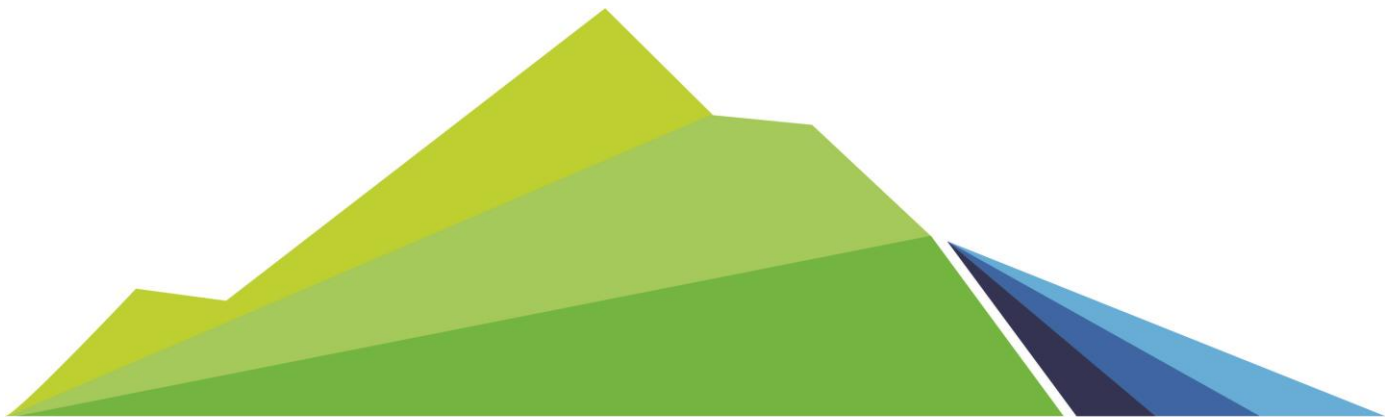




Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



Table of Contents

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY	6
1. <i>Social Housing Support.....</i>	6
2. <i>Allocation of Social Housing.....</i>	6
3. <i>Social Housing Stock</i>	6
4. <i>Fire Safety in Council Houses.....</i>	6
5. <i>Casual Vacancies/Relets</i>	6
6. <i>Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery</i>	7
7. <i>Part V</i>	8
8. <i>PPP Social Housing Project</i>	9
9. <i>Home Improvement/Adaptation</i>	9
10. <i>House Purchase Loans - Rebuilding Ireland.....</i>	10
11. <i>Addressing Homelessness</i>	10
12. <i>Traveller Accommodation</i>	13
13. <i>Energy Efficiency.....</i>	14
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE	15
1. <i>Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Economic)</i>	15
Retail.....	15
Town Teams	15
Tourism.....	20
Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications.....	23
Maritime	24
FLAG Funding.....	24
Food and Beverage Strategy.....	25
2. <i>Local Enterprise Office (LEO)</i>	27
3. <i>Planning and Development</i>	30
County Development Plan Review.....	30



Heritage.....	30
Planning Applications.....	31
Planning Enforcement.....	32
4. Environmental Services.....	33
Waste Management	33
Climate Action.....	33
Priority Action items:.....	33
Energy.....	34
Environmental Awareness.....	34
Recycling Centres.....	35
Brittas Bay Carparks	35
Whitestown Remediation Project	36
Harbours and Ports.....	36
Pollution Control.....	36
Arklow Flood Relief Scheme	38
5. Transportation, Water and Emergency Services	39
Public lighting.....	39
Transportation Statistics (General).....	40
Fire Service.....	43
Parking Income	50
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS	51
1. HR and Corporate Services.....	51
Recruitment.....	51
Access to Information.....	51
Press Releases.....	52
Register of Electors.....	52
Customer Service Innovation Hub	53



Communication.....	53
2. I.C.T.....	54
Response to Covid-19	54
IT Helpdesk.....	54
Domain Migration.....	54
GIS & Data Collection Systems	54
Customer Service Delivery.....	55
eServices.....	55
FINANCIAL.....	56
Revenue Account.....	56
Cashflow/Overdraft.....	56
Capital Account	56
Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections	57
Restart Grant Scheme	57
General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2020.....	58
Capital Investment Programme 2020-2022	59



This month:

WICKLOW SPORTS & RECREATION PARTNERSHIP CLUB GRANT ALLOCATIONS - Seventy-four clubs shared €52,600 in allocations made by the Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, who announced their first Small Club Grant Scheme early this year, consisting of three separate funding streams: Volunteer & Training Education, Women in Sport and General Club Grants.

Thirty-three clubs will receive funding from the General Club Grant, 29 clubs will get funding from the Training and Education Grant while 19 clubs will receive funding from the Women in Sport Grant.

NEW LIBRARY FOR RATHDRUM - Construction is well underway on the library, located in the Market Square development, which also includes a Primary Health Care Centre

The current Rathdrum library comprises less than 40 sq mtrs and is limited in its capacity to deliver services relevant to today's needs. Nonetheless, despite its limitations, the current library is well used by the people of Rathdrum with 500-plus registered readers paying over 5,000 visits and borrowing over 10,000 items in 2019.

REFURBISHED COUNCIL CHAMBER OFFICIALLY OPENED - The refurbished Council Chamber at Wicklow County Council has been officially reopened, having undergone extensive work during 2020. It is a modern civic space that is fully accessible to all, with an extended public gallery for members of the public and representatives of the media.

The refurbishment project addressed essential repair works and was completed alongside the recently launched Customer Care innovation hub.

CUSTOMER SERVICE INNOVATION HUB OPENS TO THE PUBLIC - The Hub, which is open and fully operational, since the beginning of October, will lead in the process of major organisational change and improvements to promote efficiency of operations and customer service. The development of the Customer Service Hub supports a key strategic goal of Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024 which focuses on an excellent service delivery, promoting inclusivity and efficiency for all users.

All Public Counters, including Motor Taxation, Cash desk and Housing are now incorporated into the Hub, providing a much-improved comprehensive space for customers to do their business.

GREYSTONES BOARDWALK AND COASTAL PARK OPENED - A new 16-acre coastal park, together with an extensive boardwalk overlooking Greystones Marina was opened on 14th December.

The boardwalk, which is over 300 metres long, links the coastal park to Greystones Harbour, with the two newly opened amenities forming an integral part of the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk which runs from the Bray Promenade to the Harbour Square, Greystones. The €300m development provides excellent promenades, substantial north and south breakwaters, a 200-berth marina, two public slipways, club facilities for sea scouts, rowers, divers, sailors and anglers, as well as 340 homes on what was a Brownfield site.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Social Housing Support

	Nov 2020	Nov 2019
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP) *	4,465	4,344
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	289	356
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	2,108	1,624
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	15	10
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	21	10

Wicklow County Council has completed a Social Housing Assessment of all approved housing applicants up to 10th April 2019 with the exception of RAS, HAP and social housing transfer applications, under S.21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009.

