number of achievements over the last 12 months which are further contained within this report.

In March the contracts were signed for the construction of the Florentine Town Centre Development, Bray Main Street comprising retail units, restaurant, cinema and car park development of some 24,400 sqm. When complete, the much needed town centre retail development will reinforce the role of the Town Centre as the key meeting and shopping place for the citizens of Bray and is very much welcome by all stakeholders.

€1.25m in funding was delivered to some 40 individual projects throughout the County through CLAR, The Town and Village Programme, the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and the Healthy Ireland Initiative. 91 Community Groups benefitted from €350,530 through the Community Enhancement Programme.

The construction of 20 new energy efficient homes at Rathdrum were completed in late 2018 along with the conversion of the former Arklow Library into seven social housing units and the sod was turned a the Kilbride Lane 42 house scheme in Bray. Over the next 4 years the Council proposes providing some 375 much needed homes as well as continuing with

remediation schemes to housing units throughout the County.

Throughout 2018 the Council worked collaboratively to encourage economic development and job creation and continued driving the implementation of the actions set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) while rolling out the initiatives of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT).

I would also like to highlight the work of the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO), which has supported local 38 start-ups in the County in 2018 to the value of € 502,777 as well as 446 individual one to one mentoring meetings and special advisory clinics targeting the challenges of Brexit.

Projects successfully progressed in 2018:-

- Consultant engineers appointed to progress the improvement scheme for the N11/M11 between junction 4 to junction 14 (Coynes Cross)
- 9 projects received funding under the Urban Regional Development Fund totalling some €6.7m which will see projects such as the Arklow Historic Town Core, Wicklow Library refurbishment, redevelopment of Fitzwilliam Square and Bray Public Transport bridge progres in 2019.
- The new Wicklow Web Portal; Living in Wicklow; Business in Wicklow; Visit Wicklow was launched in March.
- The phenomenal success of the Bray Air Festival attracting some 140,000 visitors over the two day event, sponsored by the Irish Aviation Authority
- Proposals for the development of the Blessington Greenway moved forward
- The continuous growth of Wicklow County Campus which hosted 3 conferring ceremonies for the graduation of some 200 students in November in collaboration with IT Carlow.



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Underpinning all our activities is the Council's Corporate Plan. It provides a framework and context for the Annual Service Delivery Plan which identifies the services to be provided and the standard to which they will be delivered, monitored and measured. These Plans clearly set out the various policies and objectives of Wicklow County Council and progress on the implementation of the objectives contained therein continues to be closely monitored within each Council department.

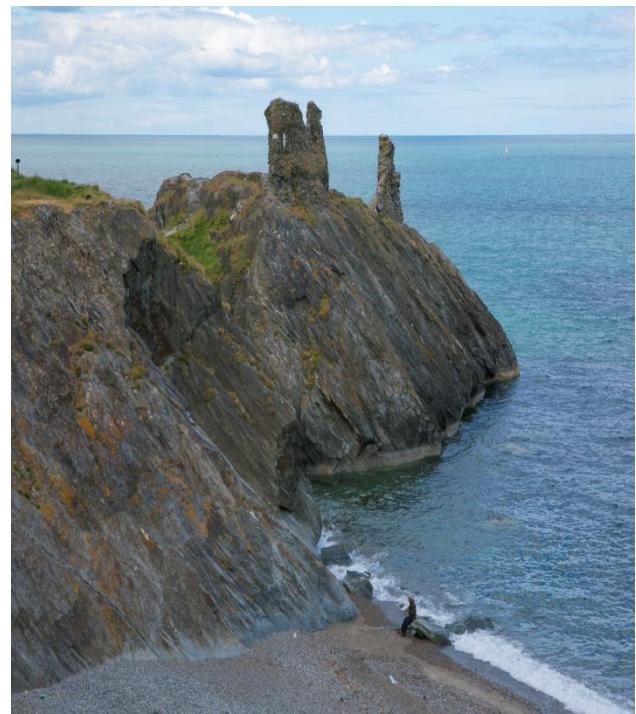
Service indicators are an important mechanism for monitoring and tracking the performance of local authorities. They provide us with important information, enabling us to identify good and poor practice and in this regard, the Council's performance in respect of the forty two national service indicators is contained in this report.

The elected members and staff of Wicklow County Council have successfully adapted to change and continue to provide quality services to the people of

County Wicklow in an efficient and effective manner. I would like to commend the elected members of Wicklow County Council, the Members of the Strategic Policy Committees, the Corporate Policy Group and the LCDC and to acknowledge all of the work that is carried out at Municipal District Level and by the various other hardworking committees.

I would especially like to thank the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Pat Vance for his commitment and co-operation in the delivery of the Council's high level Goals in 2018. I would like to commend and thank the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for their continued hard work and contribution in the delivery of high quality service to the public in 2018.

**FRANK CURRAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**





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MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mr Frank Curran



Chief Executive

Mr Sean Quirke



**Director of Services
Planning and Environmental Services**

Mr Michael Geaney



**A/Director of Services
Transportation, Water and Emergency
Services**

Mr Michael Nicholson



**Director of Services
Community, Cultural and Social Development**

Mr Joe Lane



**Director of Services
Housing and Corporate Estate**

Mr Thomas Murphy



**Director of Services
Enterprise & Corporate Services**

Mr David Sweetman



Law Agent

Mr Liam Fitzpatrick



Head of Information Systems

Mr. Brian Gleeson



Head of Finance



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Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee

Cathaoirleach
Cllr. John Snell

Wicklow County Council
Cllr. Tommy Annesley
Cllr. Joe Behan
Cllr. Vincent Blake
Cllr. Mary Kavanagh
Cllr. Michael O'Connor/Dermot O'Brien

Outside Agencies

Trade Unions
Barry Nevin, ICTU

Disadvantaged
Vicky Harris/Catherine Byrne

Business/Commercial
Vacant

Community
Vacant

Wicklow Traveller Group
Eamonn McCann/Aoibhinn McCloy

Director of Services
Joe Lane

Senior Executive Officer
Jackie Carroll

Senior Engineers
Breege Kilkenny
Declan Marnane

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

The Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee met on five occasions in 2018 and focused on a number of key areas including:

- Budget 2018 – Implications for Housing Authorities nationally in terms of future housing supply, management and investment issues
- Housing priorities for 2018 including future housing supply, management and investment issues
- Management of housing stock
- Social Housing Assessment
- Housing Assistance Payment
- New Housing Strategy – Rebuilding Ireland
- Housing Construction Programme to 2021
- Part V policies
- Traveller Accommodation
- Voluntary Housing
- Homelessness – Review of Action Plan for Homelessness

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

9 Schemes on site 2018	102 Units
8 Schemes to commence on site in 2019	222 Units
1 PPP Bundle 1 scheme to commence on site in 2019	<u>51 Units</u>
TOTAL	375 Units

Scheme	Units	Current Status
O'Byrne Road	1	Completed October 2018
Old Library, Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated



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PPP Social Housing Project (Bundle 1)

Development Site at Convent Lands, Wicklow for 51 Social Housing units. The Department of Housing has dedicated €300 million towards delivery of housing through the public, private partnership model in the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan. Wicklow has been included as a project in Bundle 1. The Part 8 was passed by the members at the Council Meeting on 3rd July 2017. The project is expected to commence on site in March 2019.

Part V

Wicklow County Council continues to liaise closely with Agents and Developers in respect of Part V requirements. Some Part V units are delivered through CALF in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies e.g. Glenheron in Greystones and some directly to the Council e.g. Kirvin Hill, Rathnew. 30 Part V units were delivered in 2018 through a combination of LA acquisition and CALF.

Turnkey

The Council are actively seeking and encouraging the provision of social housing via the mechanism of turnkey development. 3 turnkey units in Tinahely were acquired into Council stock in 2018. The Council has received Departmental approval to purchase a significant number of further turnkey units in 2019.

CALF Leasing

Wicklow County Council continues to facilitate applications from Approved Housing Bodies for delivery of units through the CALF leasing scheme.

Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)

Wicklow County Council continues to work with Approved Housing Bodies to increase the supply of social housing. A number of sites have been allocated to AHB's to progress following a

selection procedure and progress has been made on designing schemes for these sites.

Housing Management

The total budget for housing repairs was just under €1.6 million for 2018. This was distributed evenly between the Municipal Districts on a pro rata basis based on the number of units in each district.

Central Heating was also provided in a number of houses while servicing and maintenance of central heating systems has continued.

When houses become vacant they are upgraded as follows:

- Electrics check and repair/rewire;
- Plumbing check;
- Replacement of kitchen units/sanitary ware where necessary;
- Upgrade of properties to enhanced energy efficiency.
- Any other works required

VOIDS Refurbishment Programme 2018

A total of 36 units were returned to productive use in 2018 through funding received under the VOIDS Refurbishment Programme.

Derelict Units Refurbishment Programme 2018

1 unit was returned to productive use in 2018 through funding received under the Derelict Units Programme

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, Community and Local Government. Any person in need of housing and unable to obtain it from their own resources may be included on the Council's Housing Waiting List.



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A total of 4,026 housing applicants were on the housing list for County Wicklow at 31st December 2018. A total of 137 houses were allocated during 2018 at various locations throughout the County as per the table below:

	1 st January 2018 – 31 st December 2018
Casual Vacancies	58
New Schemes	27
Social Leasing	0
Rural Cottages	2
Purchases/Part V	29
Refurbishments/Adaptations	1
AHB's	20
TOTAL	137

Other Housing Options

In terms of other housing options, Wicklow County Council continued to promote a broad range of additional housing options in 2018 including:

- Mortgage Allowance Scheme
- House Purchase Loan
- Housing Grants
- Mortgage to Rent

Other housing options promoted by Wicklow County Council included RAS, HAP Long Term and Short Term Social Leasing.

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.

The total number of RAS properties at 31st December, 2018 was 431.

Long Term And Short Term Social Housing Leasing

Efforts continued throughout 2018 to promote leasing as a social housing option in County Wicklow.

- This is where properties are 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.

A total of 17 units were leased to Wicklow County Council as of 31st December, 2018 and interest in the scheme is increasing.

HAP (Housing Assistance Payment)

HAP is a new form of housing support provided by local authorities. HAP means that local authorities can now provide housing assistance for households who qualify for social housing support, including many long term rent supplement recipients. Under HAP Local Authorities will make the full rent payment, subject to rent limits, on behalf of the HAP recipient directly to the landlord. The HAP recipient will then pay a rent contribution to the local authority. The rent contribution is a differential rent – that is, a rent based on income and ability to pay.

HAP will provide a more integrated system of housing support and aims to :

- Allow all social housing supports to be accessed through one body – the local authority and



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- Allow recipients to take up full -time employment and still keep their housing support

A total of 976 households were in receipt of HAP rental support at 31st December, 2018.

Estate Development

Estate Development Grants were allocated through the Municipal Districts to Residents Associations within the districts.

Tenant Liaison Officer

In 2018 the Tenant Liaison Officer continued to support Wicklow County Council's Tenants throughout its estates in the Wicklow, Arklow, Greystones and Baltinglass Municipal Districts. 149 cases of anti social behaviour were recorded in 2018. These included cases such as addictions, mental health, noise, rubbish etc. An Inter Agency approach involving An Garda Siochana, H.S.E. and Tusla has proved to be the best possible outcome in dealing with anti social issues. Going forward it is hoped to involve An Garda Siochana in new measures in tackling anti social behaviour i.e., asking their attendance at meetings with Tenants where there are severe anti social issues.

Housing Rents

A total of 63 new dwellings were added to the Council's housing stock in 2018.

At the 31st December 2018 there were 4,329 tenanted units.

The total rents collected in 2018 was €12.3 million. The closing arrears stand at €947,219.03.

The rents department work diligently to reduce the rent arrears while also working closely with tenants in sustaining their tenancies and avoiding court proceedings and eventual eviction.

Housing Grants

In 2018 the following Disabled Persons Grants were awarded:

20 Housing Adaption Grants	€387,635.73
25 Mobility Aid Grants	€ 105,661.15
22 Housing Aid for Older People	€ 132,659.40
TOTAL	€625,956.28

Of this 80% can be recouped from the Department.

Traveller Accommodation

The members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) met regularly during 2018. Implementation of the objectives under the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2014 to 2018 continued to ensure the accommodation needs of Travellers living in Co. Wicklow were met during 2018. This included planning for the provision of standard housing, halting sites, group housing, rural houses and temporary/emergency sites. The LTACC have produced a draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.

Homelessness

Prevention of homelessness continued to be a key focus and the homeless team provided advice and support, (phone, counter and appointment) to persons homeless or at risk of homelessness. The homeless team engaged with Landlords and Agents, to sustain and progress tenancies. Emergency accommodation was provided by the Council, where necessary, following a full assessment of need.

641 cases (families/individuals) presented as homeless during 2018, with 36 emergency accommodation placements provided during 2018.



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In addition to the work of the homeless team, a Homeless HAP Placefinder was appointed in October, 2018. The Homeless HAP Placefinder provides assistance in

- Seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- Liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- Establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- Supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.

17 families have been assisted under the Homeless HAP from the inception of the scheme on 1st October, 2018 to 31st December, 2018.

In order to target specific cohorts of vulnerable people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, and those who need supported accommodation, Wicklow County Council has been working effectively with a number of Approved Housing Bodies to deliver accommodation to individuals with support needs. This housing led approach ensures a sustainable solution to homelessness in individuals who are initially hard to reach and ultimately have tenancy sustainment issues. The Council operates the management of these properties through either Service Level Agreements, or License Agreements and Leases. These units provide wraparound, supported accommodation for vulnerable individuals using the Housing First model. This housing led approach to combating homelessness is enshrined in Rebuilding Ireland and is a commitment in the Mid East Region Homelessness Action Plan for Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.

In partnership with the Simon Community, the Council continues to provide a supported accommodation facility at Kilmartin Hill in Wicklow Town, for people experiencing homelessness. Ten individuals are accommodated in medium support, transitional units at the facility.

The council is continuing to move away from the model of providing emergency homeless accommodation from large units, towards a best practice Housing First model. This involves a number of different approaches including the use of smaller units with visiting support for up to 3-4 clients per house.

Two four bedroom properties, which provide low to medium supported accommodation for eight individuals, under licence agreement for a period of eighteen months, continue to operate successfully in, Bray.

In 2017, Wicklow County Council completed the purchase of a facility in Greystones (Carraig Eden), and continued to work with the Approved Housing Body, Tiglin to ensure that the facility will be used to provide accommodation for homeless people who have achieved an addiction free status as per current national strategy which recommends that there should be an increase in accommodation for those exiting addiction rehabilitation.

A Cold Weather Initiative was set up to provide additional emergency accommodation during the winter months. A property in Bray was identified as suitable and the facility opened its doors to homeless individuals in December. The initiative is a partnership arrangement between Dublin Simon Community, Wicklow County Council and the Five Loaves Homeless Service. The facility has a capacity of 12 beds.



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Health and Safety

Wicklow County Council's Health and Safety Policy has been established to ensure that in so far as is reasonably practicable, everyone who works for or on behalf of Wicklow County Council does so in the safest and healthiest conditions possible. The Housing Directorate has endorsed this Health and Safety Policy as being applicable to all Wicklow County Council operations within the Housing Section. The organisations policies and procedures for health and safety are constantly reviewed in line with best practices, legislative changes and national initiatives.

Safety audits and safety inspections of contractor and direct labour sites are carried out on a weekly basis by the Health and Safety Facilitator.

Health and Safety Induction Training is communicated to all new members of staff. Extensive training programs are provided for staff continually to ensure compliance with construction and safety regulations. The Housing Section's Safety Statements are reviewed and updated annually.





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Transportation, Water and Emergency Services

Strategic Policy Committee

Membership of the Transportation, Water and Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee consists of five County Councillors along with four members from sectoral interest groups. The Strategic Policy Committee holds regular meetings throughout the year at which both national and local issues are discussed.

Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Pat Doran

Wicklow County Council
Cllr. Daire Nolan
Cllr. Mary McDonald
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Derek Mitchell

Outside Agencies
Trade Unions
Christy Byrne, SIPTU

Environment/Conservation
Tim Morgan

Agriculture/Farming Community
Shane O'Loughlin

Development/Construction
Paddy Mordaunt

Director of Services
Sean Quirke
Planning, Development and Environmental Services

Michael Geaney (A)
Transportation, Water and Emergency Services

Senior Executive Officer
Helena Dennehy

Senior Engineer
Michael Flynn

Chief Fire Officer
Aidan Dempsey

Administrative Officers
Allyson Minion
Frances Clinton

Health and Safety

The Directorate is committed to ensuring adherence to the principles of Safety, Health and Welfare at work. In this regards, plans and policies have been and are continuing to be developed and updated to improve our health and safety procedures. Extensive training programmes are provided for staff continually to ensure compliance with construction and safety regulations. Safety Statements are reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The implementation of good health and safety practices has resulted in additional costs for various projects, but notwithstanding this, the Council remains committed to the health and safety of its employees.

Energy Consumption

As per Statutory Instrument 542 of 2009 and Statutory Instrument 426 of 2014, all Public Bodies are required to report annually on their energy consumption and performance. The national requirement is to reduce public sector energy consumption by 33% by 2016 or 3% per annum thereafter.

Energy Saving Measures 2018.

- Circa 900 LED lanterns have been installed as part of maintenance repair works throughout the county, works particularly focused on replacing SOX lantern. Estimated Energy Saving 190,000Kwh per year.
- Replacement of columns and lanterns at Glenair Manor, Greystones (32 units)



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- with 16 LEDs). Estimated Energy Saving 9,600Kwh per year.
- Installed 105 LED lanterns on the Charlesland/Farrenkelly Dual Carriageway. Estimated Energy Saving 65,794Kwh per year.
- Installation of 84 LED lanterns on the Bray Southern Cross Road commenced during 2018. Estimated Energy Saving 36,200Kwh per year.

Proposed Energy Saving Measure 2019

- Charlesland/Farrenkelly Dual Carriageway Project (Phase 2). Estimated Energy Saving 126,750Kwh per year. Subject to funding being available.
- Continue the installation of LEDs at various locations throughout the county to repair faulty lanterns and in particular the SOX lanterns. Estimated number to be replaced for 2019 is 1,000, this would generate an energy saving of about 211,000Kwh of energy.
- Database verification.
- Support and contribute to the regional LED retrofit programme overseen by the Roads Management Office and Kilkenny County Council.

Transportation

Objective 1

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 and health and safety

Road Safety Promotion and Education

The Road Safety Together Committee, which includes members of the Gardaí, Fire Service,

Road Safety Authority, National Roads Authority and officials of Wicklow County Council met on a quarterly basis in 2018 to review road safety in County Wicklow. The County Wicklow Road Safety Plan 2015-2020 is now available and can be accessed online on www.wicklow.ie. The main objective of the Road Safety Plan is to reduce the number of casualties on County Wicklow's roads and to provide focus on making Wicklow a safer county for both motorists and pedestrians through Education, Enforcement, Engineering and Evaluation.

Objective 2

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 Secondary N81

Archer Heritage Planning was appointed Contractor for the Archaeological Works Contract at Knockroe Bends on the N81. The archaeological dig carried out by Archer Heritage Planning for the Archaeological for the Archaeological Works Contract at Knockroe Bends on the N81 was completed in 2018

Non National Road Maintenance and Improvement

Maintenance works on Non National Roads in 2018 were carried out by both direct labour units of the five Municipal Districts and by private contractors.

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant Works

Works were carried out at the following locations in 2018:

- R760 Tinnehinch Bridge Enniskerry
- R755 Knockrath Bridge Knockrath



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- R752 Rathdrum Bridge
- R756 Lockstown Bridge
- R759 Liffey Bridge Upper Kippure
- L7525 Killabeg Bridge Coolkenna
- L50462 Beechdale Bridge Kilcoole
- L2901 Navvy Hill Bridge (Irish Rail)
- L6155 White Bridge Avoca
- R7848 Rosnastraw Bridge
- R747 Fortgranite Bridge
- L2180 Beech Road Bridge
- R753 Ballinaclash Bridge
- R725 Bay Bridge Shillelagh
- R747 Lackereagh
- R747/L7271 At junction of both roads beside entrance to Humewood Estate at Barraderry East, Kiltegan
- L2900 Emoclew Road, Arklow
- R761 Windgates Roundabout, Greystones
- R750 Dunbur Road, Wicklow
- L3205/L7706 At junction of both roads beside Killavenny Church, Tinahely
- L1955 Herbert Road, Bray
- L2172 Redcross
- R754 Avoca
- R725/L3390 Ferns Road, Carnew

Funding proposals were submitted for the following projects for 2019 and have received an allocation:

- L2901 Navvy Bridge, Arklow
- L7525 Killabeg Bridge, Coolkenna
- L7256 Highpark Bridge, Kiltegan
- L2143 Roddenagh Bridge, Aughrim
- L8333 Hell's Kettle Bridge, Donard
- L4310 Tuckmill Bridge, Baltinglass
- R759 Cloughleagh Bridge, Kippure
- R117 Knocksink Bridge, Enniskerry
- R725 Boley Bridge, Shillelagh

Safety Improvement Works 2018:

Low cost safety improvements works were carried out in 2018 at the following locations:

- R755 Calary upper, Roundwood
- L2190-100 Coolgreeney Road Arklow
- R747 Lackereagh Baltinglass
- R759 Manor Kilbride (The Branch)
- R772 Dublin Road Arklow
- R747 Vale Road Arklow

Proposed Low Cost Safety Improvement Works for 2019:

- R755 Calary Upper, Roundwood
- L1971/R766 Florence Road and Adelaide Road Junction, Bray
- R761 Killincarrig Safety Improvements
- R755 Cunningham's Corner, Roundwood

Objective 3

To facilitate and promote walking and cycling and use of 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.