2. Allocation of Social Housing

	Nov 2020	Nov 2019
Wicklow County Council (including Bray MD)	236	183
Approved Housing Bodies (including Bray MD)	42	108

3. Social Housing Stock

	Nov 2020	Nov 2019
Tenancies occupied	4,520	4,435
Total weekly rental accrual	€298,596	€303,738
Arrears	€2,296,816	€1,699,837

4. Fire Safety in Council Houses

A programme of providing smoke alarms, Co2 alarms, fire blankets and window restrictors is being rolled out to every tenant of Wicklow County Council. All tenants are requested to check their alarms and if they are not working or are missing, they can collect them from their local District office.

5. Casual Vacancies/Relets

Municipal District	Nov 2020	Self isolation units
Arklow	5	2
Baltinglass	5	2
Bray	1	1
Greystones	6	1
Wicklow	25	3

6. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Completed	Units	Current Status	Part 8 Approval
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Completed and allocated	Yes
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated	Yes
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated	Yes
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completed and allocated	Yes
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated	Yes
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated	Yes
Whitehall, Baltinglass	34	Completed and allocated	Yes
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completed and allocated	Yes
Convent Lands	51	Completed and allocated	Yes
Total	157		
Schemes on Site	Units	Current Status	Part 8 Approval
Kilbride Lane Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	Completion anticipated Quarter 4 2020	Yes
FCA Hall Wicklow Town	8	Completion anticipated Quarter 4 2020	Yes
Kilmantan Place Bray	4	Completion anticipated Quarter 4 2020	Yes
Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue	20	Completion anticipated Quarter 4 2020	Yes
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2021	Yes
Carnew RAPID BUILD	30	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2021	Yes
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completion anticipated Quarter 3 2021	Yes
Ashtown Lane, Wicklow	40	Completion anticipated Quarter 3 2021	Yes
Ard na Greine, Bray RAPID BUILD	31	Completion anticipated Quarter 3 2021	Yes
TOTAL	269		
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status	Part 8 Approval
Avondale Phase 2 RAPID BUILD	20	Site start anticipated December 2020	Yes
Greenhill Road Wicklow RAPID BUILD	36	Site start anticipated Quarter 1 2021	Yes
Mountainview NTMK RAPID BUILD	26	Site start anticipated Quarter 1 2021	Yes
Sheehan Court, Arklow	7	Site start anticipated Quarter 2 2021	Yes.
Cedar Court Bray RAPID BUILD	14	Site start anticipated Quarter 2 2021	Part 8 approved.
Three Trouts Greystones RAPID BUILD	40	Site start anticipated Quarter 2 2021	Part 8 approval from Greystones MD awaited
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Q2 2021	Yes
TOTAL	213		

7. Part V

2020 – PART V UNITS DUE FOR DELIVERY 2020

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Wicklow	1	Delivered 25/02/20	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Delivered 02/11/20	WCC
Wicklow Town	3	Delivered 30/06/20	WCC
Ashford	2	Delivered 15/10/20	CALF
Greystones	2	Delivered 14/08/20	WCC
Waverley	3	Due December 20	WCC
Ashford	8	Delivered 30/7/20	CALF
Wicklow	4	Quarter 4	CALF

Potential units

Negotiations are ongoing with a number of developers at preplanning and planning stage. There are over 100 Part V units with planning permission but it is difficult to determine whether they will all proceed or on what timescale.

Turnkey

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Wicklow	6	Delivered April 2020	WCC
Wicklow	2	Delivered May 2020	WCC
Wicklow	1	Delivered October 2020	WCC
Wicklow	2	Delivered August 2020	WCC
Wicklow	3	Delivered July 2020	WCC
Rathdrum	4	Delivered June 2020	CALF
Ashford	2	Delivered October 2020	CALF
Arklow	25	Delivered November 2020	CALF
Arklow	13	Due December 2020	CALF
Tinahely	2	Delivered October 2020	WCC
Greystones	2	Due December 2020	CALF

Negotiations are ongoing with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units. Approval has recently been received from the Department in respect of 2 Turnkey units in Baltinglass. Approval received from Dept. for 5 Turnkey units in Tinahely. 2 Purchased in October 2020, with a further 3 due in 2021. 2 further Turnkey units are under construction in Ballinaclash.

A new call for Turnkey units will be advertised in early 2021.



8. PPP Social Housing Project

[Bundle 1)

Development Site at Convent Lands, Wicklow for 51 Social Housing units commenced on site in March 2019 and is now completed and all units are occupied. The Department of Housing has dedicated €300 million towards delivery of housing through the public, private partnership model in the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan. The Convent Lands site in Wicklow was included as a project in Bundle 1.

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

The Approved Housing Bodies are actively pursuing a number of potential CALF projects and are liaising closely with the Council on a regular basis. The members will be kept updated.

- Acquisition by AHB of 38 turnkey units via CALF in Arklow is ongoing with 25 units purchased to date with a further 13 due in December 2020 (included in table above)
- Acquisition by AHB of 8 (Part V) units via CALF in Ashford now completed and included in the Part V figures above. The remaining 4 units (2 turnkey and 2 Part V) have now also completed and are included in the table above.
- Construction ongoing on a 40 units (including 4 Part V) via CALF Turnkey in Dunlavin .

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Wicklow County Council is continuing to support acquisitions under the Capital Assistance Scheme with Dublin Simon, Circle Housing, Ark Housing and Peter McVerry Trust.

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands - A preferred proposal has been identified.

9. Home Improvement/Adaptation

Mobility Aid Grants / Housing Adaption Grants / Housing Aid for Older People

› Grant funding for private house - €1,899,714 (€1,140,129.42 spent to date)

› Grant funding for social house - €472,271.64 (€568,700.52 spent to date)

An awareness campaign has been running on Social Media since August 2020, which has generated a significant increase in the level of enquiries and applications.

Letters were sent to all GP's within Co Wicklow in August 2020 to raise awareness of scheme.

10. House Purchase Loans - Rebuilding Ireland

Received	Approved	Declined	Expired	With HA for FI	Incomplete/ ineligible
373	111	157	38	29	37

Tenant Purchase Scheme

	To date	Nov 2020
Applications Received	93	3
Completed	20	0
Declined	53	0
Ongoing	20	3

11. Addressing Homelessness

Addressing Homelessness			
	Nov 2020	Year To Date	Nov 2019
No of New Presentations	39	546	
No. of Repeat Presentations	13	59	
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	18	261	39
No. of Adults Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	32	342	37
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	2	20	13
No. of Children	27	488	67
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	11	142	20
Family Circumstances	14	266	20
Leaving Prison Hospital Care	1	18	0
Sofa Surfing	6	58	11
Rough Sleeping	1	29	5
Other: e.g: Unsuitable/Overcrowding/ Voluntarily Left)	19	122	Not recorded

Own Door Temporary Accommodation	Nov 2020	Nov 2019
Families	13	12
Adults	27	25
Children	31	2
Single individual	0	4

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30 November, 2020

	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	16	20	16	6	3	3	3	1

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30 November, 2019

	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	9	13	12	*	*	*	*	*

*Not recorded

COVID 19 UPDATE

The Homeless Team continues to provide key support by phone, working from both office and home. B&B proprietors currently retained by the Council are continuing to provide emergency accommodation for homeless clients. All Covid 19 protocols are in place in the facilities.