National Transport Authority Funding

Each year, Wicklow County Council receives funding from the National Transport Authority's Sustainable Transport Measures Programme towards a variety of projects. These include projects that facilitate and promote walking, cycling and use of public transport. These initiatives assist in reducing congestion, promoting healthier lifestyles and providing access to facilities for those who do not drive or have their own transport.

Projects which received funding from the National Transport Authority in 2018 included:

- Arklow to Shillelagh Cycle track (planning completion)
- Strand Road Cycle Route, Bray
- Bray Dart Interchange
- Wicklow Town Port access route to Station Pedestrian Access



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- Killarney Road-church Road Junction and associated works on Killarney Road
- Vevay Road Cycle Scheme
- St. Laurence's School Footpath provision
- N81 Baltinglass VRU improvements

Projects which received funding from the National Transport Authority for 2019 include:

- Strand Road Cycle Track (Including Aquarium)
- Bray Dart Interchange
- Wicklow Town port access route to Station Pedestrian Access
- Killarney Road – Church Road Junction and associated works on Killarney Road
- Vevay Road Cycle Scheme
- N81 Baltinglass VRU improvements
- Permeability to Public Transport of Schools
- Dublin Road, Bray ITS Traffic Management
- Bray Bridge footbridges and tie-ins
- Permeability Bray
- Bus Stops, Greystones

Maintenance and Management of Car Parking

Pay Parking is in operation in Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow Towns and operates under Wicklow County Council Parking Bye-Laws 2017.

A tender process for the operation of pay parking county wide was completed in late 2018 and the new operator will be in place in 2019. All back office support will be managed from Bray Municipal District.

Liaison with Transport Providers

With the improvement of the public transport service for County Wicklow as the primary

objective, Wicklow County Council continued to liaise throughout 2018 with the Public Service Transport Providers.

Disability Access

The Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Directorate will continue to keep up to date with the guidelines from the National Disability Authority, ensuring that the highest standard of 'access for all' is achieved through compliant standards of design.

M11/N11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme

Arup Consulting Engineers were appointed in November 2018 as the lead consultant to process the project through Phases 1 – 4 in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Project Management Guidelines.

The N11/M11 is 22km in length between Junction 4 and Junction 14 from the N11 merge with the M50 in the north to the Coyne's Cross junction in the south. The majority of the project is within the administrative boundaries of Wicklow County Council, however at the northern extent, 4 km of the road corridor is within Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown county Council.

The members approved a Section 85 Agreement under the Local Government Act, 2001 between Wicklow County Council and Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown County Councils with Wicklow County Council acting as the lead local authority and sponsoring agent. Transport Infrastructure Ireland are the sanctioning authority and the Kildare National Roads Office are the project managers for the scheme.

The scheme has been identified in Project Ireland 2040 as one of the 20 priority National Roads to be progressed in order to enable the continued economic development of the state. The scheme has also been identified in relevant regional and local planning policy.



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Vehicle Replacement Plan

The Council purchased 6 no. 7.5 tonne crew cab pick up tipper trucks to replace ageing vehicles, which were in use by the Machinery Yard and Districts as part of the Vehicle Replacement Plan.

Water and Wastewater

In 2018 Wicklow County Council continued to provide Water and Wastewater Services under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA).

In 2018 various targets were achieved including:

- A major upgrade of 3 Wastewater Treatment Plants in Kilcoole, Enniskerry and Newcastle. These works were planned and overseen by Wicklow County Council staff in conjunction with Irish Water.
- Wicklow County Council located over 1,200 leaks in 2018. This and the ensuing repairs lowered our countywide daily demand by over 2,500 metres cubed a day. In the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), which County Wicklow is part of, the Unaccounted For Water (UFW) in our daily demand went from 49.89% in December 2017 to 28.65% in December 2018.

For overall KPI Performance in 2018 under the annual Service Plan with Irish Water, Wicklow County Council scored 93.95%. This high score was comprised of a range of KPI scores over the year including:

- A score of 99.8% was achieved for microbiological compliance in the drinking water supply.
- A score of 99.56% was achieved for chemical compliance in the drinking water supply.
- A score of 100% was achieved for the number of compliant assessments taken at

Waste Water Treatment Plants meeting mandatory UVWWTD effluent quality standards.

- A score of 91.75% was achieved for the number of fully completed templates provided for unplanned interruptions.
- A Score of 90.18% was achieved for a timely response to Workflow Queries.
- A Score of 100% was achieved for Financial – Operations Expenditure Control.



Emergency Management

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 Municipal Districts. Regular meetings were held in 2018 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.

Severe Weather Response



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The Council's Severe Weather Co-ordination Group met to assess the developing weather situation during Storm Emma and to consider and review the response of the relevant agencies to Storm Emma. Council staff responded to the clean-up and necessary immediate works related to the storm. The Major Emergency Sub Plan for Severe Weather Events for the county was reviewed and updated during 2018.

Volunteers contributed over 650 man hours of assistance during Storm Emma / Beast from the East. Civil Defence delivered essential medications to isolated households across the County. Patients from all over Wicklow and North Wexford were transported to Clinics in Dublin Hospitals for essential Dialysis and Oncology treatment. Some residents were evacuated from their homes. Meals on wheels, and community nurse services were assisted by members of Civil Defence in performing their role in the community throughout the period.

Fire Services

Other areas of Fire Service activity progressed during 2018 included:

- Inspections and enforcement under Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003
- Assessing Fire Safety Certificates and Disability Access Certificates under the Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2009.
- Community Fire Safety.
- Training of Fire Personnel.

In addition to maintaining necessary areas of competence and providing new entrants with the necessary knowledge and skills, the following areas of new training was developed and introduced:

- "Confined Space" incident response. This training has now been adopted and the national standard and staff from Wicklow

County Fire Service have assisted with the roll out of the training across the country.

Civil Defence

Civil Defence is a volunteer based organisation where members assist as a back-up service, supporting the primary emergency services and the local community. Civil Defence through the local authority and its emergency services has been providing support throughout the county for over fifty years. This support has been provided at both operational and community levels for the benefit of the people within County Wicklow.

Areas Civil Defence progressed in 2018

- Basic training for volunteers
- Training of new instructors.
- Up skilling of Current Instructors.
- Community events/operations.
- Upgrade of vehicles and equipment.
- Expanding search & flood response equipment
- Recruitment programme.
- Induction Training of new members.
- Response to flooding and severe weather.
- Search and recovery of missing persons.
- Introduction of Drone Unit





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Community Events / Operations

County Wicklow Civil Defence had a very active year. Training continued throughout the County and Civil Defence personnel took part in Operational Activities and Training exercises. These activities were in line with the overall Mission Statement of the Local Authority 'To improve the quality of life for the people and communities of Co. Wicklow'. We continued to support at Major Weather, Emergency and Community Events throughout 2018. In particular, assistance was provided during Storm Emma in March, major fires in July, Round Ireland Yacht Race in June and Bray Airshow also in July.

Recruitment & Induction Training

After a successful Recruitment programme in 2018, six new members joined the organisation and completed a ten week induction training programme in Manual Handling, Cardiac First Response, Child Protection, Critical Incident Stress Management , and Basic Radio Skills. These volunteers will enhance the membership throughout the county.

Upgrade of Equipment and Vehicles

An Incident Support vehicle was added to the fleet during 2018. This vehicle along with new lighting and tentage equipment will enhance Civil Defence capacity to assist the Principle Response Agencies at incidents across County Wicklow. Drone equipment and training was added to enhance the capacity to search for missing persons

2018 Performance Indicators – Wicklow County Council

R1: Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI)

- A. (a) 99.7% of Regional Roads have been surveyed in the last two years

- (b) 96.9% of Local Primary Roads have been surveyed in the last two years
(c) 96.9% of Local Secondary Roads have been surveyed in the last two years
(d) 72.0% of Local Tertiary Roads have been surveyed in the last five years

B. (a) Regional Road	Rating
1-4	9.7%
5-6	24.3%
7-8	42.2%
9-10	23.5%

(b) Local Primary Road Rating
1-4
5-6
7-8
9-10

7.5%
22.6%
46.4%
22.96%

(c) Local Secondary Road Rating
1-4
5-6
7-8
9-10

10.3%
31.0%
40.4%
17.4%

(d) Local Tertiary Road Rating
1-4
5-6
7-8
9-10

7.9%
11.8%
33.3%
18.9%



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R2: Regional Road Works

A. Length of Regional Road Strengthened
12.9 km

Road Improvement Amount
€2,180,765

B. Length of Regional Road Resealed
14.6km

Road Maintenance Amount
€385,137

C. Length of Local Road Strengthened
68 km

Road Improvement Amount
€3,838,065

D. Length of Local Road Resealed
20.2 km

Road Maintenance Amount
€332,501





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Planning and Development and Environment Directorate

Planning and Development Strategic Policy Committee

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Sylvester Bourke (2.5 years)
Cllr. Vincent Blake (2.5 years)

Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Pat Vance
Cllr. Edward Timmins
Cllr. Christopher Fox
Cllr. Tommy Cullen
Cllr. Steven Matthews
Cllr. Gerry O'Neill

Outside Agencies

Development/Construction

Tony Lawlor

Agriculture/Farming Community

Michael Byrne

Environment/Conservation

Joan Campbell

Business/Commercial

Trevor Wood

Director of Services

Sean Quirke

Senior Executive Officer

Theresa O'Brien

Senior Planner

Sorcha Walsh

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
- Vacant Sites

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, up to and including any appeals to An Bord Pleanala. During 2018, we continued to see an increase in applications being received.

Year	No. of Applications
2003	1889
2004	2118
2005	2326
2006	2560
2007	2799
2008	2146
2009	1359
2010	1147
2011	976
2012	939
2013	987
2014	1285
2015	1361
2016	1465
2017	1544
2018	145

Other projects dealt with in this area are pre-planning, third party submissions, compliance, appeals, collection of development contributions, section 5 referrals and taking in charge of estates.



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Environment Strategic Policy Committee

The Transportation, Water and Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee comprises of five County Councillors 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.

Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Pat Doran

Wicklow County Council
Cllr. Daire Nolan
Cllr. Mary McDonald
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Derek Mitchell

Outside Agencies

Trade Unions -Christy Byrne, SIPTU
Agriculture/Farming Community -Mr. Shane O'Loughlin
Development/Construction -Mr. Paddy Mordaunt
Environment / Conservation -Mr Tim Morgan

Director of Services
Sean Quirke
Planning Development and Environment

Michael Geaney (A)
Water & Environmental Services

Senior Executive Officer
Theresa O'Brien
Helena Dennehy

Senior Engineer
Marc Devereux
Michael Flynn

Water & Wastewater Quality – Pollution Control & Enforcement

Wicklow County Council, on behalf of Irish Water, continues to monitor and control water and wastewater pollution in accordance with legislation and EU regulations.

Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences

This area includes the operation of public toilets in Enniskerry, Greystones, Roundwood, Glendalough and Blessington. Operation includes three automated facilities. Wicklow County Council retains responsibility for this.

Laboratory Services & Pollution Control

The laboratory services and pollution team are active in a range of areas to promote, protect and improve the quality of our environment and water resources in County Wicklow. The team plan and RMCEI (recommended minimum criteria for environmental inspections) form the basis of prioritizing the work activities such as monitoring, complaint investigation, assessment and enforcement as guided by departmental plan for water and environmental services department.

Licensed Discharges to Waters

4 discharge applications were assessed and reported on in 2018.

71 samples of licensed discharges to water were analysed in 2018.

27 proprietors were substantially compliant with discharge licences in 2018.

Solvents



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1 certificate applications for dry cleaner installations were assessed and reported on in 2018.

10 certificate applications for vehicle refinisher installations were assessed and reported on in 2018.

Septic tanks

32 septic tank inspections were undertaken in 2018.

8 septic tanks were non-compliant in 2018 and were required to undertake investigations and improvements.

Bathing Waters

54 samples were taken from identified bathing waters including 4 blue flag beaches in 2018.

55 samples were taken from other sea waters used for bathing in 2018.

2 bathing water prohibition notices were issued to protect bather's health in 2018.

Private Water Supplies

In its role as supervisory authority for private water supply serving a commercial or public activity or population of 50 or more, 127 regulated private water supplies were monitored in 2018.

256 samples were taken for analysis in 2018.

98.8 % samples were compliant for e.coli.

97.5 % samples were compliant for enterococci.

91.4 % samples were compliant for coliform bacteria.

64.8 % samples were compliant for pH.

100 % samples were compliant for Nitrate (91 samples).

5 boil water notices were issued to private water supplies in 2018

0 improvement direction was issued to a private water supply in 2018.

12 boil water notices were lifted from private water supplies in 2018.

12 water suppliers installed treatment/disinfection facilities to improve their private water supplies in 2018.

2 water suppliers connected to public mains to improve their water supplies in 2018.

Water Framework Directive

The team were instrumental in the providing the scientific bases for the selection of river catchment in County Wicklow for improvement in the national river basin management plan in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency or other public bodies and stakeholders.

National Monitoring Programme

543 samples were taken from rivers for analysis in 2018.

138 samples were taken from lakes for analysis in 2018.

Planning and Development

161 environmental reports were provided to the planning and development department to assist them in making the decision on planning applications received.

Waste Enforcement Team.

The Waste Enforcement Team is dedicated to enforcing Waste Management Legislation within County Wicklow and has proven to be a great asset to the County.



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The Team deal with waste, litter & burning environmental complaints. 2,870 complaints were received during 2018. Many prosecutions were secured under the Waste Management Act, 1996 and the Litter Pollution Act, 1997.

Litter

- 352 Litter Fines were issued for various breaches of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 e.g. littering, illegal signage, dog fouling etc. 7 Litter Fine Files were sent to Court.
- 88 Warning Letters were issued to individuals who contrived the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 e.g. leaving material at the recycling centres when the centres were closed, incorrect recycling at the Recycling Centre, holding full and/or overflowing skip bags around an individual's property for a long period of time etc.

Waste Management

- 108 Waste Management Files were opened for various breaches of the Waste Management Act, e.g. illegal dumping, burning of waste, illegal storage of waste etc. 35 Waste Management Files were sent to Court.
- 50 Section 14 Direction Notices were issued to individuals who failed to keep their property free from waste.
- 117 Abandoned Vehicle Notices were issued.
- 109 Burning Applications were processed.

PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments)

PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments) is an environmental project established to combat the increase of illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands and was officially launched in

September, 2006. The Project has been extended up to 2019.

Recycling Facilities.

In 2018 the 5 Recycling Centres accepted the following amounts of recycling materials:-

Arklow	959 tonnes
Avoca	436 tonnes
Bray	1,590 tonnes
Wicklow	567 tonnes
Rampere	340 tonnes

In addition, we have 43 bottle bank locations throughout the County that collect Glass, Drink Cans and Food Cans. During 2018 the total weight of materials collected at the bottle banks amounted to 1,807 tonnes.

In total the Recycling Centres and Bottle Banks recovered 5,699 tonnes of materials during 2018.

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 low-throughput abattoirs, meat premises, cold stores and meat delivery vehicles. Inspections are carried out by the Council's Veterinary Inspectors on a risk-based frequency. A new Service Level Agreement commenced mid-2016 for a period of 3 years.

Dog Control

The ISPCA provides a dog control service on behalf of Wicklow County Council. Two Dog Wardens and a Kennel Assistant are employed to operate this service, which is based in the dog pound located in Rathdrum. A subsidised neutering scheme is available for dogs re-homed by the pound and for problem breeders in the



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community in an effort to reduce the production of unwanted puppies. Re-homed dogs are microchipped at the dog pound to aid in their future identification.

All dog owners must have a current dog license for each pet. Licenses are available from any post office at a cost of €20. Since July 2018 dog licences and lifetime dog licences, at a cost of €140, can be purchased on **Licences.ie**

Wicklow Harbour Port

Strengthening repairs and ancillary works to the value of €100,000 were completed to the harbour wall along the South Quay, Wicklow Town. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine through the Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2018 funded approximately €69,000 of these works.

Two new ladders were installed at the Wicklow harbour. Funding for this project was provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Commercial Activity at Wicklow Port in 2018 - 138 Ships Berthed of which 126 Ships had a single transaction i.e. Import or Export. 12 Ships had a multiple transactions i.e. an Import & an Export

Arklow Harbour

The Lightship Lantern project, funded through the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) scheme and administered by Bord Iascaigh Mharad (BIM), was completed midyear. The project consisted of the restoration of the lightship "SKUA" lantern and its installation as a feature on the roundabout at the northern entrance to Arklow. The cost of the project was in the region of €50,000.00 with approximately €19,000 provided by BIM.

Two new ladders were installed at the Arklow harbour. Funding for this project was provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Bray Harbour

Two new ladders were installed at the Bray harbour. Funding for this project was provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Burial Grounds

There are thirty two burial grounds currently in operation in County Wicklow - part-time registrars are employed in each graveyard by Wicklow County Council to liaise with the public in regard to the purchase of grave space and also to maintain burial registers.

The Municipal Districts are responsible for the maintenance of the graveyards within their districts.

Bathing Waters

There are six designated bathing waters in county Wicklow. The monitoring of these and many other commonly used bathing areas continued in 2018. The bathing water monitoring is displayed at the beaches and on the Splash website through the bathing water season which runs from 1st June to 15th September each year. Overall the bathing water quality at the six identified bathing waters was at good to excellent status in 2018.

Blue Flags

Wicklow County Council retained its other Blue Flags in 2018 at Brittas Bay South, Brittas Bay North and Greystones South Beach and Bray.





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COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CC&SD)

Strategic Policy Committee

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Jim Ruttle

Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Gráinne McLoughlin

Cllr. Nicola Lawless

Cllr. Shay Cullen

Cllr. Brendan Thornhill

Cllr. Miriam Murphy

Cllr. Pat Kennedy

Outside Agencies

Business/Commercial

Irene Sweeney, Chamber of Commerce

Public Participation Network

Gertie Salley, PPN Social Inclusion

Public Participation Network

John Mullen, PPN Community and Voluntary

Public Participation Network

Ann Halpin, PPN Community and Voluntary

Director of Services

Michael Nicholson

Local Community Development Committees (LCDC)

Section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees. The LCDC in Wicklow was set up in May 2014 following the passing of a resolution by the Local Authority. The purpose of these committees is to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

1.1 The functions of the LCDC

- a) To prepare and adopt the community elements of a 6 year economic and community plan.
- b) To implement, or to arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the Plan.
- c) To undertake a review of the community elements of the Plan at least one within the 6 year period.
- d) To monitor and review on an ongoing basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan, including performance against any benchmarks or indicators of performance.
- e) To seek to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between the local and community development programmes.
- f) To pursue the co-ordination generally of all local and community development programmes within the functional area of the Committee, so as to optimise resources for the benefit of local communities in that area and improve the efficiency with which publicly-funded local and



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community development resources are uses.

- g) To consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements of a draft of the Plan prepared by the local authority.
- h) The Committee may enter into an agreement in writing with a public authority, local development or community development body, or other person for the carrying out of those functions by such an authority, body or person, as the case may be, which the Committee considers appropriate to be carried out.

1.2 The Committee, in performing its functions, shall have regard to –

- The resources, wherever originating from, that are available or likely to become available to it for the purpose of such performance and the need to secure the most beneficial, effective and efficient use of such resources.
- The need for co-operation with, and the co-ordination of its activities.
- The need for consultation with public authorities and publicly funded bodies in appropriate cases.
- The need for consistency with the policies and objectives of the Government or any Minister of the Government or other public authority in so far as they may affect or relate to the Committee's functions.
- The need to integrate sustainable development considerations into policy development and implementation

- The need to promote social inclusion

1.3 Co-Operation with Local Community Development Committees.

It is the duty of a relevant body, including the local authority, in so far as it is consistent with the performance of its functions to co-operate with the LCDC in the performance of its functions. The LCDC continues to engage with partner agencies to deliver the objectives of the LECP.