Self Isolation Units

A number of vacant houses being refurbished for reletting have been kitted out in anticipation of the need for families to self isolate for the required period from emergency accommodation.

Homeless HAP

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.
- To date, 303 households (235 families & 68 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 30th November, 2020.

- 143 homeless cases, 159 prevention cases to date and 1 direct provision case who achieved status. 103 properties were sourced by WCC.

Homeless Family Service, Wicklow

Following the advice that Sonas was withdrawing services from Wicklow, the operation of the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow was tendered out to Approved Housing Bodies to operate and manage the facility as a Family Homeless Service.

Refurbishment works on the facility are substantially completed and it is anticipated that furnishings and fittings will be complete in January 2021.

The family service envisaged is a 6 month STA with key working support to enable families transition from homelessness into Homeless HAP or alternative longer term accommodation.

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation, Bray

A key focus of Wicklow County Council in addressing homelessness was to identify and provide a high supported, temporary accommodation unit in Bray/North Wicklow to address the accommodation and support needs of a particular homeless cohort. This cohort was identified from the presenting population and those currently known to and accessing homeless services in Bray/North Wicklow.

The acquisition and upgrade of a former nursing home in Bray has completed and the facility opened to clients in October. The facility incorporates a service model where will be a number of emergency/cold weather Beds (restricted during Covid) and Supported Temporary Accommodation Beds (STA) There is on site keyworking support linking in with clients.

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

Homeless Supported Accommodation, Greystones

Wicklow County Council purchased Carraig Eden to provide supported accommodation for those who have successfully exited addiction and to ensure that the long-term needs of the facility's residents would be addressed by their progression into sustainable, long-term tenancies via the various social housing supports available. A strong referral pathway has been created between Wicklow County Council and Tiglin and this collaborative approach has provided an end to homelessness for a cohort that is largely unreachable.

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) approved funding to upgrade the building to provide 35 ensuite bedrooms within the existing building, with associated kitchens and common areas, as well as the upgrade of Fire Protection.



O'Keefe Architecture is providing the design team consultancy services on the project. The construction contract was awarded to Cleary Doyle Construction. The external painting, removal of the scaffolding and project is nearing completion.

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 22 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. There has been a significant number of move ons from these properties, signalling the success of this model.

Housing First

Housing First recognises that a stable home provides the basis for recovery in other areas.

Peter McVerry Trust has been appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid East Region and Wicklow County Council is committed to working with them to achieve the targets identified in the programme. Properties will be provided by both Wicklow County Council and Peter McVerry Trust for the programme.

Wicklow County Council has successfully accommodated 5 clients under Housing First. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of accommodation.

12. Traveller Accommodation

Accommodation Programme at 30th November 2020

Allocations	23
Temporary Covid allocations	3

Capital Programme

Ballintreskin – 3 houses	Detailed design stage with intention of tendering in early 2021
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 4 houses	Draft design - Awaiting approval for funding from Department
DPG Vale Road, Arklow	Extension for disability completed
DPG Woodview,	Works on extension for disability substantially complete

Further inspections on the fire safety on Halting sites were completed by members of the Housing section and the fire brigade in Bray. In addition electrical inspections including the installation of smoke alarms has been rolled out.

Covid 19 Update

Wicklow County Council has put a number of arrangements in place to provide, among other things, services to previously un-serviced sites which will facilitate better sanitation and social distancing.



Welfare facilities were provided at a number of unauthorised sites.

Three families from unauthorised sites were provided with housing units.

Hygiene packs were distributed to all authorised sites.

13. Energy Efficiency

Solar Panel Carport - The local energy supply contract has now been signed with Enerpower. The detailed design works for the project are expected to be completed in January, with the procurement process taking expected to take 8-10 weeks. It is envisaged site works will start in April 2021 for last a duration of 9 weeks.

Energy is to be supplied over a 20 year period at a fixed unit rate

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 1

Lot 2 90 houses in Arklow, Wicklow and West Wicklow have commenced in November. All tenants have been contacted in this regard.

Lot 1 88 houses in Bray and Greystones – awaiting determination of Department regarding repointing of properties

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

Contractor has commenced on site on 20 properties in Wolfe Tone Square West, Bray, to be completed in late Q1 2021.



Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

1. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Economic)

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 (LECP).

Retail

Bray Town Centre

The project is progressing well with overall works coming to a close and completion of the first phase scheduled over the coming weeks. The crane removal will mark the end of large elements of the construction work.

Town Teams

Town Teams in Arklow, Blessington, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow continue to meet virtually where possible to progress various projects. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, meetings with a number of community groups and other various stakeholders have been postponed to later dates. This may reflect in the updates below.

Arklow Town Team

Arklow Town Team celebrated the UN International **Day** of Persons with **Disabilities** (IDPD) by lighting up the 19 Arches Bridge in purple on the 3rd December.

Work is progressing on the design and development of a new Visit Arklow.ie website. The design of a new unique Visit Arklow.ie brand identity is also being developed.

The Arklow Bridge – Flower Irrigation System project is progressing. The type of flowers to be included in the planters will be decided in the New Year.

The Arklow Shop Local campaign continues. Signs have been erected on the approach roads into Arklow, new banners are being designed and a VMS machine is also in place at Hill's Garage encouraging people to shop local.

Arklow Town Team are liaising with Glenart College on a Community Garden Biodiversity project. An application has been submitted to LEADER for funding. It is envisaged that Community Groups, Men's Sheds, National Schools and Active Retirement will participate in this project if the application is successful.



Bray Town Team / Bray Reopening Committee

The Bray Reopening Committee met just before relaxation of Level 5 restrictions. The discussions related to the Christmas in Bray / Shop Local Campaign. An Garda Síochána have requested extra signage on Bray Seafront to be able to enforce Wicklow County Council Bye Laws.

Blessington Town Team

The last meeting of Blessington Town Team was held on the 8th December.

The Blessington Town Team and Baltinglass MD continue to work closely together on a number of initiatives to promote a Shop Local Campaign called “Wonderful West Wicklow such as a Customer Appreciation Weekend raffle on the 19th and 20th December to encourage people to support local.

The Town Team members also continue to work closely to support the ‘Hello Neighbour Campaign’ and the Blessington and District Forum are producing a weekly Age Friendly Newsletter

The main focus of the meeting was on the development of the Blessington Inner Relief Road. The members received a detailed presentation of the proposed timeline for the development of the road.

Blessington and District Forum have arranged a Toy Drop off appeal to support families who are under pressure this Christmas and to ensure the spirit of the season is enjoyed by all.

Greystones 2020

Greystones 2020 hosted a hugely successful 'Light Up Greystones' Campaign that commenced with a 'Think Local Buy Local' campaign with over 225,000 new views across social media and greystones.ie website.

The team brought the town together to produce a Christmas show that will be available as a piece of social history going forward <https://greystones.ie/greystones-lights-show>. The live stream thus far has nearly 8,000 views and nearly 500 families clicked into the Christmas workshops. Over 94% of the business community with premises in the town contributed to the lights which are up on previous years.

Greystones 2020 was also awarded over €40,000 grant towards the Burnaby Park footpaths and are very pleased that funding secured for Bus Shelters under the Age Friendly scheme have resulted in three new shelters erected in the town.