2. County Wicklow LCDC

2.1 Membership of the LCDC

Nominating Body	Nominee
Wicklow County Council	Cllr Grainne McLoughlin (Chair)
Wicklow County Council	Cllr Pat Kennedy
Wicklow County Council	Cllr Mary McDonald
Wicklow County Council	Sheelagh Daly (LEO)/ Vibeke Delaunt (LEO)
Wicklow County Council	Frank Curran (CE)
Public Participation Network	Mai Quaid (Vice Chair)
Public Participation Network	Niamh Wogan
Public Participation Network	Liam O'Loughlin



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Public Participation Network	Martina Cronin
Public Participation Network	Richard Webb
Health Service Executive	Siobhan Fitzpatrick
Kildare Wicklow Education & Training Board	Ray Tedders
Dept. Social Protection	Stephen Fitzgerald
Bray Area Partnership	Peter Brennan
County Wicklow Partnership	Brian Carty
Business Pillar	Pat Ó'Suilleabháin
Farming Pillar	Chris Hill
Unemployment Pillar	Lorraine Hennessy
Third Level Institute	Lindsay Malone

2.2. Meetings

10 LCDC meetings took place in 2018: January, February, March, April (2), May, June, September, November and December.

3. Progress of the LCDC in 2018

The LCDC work plan consisted of three key areas in 2018. Progress in these areas is outlined below.

3.1 LECP

The LECP is a 6 year plan prepared by the LCDC and the Local Authority. The

Community element is to be implemented by the LCDC. The Economic element is to be implemented by the Local Authority, specifically the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise. The LECP is the framework for many operational and other plans in the County. The plan:

- Agreed priorities for the area
- Agreed agency roles in addressing these
- Places onus on parent bodies of agencies at local level to enable them to respond to plan

The combined Goals of the LECP are:

(The Goals highlighted in blue are mainly the Community Goals)

High Level Goals
Community Capacity and Urban regeneration and Rural Development
Active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making
Targeted and integrated supports for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
Support local communities in innovation, entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise and social innovation
Training, education and lifelong learning based in analysis of employment trends and the skill needs of employers
Infrastructure and measures that are positive and supportive to investment, enterprise, innovation and knowledge creation
Sustain existing enterprise and develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the county, with possibilities for reversing commuting patterns



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Capitalise on Wicklow's unique attributes: proximity to the Dublin market; excellent quality of life; human capital; tourism; landscape; marine; agricultural and forestry resources
Low carbon and climate resilient economic activity, reducing energy dependence, and the sustainable use of resource, and leading in the smart economy
Harness efficiently the full resources of the county and promote interagency collaboration

3.1.2. Implementation

Goal 1: Develop Community Capacity in Disadvantaged Communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development	- Build capacity and social capital across all communities - Maximise opportunities for urban regeneration and rural development
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A number of programmes contribute to the achievement of this goal. The LEADER and SICAP Programmes are central to this – see separate reports on both. In addition a number of new development programmes were announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development:

- Town & Village Scheme - €518,005
- CLÁR - €130,950
- Outdoor Recreation Scheme - €438,000

- Urban Regeneration & Development Fund - €6,700,000
- Rural Regeneration & Development Fund
- Community Enhancement Scheme - €250,530
- Community Enhancement Programme (Men's Sheds) - €17,391

Funding Received 2018

- Town & Village Scheme - €518,005
- CLÁR - €130,950
- Outdoor Recreation Scheme - €438,000
- Urban Regeneration & Development Fund - €6,700,000
- Community Enhancement Scheme - €250,530
- Community Enhancement Programme (Men's Sheds) - €17,391

TOTAL: €8,054,516

Goal 2: Promote active citizenship underpinned by good governance and participation in decision making	-Develop strong representative fora in the county
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County Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg

The County Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg had a fantastic year in 2018. The Comhairle's work on Cyber Bullying and online safety won them the Aldi Youth Award, and a lot of national attention.

The Comhairle members presented to the Oireachtas Committee on Children and Youth, on Cyber Bullying and internet safety. They also attended the National Comhairle Showcase where two members from Wicklow gave keynote speeches to the forum. Two members attended the Open Policy Debate on Online Safety, along with Government Ministers, an Garda Siochana, the Children's Rights Alliance, ISPCC and international experts from Google and Facebook. This is bringing the work of the Wicklow Comhairle beyond county Wicklow, to have a national impact. The AGM, held in November, was well attended. The topics discussed were youth homelessness; youth attitudes towards drugs; the Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) Plan; the PPN Well-being initiative and discussions were held with the Older Persons Council. This work will be continued at the monthly meetings of the Comhairle.

County Wicklow Older Persons Council

The County Wicklow Older Persons Council played host to the National Convention in November, welcoming over 200 delegates for two days of speakers and networking.

The AGM was held in May 2018 and was very well attended.

Work continued to make Arklow an Age Friendly Town with a lot of consultation with local businesses and community groups. Signage in respect of age-friendly parking for older people has been installed in the town, along with a number of other accessibility initiatives. Overall the response has been overwhelming and we hope that 2019 will see Arklow reach its goal.

Dementia Table Technology has been launched and is available in Arklow, Blessington and Ballywaltrim libraries. This is an interactive innovation in the area of assisting people with dementia as well as people with learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities and autism.

The Older Persons Council continues to meet monthly.

County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

A separate report from the PPN is included elsewhere in this report

Goal 3: Develop high quality integrated services available to all communities, in particular disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups	-The LCDC will provide the strategic direction for the integration of existing services -The LCDC will provide representation for additional services and resources where gaps are identified or where new issues arise
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2018 Priorities:

Strategy	Statuses
Health Wicklow Strategy	Work continued on the Healthy Wicklow Strategy – to be completed in 2019. The project plan was implemented and received funding of €100,000.
County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy	Work continued on the County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy – to be completed in 2019.
Integration	The report "Somali Families in Arklow: A Review of Resettlement, Reunification and Integration" was launched.
RSES	The Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy was open for consultation. A submission was made from the LCDC as part of the Wicklow County Council submission.
CYPSC Plan	Consultations were held on the development of a new CYPSC.

Healthy Wicklow Programme 2018 consisted of the following actions, for which €100,000 was received in funding for implementation and for the employment of a co-ordinator.

1. HSE Physio Intervention Programme – Repeat Action from Round 1 – Lead Agency Wicklow Local Sports Partnership
2. Healthy Ireland Coordinator – Lead Agency Wicklow LCDC
3. Inclusive Physical Activity for All – Lead Agency Wicklow Local Sports Partnership
4. Accessible Beach Wheelchair - Lead Agency Wicklow Local Sports Partnership
5. Healthy Estates - Lead Agency Wicklow Local Sports Partnership
6. Social Prescribing – Lead Agency Bray Area Partnership & County Wicklow Partnership
7. Meet + Eat – Lead Agency County Wicklow Partnership & Wicklow Dementia Support
8. Trails Passport – Lead Agency County Wicklow Partnership

Goal 4: A vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector	
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County Wicklow Partnership took the lead with this Goal. A consultant was contracted to develop a Social Enterprise Development Strategy incorporating the goals and objectives of the LECP. A lot of research was carried out in the County. The strategy is due to be completed and launched in 2019,



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along with a funding and support programme.

Socio-economic Integration

The LCDC also continue to work with other agencies to ensure alignment with the LECP and the strategies, plans and policies of the other agencies. These include:

- LEADER
- The Children and Young People Services Committee
- The Joint Policing Committee
- The Public Participation Network
- The HSE / National Office for Suicide Prevention

3.1.3 Monitoring the LECP

The Advisory Committee was originally set up to develop the LECP and ensure integration of both elements of the plan. The Advisory Committee has agreed to continue in place to monitor the implementation of the plan. The members of the Advisory Committee come from both the LCDC and the Local Authority. They are:

Clr. Grainne McLoughlin	Chair LCDC
Clr. Gerry Walsh	Chair Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
Michael Nicholson	Chief Officer LCDC
Thomas Murphy	Director of Services, Economic Development & Enterprise
Sheelagh Daly / Vibeke Delahunt	Local Enterprise Office

Sorcha Walsh	Senior Planner
Lorraine Gallagher	SEO Economic Development and Enterprise
Christine Flood	SEO Economic Development and Enterprise
Deirdre Whitfield	Community Culture and Social Development

There are many shared objectives between the community and the economic elements of the LECP and for the most part community and economic development are interlinked. In recognition of that, and of the fact that the plan is not static but dynamic and adaptable to new developments, the integrated element of the LECP is achieved through continuous dialogue and co-ordination. This is achieved through regular meetings of the Advisory Committee. Through the planning and reporting process at these meetings, information is shared and linkages between actions are drawn leading to co-ordination and integration where possible and where appropriate and on an on-going basis.

Regional

The Regional Assemblies' role in the LECP process is set out under Section 66c of the Local Government Act 2001, in particular Section 66c 2(c) and 3(c) which states that the consideration of an LECP by the Regional Assembly shall relate to its consistency with (i) the core strategy and the objectives of the development plan of the local authority concerned, (ii) any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy or, as appropriate, Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) that may apply, and (iii) between the economic and community elements of the Plan. County Wicklow LCDC has anticipated the development of the



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Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy and will review the LCDC to ensure alignment.

The LCDC and County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) worked closely together on the development of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the LEADER Programme 2014 - 2020. The priorities of the LEADER programme are social inclusion, the green economy and economic and community development. The LDS strongly reflects some of the relevant goals and objectives of the LECP.

The LDS was designed and developed through the following consultative processes:

- Feedback from countywide consultation process
- Relevant stakeholder consultations
- Socio-economic profile of the County
- Desk research – relevant policies and reports
- Available budgets

The themes of the LEADER Programme are:

Theme	Sub theme
Theme 1: Economic Development, Enterprise and Job Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural Tourism• Enterprise Development• Rural Towns• Broadband
Theme 2: Social Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural Youth• Basic Services•
Theme 3: Rural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity• Protection and Sustainable use of Water Resources• Renewable Energy

EU Rural Development Programme (LEADER)

The LCDC is now the Local Action Group (LAG) for the LEADER Programme in the county, and now hold the LAG meetings separate from the LCDC meetings. County Wicklow Partnership is the implementing body for the programme. The Local Authority will be the lead financial partner for LEADER in County Wicklow with responsibility for the programme both administratively and financially.

Meetings

10 LAG meetings took place in 2018:

January, February, March, April (2), May, June, September, November and December

6 Evaluation Committee Meetings took place in the period between January and December 2018.

Progress

From a review of the LDS 2018 AIP County Wicklow LCDC/LAG are on target in the subthemes of Rural Tourism, Enterprise Development, Rural Town and Basic Services.

The first contract under the Leader Programme 2014-2020 issued in February 2018. As at end of 2018 there was €1,776,150.73 committed to projects (including provisional approvals) which is 38% commitment of the overall budget achieved in a 12 month period. The LEADER programme achieved higher than projected (2018 AIP) commitments under the Rural Tourism, Rural Enterprise (including Social Enterprise) and Basic Services subthemes

A call for Festivals & Events projects taking place in 2019 was advertised in local press and on CWP website in October 2018.



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LEADER Co-operation Projects

County Wicklow LEADER is taking part in two co-operation projects. These have progressed in 2018.

Wicklow / Wexford / Waterford Blueway Estimated total overall cost of Project **€600,000**

Estimated LEADER grant amount contribution of the LAG to the project
€200,000

Proposed co-operation partners

- Wexford LAG
- Waterford LAG

Dublin /Wicklow Mountain Rescue Estimated total overall cost of Project **€400,000**

Estimated LEADER grant amount contribution of the LAG to the project
€200,000

Proposed co-operation partners

- Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Group (applicant)
- Wicklow LAG
- Rural Dublin LAG

Social Inclusion Unit

Social Inclusion Unit (SIU) continued to support anti-poverty and social inclusion initiatives throughout 2018. Over that period it:

- Monitored implementation of the Department of Rural and Community Development's Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) throughout County Wicklow
- Represented social inclusion issues on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- Supported the ongoing development and operation of the Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)
- Represented social inclusion issues on the Community, Cultural and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
- Participated on regional and national committees, networks and structures

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022

2018 marked the start of the new SICAP 2018-2022 programme across the country. This national programme funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the EU European Social Fund (ESF) continues to be successfully delivered in Co. Wicklow by Bray Area Partnership for the Bray and Greystones Municipal District Areas (Lot 15-1) and Co. Wicklow Partnership for the Arklow, Wicklow and Baltinglass Municipal District Areas (Lot 15-2). SICAP focuses on empowering and enabling the county's most disadvantaged communities and individuals to improve their life opportunities, outcomes and local environment.

The Programme's three key goals are;

- Community development- Resource disadvantaged communities to engage with relevant local stakeholders in addressing social exclusion and increase the capacity of local community groups.
- Education/training- Support disadvantaged individuals to improve their educational and training qualifications.
- Employment- Support the long-term unemployed -including young people- to improve work readiness and access to employment/self-employment /social entrepreneurship opportunities.



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The key performance indicators set for Co. Wicklow in 2018 were achieved by both Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership and all actions contained within their Annual Plans were fully implemented. As an example of the impact of the Programme in 2018, 721 disadvantaged individuals and 36 community groups were engaged with on a one-to-one basis throughout the county.

As part of this work, 495 people received support in relation to progressing their educational and training qualifications and 36 people progressed to full-time or part-time employment. 66 participants were assisted to progress into self-employment and 32 local community groups received capacity-building supports.

Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), in conjunction with Wicklow County Council, continued to oversee, monitor and manage the performance of the Programme Implementers in delivering this programme. The LCDC were greatly assisted in this task by its SICAP Sub-group.

County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network continued to facilitate public engagement and participation throughout the county and act as a conduit through which Wicklow County Council connected with community, social inclusion and environmental groups. Elected PPN representatives participated on all Strategic Policy Committees and many other countywide structures and committees. Throughout the year Wicklow PPN participated in a wide variety of public consultations and policy submissions at local, regional and national level.

Wicklow PPN was also selected as one of 4 PPNs nationally to participate in the pilot programme for the development of a "Well-

being Vision Toolkit." Arising from this Wicklow developed a vision for community well-being for the county, and a vision for community well-being and high-level goals for each Municipal District. These visions and goals will be used by Wicklow PPN to inform its representative work going forward.

Throughout the year Wicklow PPN continued to support linkage groups on: Housing; Children/Young People; Community Development. It also supported thematic networks on: Disability; Environment; Social Inclusion; Coastal Communities; and initiated Networks in Municipal Districts through the Community Wellbeing Workshops held in each area.

Activity Performance Indicator 2018

Y2: Groups associated with the Public Participation Network (PPN)

A Number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2018 = 239

B Number of organisations that registered for the first time in 2018 = 63

C Number of organizations (registered in 2018) that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN = 56

Recast Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment and Development (RAPID Programme)

A capital grant scheme under the Recast RAPID Programme was made available from the Department of Rural and Community Development towards end 2017. The aim of this scheme is to assist in the revitalisation of the country's most marginalised areas through capital grants.

A total of €64,500 was awarded to Co. Wicklow. Bray Family Resource &



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Development Project's application to provide a new roof for Little Bray Community Centre was awarded €55,250. Ballywaltrim Community Centre's application to install new energy efficient LED lights in their community centre was awarded €9,250.

Age Friendly Programme

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme is part of an international effort, co-ordinated by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The results are positive ageing, better cities and counties, and more relevant and effective local government, service delivery and business opportunities.

Ireland's National Age-Friendly Cities and Counties Programmes is part of this worldwide initiative which aims to make sure that as we age, we can all:

- Have a real say in what happens in our own lives and what happens in the areas in which we live.
- Enjoy good health, good services, and live in a safe environment
- Participate fully in everything that is going on in our communities, cities and counties

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme provides a structure so that Local Authorities can take a lead on changing thinking about ageing and how services are planned and delivered. Through this model, Local Authorities bring together older people, service providers and businesses in an Alliance that really works and which:

- Enables older people to live active and healthy lives, remaining in their own homes for as long as possible.
- Enhances service delivery without increasing expenditure.
- Brings about valued improvements in the quality of life for everybody in the community.

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme offers a proven way of bringing diverse organisations, groups, services and businesses together to streamline their work, with the needs and interests of older people at their heart.

Work continued to make Arklow an Age Friendly Town with a lot of consultation with local businesses and community groups. Signage in respect of age-friendly parking for older people has been installed in the town, age friendly benches were welcomed along with a number of other accessibility initiatives. Overall the response has been overwhelming and we hope that 2019 will see Arklow reach its goal.

As part of the Age Friendly Strategy Dementia Table Technology has been launched and is available in Arklow, Blessington and Ballywaltrim libraries. This is an interactive innovation in the area of assisting people with dementia as well as people with learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities and autism.

Out of 61 action items in the strategy, 31 have been progressed. The Gardai under the Age Friendly Strategy encourage older people to register with them to allow the Gardai contact them in case of emergency.

The County Wicklow Older Persons Council played host to the National Convention in November, welcoming over 200 delegates for two days of speakers and networking.

The AGM was held in May 2018 and was very well attended and the seminar held in the Glendalough Hotel was a huge success.

The AGM saw the launch of the Information Guide to Services for Older People in County Wicklow. This was a fantastic project and over 4,000 copies were distributed.



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The Older Persons Council continues to meet monthly and provide a voice for older people in the County.



Leisure Facilities Operations

Charlesland Sport and Recreation Park and Skate Park

Charlesland, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.
Operated by Shoreline Leisure Tel. 01 - 2016145.

Greystones Swimming Pool, Gymnasium and Community Sports Centre.

This state-of the-art, six-lane 25m swimming pool, gymnasium and double community/sports hall (with retractable seating for c.500) is located at Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.
This complex is operated by Shoreline Leisure **Tel. 01 - 2878180**.

Bray Swimming Pool and Gymnasium,
Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
This complex is operated by Shoreline Leisure **Tel. 01 - 2765660**.

Wicklow Historic Gaol,
Kilmartin Hill, Wicklow Town.
Tel. 0404 - 61599.
E-mail wicklowgaol@gmail.com
Web: www.wicklowhistoricgaol.com
Wicklow Historic Gaol is operated by W.E.P. Gaol Ltd.

Library Service

Wicklow County Council Library Service provides a wide range of services and facilities, across its 13 branch library network. The mobile library also visits 30+ locations on a fortnightly basis. In addition to borrowing & lending books, DVDs, talking books and music CDs, the following services are available::

- Online stock, such as e-books, e-magazines, downloadable audio books, e-newspapers from across the world, e-languages and self-learning courses
- Public computers
- Wi Fi for the public to use their laptops, tablets or devices
- Online catalogue of all 330 libraries in Ireland
- Twice weekly request service delivery and collection of stock from those 330 libraries – directly to each branch
- All above is free. To cap all of that, library fines were abolished on December 31 2018

New Wicklow Library & Archives

In addition to the funding provided for the purchase of the former Ulster Bank building, on Wicklow's Main Street, extra funding was secured to develop the building, as part of the Department's Urban Grants scheme. Initial exploratory works took place on the building, during summer 2018 and the full construction phase will commence in the first half of 2019.

The end result will be a state of the art library and County Archive, over six floors, in total. The project will take approximately one year to complete, following commencement.

Rathdrum Library



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The opportunity has arisen to acquire a new library building for Rathdrum in the new market square development. It will be a ground floor building of approximately 160 square metres in size, adjoined to a coffee shop and pharmacy. The new HSE Primary Care development will be the anchor tenants in the development.

The current library in Rathdrum is less than 40 sq mtrs in size, but is very well used. It is anticipated that usage will double in the new location, ensuring 20,000+ items per year will be borrowed. The new location will also complement other businesses in the town. Libraries are proven to provide a steady footfall to a location, so this should be of benefit to all.

The building is likely to be completed in early summer 2020.

Outreach & Social Inclusion

In 2018 Wicklow County Council Library Service has both initiated and been involved in outreach and promotional activities aimed at raising awareness of the library's services to targeted groups

Way With Words Wicklow

Spring of 2018 saw the pilot of Wicklow Library's first ever festival of words become a reality in Arklow and Blessington Libraries. This festival saw the Libraries successfully deliver 27 events during the months of March, April and May. There were storytelling and illustration workshops for children and poetry readings and talks by novelists and crime writers. Included were bestselling, award-winning writers such as Michael Harding, Audrey Magee, Eoin McNamee, Julie Parsons, Oisin McGann, Jane Clarke and Caitríona O'Reilly.

These poets, writers and illustrators did more than facilitate workshops, they showcased their work, encouraged children to be excited about words, books and illustrations. The Libraries became spaces where budding writers could learn more about their craft and where audiences could listen to authors speak about their work and life experiences.

This is a flavour of what they said –

"The events were amazing and there really was something for everyone, the best bit? The events were all free!" **Adult at Festival**

'He didn't even have a book – he had all those stories in his brain!' **5 year old boy at Joe Brennan Storytime**

"We all loved him (**a family, two parents and 3 children**) when can you get him back?" **Joe Brennan**

"Fantastic event, the kids loved them both and really enjoyed the step by step illustration process they demonstrated"
Scribble and Sketch, with Michael Emberley and Marie Louise Fitzpatrick

"Great workshop, I'm now no longer afraid to put my pen to paper. I would really love to see more poetry events next year".
Attendee at Caitríona O'Reilly Poetry Workshop

"Different. Poetry wouldn't be my favourite but I love listening to it and tonight really was something to behold, I especially loved the open mic session and the childrens poetry; their imaginations are poetry."
Adult at Open Mic event on Poetry Night

"It gave me the know-how and courage to finally start my own childrens picture book
"How to write for Children"

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"Therapeutic! It was like having my own therapist in the room with me"

"A lovely man, very down to earth. I'm going to start listening to the old folk in my community because Michael has shown me they have such wonderful stories to share and tell". ***Michael Harding on the Art of the Memoir***



Heritage Week

Wicklow County Council Library Service hosted a number of talks and exhibitions throughout its libraries for Heritage Week (August 18 - 26). These included:

"Arklow Through the eyes of Strangers" - talks and exhibitions - Arklow library until August 31.

Students of UCD Landscape Architecture explored Arklow and invited the public to view the exhibition and provide feedback. Some of the topics included "What Makes a

Town Centre?", "Why Can't I Cycle to School?" and "Memories of Arklow". Leila's Tea Party was a particularly well supported aspect of this, which included a look back at old times. Also, on Thur Aug 23 (6-8PM) students were present to discuss their work with the public.

Historian, Liz Gardner gave talk on "The Flooding of the Liffey Valley, 1940" in Blessington library on 21 August.

Courtesy of Blessington library, Davidstown old school tour took place on Sat 18 August. The tour went to the school + places of interest and old homesteads in the Glen of Imaal, and was enjoyed by all.

Bray Historical Society gave talks on "This Day in Bray, 1943" in Ballywaltrim Library + "1918 in Bray" at Bray library, Eglinton Road.

Summer Stars

This programme has been a great success again in libraries throughout the count, with 2,937 children taking part this year. Summer Stars is a national initiative to encourage children to read during their long summer holidays. Certificates are currently being presented to all children who took part. All were delighted with the programme and activities throughout the summer

Library Technology Grants

Wicklow County Council invest €246,000 in innovative technology throughout all 13 public libraries in late 2018. Of this, more than €190,000 was grant aided from the Department of Rural and Community Development.



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All libraries will receive wi-fi enabled laptops and tablets to assist the public with information queries and book requests.

The larger libraries will also have a number of additional items, including:

- Tablet lending stations, which enables the public to borrow a tablet for use in the library
- Event headsets, which in addition to improving sound quality for live audiences, will give the potential to podcast or live stream events on the library social media platform
- Digital signage, which will be used to inform library user of upcoming events, both in our libraries and general information from Wicklow County Council
- High spec laptop trolleys will enable our libraries to host coding workshops and gaming sessions for younger library users. These would also be used for Work Matters programme events
- Conference cameras for use in community rooms, will enable video conference calls. They may also be used for library events in order to mainstream them on social media platforms
- Microfilm readers / scanners will be available in Bray, Greystones, Wicklow, Arklow and Blessington libraries. The request for these arose from direct consultation with local history groups, county wide, who stressed the inconvenience of having to travel to Bray to carry out research
- Dementia table technology will be available in Arklow, Blessington and Ballywaltrim libraries. This is an interactive innovation in the area of assisting people with dementia, in addition to people with learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities and autism.

Performance Indicators

Library Performance Indicators 2018	Results	Actual Data
L1: Library Visits and Issues		
A: Number of visits to libraries per head of population	3.96	559,097 total Visits
B: Number of items Issued to library borrowers per head	4.04	602,408 total issues / renewals
		+41,712 online resource
L.2 Cost of Operating Wicklow County Council Library Service 2016 per head	€21.28	€3,028,910 total cost

Population County Wicklow 2016 – 142,332

Note:

First time ever, items issued exceeded 600,000 for county Wicklow. National average for 2018 was 3.57 per head – Wicklow has 6th highest statistic nationally,



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(behind Cork City, Dun Laoghaire, Clare, Mayo & Waterford)



County Archives and Genealogy Service

Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy service is currently located at County Buildings, providing ongoing access to the Council's archival collections, as well as advice and guidance on historical, genealogical and other research projects. Plans are underway to relocate to the new Wicklow Town Library & Archives in 2019.

Wicklow County Council Archives hold a unique collection of Wicklow records relating to the Administration of the County and the people's interaction with its administration. They offer a rich research resource, not only for the family historian and the local historian, but also for academic and other researchers of wide and varying interests, who wish to learn about the shape and development of communities and the authorities who served them.

Among the jewels of the collection are the 17th and 18th century Wicklow Borough records. These early minute books offer a snapshot of life in Wicklow from the mid -1600's. The County archives also hold the records of the

Grand Jury, which was the precursor of the County Council, as well as the Boards of Guardians of the Poor Law Unions, Boards of Health, Rural and District, Town and County Councils. The Wicklow Genealogy Service was established in 1987 by Wicklow County Council and FÁS. It has computerised County Wicklow's parish registers, assembled a rich collection of Wicklow genealogical resources and offers a professional research service for enquirers from around the world with Wicklow roots.

Online Research Service - www.rootsireland.ie

The subscription site *Rootsireland.ie* currently holds over 20 million Irish records from 30 counties, both North and South. The Wicklow Genealogy Service continues to feature on this unique site, which offers the most complete collection of Irish parish records worldwide.

Promotions:

- Promotion of the service, through articles submitted to various genealogy magazines and online publications, continues throughout the year.
- The Wicklow Heritage Forum promotes the service through the Heritage Plan
- The service is Member of the Irish Family History Foundation, creators of www.rootsireland.ie which promotes Irish county genealogy services worldwide

Projects:

- The Genealogy Service continues to produce research for those with Wicklow roots, and



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corresponds with Wicklow descendants around the world - promoting the County as a destination to those on the “roots trail”.

- Continuing the County Archives digitisation programme, the county's Workhouse Registers commenced digitisation in 2017 and will be available online in 2018. Digitised collections already online include Grand Jury Records; Wicklow County Council Minute Books; Arklow Urban District Council Minutes. Further digitisation will be carried out in 2018
- The archives service in partnership with Trinity College, the National Library and the Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely is creating a *records hub* for the Fitzwilliam Estate, Coolattin, County Wicklow. Hundreds of thousands of Canadians and Americans descend from the tenants who left this part of the county during the Famine. The website which will launch in 2018 will feature 19th century tenant records, as well as parish, county and workhouse records from the County Archives collections.
- Wicklow-Cumberland Miners project – working in collaboration with the Cumberland Miners Group to track Wicklow migrants in the 19th & 20th century mining communities of Cumberland.
- The *County Wicklow Heritage Website* is part of a network of websites created by the National Museum of Ireland. The site features a Genealogy Section with

articles offering a guide to Wicklow research.

- Creative Ireland 2017-2022 – the County Archives is a member of the Wicklow Culture Team coordinating Creative Ireland projects in Wicklow.

Records Management:

The Wicklow County Council Records Management Group overseas a records management programme for Wicklow County Council, with reference to the **National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records** published by the LGMSB. The archivist and other group members attended GDPR training at Clermont Campus in 2018 while working with the I.T. section to become GDPR ready.

Community activity engaged in by Wicklow County Council throughout 2018:

Comhairle na nÓg

Wicklow County Council are the hosts of Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg. Dermot O'Brien is the Wicklow co-ordinator appointed following tender process. There are twenty one local schools and youth groups involved in the Comhairle. The Wicklow Comahirle na nÓg is an extremely strong group of individuals who represent the your extremely well and with great pride.

The group was the winner of a Garda Youth Award for Community safety.

The groups was recognised that the Aldi Foróige Yuth Awards as “Ones to Watch”. Their cyber-bullying charter was a phenomenal success and as a result, members of the group were invited to speak at the Dáil, at the Oireachtas and to the Council. The charter will be included in County Wicklow’s first digital strategy, for which the group also made a submission.



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Activity Performance Indicators 2018

Youth and Community (Y1 and Y2)

Y1 : Participation in Comhairle na nÓg scheme

(A) Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme = 60.86%

Compiled as follows:-

Number of second level schools in the Local Authority Area at 31/12/2017 = 23

Number of second level schools in the Local Authority Area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2018 = 14

Community Awards 2018

The Community Award Grants for 2018 had an overall fund of €250,000 (€200,000 in Community Grant/Merit Awards and a further €50,000 in Community Social Innovation Awards).

220 Community Groups, Clubs and Voluntary Organisations benefitted under the Wicklow County Council Community Grants Award Scheme in 2018.

Pride of Place Awards 2018 - Co-operation Ireland 'All - Island'

This was the sixteenth year of this competition, the purpose of which is to acknowledge the fantastic work being done every day by communities all over the Island of Ireland.

There are eleven categories and this year Wicklow County Council entered three groups in the competition under three different

Categories:

- Category 3- population 1000 to 2000 – nomination is Rathdrum
- Category 6 - Creative Place Initiative – nomination is Tinahely, Courthouse
- Category 7 – Community Wellbeing Initiative – Wicklow Hospice Foundation

The town of Rathdrum was honoured at the annual IPB Pride of Place awards held on Cork City Hall on Saturday November 17th Saturday 2018.

Rathdrum was successful in the best Urban Neighbourhood/Village with a population between 1000 and 2000. Also honoured with a special award on the night for their work was Wicklow Hospice Foundation.

Judges said about Rathdrum, "This is a small town on the move – there is hope, confidence and a realisation of the potential of some major tourist attractions. The community has decided to take its future in its own hands. There is significant support from the council and politicians, which was clearly signalled on the day of the judges' visit."

They also praised the Hospice Foundation: "An initiative dealing with a hugely important care issue and on course to deliver one of the most important projects any community could dare to hope to have – all being achieved through one of the greatest feats of fundraising that the judges have ever witnessed."



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Blessington Greenway

In late 2018, Wicklow County Council submitted an application to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport under the National and Regional Greenway Fund for the development of 42.4 KM greenway in Blessington, Co. Wicklow. The estimated cost of this greenway project is in the sum of €8.5 million.

The next step in this application process involved a site visit to Blessington by the Project Assessment Team which included Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Ireland and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The site visit took place on the 1st March 2019.

The day commenced in The Avon, Blessington, by a ten minute video presentation to the Project Assessment Team. This video presentation highlighted the spectacular scenery along the shores of Blessington Lakes, the tremendous local community involvement, the links to other walking routes and a general overview of the project.

Following the video presentation, the Assessment Team were brought on a tour of the key locations of the proposed Greenway. In particular, the villages of Valleymount, Ballyknockan and Lacken were visited, as were Russborough House, and Tulfarris Hotel and Golf Resort. This site visit was supported tremendously by local Community representatives from Blessington Town Team, Blessington Business Network, Blessington & District Community Forum and Blessington Tidy Towns. Throughout the day, the assessment team were accompanied by Wicklow County Council Officials, community and businesses representatives and also representatives from the ESB, who are the major landowner of the proposed route.

- Rathnew Children's Playground and Teen Area with a Skate and BMX Park
- Baltinglass Recreation Park and Playground.
- Blessington Playground, Business Park, Blessington

The new Blessington E-Greenway which will cover 42.4kms of walking and cycling trails mostly through the forest and woodlands taking in some spectacular scenery adjacent to the shoreline of the Blessington lakes . This E-Greenway encircles the Poulaphouca Reservoir - a major sustainable source of electricity generation. The greenway will offer E Bikes as a major attraction with charging points along the route. This forms part of a wider countywide project to promote of E Cycling. The E-Greenway will be designed, constructed and operated with Excellence, Exercise, Energy, Environment, Ecology, Exploration and Ease of Access considerations to the fore at all times. Should this innovative project be successfully funded under the National and Regional Greenway fund, the Blessington E-Greenway will become Ireland's first E-Destination.

Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations

This includes the operation, maintenance and improvement of the following outdoor leisure facilities.

Playgrounds provided by Wicklow County Council throughout County Wicklow:

- Arklow : Seaview Avenue, Arklow.
- Arklow : St. Peter's Place, Arklow.
- Arklow : South Green, Arklow.
- Bray : Ballywaltrim, Bray.
- Bray : Fassaroe, Bray
- Bray : Giltpur Heights, Southern Cross Road, Bray.
- Bray : Peoples Park, Dargle Road, Bray.
- Bray : Sidmonton Park, Bray.
- Bray : Seafront, Promenade
- Wicklow Town : Ballynerrin.
- Wicklow Town : Hill View.
- Wicklow Town : The Murrough.
- Carnew Playground (upgraded 2018)
- Rathdangan Playground (opened 2018)
- Enniskerry Playground, Monastery Grove, Enniskerry.



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- Greystones Playground, Mill Road, Greystones. (refurbished 2018)
- Kilmacanogue Playground, Rockfield Park.
- Newcastle Playground, Wicklow Coast Road, Newcastle.
- Newtownmountkennedy Children's Playground

Proposed:

- Newtownmountkennedy (Playground and Scouts Den) – 2019
- Roundwood – 2019
- Laragh 2019

Skate Parks:-

- Arklow Skate Park, and MUGA at Seaview Avenue.
- Wicklow Town Skate Park and BMX Circuit and MUGA at Seafront, The Murrough.
- Blessington Skate Park, at Business Park, Blessington
- Charlesland Sport, Recreation and Skate Park, and Athletics Track at Charlesland Greystones.
- Baltinglass Skate Park (opened 2019)

Playgrounds facilitated by Wicklow County Council in partnership:-

- Aughrim Playground.
- Arklow Skate Park and MUGA at Seaview Avenue.
- Ashford Community Park Playground
- Charlesland Sport, Recreation and Skate Park, Charlesland, Greystones.
- Dunlavin Playground.
- Eden Gate Playground, Charlesland, Greystones.
- Grangecon, Playground.
- Knockananna Playground.
- Rathdrum Playground.
- Shillelagh Playground
- Tinahely Playground and MUGA

Baltinglass Community Park

Baltinglass Community Park is an impressive 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. This Park is a very good example of partnership in action between the Local Authority and the Local Community.

Community Development and Sport and Recreational Development

In Partnership at:-

- Ashford Community Park; Inbhearr Mor Scouts and Youth Facility, Arklow; Ashford Development Association; Rathnew Community Centre; Rathnew Active Forum, Walking/Jogging Track; Aughrim Community Sports and Leisure; Glenealy Village Hall; Blessington and District Forum Trails; Wicklow Skate Park and Outdoor Gym; Kilcoole Community Centre; Wicklow Community Resource Centre (Former Parochial Hall)
- Tourism/Wicklow Outdoor Recreational Strategy/Recreational Trails.
- Wicklow Way Partnership.
- Blessington Greenway Walk Partnership.
- Kildare/Wicklow Fáilte Ireland.
- Wicklow Local Sports Partnership Strategy.
- Wicklow County Council's own Bray to Greystones Scenic Sea Cliff Walk and Tourist Trail



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County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy

The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee was established in July 2009 to implement the strategies as outlined in the County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy.

This strategy is the outcome of an extensive consultation process managed by County Wicklow Partnership in partnership with Coillte, Fáilte Ireland, Irish Sports Council (now Sport Ireland), the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wicklow County Council, Wicklow IFA and Wicklow Uplands Council. Out of this consultation process an overall vision was agreed for Outdoor Recreation in County Wicklow.

Five strategic objectives were identified, that collectively, will help to achieve the agreed vision. These objectives are:

- Integrated outdoor recreation management.
- Improving opportunities and facilities for sustainable outdoor recreation.
- Supporting conservation through outdoor recreation.
- Promotion, education and raising awareness of outdoor recreation.
- Stimulating outdoor recreation tourism and entrepreneurship.



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WICKLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (LSP)

Overview

- Wicklow Local Sports Partnership was established in 2008, supported by the then Irish Sports Council Local Sports Partnership initiative. Representatives from a variety of Agencies, Organisations and Community Groups involved in sport, physical activity, outdoor recreation and community development make up the Board of the Wicklow Local Sports Partnership.
- The main functions of Wicklow Local Sports Partnership include: -

Information provision

- Wicklow Local Sports Partnership is involved in the co-ordination of local sports information, initiating research, compiling a sports directory and database, identifying needs and resources to form the basis of local planning and establishing a consultative sports forum.

Education & Training

- Wicklow Local Sports Partnership provides 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 National Governing Bodies of Sport.

Implementation

- Wicklow Local Sports Partnership implements a range of national programmes to encourage participation e.g. Buntús, Women in Sport, Go for Life.

Programmes are delivered in areas such as Sports Development, Community Sport and 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 Sport Ireland priorities.

Actions undertaken in 2018

- Wicklow Local Sports Partnership assisted in the delivery of a wide range of initiatives aimed at promoting participation in sports and physical activity;
- **Safeguarding courses** run in 2018: 35 courses delivered with 485 participants.
- **1 Sports First Aid** course with 7 participants
- **Parkrun:** Avondale park run began on 28th of April 2018. This is a free timed 5km run that takes place every Saturday morning at 9:30am.
- **Older Adults:** Wicklow LSP sent a team to the G 4 Life games for Older Adults in June 2018
- **Older Adults:** Go for Life games in Laragh in June and a PALs course was delivered over an 8 week period, starting in October 2018.
- **Older Adults:** 8 X 10 week programmes were run throughout the county with 120 people taking part
- **Schools:** One Million Step Challenge was completed in 20 schools.
- **Schools:** Primary schools cross country took place in October with 700 pupils taking part.
- **Schools:** Tug of War programme completed in 8 schools with 5 schools bringing 38 teams and 200 children to Shoreline for our Blitz day.
- **Schools:** Introductory 4 week Dance programme in 8 schools in Wicklow (4 West & 4 East). Children aged 5-8years



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- old took part and focused on developing basic motor skills through dance.
- **Bike Week:** Events took place throughout the county and in schools during Bike week in June 2018
- **Operation Transformation 2018 -** Saturday 13th Jan 2018, walks were held in Blessington, Bray & Arklow.
- **Community Grants:** 22 Sports Clubs were awarded Community Grants in 2018, the total amount awarded to sports clubs was €20,675
- **Dormant Accounts Allocation:** Wicklow sports partnership received funding for their development officer and also a community coaching programme through Dormany accounts.
- Funded by Healthy Ireland, Wicklow sports partnership ran a disability inclusion camp in conjunction with Wicklow Rugby club with 40 children participating.
- 'Buggy fit' was rolled out by the partnership in Bray, Wicklow Town & Baltinglass.
- The Kstie Taylor Bursary was awarded to Amy Wall, the Bray based Kickboxer for 2018.

Planned actions for 2018

- Development of a new Sports Partnership strategy.
- Volunteer development and support programmes.
- Parkrun in Avondale, Tiglin & Baltinglass
- Older Adults exercise classes throughout the county
- Provision of Safeguarding, First Aid and disability inclusion training
- Facilitate a Disability Inclusion activity camp
- Roll out of an outdoor recreation campaign
- Distribution of Sports Grants
- Promotion and co-ordination of Active School Week, Bike Week, Operation Transformation and other National initiatives

- Develop partnerships with other bodies for the strategic and targeted provision of physical activity throughout County Wicklow
- Support target groups to become more physically active
- Continue to educate the population on the importance of physical activity in daily life
- Increase awareness of Wicklow Local Sports Partnership and the opportunities it provides to stakeholders and target groups.
- Continue to roll out the various Programmes undertaken in 2018.

The Wicklow Local Sports Partnership is on Facebook and Twitter. Web: www.wicklowlsp.ie

Wicklow County Arts Office

County Wicklow has a rich artistic and cultural tradition with a range of vibrant activities taking place in the visual arts, music, theatre, literature, sculpture, youth arts, community arts and festivals. Wicklow County Council's Arts Programme is to nurture and develop this rich tradition and to ensure that the Arts are made accessible to all in the county.

Arts Act Grants

The Artist Support Award Scheme, Arts Groups and Organisation Award Scheme and the Arts Festival Award Scheme target artistic practice in all disciplines by people and groups from or based in Wicklow. The Arts Grants are offered each year to develop and deliver festivals and arts programmes of high quality and impact and to enhance and complement the strategic development of the arts in the County.

(1) Artist Support Award Scheme

The objective of this Support Scheme is to assist artists develop their practice and to



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make a significant contribution to the professional life of artists from, or living in, County Wicklow.

(2) Arts Festival Award Scheme

Applications were received in respect of high quality programmes by local, national and international artists presented within the applicants' Festivals. The predominant art form presented within the Festivals was music. Other events included literary events, visual arts and opportunities for arts participation. There were six applications under this scheme with all receiving funding.

(3) Arts Group and Organisations Award Scheme

The objective of this award scheme was to support arts groups/organisations in the realisation of an arts project or programme to support their artistic development. It was the intention of this award to fund in total or in part a project/programme to result in realising/showcasing of new work.

Applications were accepted for a research and development phase of a new initiative or for the production/ implementation of a new arts project or programme. There were eleven applications under this scheme with six receiving funding.