The AGM for Greystones 2020 will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16th December 2020 via zoom and anyone who would like to attend can send a mail for access to info@greystones.ie

Wicklow Town Team

Park & Ride - Bus Corridor Feasibility Study

At their recent meeting the Wicklow Town Team were delighted to hear that the possibility of providing bus lanes between Junction 4 and Kilmacanogue had received a positive response at a recent workshop held by Wicklow County Council, TII, NTA and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. The general consensus on the Draft Feasibility Report was that a viable scheme is deliverable which will achieve faster journey times both north and southbound.

Temporary Closure of Main Street

This year the Town Team applied for a Temporary Road Closure of the Main Street from 12:00 to 17:00 on Sunday, 6th, 13th and 20th December 2020. This closure is to facilitate Social Distancing requirements to allow for safe Christmas Shopping within Wicklow Town.

Public Realm

The planned Peter O'Connor Sculpture for Ashtown Lane roundabout is now with the Artists. A new project for the Doctors Steps is being developed and it is the intention to apply for LEADER funding to help facilitate the project.

Town Re-Opening Committees

Following the success of the Bray Re-opening Committee, Wicklow County Council proposed the establishment of re-opening committees in each Municipal District – the purpose of these committees is to support businesses as they re-open and to encourage members of the community to support local business.

Membership of the Re-Opening Committees consists of the MD Cathaoirleach (Chair), MD Manager, MD Administrator, MD Engineer, Chair of the Town Team, Representative of the Chamber of Commerce and An Garda Síochána. A Town Re-Opening / Tourism recovery meeting was held in July 2020 with a number of ideas provided including promoting the 'Wicklow Passport' to drive tourism in the County.



Funding for Public Realm Enhancements

Wicklow has been allocated funding totalling €3.342m covering 25 projects supporting pedestrian and cyclist movement and to enhance accessibility in towns and villages by the National Transport Authority.

The funding was allocated under the July Jobs Stimulus Plan announced by the Government last and is among measures designed to stimulate a jobs-led recovery and build economic confidence in response to the Covid-19 crisis.

Local authorities in the Greater Dublin Area and the metropolitan areas of Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford were eligible to apply for funding under the scheme. The funding is to support local authorities' response to Covid-19 challenges and assist in equipping local communities and businesses with improved walking and cycling infrastructure.

The funding will also allow for changes to traffic management arrangements to facilitate the reallocation of overall road space to improve facilities and safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Funding allocations have been made solely for design and works which can be completed by the end of November 2020.

Town and Village Funding

Six projects submitted by Wicklow County Council under the 2020 Accelerated Town & Village Scheme have been approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The total approved for Wicklow comes to €139,950 and includes projects in Ballinaclash, Enniskerry, Laragh, Tinahely and Baltinglass as well as a village pod project. The Ballinaclash project is to upgrade the community centre while in Enniskerry, public seating, signage and shop front improvements are among the project details. The recently damaged Men's Shed facility in Tinahely will complete repairs and alterations. Laragh will see improvements for pedestrians whilst Baltinglass were successful in their application to enhance the streetscape through a painting scheme.

Extension of Section 254 permits for tables and chairs

Wicklow County Council has extended the waiver for outdoor tables and chairs licensing, under section 254, to the end of December 2020. This is to support social distancing for businesses and help enable them to re-open.



Love Wicklow, Shop Local – Campaign

The Love Wicklow, Shop Local campaign was launched by Wicklow County Council in December with the aim of the campaign to encourage Wicklow residents to support local business throughout the festive season. Consumers and businesses in Wicklow are being encouraged to shop local this Christmas and are reminded of the huge range of goods and services they can access on their own doorsteps with a new campaign to 'Look for Local'.

More and more people are now shopping online and Wicklow County Council would encourage them to also shop locally online and to avail of the excellent range of high quality, products, services and gifts to suit all tastes. The Local Enterprise Office Wicklow "Look for Local" campaign aims to highlight small Wicklow businesses in every sector, asking that people continue to build on the recent groundswell of support shown to local businesses when looking to buy goods or services

The Love Wicklow, Shop Local campaign will link in with other initiatives around the county including:

- Look for Local by Wicklow LEO
- Wonderful West Wicklow
- Think Local, Buy Local in Greystones
- Shop Local, Spend Local, Stay Local in Bray
- Shop Local Arklow
- Shop Local Wicklow

The campaign is also consistent with the Visit Wicklow and Failte Ireland Christmas promotional campaigns.

This festive season let's keep the heart of our community going by supporting local businesses throughout County Wicklow.

Why not purchase a locally made gift, book a dining experience, buy a voucher, order a takeout, treat yourself to a pampering session, shop online locally, book an activity, or hire a local tradesperson because now more than ever local businesses need your help.

As part of the Love Wicklow, Shop Local promotion, Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council has launched the 'Cathaoirleach's Christmas Challenge' which challenges people to carry out their shopping in their local area in County Wicklow in the weeks up to Christmas. The Challenge video can be viewed on Wicklow County Council's Facebook page.



Tourism

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

The strategy sets out a number of challenging but achievable priorities along with a series of detailed actions to be implemented over the next 5 years

The Key Priorities are:

1. Develop New Accommodation
2. Develop Key Towns as Visitor Hubs
3. Develop a Masterplan for Glendalough
4. Grow Thematic Experiences
5. Market our County by Developing A Common Narrative

A Tourism Implementation Group has been established to oversee these actions and drive all sectors towards helping Wicklow achieve the target of **€200m in tourism revenue by 2023**.

Seasonal Campaigns: Over the recent lock-down, extensive promotion was given to take-away restaurants and delivery food services around Wicklow. County Wicklow Tourism is currently working on a Christmas Campaign with online promotional activities around Christmas in Wicklow. Find a list of Christmas Present Ideas on the <https://visitwicklow.ie/specials> section.

Accommodation: The County Wicklow Accommodation working group was re-activated at the end of July. The group has engaged the services of a consultant to assist the Accommodation Working Group in preparing a dedicated study building on Failte Ireland's Accommodation Toolkit and contributing in terms of information and advice to the preparation of the related prospectus aimed at attracting the development of tourism accommodation in the County.

The draft report was circulated to the Accommodation Working Group for review in December and further consultation will be held in this regard.

Destination Town Funding: An application to Failte Ireland on behalf of Wicklow Town was made in respect of Destination Town Funding and funding has been awarded to develop visitor amenities in Wicklow Town.



Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

Faite Ireland, with its strategic partners OPW, NPWS and with Wicklow County Council is engaging with Consarc Consultants to develop a tourism master-plan for Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park and a Visitor Orientation Plan for County Wicklow. Consarc lead a multi disciplinary team consisting of tourism, environmental, heritage, public realm, and traffic and parking consultants to develop the suite of plans. Stakeholder engagement is due to commence shortly.

A schedule of meetings is now being organised by Consarc and Faite Ireland with the following details to be discussed:

- Developing a detailed understanding of the volume, needs and motivations of the best prospects customers;
- Planning suitable visitor facilities and car parking sites within the park compatible with conservation objectives;
- Identifying the widest range of activities and sites of interest within the Park, compatible with conservation objectives;
- Development of physical links between all facilities to provide a flexible, interconnected visitor management plan;
- A seasonal strategy of 'flexing up' the visitor facilities to meet demand but visitor experience led;
- Identifying links of activities and sites of interest throughout Wicklow with Visitor Orientation Recommendations
- Compliance with statutory planning and environmental legislation, local and national government policies etc.

Consarc Consultants gave a presentation to the elected members at the December monthly meeting.

Thematic Experiences

Tracks and Trails - Wicklow County Council have engaged the producers of Tracks and Trails to redevelop some of the existing programmes for use on the Wicklow.ie website and social media and also to develop shorter tracks and trails videos aimed at internet viewers, airlines and traditional media.

The Bray Head to the Great Sugarloaf Trail was launched via Facebook in July. The Tinahely Looped Walk will be launched once Covid 19 restrictions have eased.



New Visit Wicklow website: the new visitwicklow.ie website is now live. The visitor's browsing experience has been enhanced to make it as user-friendly and easy to navigate as possible. This includes an extensive menu bar offering instant access to the various sections of the site. A new 'Specials' section has been included to assist in finding various seasonal deals and great offers.

Wicklow Passport: A Wicklow Passport aimed at encouraging locals and visitors to explore Wicklow have been introduced by the Wicklow Tourism Alliance. Passport holders can collect various Wicklow Stamps and discover the activities, attractions, and hospitality on offer across the county. Loosely based on the 'Camino Passport' in Spain, the Wicklow Passport is a series of stamps that can only be collected at the respective towns or villages represented on each stamp. For example, you can only get the Shillelagh stamps at stamping locations around Shillelagh.

Extra stamps are also being prepared for Kilcoole / Newcastle, Redcross / Brittas Bay, Delgany / Kilmacanogue, Donard and Carnew. Failte Ireland has committed €10k through Wicklow County Council to help in the promotion and development of the Wicklow Passport and plans are being finalised for regional and national campaigns.

The Wicklow Passport can be purchased for €2 online at <http://visitwicklow.ie/passport>. Or can be collected free-of-charge from participating stamping locations, or through the Wicklow Libraries at Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Blessington. Details of the circa 75 and growing stamping locations is available at <http://visitwicklow.ie/passport> by clicking on each icon.

EcoTrail: EcoTrail Wicklow was recently awarded a PURE Mile Anti-Dumping Award. This is a fantastic recognition to EcoTrail's team and the ongoing commitment to remove litter along the trails from Bray to the Wicklow Way.

Covid 19: Failte Ireland, Wicklow County Council, LEO Wicklow are providing a range of supports and advice for tourism providers and are following all advice and guidelines set out by NPHET and the Government.

Wicklow County by County TV production: Wicklow County Council agreed to take part in TV production dedicated to the US Market. The production is a 25 minute long TV programme and will be distributed on the PBS network with the Wicklow focus on the Wicklow Passport, Outdoor Activities,



Heritage and Food (Wicklow Naturally etc). There will be three days of filming around Wicklow including Piper Stones, Russborough House, Glendalough and Powerscourt.

This production will be fully available for use by Wicklow County Council and uploaded on YouTube and other social media channels when available.

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

There are currently three 2018 URDF projects underway; Arklow Historic Town Core, Wicklow Library and Fitzwilliam Square and the Bray Public Transport Bridge. URDF applications were also submitted in May 2020 for the Regeneration of the Arklow Quays, Bray Harbour Regeneration and the regeneration of Wicklow's Waterfront.

Work is ongoing on the Baltinglass Town Centre Regeneration project which was awarded €2.7m in 2019 under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund. The project focuses on two key elements; Restoration of the Courthouse with its reuse as a library/heritage centre and Digi-hub, with outdoor event space and public realm enhancements including parking improvement, pedestrian crossings, ramps, boardwalk and riverside fencing. ARUP Consultants have been appointed and it is currently at the design stage of project.

Wicklow County Council was awarded Category 2 funding of €357,750 in respect of Newtownmountkennedy for the design and plans for upgrades to the public realm, street landscaping, traffic management, public spaces and community facilities. The funding will be matched by a 25% contribution from the Council's resources bringing the investment to over €500,000. This funding builds on the €150,000 that Newtownmountkennedy received in 2018 from the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme, which funded streetscape improvements in the town.

Wicklow County Council has acquired the old St Joseph's site in Rathdrum from the HSE. The development of the site will be at the core of the latest proposals for the regeneration of Rathdrum. The site is centrally located beside St Saviour's Church, adjacent to the Memorial Park and car park, with children's playground and adult gym nearby.

A Rural Regeneration Development Fund application (RRDF) was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development on 1st December 2020 seeking funding for the development of a multi-use Community and Enterprise Centre at the site, increased connectivity through improved road and pedestrian access and enhancements to public realm. The proposed development will help to stimulate further growth in social, community and economic activities in the wider Rathdrum area.



Maritime

Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow

The Strategic Review, authored by Gavin Doherty Associates has identified ways in which the economic base of County Wicklow can be strengthened through its ports and harbours and has formulated recommendation for Wicklow County Council.

Key Recommendations:

- To maximise the Offshore Wind Opportunity
- To investigate the feasibility of a new harbour facility at Wicklow
- Aquaculture Support
- Marketing Strategy for County Wicklow as a Coastal Tourist Destination

The Strategic Review is at the core of the applications made for Climate Action and URDF funding.

There are currently three wind farm projects in development:

- Arklow Bank
- Codling Bank
- Dublin Array

All three have commenced stakeholder engagement.

Maritime Business Development Group

The MBDG meeting took place on 3rd December 2020.

FLAG Funding

Wicklow County Council has supported applications for FLAG funding in respect of the Native Oyster Reef Restoration project and also in respect of a Wreck Fishing proposal.

The Native Oyster Reef Restoration (NORRI) project is a plan to establish self-sustaining native oyster habitats in the Irish Sea, in collaboration where possible, with Wind Energy and Coastal Defence Development. An international workshop was held online at the end of March to publicise this project. Unfortunately, progress has been delayed on the NORRI project due to Covid 19.



Following the move of Aquaculture Europe 2020 in Cork to an online format in 2021, the NORA Production Working Group decided to meet independently online from on Friday Dec 4th with the meeting focused on exchanging knowledge about the practicalities of restoring oyster habitats and the practicalities of rearing and growing oysters.

The Wreck fishing FLAG is an application supported by the Maritime Business Development Group. It is a proposal aimed at surveying current wreck fishing sites and eventually attracting leisure type fishing in these areas. Approval has been granted for funding in respect of the Wreck Fishing project and the project is underway.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow County Council was awarded Leader funding for the implementation of the Food and Beverage Strategy.

Wicklow Naturally Training

- A Wicklow Naturally secure YouTube channel has been established and training events are being posted to this.
- Directors Training has been delivered
- Training on entry for Foodie Destinations Ireland has taken place
- Training on Website handover

All meetings/events are subject to Covid-19 regulations.

Social Media

Social Media linkage continues to grow

- Facebook: 2104 followers (original target: 400)
- Instagram: 886 followers
- Twitter: 368 followers

Structure of Wicklow Naturally

An application for company formation was made. The name was approved, and the company has now been formed as 'Wicklow Naturally'.