Strategic Projects – Awards

These awards were to support the development of new work in Wicklow by both residents of Wicklow and those from outside Wicklow. The Arts Office completed the application process for Strategic Project Awards, which supported the collaborative development and delivery of new high quality projects during 2018.

Public Art – Bray Commissions

The Per Cent for Art Scheme is a government funded programme whereby an additional fund

of up to 1% of the cost of publicly-funded infrastructure of building, can be applied for by the client (typically a local authority, school, hospital, the National Roads Authority, the OPW) to commission original, site and context specific works of art. The 1% is subject to a cap of €64k. The fund is available across all government departments and supports the commissioning of artists and artworks across all contemporary art forms.

A series of four exciting site specific public art commissions are currently in process in Bray. These are being curated by Sitely Aesthetics, a public art partnership involving Jennie Guy and Eilís Lavelle.

The four locations where the work will take place are:

- Fran O'Toole Bridge – the curators developed the brief for the Fran O'Toole Bridge in collaboration with the Arts Officer and Engineers from Wicklow County Council .
- Albert Avenue Underpass – three artists were selected and awarded €1,000 to develop detailed proposals for the site.
- Coláiste Ráithín, Ravenswell – the selection panel met and assessed the proposals from a shortlist of six artists. The commission was awarded to Alice Rekab.
- St. Philomena's NS, Ravenswell School.

Music Generation Wicklow

Members of Music Generation Wicklow met with staff and Board members from the national office for a tour of schools in the county. The group met with tutors, teachers and children in Donard National School, Tinahely National School and St. Patrick's National School Greystones and discussed the artistic, social and interpersonal benefits of the programme for children in the county. Ann Nolan reported that 4,000 children



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and young people in Wicklow were engaged in regular music performance education with 31 musician tutors employed on a weekly basis.

Culture Night

A fantastic programme of arts and cultural events took place on Friday 21st September, as part of Culture Night. The public were invited to participate in free music, theatre, literature, dance, visual arts, storytelling, and film activities and events as well as talks and tours for all of the family. Events took place in several areas around the county including: Arklow, Ashford, Aughrim, Avoca, Blessington, Bray, Donard, Greystones, Hollywood, Redcross, and Wicklow Town.

Creative Ireland

The Creative Ireland Programme is guided by a vision that every person in Ireland will have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential. It is a five year all-of- Government initiative, from 2017 to 2022, to place creativity at the centre of public policy. For more information see <https://creative.ireland.ie/en> This strategy aims to support further opportunities for public engagement with culture and creativity among communities and individuals all across County Wicklow over the next five years and beyond.

OTHER PROGRAMMES

REDZ 2016 (Rural Economic Development Zones)

Following on the success of the REDZ 2015 Scheme, REDZ 2016 was launched in October 2016. Similar to the 2015 Scheme, REDZ 2016 was aimed at providing additional support to existing REDZ initiatives and to develop the concept further in additional areas.

REDZ 2016 provided funding for Regional 'Flagship' Projects and County Projects.

An architect was appointed for the Arklow Pottery & Heritage Museum in Arklow to design the building and prepare the planning application for submission.

WALKS PROJECTS

Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk

The committee was re-established in 2016 and commissioned a walk condition survey report.

The report listed a number of areas that required attention and work is currently underway to address these areas.

Wicklow Cliff Walk

Following a condition survey report in late 2016, there was a proposal to re-route part of this cliff walk. These works commenced in 2018, with a completion date proposed of early 2019.

Mapping of Walks in County Wicklow

An exercise is currently underway to develop a master plan of walks in the County, to identify gaps and to explore the possibility of linking all the walks. This exercise continued in 2018 and a new list of routes has been identified.

Ireland-Wales – Celtic Routes INTERREG Project

County Wicklow is to benefit from a €2m Wales/Ireland INTERREG project aimed at encouraging visitors to explore lesser known areas of both regions. Called "The Celtic Routes" project and backed by €1.6m of EU funds and overall investment of €2m in the six participating counties, it aims to encourage visitors to explore new areas of Wales and South-East Ireland on route to their final tourist destination. The project will operate across Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion in Wales, and Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford in South-East Ireland.



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The main aim of the project is to transform less well known areas from transit zones to new touring sites, increasing the time tourists spend in these regions and capitalising on the opportunities to boost local economies. The project will be developed through customer research, trade events and workshops as well as cross border visits by businesses in Ireland and Wales to bring together expertise and ideas. One of the aims of the project is to develop new trails under seven themes, including Local culture, Natural environment, film tourism, Pilgrim routes, Wildlife, Folklore and Traditions.

The project is supported by the Ireland/Wales 2014-2020 Co-operation Programme, which is helping to strengthen collaboration between Ireland and Wales, to address common economic and social challenges.

South East Coastal Blueway

The three County Councils of Wicklow, Waterford and Wexford are working together to develop a South East Coastal Blueway extending from Bray in County Wicklow to Youghal Bridge in County Waterford and a 10 km zone inland.

A Blueway is a recreational water activity trail that is developed for use by non-motorised water activity enthusiasts. They can be developed on canals, rivers, lakes or along the coast, and can incorporate other associated land based trails adjacent to the water trail. The coastline of Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford has a combined length of 415km. It is accessible to the public with numerous beaches and water-based activities currently operating along the route. The land corridor has a strong heritage culture, craft and food offering with potential for further development.

Under the current LEADER programme, a separate fund of €10m has been ring-fenced under the LEADER Co-Operation heading and the three counties intend to apply for funding under the heading to develop the Blueway.

The three Local Action Groups (LAGs) have approved of the project and the tender for the provision of a feasibility study into the development requirements and economic potential of a South East Coastal Blueway was awarded to Irish Leisure Consultants (ILC), Carrowcashel, Ramelton, Co. Donegal. The project builds on the Audit of Coastal facilities in the South East (Wicklow, Wexford & Waterford counties) carried out by Waterford LEADER partnership, Wexford Local Development and County Wicklow Partnership, Wexford Local Development and County Wicklow Partnership in August 2015.



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Enterprise and Corporate Services

GOAL: “Provision and retention of sufficient professionally developed staff to meet the needs of the organisation”

ACCESS

In accordance with the National Disability Act 2005, the Access Officer for Wicklow County Council ensures that their services are accessible for people with disabilities by providing integrated access to mainstream services where practicable and appropriate. The Disability Act 2005 places a specific obligation on public bodies to make public buildings and services accessible to people with disabilities by 2005.

Wicklow Local Authorities Access Group (WLAAG)

WLAAG continued to support and advise Wicklow County Council on access issues throughout 2018. This group, which consists of people with disabilities and representation of disability organisations resources the Local Authority with experts in the area of disability and access. The Access Office is in regular contact with both local and national groups and organisations dealing with access to ensure that Wicklow County Council are meeting their obligations.

Audit Committee

The Wicklow County Council Audit Committee was initially established in 2007 under Section V of the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2005. Following the May 2014 local elections, the Audit Committee was re-established. The membership of the committee now comprises:

- Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman

- Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman
- Ms. Mary Savage
- Cllr. Edward Timmins
- Cllr. Gerry Walsh

The functions of the Audit Committee are prescribed in Section 59 of the Local Government Act 2014 and include:

- To review the financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the Local Authority
- To foster the development of best practice in the performance by the Local Authority of its internal audit function
- To review any audited financial statement, Auditor's Report or Auditor's Special Report in relation to the Local Authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its Chief Executive in response to such a statement or report and report its findings to the Authority
- To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the Local Authorities performance of its functions
- To review systems that are operated by the Local Authority for the management of risks
- To review the findings and recommendations of the National Oversight & Audit Committee (NOAC) and the response of the Chief Executive to these and take further action as appropriate.

As part of the reporting process, the Audit Committee presented its Annual Report for 2017 to the Wicklow County Council in February 2018.

In the report, the Committee welcomed the receipt of reports on the following assignments during the year:

- Review of Community Grants Scheme
- Information and Communications Technology/Business Continuity
- Motor Tax

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- Risk Management Process

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial Procedures & Audit) Regulations 2014 the Local Government Auditor was invited to address the Committee. This annual meeting is a constructive opportunity for the Committee to exchange views with the Local Government Auditor on a wide range of issues and for the Local Government Auditor to discuss his statutory audit report on the Council's Annual Financial Statement.

Conference/Training	Date	No. of Attendees
AILG Training, Mullingar	21 st – 22 nd February, 2018	7
LAMA Training, Donegal	5 th – 6 th April 2018	10
AILG Training, Dungarvan	12 th – 13 th April, 2018	9
Irish Planning Institute, Kerry	18 th – 20 th April, 2018	1
AILG Training, Lucan	15 th May, 2018	2
AILG Training, Westport	18 th – 19 th May, 2018	5
AILG Training, Dundalk	22 nd – 23 rd June, 2018	3
La Touche, Greystones	21 st September, 2018	13
AILG Training, Birr	20 th – 21 st September, 2018	3
LAMA Training, Castleisland, Kerry	28 th – 29 th September, 2018	5
AILG Training, Longford	10 th – 11 th October, 2018	2
AILG Training, Sligo	12 th – 13 th October, 2018	4
AILG Training, Monaghan	25 th – 26 th October, 2018	6
AILG Training, Kilkenny	14 th – 15 th November,	1

	2018	
AILG Training, Leixlip	17 th November, 2018	1
AILG Training, Cavan	22 nd November, 2018	1
Celtic Conferences, Clonakilty, Cork	22 nd – 24 th November, 2018	2
AILG Training, Mullingar	4 th – 5 th December, 2018	1
RSES, Naas	6 th December, 2018	1
Celtic Conference, Clonakilty, Cork	9 th – 11 th December, 2018	1

Enterprise and Development

County Wicklow has great business potential and has undergone significant expansion and development in recent years. 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, infrastructural 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 pivotal 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



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Ireland and the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO) 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 2018.

Development of Enterprise Centres

The Council in partnership with national and local development agencies and in conjunction with local chambers of commerce works closely with existing enterprise centres in County Wicklow.

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 sizes from 180sq ft up to 5,000 sq ft along with hi-spec office accommodation, training facilities and conference room. Recently completed refurbishment work on the building has taken place and 11 specially designed new office units as well as 2 state of the art training rooms have been provided.

The Arklow Business and 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.

Sites for Enterprise/Employment uses

Wicklow County Council has invested some €1.3m on the construction of Avondale Business Park, Rathdrum. The park is divided by four roads, linked by a main roundabout. The bulk of the work has been carried out to Road no. 1 and 2 and also to the new roundabout with most of the utility providers' ducts and pipes laid on Road no. 1 and 2. High quality fencing has been erected to the front perimeter of the site as well as construction of entrance pillars and gateway etc. A very positive step for Avondale Business Park is the construction and operation of the first commercial premises. The Enterprise Unit is engaging with businesses that have expressed an interest in locating to the Business Park, and the Council will continue to push forward with its plans for the development of the site into the future.

Discussions are ongoing with a number of business in County Wicklow for a similar type development at Dunlavin. In addition to these sites, the Council has some varying size landbanks at a number of locations throughout the County including Baltinglass, Arklow, Blessington and Ashford.

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

In accordance with the guidelines for the establishment and operation of the SPCs, the Economic Development Enterprise Support SPC has been established and has been operational since December, 2014. The main function of the SPC is to assist the Council in the formation, development and review of policy in this area. The SPC comprises seven elected members and six external members drawn from the various pillars, such as: Environment/Conservation, Agriculture/Farming Community, Trade Union,



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Development/Construction/Business commercial and Business (West Wicklow).

In 2018 the SPC along with the Local Community Development Committee concentrated its work on the overseeing the goals and objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) which actions to support economic development and local community development.

Economic Development Unit

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022 (LECP). The Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2022 represents a major collaborative initiative between local community development and local economic development in the County and reflects the strengthened role of the local authority in both areas of activity. Many of the 142 actions listed in the LECP have come from the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Action Plan.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

The LECP contains 10 high level goals, 21 local objectives and more than 100 local actions. A key element of the LECP is the Implementation Plan which is led by the LECP Advisory Steering Group which has representation from Community, Cultural and Social Development section, the Enterprise Unit and includes the Chairs of the LCDC and the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC. The Advisory Steering Group oversees the general implementation of the LECP and monitors progress on the actions and against specific objectives, measurable targets, outcomes and timeframes.

Networking and Collaboration with Other Agencies

During 2018 the Enterprise Unit met with representatives of Enterprise Ireland and the IDA, Failte Ireland and other agencies engaged in economic development. Formal and informal

networking continues with the local businesses and Chambers of Commerce to promote and develop business in County Wicklow and develop job opportunities in County Wicklow.

County Wicklow Economic Think Tank

County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) is a collaborative initiative between Wicklow County Council, LEO Wicklow and local businesses. The purpose of the CWETT was to determine how Wicklow can attract and nurture business and promote sustainable economic development that creates jobs in the County.

Wicklow County Council is now engaged in implementing the actions identified by CWETT under the following headings;

- Brand
- Film
- Marketing and Communication
- Recreation and Retail
- Industry and Infrastructure

Actions delivered in 2018:

- Florentine Centre – in January the members of Wicklow County Council entered into an agreement with Navybrook / Oakmount for the purposes of construction of a development on the “Florentine” site, Main Street, Bray. The development, which consists of a new shopping street featuring retail, restaurants, a leisure box (including a five screen cinema) and parking, will serve to reinvigorate the heart of Bray. Oakmount and its associated companies have an extensive retail, hospitality and entertainment portfolio and are an excellent fit for Bray. The development is scheduled for practical completion in Q4 2019.
- Business Breakfast – As part of its ongoing commitment to economic development,



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Wicklow County Council hosted the 2018 Breakfast Briefing and Workshop attended by key County Wicklow business stakeholders. The Guest Speaker was award winning businesswoman Rachel Doyle of te Arboretum. There were over 100 participants representing all sectors of the business community from across the County at the event. The delegates participated in a workshop facilitated by Wicklow County Council management and they explored a number of themes about how best to develop and grow business and innovation in the County.



- [Web Portal](#) - Wicklow County Council appointed 'Inventise' to design, develop and host the new Web Portal. The new portal (Wicklow.ie) went live in March 2018. *Wicklow.ie* represents "all things Wicklow" in a fresh new and engaging way. There are up to 40 staff engaged in content management, led by a small team from the I.S. and the Enterprise & Corporate Services departments. The three main elements of the site comprise of 'Living, Business & Visit'. Rolling website statistics at the end of 2018 showed a +16,000 increase in visitors compared to 2017 and a +246,000 increase in page views on the new portal.
- [EU - China Lightbridge Project](#) - In anticipation of direct flights from China

which commenced in 2018, Wicklow positioned itself as the ideal location for visitors to base themselves while visiting Ireland. Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Tourism took part in the 2018 EU - China Lightbridge Project which was aimed at attracting increased visitor numbers from China through developing a better understanding of visitor needs. As part of the EU - China Lightbridge Project Powerscourt House was lit up in red and filmed for the EU China Lightbridge Project. Images of Powerscourt were publicised on Chinese media and via Tourism Ireland.

- [Launch of Mandarin Chinese Wicklow Tourism brochure and visit by the Chinese Ambassador](#) - The strong links between Wicklow and China and what both had to offer each other were emphasised by His Excellency Ambassador YUE Xiaoyong, Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, at the launch of the Mandarin Chinese version of the Wicklow Tourism Brochure. The Brochure itself is very visual with attractive and engaging images of the Wicklow scenery and the many recreational, sporting, retail and heritage attractions that Wicklow and Ireland have to offer. Destinations such as Glendalough, Powerscourt House & Gardens, Russborough House, Kilruddery, Wicklow Gaol and the Wicklow National Park are all showcased. Ambassador Yue praised Wicklow County Council's relationship with one of the most open and dynamic provinces in China - Hainan. Hainan, he said, was developing as a pilot zone for integration with the global economy including the development of the natural environment, an international tourism centre and major national strategic logistics zone.



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- Tourism Strategy – Following a tendering process Wicklow County Council appointed ‘Blue Sail Consulting Ltd’ to draft a County Wicklow Tourism. Following the appointment of *Blue Sail*, workshops with relevant stakeholders were held and the strategy was developed and launched in October 2018. Under the strategy key elements were formed and working groups were established. They included (1) Develop New Accommodation, (2) Develop Key Towns as Visitor Hubs, (3) Develop a Masterplan for Glendalough, (4) Grow Thematic Experiences and (5) Market our County by Developing a Common Narrative.
- Commuter Survey – Through procurement, Gamma Consultants Ltd were appointed to carry out a desktop exercise, an online survey and a face-to-face commuter survey in November. There was a high response rate with 6,826 responses received. 74% of those who completed the survey reported themselves as unhappy or very unhappy with their commute, while only one in eight was happy or very happy. 70% of commuters who work outside County Wicklow said that they would be likely or very likely to consider switching to a job in County Wicklow if one were available and 33% said that they would be likely or very likely to consider a lower salary if it meant they could work in County Wicklow. Wicklow County Council will use this information to encourage the development of facilities such as enterprise hubs, co-working spaces and second sites, to attract further investment into the county.
- Town Teams – A Town Team was established in Blessington in 2018 to follow suit with Arklow, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow. A key objective of the Town Teams initiative is to encourage more collaboration, communication and cooperation between the Local Authority, business and the wider community and to develop one voice from one team for each town. In November Arklow was awarded the Town Initiative prize which seeks to reward a specific project and brought with it a prize of €5,000. This was awarded for Arklow’s ‘Town of Garden’s’ Theme. Bray won a runner-up prize in their category, receiving an award of €1,000. Bray Chamber of Commerce, Bray Municipal District and members of the community, including businesses, all worked together to present the many interesting facets of Bray to the judges. Over 90 entries were received altogether for this national competition which had a prize fund of over €157,000.
- Twinning - In March a large group of School Principals from Regierung Von Unterfranken (the Department of Education of Lower Franconia) came to Wicklow as part of an Erasmus Programme. Wicklow County Council worked with the Kildare Wicklow Education & Training Board (KWETB), Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) and other agencies to put together a diverse programme, arrange bus tours and to introduce the relevant colleges and agencies in Wicklow through the school exchanges, such as the long established relationship between St Kilians, Bray and the Matthias Grünwald Gymnasium and the more recently established links between Coláiste Craobh Abhainn, Kilcoole and the



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Riemenschneider School, and Loreto Bray and the Marie Ward School. In May 2018 a group of young musicians representing County Wicklow visited Wicklow's partner city Wuerzburg in Germany, to play at their horticultural show (Landesgartenschau) which marked the opening of a new suburb - Hubland - on the site of a former U.S Army Barracks. The area has been transformed into beautiful parkland surrounded by residential units and is located close to the University of Wuerzburg. The traditional musicians included Rachel Duffy (harpist), Caoimhe Mellon and Éabha Short (flautists) and Áine McDermott (Lilter, dancer and melodeon player). The group played on three afternoons at the horticultural show and delivered an evening performance to a capacity audience at Wuerzburg's Hobbit Theatre, where they were joined by traditional Irish musicians from the Wuerzburg area. A group representing County Wicklow, including two elected members, visited Wuerzburg for the Landesgartenschau and also took the opportunity to briefly visit Eichenzell which is twinned with Wicklow Town. In October a delegation from Wuerzburg came to County Wicklow for their annual visit, arranged in conjunction with the Irish German Society of County Wicklow.

- *Maritime Strategy* - The County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Action Plan proposed the establishment of a Maritime Business Development Group (MBDG) to assess the opportunities to capitalise on the Maritime Infrastructure in County Wicklow. The group was established in 2015 and has been meeting every 2 to 3 months since. During 2018 the MBDG also progressed an aquaculture project and were addressed by Kate

Dempsey of the Irish Seed Mussel Company and by Dr. Ana Marja Franjic of the University of Zadar, Croatia and the University of Massachusetts, U.S.A on the subject of restoring native oyster beds off the coast. A representative of the Irish Marine Development Office attended the Maritime Business Development Group Meeting to give an update on the national ports policy, offshore renewable energy and E-Insist (an infrastructure project for smart Irish Sea Tourism). Wicklow County Council made a submission to the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources seeking to be included as a stakeholder given the likely impacts / opportunities arising out of major offshore wind energy projects. The council also commenced procurement of consultants to prepare an overall maritime strategic review which will include an audit of marine assets, and an audit of land available in the vicinity of the commercial harbours and a plan to maximise opportunities arising out of tourism, wind energy and aquaculture. In September a group representing elected members, members of the Maritime Business Development Group and Council officials visited SSE's Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm under construction off the north-east coast of Scotland. This 84-turbine, 588-megawatt project valued at £2.6bn is one of the largest ever private investments in infrastructure in Scotland, and will be the country's largest offshore wind farm once fully operational in summer 2019. This was a unique opportunity to gain an understanding of the opportunity that offshore wind energy represents towards stimulating new economic value for County Wicklow



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Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee continued to meet quarterly in 2018. Section 36(2)(c) of the Garda Siochana Act provides that the function of a joint policing committee is, inter alia, to 'arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area.' The Wicklow County Council JPC held two public meetings in 2018 in Arklow and Rathdrum.