Two directors are in place, it is expected that there will be 9 directors in total, representative of the wider sector. Initial training has been provided for members in applying to be a director.

DECEMBER 2020



A full task/activity list for Wicklow Naturally has been drawn up for 2021 has been discussed with the WN management group and the Activity Group. Specific plans for each event are being produced and costed and the necessary resources being identified.

Food Poverty

Stage 1 of the mapping initiative for Food Poverty Initiative is complete and a report has been produced. A coordination plan is being drawn up and an activity calendar for 2021 is being planned.

Food Incubation Centre

The food incubation centre business survey has closed and is being interpreted. The final chapter of the incubation centre report has been written. It strongly indicates support for the building of the Food incubation centre.



2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives
<p>To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 33/€888,954.62 - 8/€11,427	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	- 27/€615,539 - 3/€3,850
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	53	55	58
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73	75	60
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	832	800	1420
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	9

DECEMBER 2020



METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	546	470*	1205
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	458	440	615

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2019/2020	2020/2021	Year to Date
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1121		

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2019	2020	Year to Date 2020
Number of Applications	57	Programme review	Programme review

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2019	2020	Year to Date 2020
Trading Online Vouchers	39	No Limit	386

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	11	9

December 2020 Activities

- ✦ A high level of demand for business advice clinics is being met by business advisors providing additional clinics which are run remotely
- ✦ The autumn winter training programme offers a combination of core training courses, digital marketing clinics and Covid Crisis related courses to LEO clients
- ✦ The November Network of Entrepreneurial Women network meeting will take place on 2nd December via Zoom.
- ✦ Extremely high volume of applications for the Trading Online Voucher are being accepted and assessed depending on budgets being available. Incomplete applications are causing delays in assessing them.
- ✦ Weekly newsletter is circulated to clients on supports, training courses, events and other relevant information.
- ✦ Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- ✦ Payment claims for the Business Continuity Voucher Scheme are finalised.
- ✦ A dedicated team of Brexit Advisors are in place working with companies to get Brexit ready.
- ✦ Prepare Your Business for Customs and One to one Customs mentor clinics are being held and are well attended.
- ✦ National LEO 'Look for Local' campaign is promoted and supported by LEO Wicklow.
- ✦ The Management Development Programme for managers continues till 17th December on Zoom, and recommences on 7th January 2021.
- ✦ Preparations are ongoing to organise the Spring Summer 2021 training programme.
- ✦ Student Enterprise Programme continues to be rolled out through Secondary Schools in Co.Wicklow.

Training

Upcoming courses include the following:-

- ✦ Additional Brexit one to one mentoring is scheduled for 12th and 22nd January to meet ongoing demand as all sessions in December were booked out.
- ✦ Customs workshop is scheduled for Wednesday 16th December
- ✦ The first of 5 Start Your Own Business Courses for 2021 commences on Tuesday 19th January.
- ✦ The next Trading Online Voucher Seminar is scheduled for Wednesday 20th January 2021.



3. Planning and Development

County Development Plan Review

Notice to review the current County Development Plan 2016 - 2022 and prepare a new County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 was given on the 6th November 2019. Closing date for submissions was Friday 10th January 2020. 156 submissions were received. All of the submissions are available to view on the website: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2021-2027/Issues-Paper>

The First Chief Executive's Report was issued to the Elected Members on Friday 12th June 2020. This Report forms part of the statutory procedure for the review of the existing plan and the preparation of the new plan. Its purpose is to report on the outcome of the statutory consultation process and to set out the Chief Executive's opinion on the issues raised in the submissions received. The report is available to view on the website: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2021-2027/Stage-2>

The Forward Planning team are now in the process of preparing the Draft County Development Plan. When finalised, it will be issued to the Members for their consideration prior to going on public display in 2021.

Heritage

Heritage & Biodiversity Plan Actions:

- Community Monument Fund announced by National Monument Service of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government. Medieval Arklow desktop research and interpretation successfully completed, recoupment claim for of €7700 submitted.
- Heritage Plan action: Community Archaeology Project (Focussed on Glendalough and Preban) films, podcasts and publications produced
- National Heritage Week awards ceremony on 20th October Glendalough Heritage Forum won best County Award.
- Biodiversity Action Plan Project: Brittas Bay biodiversity management and survey; Swift phase 2 project; Biodiversity Awareness actions – video tutorial and publications, events
- Draft World Heritage Site Tentative List application made to DHHLG for the Glendalough Valley. Follow up workshop scheduled for Dec.
- Our Wicklow Heritage Network: Part of Irish Community of Archive Networks (ICAN). ICAN won 'best Heritage Archive' in the Community of Archive and Heritage Group Ireland and UK (CAHG) for 2020. Ongoing co-ordination of multi platform website hosting County Wicklow Heritage and the following community heritage recording groups; Delgany Tidy Towns, Glens Of Lead, Medieval Bray Project, Glendalough Heritage Forum and, The Glen/ Donard. Shortlisted for the Chamber Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award 2020.
- Creative Wicklow/ Heritage Plan project: River Liffey Stories (x 3 short films produced) & Avoca River Stories (x 6 short films) is underway. Partnership project with LAWCO and WCC.
- Nature is Good for You campaign to be launched in Nov as part of WCC Healthy Ireland wellness initiative.

Protected Structures Grants: Funding allocations made for 2020. €60000 allocated to Wicklow projects under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, €35,000 allocated to St. Patrick's Church, Wicklow Town under the Historic Structures Fund with an additional allocation received of €15,000 under the Governments July stimulus package. All projects completed and recoupment claim submitted. New funding streams under HSF and BHIS announced, closing date for applications end of Jan 2021. Application forms and information on www.wicklow.ie.

Planning Applications

A total of 111 applications were received during October, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	25 (20 refer to rural Hse applications)
Housing Developments*	11
Agricultural Structures	02
Commercial	07
Other Developments**	66
Total	111

* Large hsg Development

PRR20/1146 – 91 Dwellings, Blessington Demesne, Blessington – Cairn Homes Properties Ltd
 PRR20/1166 – 15 Dwellings, Ballyguile Beg, Ballyguile Road, Wicklow – Wickcar Properties
 PRR20/1190 – 26 Dwellings, Dunlavin Upper, Dunlavin – Liam Bourke

**Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger sign post, Well, change of use, Hoarding, relocation of vehicular entrance, extend the appropriate period of permission, various amendments/modifications to previous planning permission, conversion, retention, boundary screen wall, attic conversion, reclamation of land, effluent treatment system & percolation area.

Decisions issued in respect of 83 applications in November, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	09
Individual Houses	20 (13 refer to a rural Hse)
Other Developments	54
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
Total	83

DECEMBER 2020



In relation to decisions issued between January to November 2020, in comparison to the same period for 2019, the details are as follows:

	31/11/2020	31/11/2019
Total Number of decisions issued	814	887
Total Number of decisions to grant	709	754
% Grant Rate	87%	85%

No. of Applications withdrawn

November 16 (8 refer to rural hse applications)

*Withdrawals may not have been lodged in the month of November.