In December, 2018 the Joint Policing Committee approved the application for the provision of a CCTV system for Blessington. The key objectives of the scheme are to enhance existing policing provision within the community, to assist in the prevention and reduction of local crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and to increase community involvement in the provision of legitimate, integrated responses to prevent and reduce crime in local areas.

Working groups have been set up to implement the objectives of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing 6 year Plan under the 4 key areas identified:

- (1) Policing Communities
- (2) Tackling Crime in Rural Areas;
- (3) Drug Prevention
- (4) Communications.

These groups meet approximately 3 to 4 times a year. Each committee has a Chair and the administrative support is provided by an official of Wicklow County Council. The committee is supported by representatives from An Garda Siochana and are comprise representatives from the elected members and community groups. The committees are open to contributions from local stake holders outside of the JPC such as

Muintir na Tire, The uplands Council and the Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.



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, training 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, City & Guilds Chainsaw, Confined Spaces Entry, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling, Construction Skills Certification Scheme (C.S.C.S.), First Aid, and Safe System of Work Plans amongst others.

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



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Higher Education Grants

Wicklow County Council acts on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills in administering the Higher Education Scheme. In 2011, the Higher Education Grant Scheme was further reinforced by the introduction of the Student Support Act, 2011 and the Student Support Regulations, 2011. These may be amended by the Department of Education and Skills each year to take account of any changes. The new legislative changes allowed for a single unified Higher Education Grant Scheme for all awarding authorities.

All monies paid in respect of maintenance and fees are recoupable with the exception of a fixed contribution of €6,019.83, which the Council is obliged to pay under the 1968 Act.

Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act, 2014 came into effect on the 14th October, 2014. This Act abolished the requirement to pay a fee when making a request.

The Freedom of Information Acts assert the right of members of the public to obtain access to official information to the greatest extent possible consistent with the public interest and the right to privacy of individuals.

The Act established three new statutory rights:

- A legal right for each person to access information held by public bodies;
- A legal right for each person to have official information relating to himself or herself amended when it is incomplete, incorrect or misleading; and
- A legal right to obtain reasons for decision affecting oneself.

Wicklow County Council received a total of 125 requests during 2018. A disclosure log detailing all non personal freedom of information requests

can be viewed on the Council's website: www.wicklow.ie.

Register of Electors

Under the Electoral Acts, Wicklow County Council is charged with preparing and publishing the Register of Electors for the County every year. The total local government electorate on the 2018/2019 register was 97,046. Progressively smaller electorates apply in the case of Elections to the European Parliament, the Dáil and the office of Uachtaráin na hEireann where citizenship requirements exist.

The Council strives to provide a comprehensive and accurate Register of Electors to facilitate the democratic process at election time. Through extensive local advertising and initiatives, both web based and traditional, coupled with the efforts of a well trained and resourced team of 38 field workers covering the county, a Register is produced which is tested at each election. Every opportunity is provided to any qualified person to be included in the Register.

The team of fieldworkers are employed to visit every household in the County during the months of July/August/September each year. If there is no reply at the door, a personalised calling card is left along with a FREEPOST voter registration form for the householder to return to the Franchise section of the Council.

Existing electors who have not been met at the door by the fieldworker or who have not replied via the registration form left at their residence, will be contacted in writing during the last 10 days of October informing them they will be removed from the final register unless they contact the Franchise section of the County Council before 25th November.

The Budget provision includes for payroll and travel expenses for the field-staff and office staff along with local advertising, postage and printing.

Training and Development



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Wicklow County Council recognises that training and development assists staff and elected members to realise their full potential and can lead to greater organisational performance and job satisfaction and therefore is committed to ensuring that every member of staff has the opportunity and support available to them.

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

The Council also encourages and assists staff to undertake relevant further education at all stages of their career.

Members Expenses

Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€30,000
Leas- Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€6,000
SPC Annual Allowance	€30,000
Annual Representational Allowance	€517,656.25
Councillors Annual Allowance	€197,752.51
Internal Conferences and Training	€30,403.28
Foreign Conferences	€3,804.75

Ombudsman

Any person who feels that he/she has been unfairly treated or is not satisfied with a decision on a complaint by the local authority may contact the Office of the Ombudsman. By law the Ombudsman can investigate complaints about any of the local authority's administrative actions or procedures as well as delays or inaction in your dealings with the local authority. The

Ombudsman provides a free, impartial and independent dispute resolution service.

The Ombudsman referred 13 complaints to Wicklow County Council in 2018.

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 Wicklow County Council, the film commission is based in Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus, 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 audio-visual or content creation production ranging from feature film to commercial, short film, television production, gaming, animation 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 television series such as 'Vikings' are used to attract visitors here by featuring them on our website and through the County Wicklow Movie Map, which was reprinted in 2012. Copies of the movie map are distributed to all tourist offices and major tourist attractions in County Wicklow.

The Wicklow Film Commission also assists Tourism Ireland with media and familiarisation trips along the Wicklow film trails.

In 2018 County Wicklow once again experienced high levels of production activity. Over 400



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shooting days were recorded containing a mixture of all types of audio-visual production. The financial benefit from audiovisual productions tends to be higher from feature films than from television. However high end television productions such as 'Vikings' and 'Into the Badlands' employ staff for longer and offer more sustainable employment.

Services on offer to any of these productions include location scouting, advice, assistance and location suggestions through personalised web brochures, liaison with Local Authorities personnel and local communities.

One of the many projects shot in County Wicklow in 2018 was the sixth series of the internationally successful series 'Vikings' in the film studios at Ballyhenry, Ashford. It is estimated that the €30m production has employed on average per week around 700 Irish cast and crew and invested a hefty €20m in the county, from everything to set designs, studio facilities, and employing thousands of extras.

One of the most high profile project that was filmed in County Wicklow during 2018 is The Rhythm Section starring Blake Lively and Jude Law. This production shared the beautiful locations in Luggala Estate in the Wicklow Mountains together with 'Vikings' and 'Into the Badlands' during the winter of 2017 / 2018.

Other productions filming on location in County Wicklow included the American series 'Quacico', the BBC production 'Four Children and It' and 'Hole in the Ground'. The RTE production 'Dancing with the Stars' was once again filmed in Ardmore Studios.

The WFC also assisted location managers working on projects that didn't end up shooting in County Wicklow as alternative locations where found elsewhere.

The Action plan that came out of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank identified the film

industry as of great importance to the local industry. Objective 4 of the Action Plan is to capitalise on the Immediate Economic Opportunity in the Film Industry through a number of actions: To develop a Film Industry Cluster in County Wicklow (a hub for film making and ancillary industries).

Establishing the appropriate infrastructure and supports to attract and sustain the film making industry in Wicklow requires a collaborative approach, facilitated and supported by Wicklow County Council. Such an approach will enable the County to realise the potential value from film making directly plus film tourism, accommodation services and other support services.

Consultation with the studios in the County confirms that international film production companies are actively interested in working in County Wicklow. Actions in the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank and LECP included:

[**1. Establishment of Film Industry Business Development Group**](#)

The Business Development Group would be responsible for devising a plan to develop a Film Industry Cluster in the county in collaboration with local and National state bodies.

[**2. Promote a Film Industry Cluster: Put in Place Practical Supports to Develop Leading Edge Film Studio Capacity**](#)

The reduction of the development levies on film studio related activities has been adopted by the elected members of Wicklow County Council. The expected Impact of this action is that the Film Industry opportunity is recognised as of strategic importance and required planning supports are put in place to facilitate development and growth of the sector.

[**3. Further Develop and Market Film tourism in Wicklow**](#)



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Wicklow has untapped potential for Film Tourism in the county. Supports are required to facilitate the Film industry in Wicklow to cater for Film Tourism. Film tourism is a not a new but rather an under-developed source of tourism in the county that has the potential to attract international visitors not traditionally looking at Wicklow as a potential destination.

Film tourism is one of the many ancillary benefits that could be leveraged by the County from a strategic investment in film making capacity.



Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.

Wicklow County Campus in Rathnew is an exceptional development and is being developed by Wicklow County Council to be a Centre of Excellence in Enterprise, Education and Innovation in County Wicklow and to act as a catalyst for Economic Development in the County. The Clermont Campus is an impressive 55 acre facility. The buildings comprise offices, meeting rooms, a conference and exhibition venue, lecture rooms, I.T. rooms, a college library. Clermont House accommodates the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow and Teagasc.

A strong partnership is in place with the national and local development agencies such as the IDA, EI, the Local Enterprise Office, County Wicklow Partnership and the Chambers of Commerce to

achieve the vision and to create a high quality environment for a thriving business quarter on the campus.

Strategic Plan 2016-2020

In 2017 The Wicklow County Campus Strategy Document 2016-2022 was adopted with the following headings:

1. Academic Portfolio and Learner Population
2. Enterprise and Economic Development
3. Management and Organisation
4. Physical Infrastructure
5. Financial Planning

Wicklow County Campus and IT Carlow

Wicklow County Council in conjunction with IT Carlow is providing a range of part-time Lifelong Learning Education and Training Courses. In 2018 there were over 500 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 2018 the tenth graduation ceremony took place in Wicklow County Campus with some 180 graduates. Some 1200 students have graduated from the College with various degrees since 2006 Courses on offer include:

Postgraduates

Master of Arts in Child Youth and Family Studies
H Dip. In Early Childhood Education and Care
H Dip in Applied Social Studies
H Dip in Business Management
H.Dip in Business
H.Dip in Fund Accounting and Risk Analysis
H.Dip in Arts (Digital Media Design)

Business and Accounting

BA of Business (Honours) in Management
Higher Cert in Business
Cert in Project Management



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Cert in Digital media

Cert in Web Design

Cert in Online Marketing

Humanities

BA of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education & Care

BA of Arts (Honours) in Applied Social Studies

Certs in various Law topics

Engineering

BA of Science in Energy Management

Computing and Science

Cert in Health, Safety and Environmental Management

Some of the major events held in 2018 in Wicklow County Campus include:

- The Local Enterprise Office Student Enterprise Awards.
- The campus hosted the KWETB 'Great to be Young Mental Awareness programme'.
- The Local Enterprise Office Best Young Entrepreneur County Wicklow finals.
- Three Conferring Ceremonies of Awards and Prizes – Institute of Technology Carlow. Over 180 graduates were conferred at these ceremonies.
- Four large business seminars on online trading were held by LEO Wicklow.
- The rooms in Clermont House and College are rented out for numerous training courses (i.e. CPC/Health and Safety / HCCAO / ECDL) and meetings by various businesses and agencies on a day to day basis.
- The wood lands on the campus host the Wicklow Educate Together National School Forest School programme once a week during the academic year.

All of the above events and meetings continue to promote Clermont as a unique and exceptional venue for a range of uses as well as highlighting the Life Long Learning and higher education and training programmes run by the Institute of Technology Carlow. The main objectives of hosting these events are to promote the overall

concept of Wicklow County Campus and to bring the Campus to the notice of the general public

Overview of Energy Usage in 2018

The main energy used is to heat all the campus buildings.

LPG gas is used for heating. Total LPG consumption for 2018: 27,742 Litres

Total Electricity consumption for 2018: 185,160.00 KWH

No use of natural gas or gasoil in Clermont.

450 Litres of petrol were used for grass cutting and strimming as well as hedge cutting and pruning.

Actions Undertaken in 2018

In 2018 Wicklow County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

Change all exterior lighting to LED where possible.

Put draught excluders around the college part of the building.

Commence phase one of conversion to interior LED lighting.

Refurbishment of the second floor in the college part of the building into state of the art class rooms.

Actions Planned for 2019

In 2019 Wicklow County Council in Clermont House intends to further improve our energy performance by undertaking the following initiatives:

- Resurface the college building roof with Paralon waterproofing roof solution which will improve insulation in the roof.



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- Reduce the use of additional plug in heaters as much as possible and weather permitting.
- To request a follow up energy audit by the SEAI, following on from the repost carried out in 2018.
- Finalise the conversion to interior LED lighting.
- To separate the energy meter to measure the exact usage per tenant.





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ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Miriam Murphy (IND)

Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Pat Fitzgerald (FF)

Council Members

Councillor Tommy Annesley (FF)

Councillor Sylvester Bourke (FG)

Councillor Mary McDonald (SF)

Councillor Pat Kennedy (FF)

Municipal District Staff

A/District Manager

Michael Geaney

District Administrator

Linda McDonald

District Engineer

Brendan Doyle

Executive Engineer

Robert Mulhall

Technician

Stephen Howes

Assistant Staff Officer

Sinead Boddy

Clerical Officers

Jenny Byrne

Julie Kenny

Pauline Canavan

Orlagh Hall

Contact Details

Arklow Municipal District Offices,
Castle Park, Arklow, Co Wicklow.

Telephone: 0402 42700

Email: arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Website: www.wicklow.ie

Area: 48,380 hectares

Population of District: 24,450

Arklow Municipal District (AMD) covers 26% of roads in County Wicklow (598 KM) being the second highest District in the County. The number of local authority houses within the AMD is 930.

The offices are open to the public from 9.00 – to 4.00 pm each day and queries are dealt with in relation to housing applications, housing repairs, roads etc. Cash receipting also takes place in AMD for housing rent, rates, parking fines, leases etc.

District Meetings

The Members of Arklow Municipal District hold their District Meetings in “The McElheron Chamber” on the second Wednesday of each month at 3.30pm, with the exception of August when there is no meeting.

Community Sector

- Number of Press Releases issued 2018 = 25
- Number of Civic Receptions held during 2018 = 2
- Awarding of Estate Development Grants to **7 Resident Associations**
- Awarding of Festival Funding to **11 Festival Committees**
- Number of Roundabouts in Sponsorship Agreements = 8
- The Members of AMD held one of their monthly meetings in Aughrim.



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Retail / Business Sector

Pay Parking

Wicklow County Council continued to operate a pay parking scheme for Arklow Town which includes:-

- Free parking between 9.00am and 10.00 am each morning.
- 15 minutes official grace period at any time of the day.
- Arklow Town continues to offer free parking throughout the town on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Paying for parking in Arklow is faster and easier with Parking Tag. The cashless parking solution allows motorists to park by phone in the town and extend their parking without returning to their vehicle.
- Free parking was provided in specific areas of Arklow town for one month during the Christmas period.
- 2 free annual parking permits for businesses whose rates are up to date.

Town Team Initiatives

- Town Team established January 2017.
- 10 meetings held during 2018
- Flower basket Scheme – 220 baskets purchased by businesses in Arklow Town
- Funding secured from the Department of Justice for CCTV Community Scheme
- 2 applications submitted for LEADER funding.
- A Painting Grant Scheme for Arklow Town was announced-28 businesses participated.
- The largest Spring Clean event in the country took place on the Vale Road to Woodenbridge.

- Secured free Wifi for Arklow Main Street from Virgin Media.
- Conducted a survey amongst residents of Arklow ‘Arklow – Your Town, Your Say.
- Celebration of Famous Arklow Women on International Women’s Day.
- AMD hosted ‘A day in the life of Arklow’ organised by Virgin Media.
- The Lightship lantern was placed on the roundabout at Junction 20.

Meetings

Arklow Municipal District continue to work and meet with local traders, Chamber of Commerce and Tidy Towns Committee on a regular basis for the betterment of the town.

Tidy Towns

Arklow Municipal District acknowledges that the effort by teams of volunteers around the District who work hand in hand with Council staff, is crucial to the success of villages and towns in leagues/competitions such as the IBAL and Tidy Towns.

Events & Awards

- AMD organised the second Halloween Festival for Arklow Town
- Facilitated the Arklow Christmas Festival
- AMD was shortlisted for a Chambers Ireland Award under the category ‘Outstanding initiative through the Municipal Districts’.
- AMD was shortlisted for the Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town Awards and won the Town Initiative prize for its Town of Gardens.
- AMD was also shortlisted for the LAMA awards for the Moments in Time Garden.

Infrastructure Projects for 2018

Roads & Footpaths

- Road Reconstruction 10km

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- Surface Dressing Regional Roads
3.4km
- Surface Dressing Local Roads 5.1km
- Footpaths Newly
Constructed/reinstated 3km

implementation of Community programmes, whose effectiveness can be increased.

Pedestrian Crossings 2018

- Coolgreany Road, Arklow
- Vale Road, Arklow
- Dublin Road, Arklow
- Avoca National School

Other Infrastructure Projects within AMD

- Part 8 planning secured for the redevelopment of the Parade Ground.
- Purchase of new Christmas Lights for Arklow Town
- Installation of an irrigation system for the 2018 Flower Basket Scheme
- Arklow won the award of having the Moments in Time Dementia Garden located at Seaview Avenue, Arklow
- Age Friendly parking bays introduced in Arklow Town

Twinning

Arklow Town is twinned with Chateaudun in France and Aberystwyth in Wales.

Arklow Town has an active Twinning Committee who aim

- to develop and maintain permanent ties between the towns,
- to encourage exchanges in all domains between the inhabitants of the towns,
- to combine the effort of the towns in order to better resolve the problems of our respective communities, including in economic, social, religious, cultural, environmental and educational fields,
- to place within the supportive framework of twinning, the





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BALTINGLASS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Vincent Blake (FG) 2017-2018

Councillor Thomas Cullen (IND) 2018-2019

Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Thomas Cullen (IND) 2017-2018

Councillor Pat Doran (FF) 2018-2019

Members:

Councillor James Ruttle (NP)

Councillor Gerry O'Neill (NP)

Councillor Pat Doran (FF)

Councillor Edward Timmins (FG)

Councillor Vincent Blake (FG)

Councillor Thomas Cullen (NP)

Municipal District Staff

District Manager:

Sean Quirke

District Engineer:

Declan Geraghty

Tinahely Area Engineer:

Dermot Graham

District Administrator:

Dionne Dixon (November 2017- November 2018)

Garvan Hickey (November 2018 to present)

Technician:

Con Cashen

Assistant Staff Officers:

Geraldine Jordan (Tinahely Area Office)

Sharon Mulhall (Blessington Area Office) to July 2018

Derek Cullen (Blessington Area Office) to December 2018

Clerical Officers:

Ann Marie Butler (Tinahely Area Office)

Andrea Connolly (Blessington Area Office)

Lisa Moore (Blessington Area Office)

District Offices:

Blessington Area Office:

Address: Civic Offices,
Blessington
Business Park,
Blessington, Co.
Wicklow W91
RTV0.

Telephone No: 045 - 891222

Fax No: 045 - 865813

E-mail: baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Website: www.wicklow.ie



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Tinahely Area Office:

Address: Council Offices,
Coolruss,
Tinahely,
Co. Wicklow
Y14 AY19.

Telephone No: 0402 - 38174

Fax No: 0402 - 38423

E-mail: baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie;

Website: www.wicklow.ie

General

Baltinglass Municipal District includes the towns of Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew and the villages of Dunlavin, Donard, Knockananna, Tinahely, Manor Kilbride and Shillelagh. The population of the Municipal District is 25,267 (18%). Baltinglass Municipal District covers 45% (352 square miles) of the area of Wicklow and 40% (943 km) of the county's roads. The number of social housing units within the district is 700.

Monthly Meetings are held at 10.30 a.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (third Monday if the fourth Monday is a public holiday) at 10.30 a.m. – no meeting in August.

Meetings are usually held in Civic Offices in Blessington but to raise awareness of the Municipal District structures set up in 2014, meetings were also held in Tinahely, Baltinglass, Dunlavin and Hollywood.

The monthly meetings of the Municipal District provided lively debate on a variety of issues:

- Baltinglass Town Renewal Group regarding their proposed application under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for the use of Baltinglass Courthouse.

- Ms. Breege Kilkenny, Senior Engineer, Housing and Corporate Estate, presented potential areas for development of housing units included; Lugduff and Kilcommon View, Tinahely, Whitehall, Baltinglass, Carnew, Blessington, Shillelagh and Dunlavin.
- A presentation from Tinahely Courthouse Arts Committee was received regarding the history and progress to date as a result of funding and support from its board, the Arts Council, Wicklow County Council and Tuas. The Courthouse had attracted over 10,000 visitors last year.
- An informative and detailed presentation was received to highlight the importance of history and archaeology of ringforts in the Baltinglass area.

Baltinglass Municipal District is represented by its elected representatives on the following Strategic Policy Committees:

- Community Cultural and Social Development – Councillor Jim Ruttle
- Transportation Water and Environmental Services – Councillor Pat Doran
- Planning and Development – Councillor Vincent Blake, Councillor Tommy Cullen, Councillor Gerry O'Neill and Councillor Edward Timmins

Baltinglass Municipal District has two Area Offices in Blessington and Tinahely – Public Counters are open to the Public from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Motor Tax Office is open in Blessington Civic Offices on Tuesdays from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. and provides a valuable service to the local area.