Planning Enforcement

Enforcement

- New Files 10
- Advisory Letters 24
- Warning Letters 14
- Enforcement Notices 03
- Legal files 01
- Closed 06

- 14 Court Cases listed for December: Wicklow Circuit Court

Vacant Sites

- 25 no. sites now stand on the Register.
- 2 sites on appeal

Derelict Sites

- 04 No. of sites on Register

4. Environmental Services

Waste Management

No. of Complaints Opened	156
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	208
No of Litter Fines Issued	7
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	3
No. of Warning Letters Issued	5
No. of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	4
No. of Burning Applications Granted	7
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	0
No. of Notices issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	8
No. of fixed penalty notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court included in Court lists	45
Income – Litter	€1,165.00
Income – Waste Management	€5,400.00

Climate Action

The Climate Action Team is currently made up as follows

Mary Cahill – Climate Action Officer
Jim Callery A Environmental Awareness Officer
Deirdre Burns Heritage Officer
Pam O'Reilly Assistant Staff Officer

Meetings with the Municipal District executive were held during the month of November in order to progress actions that WCC have committed to under the strategy and require the input of the district staff

Priority Action items:

- Installation of EV Charging - 4 No. Chargers are proposed for Shoreline Greystones. Installation is expected in January 2021. Charging points will also be installed at 2 locations in Blessington - The main Street and the Area office carpark.
- A tree Policy to be drawn up for the County. UCD Landscape architecture department has been appointed to co-ordinate the tree management policy for Wicklow County Council - a draft policy document is expected by early 2021.
- Woodland Creation Project: All departments are asked to identify public lands which could be suitable for community woodlands. CARO will issue guidance on this project which is being funded by the DAFM. The Climate Action Officer is liaising with Teagasc advisor to appraise each identified site.
- A submission that was made for funding of a research project by UCD and Trinity to look at nature based solutions for flood protection in the Upper Avoca Catchment was refused. Alternative sources of funding for this project are being investigated.

DECEMBER 2020



- Alternatives to Glyphosate – Foam Stream machine has been purchased and will be delivered to Bray Municipal District in December.
- A workshop will be held with the members of the Climate and Biodiversity SPC to agree on the content of the Climate Action section on Wicklow.ie

Energy

- Wicklow County Council are working with 3 Counties Energy Agency to complete an application to the SEAI for BEC 2021 grant funding.

SEC

Covid 19 restrictions interrupted progress of Sustainable Energy Committees. Grant amended deadlines have been agreed with SEAI to allow for the continuation and completion of Energy Map Plans for Glenmalure, Laragh, NewtownmountKennedy, Greystones/Delgany.

Glenmalure is now completed with final report approved and submitted to SEAI. A claim for grant payment has been made to SEAI.

Laragh is expected to be complete by the end of the year and NewtownmountKennedy and Greystones/Delgany are progressing. Wicklow and Blessington have started their EMPs holding meetings with their consultants in late November.

An online seminar was held on the 17th of November to promote the programme in Wicklow with SEAI mentors and 3CEA and had an audience of 50 participants.

Two new communities have joined the programme, Enniskerry and Kilcoole. Following on from the webinar we have also been contacted by groups in Carnew and Kiltegan.

Environmental Awareness

Relove fashion competition entries were submitted in November, 22 teams submitted outfits. Ten local authorities from the Eastern Midlands Waste Management Region are now participating along with the Rediscovery Centre. The focus is on producing wearable clothing design and good use of skill with textiles will be strengthened in the competition to develop circularity skills among students in textiles and fashion. The project received an Excellence in Local Government Award in November.

A webinar was held on the Sustainable Energy Communities with CODEMA, SEAI and the Three Counties Energy Agency on the 17th of November. It was advertised through the PPN and over 50 people attended the online event.

A project to fund the collection, repair and shipping to Africa of old bikes was done under the Anti – Dumping Initiative. The Rotary Clubs of Bray and Wicklow were partners in the project. Hundreds of bikes were donated exceeding the target set by the Rotary club of 200 bikes. The last of the bikes were transported to Shelton Abbey for repair before being shipped to Africa last month.

Work continued to promote the new mapping tool for the Sustainable Development Goals including to the Climate Action Regional Office who have requested that we share the idea with other local authorities via CARO.

A new tree grant has been developed as a climate action to facilitate more planting of trees by local groups in County Wicklow. 22 grants were approved following consultation with the municipal district and successful applicants were notified last month.

The EPA put out a call for projects under the Local Authority Prevention Network, LAPN. An application for funding was submitted by Wicklow County Council. The project is to develop composting solutions for the management of the high levels of grass production which must be lifted when green space is being managed for pollinators.

Several projects were funded under the Anti-litter grant. Two were focused on schools. The first one providing a toolkit with storybooks, classroom activities and equipment to litter pick for ten schools. Workshops on the theme of Leave No Trace were provided for 12 schools. An audio device messaging campaign has also been funded which will deliver three targeted anti-litter campaigns over twelve months on the subjects of Dumping at Bottle Banks, Dog Fouling and Keeping Blue Flag beaches litter free. The first focusing on bottle banks commenced in November and will continue over the Christmas season as bottle bank usage peaks.

It is not possible to hold our annual Christmas decoration for schools as a county event this year. We are providing a prize to each school that chooses to participate so that the activity can continue in school. Schools were contacted last month and 20 have expressed interest in continuing the competition this year.

A river study with the Greystones Brownies was delivered on the Three Trouts Stream with LAWPRO to demonstrate a citizen science approach to water quality assessment.

Work commenced on a new Christmas food waste campaign featuring Catherine Fulvio in seven short videos for social media which will be done in collaboration with regional local authorities.

Recycling Centres

Recycling centres continue to be extremely busy. Glass recycling at recycling centres and bottle banks has increased by 36% in the year to date. An increase in online shopping has led to more packaging recycling and an increase by 16% in Cardboard to the end of October.

- A new electric forklift has been ordered for Bray Recycling centre to replace old diesel machine this is funded by Climate Action Budget.
- Tenders have been received for a new baler for Wicklow Recycling Centre as the existing one is over 40 years old and no longer fit for purpose.
- New Welfare unit has been ordered for Avoca Recycling centre and will be in place in early 2021 providing the staff with improved toilet and canteen facilities.

Brittas Bay Carparks

Carparks in both Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South remain open to the public for free for the winter.

Wicklow County Council are not in a position to provide toilets and bins service and ask that the public who use the beach would leave no trace of their visit and bring home their own litter.

Dog walking is allowed during the winter period and horse riding is also allowed during the day on week days and before 10am on weekends and bank holidays

A number of small dumping issues have occurred and the Environmental Wardens are monitoring the situation and following up on any evidence that is found

Whitestown Remediation Project

Wicklow County Council have employed Fehily Timoney & Company to advise on the remediation of the site at Whitestown, in accordance with the judgments of Mr. Justice Humphreys

- Draft remediation plan was lodged with Brownfield restoration Ireland Limited (BRIL) on 27th November. BRIL now have 3 months to make a submission on the draft plan.