The regular functions that the District provided included local authority housing maintenance and repair, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, outdoor maintenance and grass cutting, drain clearing, maintenance of burial grounds, school traffic warden services, public

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convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.

Members of staff continued to work with Tidy Towns groups in the District. The efforts of the many volunteers whose hard work and dedication is reflected in the continued success of local villages and towns in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) and Tidy Towns competitions. Furthermore, the Estate Development Grants were awarded to 10 successful Residents Associations to help in the upkeep of the green areas of the various Wicklow County Council housing estates throughout the District.

The Elected Members of Baltinglass Municipal District provided Discretionary Funding to various projects:

- Maintenance and improvement of roads in various parts of the District
- Public lighting and public seating
- Pedestrian crossing
- Provision of new car parking spaces
- Dog fouling signs
- Footpath renewal works
- New village signs
- Commemorative plaques for Garda P. O'Halloran and Private Michael McGuinn in Baltinglass
- Famine Memorial Plaque at Baltinglass Hospital
- South Wicklow Drama Festival
- The Collattin Canadian Connection (Homeward Trek 2018).
- Funding of Christmas lights to various towns and villages throughout the District.

Events

On Sunday 4th November, 2018 there was an unveiling of a memorial stone in Baltinglass Town Centre, involving the Defence Forces and An Garda Síochána, to honour Private Michael McGuinn, a native of Baltinglass, who was killed

in the Niemba Ambush, in the Congo on 8th November, 1960 and Garda Patrick O'Halloran, a native of Gort, Co. Galway, who was killed in Baltinglass, in the line of duty on 29th January, 1924.

Baltinglass Municipal District was delighted to support the West Wicklow Festival which took place in the historic Russborough House and St. Mary's Church, Blessington from 17th May to 20th May, 2018.



Baltinglass Roads Programme 2018

Road No	Road
R756	Hollywood Dunlavin
L4307	Knocknagull
L8374	Holyvalley
L8378	Ballinascullogue
L6052	Glebe
L4365	Lake Drive
L8267	Ballytoole
L8350	Knocknadroose
L8299	Coolinarrig
L8316	Cowpasture
L8382	Lisheen
L3280	Rathmoon
L2774	Boylelug
L7277	Holdenstown
L7134	Rathshanmore to Kyle
L3205	Kelly's Hill to Killavaney
L7249	Furzebanks Road
R725	Coolkenna



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BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Pat Vance

Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor John Ryan

Members:

Councillor Joe Behan

Councillor Christopher Fox

Councillor Steven Matthews

Councillor Oliver O'Brien

Councillor Michael O'Connor

Councillor Brendan Thornhill

Municipal District Staff:

Director of Services:

Desmond O'Brien (to May 2018)

Thomas Murphy (from May 2018 to date)

District Engineer:

Liam Bourke

Executive Engineer

Stephen Fox

District Administrator:

David Forde

Technician:

Dominic Gillian

Contact Details:

Address: Main Street,
Civic Centre,
Co Wicklow

Telephone No: 01 2744900

Fax No: 01 2860930

E-mail: braymd@wicklowcoco.ie

Population: 35,600

Bray Municipal District covers 180km of roads in County Wicklow. The number of social houses within the district is 1,360.

The offices of the Municipal District are situated on Bray Main Street, Civic Centre.

The offices are open 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm Monday to Friday (excl bank holidays). The cash office is open Mon – Wed 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm and Thurs & Fri 9am – 5pm (excl bank holidays). The motor tax office is open Tues – Thurs 10.30am – 2pm.

District Meetings

The members of Bray Municipal District hold their district meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm with the exception of August when there is no meeting. The schedule of meetings is approved at each Annual Meeting.

Roads Programme 2018

Road	Works Type	Area (m ²)
Glencree Rd – Cloon	Surface restoration	2250
Calary Upper	Surface dressing	925
Calary Lower	Surface dressing	1000
Calary Lower	Surface restoration	800
Glencormick	Surface restoration	482
Rocky Valley	Surface dressing	1850
Old Long Hill	Surface restoration	720
Knocksink	Surface restoration	300
Meath Road, Bray	Road Reconstruction	150



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All the works above have been completed. A new three year roads programme will be prepared for 2019 – 2021.

Footpaths

Planned areas of grinding of raised joints of concrete paths have been largely completed. Other repairs for the removal of trip hazards in Bray have taken place.

Roads Capital Works

An amendment of the Strand Road Cycle Scheme at the aquarium went on public display on the 29th November. The proposal has more extensive public realm enhancement than the original scheme.

Part 8 public consultation process has commenced for the Bray Dart Interchange which has been approved by the NTA.

An application has been submitted to the NTA for the preliminary design of a Greenway route from Kilmacanogue to the Bray Southern Cross Road and also for the provision of cycle facilities on the Southern Cross Road.

Consultants have been appointed for the detailed design of the pedestrian bridges beside the Fran O'Toole Bridge and the widening of the adjacent section of Seapoint Road.

Funding from the Urban Regeneration Development Fund in the amount of €3,450,000 for the Bray Public Transport Bridge was announced in November 2018.

The preliminary design of the Killarney Road and Vevay Road Cycle Schemes south of Church Road has been approved by the NTA and consent has been given to proceed to detailed design.

Public realm projects for 2018 included:-

Seafront Bandstand Refurbishment

The refurbishment of the Victorian bandstand is due to commence mid January 2019. The project aims to repair the fabric of the structure including timber facias & soffits, plasterwork, corroded ironwork, lighting, and guttering. The bandstand will then be repainted.

Bin Replacement Programme

There were a number of smart and compact solar powered bins installed at locations throughout

the District. These bins operate on smart technology and indicate when reaching capacity.

Culture/Art Space Project

A new project for invigorating 'grey space' around the town adding colour and vibrancy was sponsored by Bray Municipal District with works taking place on the boundary wall at the Carlisle Grounds and Seafront buildings.

Tree Planting

Trees were planted in various locations around the district.

Seafront Railings Bray Promenade

The final phase of works commenced on the repainting of Bray seafront railings in April 2018 and have been completed.

The Florentine Centre Development

Wicklow County Council and Oakmount signed a contract which will see the development of a new Town Centre on the Florentine site located on Bray's Main Street. The development will include two large retail anchors, 8 medium size retail stores, several high-quality restaurants, a modern cinema and parking, and will undoubtedly reinvoke the heart of Bray.

Work has commenced on the Florence Centre development and is progressing well.

Events

Bray Municipal District continues to support events in the District such as Bray Air Display, Christmas in Bray and St Patrick's Festival.





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GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Nicola Lawless (SF)

Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Tom Fortune (NP)

Members:

Councillor Grainne McLoughlin (FG)

Councillor Derek Mitchell (FG)

Councillor Gerry Walsh (FF)

Councillor Jennifer Whitmore (SD)

Municipal District Staff:

Director of Services:

Michael Nicholson

District Engineer:

Ruairí O' Hanlon

Executive Engineer

Eoghan Forristal

District Administrator:

Myra Porter

Technician:

Joseph Dowler

Assistant Staff Officer:

Orla Greene

Clerical Officers:

Kay Coughlan

Lily Davis

Andrea Egan

Orla Hall

Contact Details:

Address: Mill Road, Greystones,
Co. Wicklow.

Telephone No: 01 – 2876694.

Fax No: 01 – 2877173.

E-mail: greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Population: 26,323

Greystones Municipal District includes the villages of Delgany, Kilcoole, Newcastle and a small part of Newtownmounkennedy. Greystones Municipal District covers 6.5% of roads in county Wicklow (64,840 KM). The number of social houses within the district is 575.

The offices of the Municipal District are situated on Mill Road, Greystones.

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, except August.

General

In addition to general maintenance works in the district, a number of road improvement projects were completed during the year funded by the Department of Transport. These included resurfacing works on Mill Road, Greystones; Chapel Road, Greystones; Glenbrook Park, Delgany; Sylvan Lawns, Kilcoole and Church Lane, Newcastle. Road recycling was carried out at the Old Downs Road at the Willow Grove and



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Kilmullen Lane in Newcastle and surface dressing was applied to the Rathnew Road.

Safety improvement works were also carried out at Drummin Lane in Delgany and works to stabilise the river bank on the downstream side of the bridge in Beachdale, Kilcoole, which included new fencing and railings, were also completed.

Drainage works were carried out at Three Trout Bridge in Delgany; on the Charlesland Dual Carriageway; at the junction of Burnaby Road and Whitshed Road in Greystones; at the Knockroe roundabout; at the entrance to Redford Park and on Church Lane in Newcastle.

The NTA funded works at Chapel Road in Greystones to widen the public road and make it safer for all users. These works included acquisition of private lands, provision of new boundary walls and installation of new footpaths.

Work progressed with public consultation on the Delgany Accessibility Scheme.

The members of Greystones Municipal District funded the following projects from their discretionary budgets:

- Provision of public lighting on Mill Lane in Greystones
- Provision of bicycle parking on Killincarrig Road, Greystones
- Footpath improvements in Seamount Drive, Newcastle
- Funding for tree maintenance.

Funding was also set aside for improvement works to install new signalised t-junction, re-line road markings and install flexible bollards along the cycle track at Killincarrig village.

Tourism grant funding was used to carry out improvement works to the Greystones Way which runs from Greystones to the Sugarloaf car park. These works included stream bank stabilising works and pathway surfacing between Dromont and Kindlestown Heights.

Footpath works were completed at Seamount Drive, Newcastle; Glenbrook Park, Delgany; Hazelwood Crescent & Sylvan Lawn, Kilcoole; and Rivendell Grove, Cliff Road, Trafalgar Road and Victoria Road in Greystones.

The temporary timber footbridge on the Cliff Walk, which has been in place since a collapse of the walk in 2012 and continually refurbished over the years, was replaced with a composite steel and recycled plastic bridge. Whilst not permanent, this will provide a longer lasting temporary solution that will require much less maintenance until such time as a longer lasting solution to the erosion can be found.

New solar powered compacting bins installed at the following locations:

- Trafalgar Road, Greystones (at bus stop by car park)
- The Grove, Redford (at railway crossing)
- Sea Road Kilcoole (by train station)
- Church Road, Greystones (at Turnpike Lane)
- Charlesland Playground
- Newcastle Playground



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- Victoria Road bus stop (at the Ormonde centre)

New dog waste bins were installed along the Delgany Woods Road.

Three new bespoke timber picnic benches were installed at St. Crispin's to enhance the public use of this park.

There were a large number of nominations for The People of the Year Awards. The gala presentation night was held in Greystones Golf Club in May. The awards honour people in the town who have contributed to and promoted sport, culture, community and economic activity in the town.

South Beach was again awarded Blue Flag status as a result of compliance with a set of stringent criteria from bathing water quality to environmental management and education, as well as safety and services.

A new all-inclusive playground catering for the needs of children of all abilities was officially opened by Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD during the summer. The South Beach playground which cost €300,000 was part funded by local fundraising and is designed for all children to play together and learn together. The playground equipment includes a musical play area, an ability swing, a sensory path, a toddler play area, a wheelchair-accessible sand factory, zip lines and a large activity set.

The monthly meetings of the Municipal District provided lively debate on a variety of issues and

members received representatives from Glenveagh Properties Ltd., Iarnrod Eireann and Greystones 2020 Web Design team.

The Community Affairs Committee was active as usual promoting and organising annual events. The large crowds that turned out to view the annual St Patrick's Day parade were entertained by a wide variety of entries, including an entry from Greystones twinned town of Holyhead in Wales and a marching band from Rochdale, England.

Members and staff continued to work with Tidy Towns groups in the District and acknowledged the efforts of the many volunteers whose work is crucial to the success of local villages and towns in the IBAL and Tidy Towns competitions.

Work continued at Greystones harbour, including the construction of residential developments following the completion of the community facilities. The project is a public private partnership between Sisk and Wicklow County Council and has provided major benefits to the community and significant additional amenities. These include a new public square, harbour & coastal protection works and clubhouses and facilities for the sailing club, the ridge angling club, scouts, sub aqua club and the rowing club. When completed the development will also include a public park, a boardwalk and improved access to the cliff walk together with retail facilities including shops and restaurants.

The 30th Annual La Touche Legacy Seminar and 5th Festival of History was held in association with Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society in September. This event is held each year to commemorate and honour the La Touche Family and their historic connections with the



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town of Greystones. The theme for the conference was 'Evolution of the Irish State – Social & Political'. There were a number of distinguished speakers and the conference was attended by many delegates, generating a much needed boost to the local economy and showcasing the town's many excellent facilities.

Christmas lights were provided in association with the local business community which included an afternoon of family entertainment in Burnaby Park to light up Christmas. There was a large crowd of families in attendance and Santa took time out of his busy schedule to meet with all of the children. Greystones Municipal District continued to support the retail and business sector by allowing free parking on Saturdays in the run up to Christmas.





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WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Daire Nolan (IND)

Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Mary Kavanagh (IND)

Members

Councillor Gail Dunne (FF)

Councillor Shay Cullen (FG)

Councillor Irene Winters (FG)

Councillor John Snell (IND)

Municipal District Staff:

District Manager

Brian Gleeson

District Engineer

Kevin Scanlon

District Administrator

Joan Sinnott

Executive Engineer

Alan Martin

Technician

Aidan Doyle

Assistant Staff Officer

Anne Maire Kelly

Clerical Officers

Sinead Turner

Pauline Myler

Carmel O'Connor

Contact Details

Address: Wicklow Municipal District
Town Hall
Wicklow
Co. Wicklow A67 Y018

Telephone: 0404-20173
Email: wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie
Website: www.wicklow.ie

Wicklow Municipal District covers an area of 43,240 hectares which includes the County Town of Wicklow, Rathnew, Ashford, Roundwood, Glenealy, Laragh, Glendalough and Newtownmountkennedy.

423 kilometres of road and 963 local authority houses are managed and maintained within the Wicklow Municipal District.

The population of the Municipal District is 28,170.

Wicklow Municipal District Technical staff provide technical support and supervision of all works with the support of the administrative staff.

District Meetings

The Members of Wicklow Municipal District hold their meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 3:00 p.m. with the exception of August when there is no meeting held.

The Town Hall, Market Square, Wicklow Town was extensively refurbished in early 2018 and the Wicklow Municipal District re-located and held their first monthly meeting there on the 26th March 2018. The District Chamber is now located on the ground floor of the building making it accessible to all.

The Town Hall is one of the oldest buildings in Wicklow and known originally as Market House.



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The date of construction is not known but it certainly stood there in the late 1600's. Minute book records show that a portion of the building was used as a free school in the early 1690's and that the Market House was also in operation at the time. The building was also the site for the first electricity utility company in the town. Monthly, quarterly and Christmas markets were a tradition in this location, the Market Square.

The Offices are open to the public from 9:00 – 1:00 and 2:00 – 5:00 each day.

Roads and Infrastructure Projects

The elected members of the Wicklow Municipal District funded the following projects from their 2018 discretionary budgets.

Footpath Works:

- Trooperstown wood to Laragh village
- Ballinalea Estate, Ashford
- Merrymeeting Estate, Rathnew
- Sycamore Drive, Newtown
- Leitrim Place, Wicklow
- Johnstown Avenue, Kilpedder
- Brooklands Estate, Wicklow
- Footpath at Ballybeg, Rathnew

Public Lighting Projects:

- Steps down to Sailing Club, Wicklow Town
- River Walk, Wicklow Town

Road Improvements and Other Projects:

- Traffic calming measures in Glenealy village
- Road Surface repairs at Old Village, Rathnew
- Installation of 2 picnic benches between outdoor gym & skatepark, Wicklow Town
- Repairs to Zebra Crossing, Dunbar Road

- Traffic calming measures at Ballinastoe Crossroads, Roundwood
- Road safety measures at Dunnes Stores Newtownmountkennedy

Other Projects funded from the Members 2018 Discretionary Budget

- Back lighting for Wicklow Town Team project for historical sites €10,000
- Tidy Towns in District €11,000
- Handrails Ashford Community & Heritage Centre €2,500
- Peter O'Connor Olympic medallist Historical Project

Additional works undertaken in 2018 using central government funding in Wicklow Municipal District included the following:

Road Recycling and Overlay Projects:

- Glenview Park, Housing Estate
- Ashford to R765 junction
- Oldtown to Roundwood
- Laragh
- Mount Usher, Ashford
- Claramore
- Carrigeenshinnagh
- Lough Dan to Baltynanima
- Ballynerrin to Three Mile Water
- Killickabawn to Altidore
- Marlton Road, Dublin Road, Abbey Street and Grand Hotel junction

Surface Dressing Projects:

- Slaughter Hill
- Moneystown to Garryduff Crossroads
- Ballycullen
- Laragh East
- Glasmullen



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Local Improvement Schemes:

- Hawkstown Lane
- Church Lane
- Tomdarragh
- Slanelough

Porthmado visit Wicklow for St. Patricks Day and partake in the parade. The brass band from Eichenzell are regular visitors and they play in the St. Patricks Day Parade each year.

Wicklow Municipal District continues to support the Twinning Committee who work hard during the year to maintain the connections between the towns through facilitating exchanges and hosting.

Promotion of Interests of Local Community

Christmas Lights

The Wicklow Municipal District provides an annual contribution of €20,000 towards the towns Christmas Lights and also supports the “turning on of lights” and the arrival of Santa to the town.

Tidy Towns

The Members allocated €11,000 to the seven Tidy Town Committees in its district. Wicklow Tidy Towns was a Silver Medal Winner in 2018 and will be striving for Gold in 2019. A “Wicklow through the Ages” Mural was unveiled at the Abbey Street car park. Plans to make the town a Sustainable Energy Community are underway.

Wicklow Municipal District acknowledges the great effort the Tidy Town Committees around the District who volunteer and put in their time to make our towns and villages more attractive and better places to live in. This effort is reflected in the continued successes achieved in the IBAL and the Tidy Towns competitions.

Parking

The District helps to support the commercial and retail sector by providing 2 hours free parking prior to Christmas and 2 hours free parking on Saturdays.

Town Team

The Wicklow Town Team was established to maximise the business, tourism and social potential of the town and to capitalise on its many unique selling points. The team members have experience both Nationally and Internationally in Export, Trade Development, Commercial Development, Financial & Management Services, Tourism & Local Government. There are 7 working groups made up as follows:

- Digital
- Greenway
- Park & Ride
- Public Realm
- Tourism
- Retail
- Commercial

Retail/Business Twinning

A large number of up to 80 citizens from our twinned towns of Eichenzell, Montigny and



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General

2018 saw two applications being successful in gaining funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. €120,488 for public realm works in Newtownmountkennedy and €120,000 towards lighting of landmark buildings in Wicklow Town.

The official opening of the Vartry Reservoir Trails took place in June 2018.

Wicklow Sailing Club hosted its 20th Round Ireland Yacht Race in June, sponsored by Volvo and supported by Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Municipal District.

Wicklow Municipal District had two applications shortlisted for the Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town Awards – Vartry Reservoir Walks and Wicklow Town.

Estate Development Grants were awarded to 10 successful Local Authority Housing Estate Residents Associations in 2018. These grants enable the residents to carry out improvements and maintenance to their estate.

The regular functions that the District provides include local authority house maintenance, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, outdoor maintenance and grass cutting, operation & maintenance of Brittas Bay North & South Beaches and car parks, drain clearing, maintenance of burial grounds, school warden service, public convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.





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FINANCIAL STATEMENT



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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 2018

Expenditure By Programme Group	Gross Expenditure 2018	Income 2018	Net Expenditure 2018	Net Expenditure 2017
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	19,683,654	22,816,942	(3,133,288)	(3,024,887)
Road Transportation & Safety	25,043,024	14,498,040	10,544,983	10,065,820
Water Services	7,522,389	7,188,886	333,503	404,628
Development Management	10,357,862	5,138,714	5,219,148	5,289,004
Environmental Services	13,352,121	2,782,109	10,570,013	9,473,244
Recreation & Amenity	8,405,396	1,180,927	7,224,469	6,543,299
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,351,452	720,566	630,887	345,799
Miscellaneous Services	11,946,033	8,282,931	3,663,103	5,717,295
Total Expenditure/Income	97,661,931	62,609,113		
Net Cost Of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund			35,052,818	34,814,202
Rates			27,932,059	27,745,901
Local Property Tax			11,971,635	11,958,513
Surplus/(Deficit) for year before Transfers			4,850,876	4,890,212
Transfers From/(To) Reserves			(4,521,679)	(4,601,931)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			329,196	288,281
General Reserve @ 1st January			(2,686,945)	(2,975,226)
General Reserve @ 31st December			(2,357,748)	(2,686,945)

Capital Account Statement of Balances

	2018	2017
	€	€
Housing & Building	(23,666,606)	(19,982,975)
Road Transportation & Safety	39,057,744	34,490,964
Water Services	10,100,125	9,503,006
Development Incentives & Control	9,430,657	9,163,993
Environmental Protection	(322,578)	(1,744,994)
Recreation & Amenity	237,760	(179,527)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	929,822	1,042,916
Miscellaneous	14,953,999	12,936,991
Total	50,720,924	45,230,374



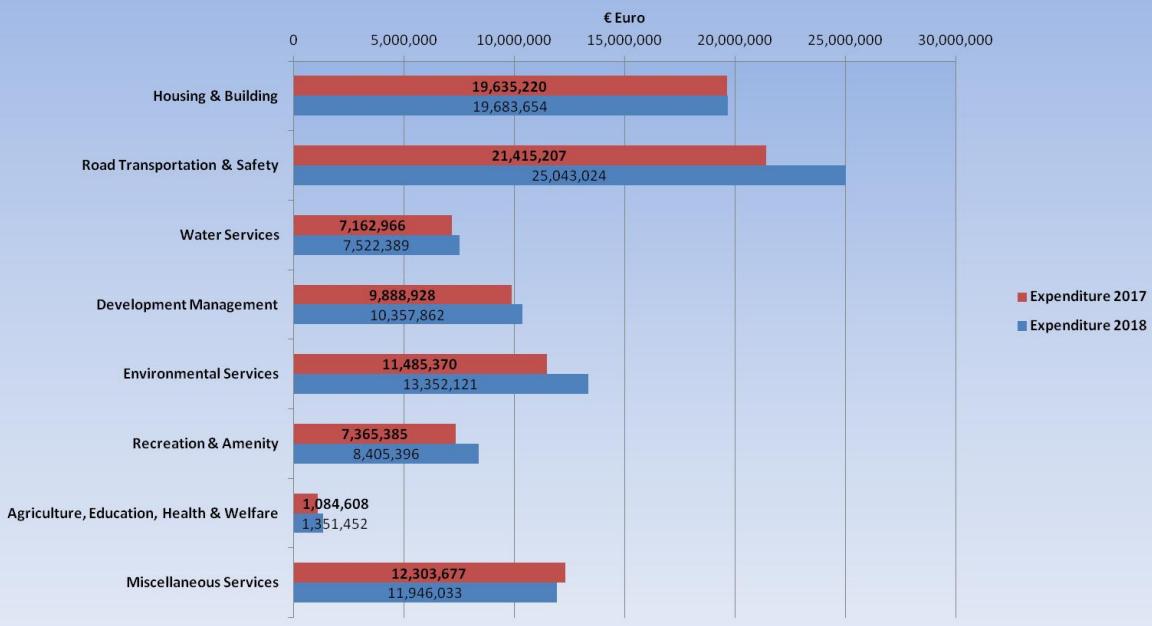
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Balance Sheet For The Year Ended 31st December 2018		
	2018	2017
	€	€
Fixed Assets		
Operational	1,101,498,343	1,090,622,107
Infrastructural	1,552,030,538	1,553,312,252
Community	19,281,365	18,619,315
Non-Operational	470,000	470,000
	2,673,280,246	2,663,023,674
 Work In Progress And Preliminary Expenses		
	31,538,648	27,481,249
 Long Term Debtors		
	25,642,319	22,265,495
 Current Assets		
Stock	245,589	258,317
Trade Debtors And Prepayments	27,134,283	29,233,222
Bank Investments	54,156,883	44,975,924
Cash at Bank	402,451	652,769
Cash in Transit	400	912,674
	81,939,607	76,032,905
 Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	18,730,724	18,735,206
Finance Leases	-	-
	18,730,724	18,735,206
 Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		
	63,208,883	57,297,699
 Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)		
Loans Payable	68,843,451	77,257,844
Finance Leases	18,095,424	16,176,593
Refundable Deposits	3,640,154	2,363,878
Other	90,579,029	95,798,315
	2,703,091,067	2,674,269,801
 Represented By		
Capitalisation	2,673,280,246	2,663,023,674
Income WIP	19,527,049	16,286,179
Specific Revenue Reserve	(2,357,748)	(2,686,945)
General Revenue Reserve	12,641,521	(2,353,107)
	2,703,091,068	2,674,269,802



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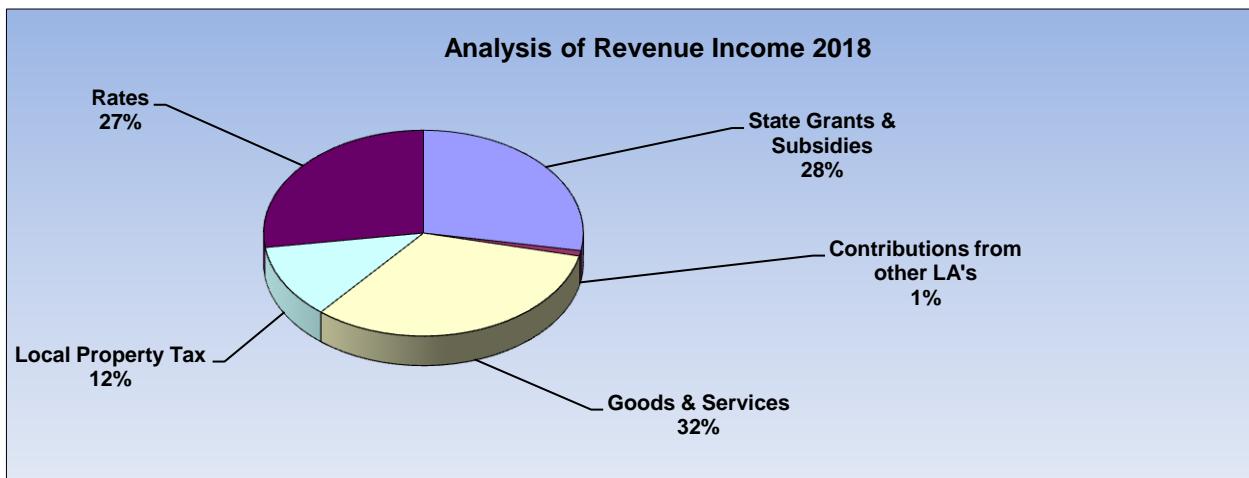
Revenue Account 2018 V 2017 / Comparisons at a Glance



	Expenditure 2018	Expenditure 2017
Miscellaneous Services	11,946,033	12,303,677
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,351,452	1,084,608
Recreation & Amenity	8,405,396	7,365,385
Environmental Services	13,352,121	11,485,370
Development Management	10,357,862	9,888,928
Water Services	7,522,389	7,162,966
Road Transportation & Safety	25,043,024	21,415,207
Housing & Building	19,683,654	19,635,220
Total Expenditure	97,661,931	90,341,360



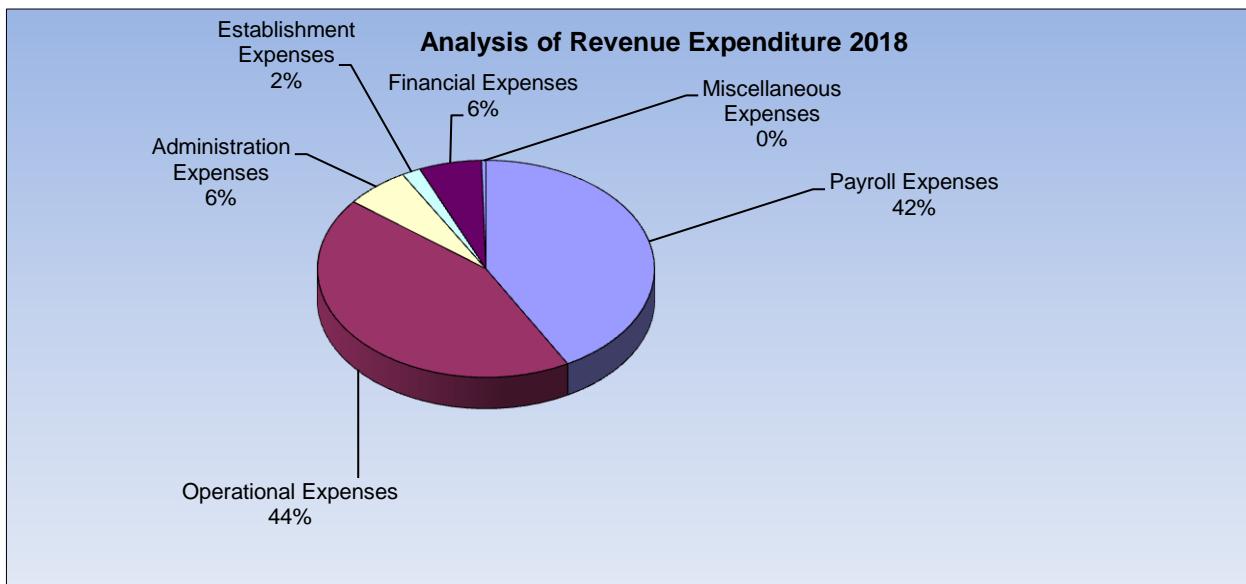
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Revenue Income	2018
Analysis of Revenue Income	
State Grants & Subsidies	€ 28,440,774
Contributions from other LA's	869,764
Goods & Services	33,298,575
Local Property Tax	11,971,635
Rates	27,932,059
Total Revenue Income	
102,512,807	



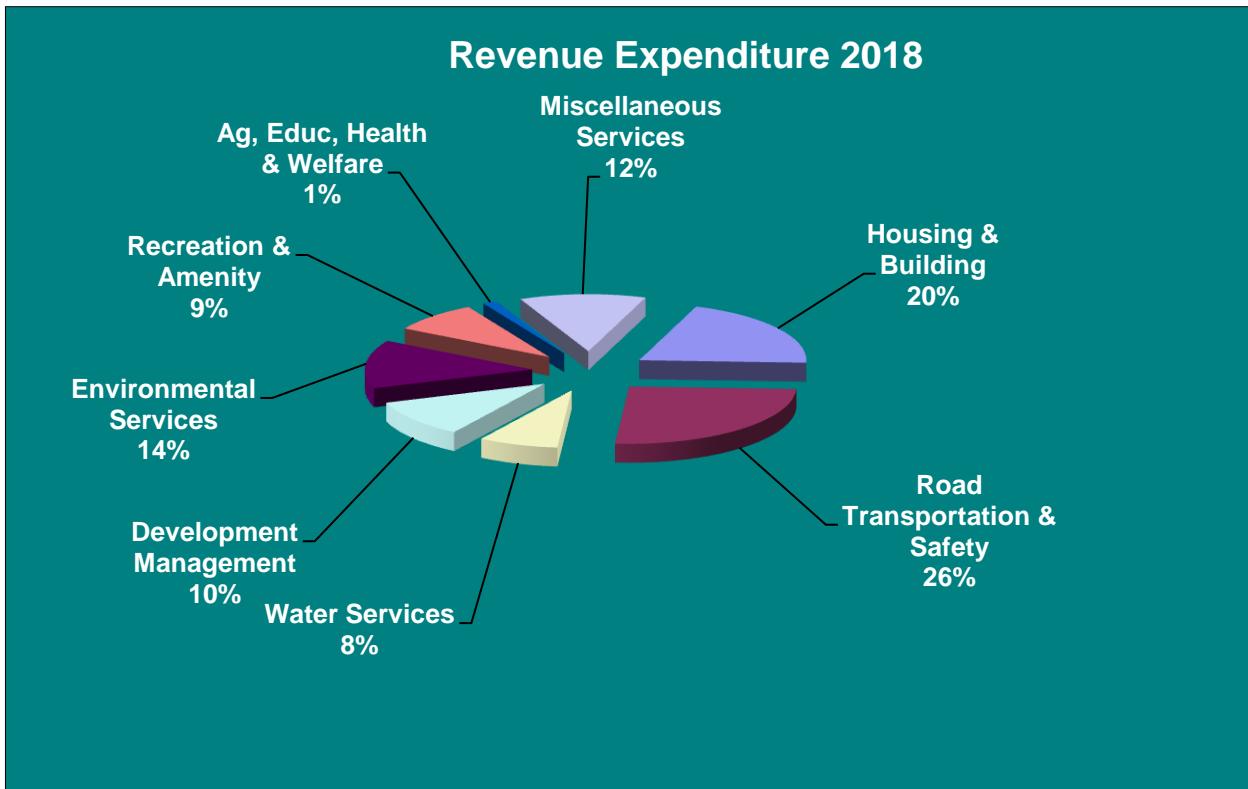
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Revenue Expenditure 2018

Analysis of Revenue Expenditure		€
Payroll Expenses		40,969,775
Operational Expenses		42,616,473
Administration Expenses		6,026,916
Establishment Expenses		1,767,092
Financial Expenses		5,850,708
Miscellaneous Expenses		430,968
Total Revenue Expenditure		<u>97,661,932</u>

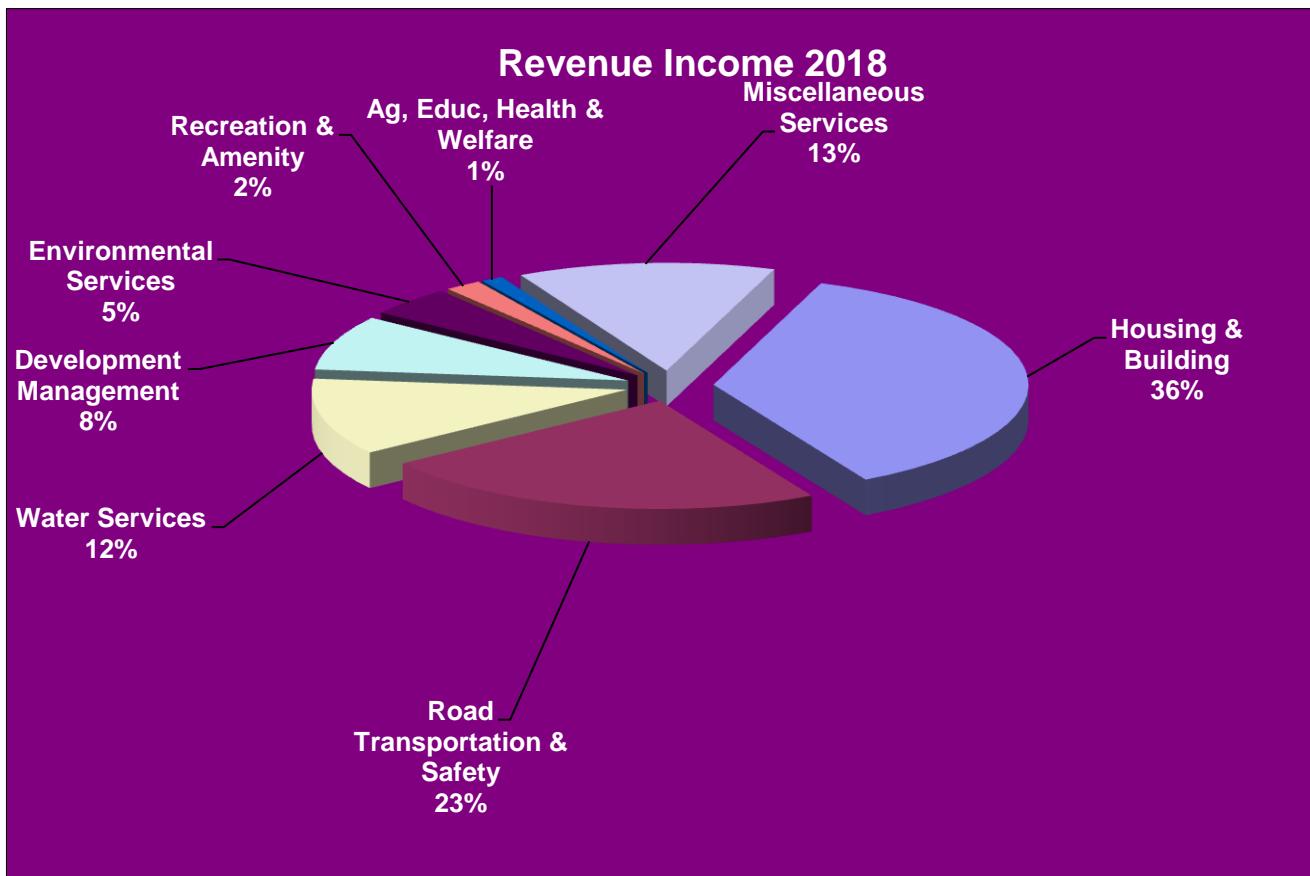
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Rev Expenditure

Housing & Building	19,683,654
Road Transportation & Safety	25,043,024
Water Services	7,522,389
Development Management	10,357,862
Environmental Services	13,352,121
Recreation & Amenity	8,405,396
Ag, Educ, Health & Welfare	1,351,452
Miscellaneous Services	11,946,033

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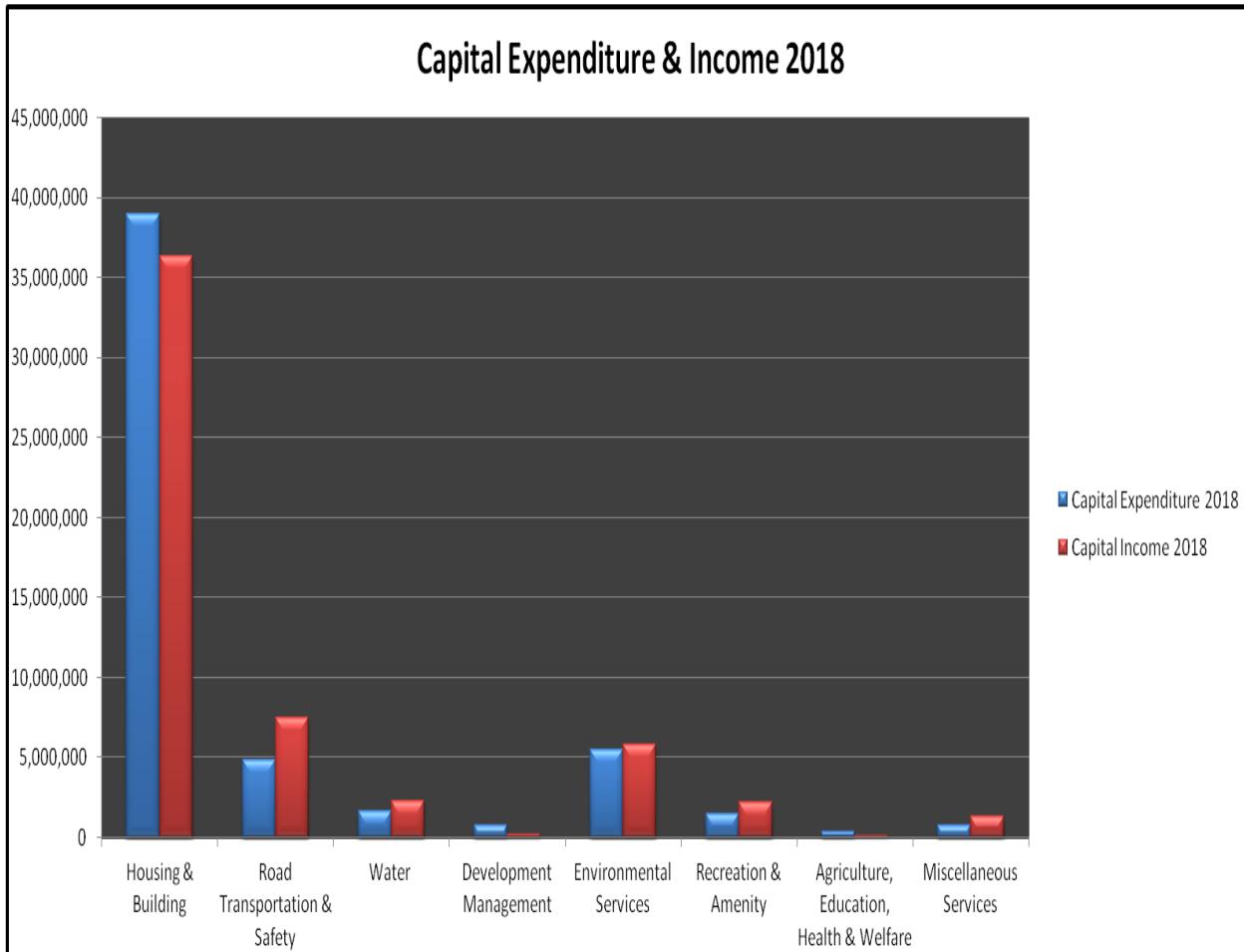


Rev Income

Housing & Building	22,816,942
Road Transportation & Safety	14,498,040
Water Services	7,188,886
Development Management	5,138,714
Environmental Services	2,782,109
Recreation & Amenity	1,180,927
Ag, Educ, Health & Welfare	720,566
Miscellaneous Services	8,282,931



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	Expenditure 2018	Income 2018
Housing & Building	38,997,347	36,384,075
Road Transportation & Safety	4,807,156	7,442,537
Water	1,650,223	2,247,351
Development Management	767,250	186,255
Environmental Services	5,456,809	5,765,531
Recreation & Amenity	1,453,601	2,180,522
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	368,852	129,100
Miscellaneous Services	766,690	1,294,619
Total Expenditure	54,267,928	55,629,990



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SERVICE LEVEL INDICATORS

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2018