Harbours and Ports

Fourteen cargo vessels berthed in Wicklow Port during November 2020. All were single transactions with twelve of the vessels importing commodities while two were exporting materials. The imports included logs and timber while the exports consisted of scrap metal.

Ten cargo vessels berthed in Wicklow Port during October 2020. All were single transactions with eight of the vessels imported commodities while two were exporting materials. The imports included logs, timber and explosives while the exports were scrap metal.

(Last Months CE report stated September and not October)

Wicklow Harbour Works

Installation of public lighting on the East Pier, Wicklow

Arklow Harbour Works

Installation of an Omni Directional Sectorised Lantern with solar unit on the North Pier and installation of Omni Directional Sectorised Lantern with transformer on the South Pier. These new navigational lights should improve safety and visibility at the entrance to the harbour.

Ducting and cabling works the full length of the South Pier.

Greystones Harbour

The 16 acre linear park and boardwalk linking the Cliff Walk to the southern end of the Greystones Harbour are scheduled to open on the 14th December 2020.

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 3 Water pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 2 Noise Pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 3 Air pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 1 Sewage complaints were received and investigated.

Private Water Supplies

- Of the 17 Private water supplies monitored and 5 were found non-compliant with pH indicator parametric values. All 17 were compliant with the microbiological and chemical parameters.
- The water suppliers concerned were requested to take remedial action.

Laboratory

All laboratory equipment and meters were prepared for annual independent calibration.

Deco Paint and Dry Cleaner Regulations

- 8 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installations were inspected.
- 1 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installation was identified as operating without certification and has booked an appointment with approved assessor for inspection report.
- 9 Retailer of Paints/Varnishes was inspected.

Petrol Vapour Recovery Regulations

- 2 Petrol Vapour installations (Petrol Filling Stations) were inspected.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters

- 3 Effluent samples were taken from licensed installations to waters were sampled and analysed.
- 1 was deemed non-compliant and letter requiring correction actions to be issued.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2020

- 1 Septic tank inspections were carried out and 1 found non-complaint. 1 advisory notice was issued to rectify the problem with the non-compliant septic tank.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 6 Lakes were monitored involving 14 sample stations for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 8 Rivers were monitored at 8 stations involving 15 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plan

A local catchment assessment was carried out on the Coolalug River to determine the risks affected water quality.

- 4 inspections of farmyards were undertaken to ensure that good agricultural practices are used.

Planning & Development

- 7 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerned agricultural, commercial and forestry development.

Well Grants

- 11 New Applications
- 1 Number of New Wells
- 8 Number of New Pumps
- 15 Treatment/Disinfection Equipment
- 19 Inspections in advance and after works.

A revised water grant scheme is now in operation effective from date of issue of Departmental Circular. This financial assistance is towards the improvement of water supply which is not wholesome or clean or is not sufficient to meet the domestic needs of a household in the opinion of the Housing Authority.

There are 3 categories of grant available for houses of 7 year and older, a 100% treatment grant of €1,000, rehabilitation grant for pumps/well protection of 85% cost up to € 3,000 and a new well grant of 85% of cost up to € 5,000. 3 quotations for each grant category of work are required from tax compliant contractors.

The Department of Housing has recently confirmed to our Rural Water Liaison Officer that any non-compliance with the parameter limit value in Tables A, B and C of EU Drinking Water Regulations 2014 is eligible for consideration of a treatment grant of €1,000.

Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

The Office of Public Works (OPW) and Wicklow County Council have commissioned Byrne Looby PH McCarthy (BLP) and Arup to undertake engineering and environmental studies respectively to assess and develop a viable, cost effective and sustainable Flood Relief Scheme for the Avoca River, Arklow.

The process of identifying a preferred scheme to address fluvial and coastal flooding in Arklow includes a detailed assessment of a range of flood risk management measures to determine their technical, economic, social and environmental viability.

Following a detailed scheme options assessment process, the series of measures that will make up the emerging preferred flood relief scheme for the Avoca River, Arklow have now been identified.

A number of changes in design have resulted in the need to update the Public realm drawings which has been carried out and was presented to the Arklow District Members on 5th of November 2020.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report is currently being prepared to submit to An Bord Pleanala.

5. Transportation, Water and Emergency Services

Public lighting

	27th October 2020	2nd November 2020	9th November 2020	16th November 2020	23rd November 2020	30th November 2020
Access Issues (Attended)	10	13	13	11	12	12
Cable Fault (Attend)	7	8	7	12	12	12
ESB Required (Attended)	29	30	32	35	36	40
Knock Down (Attended)	4	4	4	3	3	3
Materials required	4	4	4	1	2	2
No Supply	16	16	16	5	5	5
On Hold	2	2	2	20	20	19
Submitted	296	316	402	322	343	398
Traffic Management Required	6	6	6	4	4	4
TOTAL	374	399	486	413	437	495
Percentage of lights not working	2.53%	2.70%	3.29%	2.77%	2.93%	3.32%

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)			8		4	12
Cable Fault (Attend)	1		7		4	12
ESB Required(Attended)	23	1	2	2	12	40
Knock Down (Attended)	1	1			1	3
Materials required	1				1	2
No Supply		3	2			5
On hold	1	1	14	2	1	19
Submitted	65	88	62	81	102	398
Traffic Management Required	1		1	1	1	4
Grand Total	93	94	96	86	126	495
Percentage Not Working	3.19%	3.97%	2.91%	3.14%	3.53%	3.32%

Transportation Statistics (General)

	2019	Running Total 2020	October 2020	November 2020
Solicitors Queries	775	767	70	104
Road Closure Applications	40	23	1	2
Road Opening Licences	1418	1209	188	138
Abnormal Load Applications	35	29	6	3

Winter Maintenance programme commenced on 12th October 2020

Week Commencing	26/10/2020	02/11/2020	16/11/2020	23/11/2020	30/11/2020
Total number of gritting nights	0	4	2	4	5
Total number of routes gritted	0	18	13	23	45
Total estimate tonnage used	0	76	52	106	186

M11/N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

On December 16th 2020 a briefing was held online with the Cathaoirleach, Elected Members of both Wicklow and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and Oireachtas Members regarding a scheme update, it was also published on the project website. The update presented the progress to date of the scheme but also the analysis to date of the Option Selection Process. Within this the assessment of the corridors has results in a number of the corridor identified in Stage 1 Assessment to be discontinued onto Stage 2 of the Assessment.

The scheme design consultants ARUP continue to progress the assessment of the emerging preferred corridor under the TII Project Management Guidelines and are confident that the announcement will be made by the end of Q2 2021. The project team continue to liaise with all the public and any interested party.

M11/N11 Interim Bus Priority Project

A progress meeting was held in November and a review of the feasibility report was undertaken, developments which have been made with the scheme and ARUP continue to move the project forward with the (NTA) committed to submitting the scheme as a proposal for the NDP Review which is currently underway.

N11 Kilmacanoge Parallel Service Road

Construction work is continuing at Phase 1 in central median along southbound carriageway. Approx. 1100 metres of surfacing to binder course along with concrete safety barrier is now complete.

Phase 2 Traffic Management will commence following the completion of works in the median. Traffic will be moved onto the new running lane and works will commence on construction of remaining utility diversions, service road traffic islands and all associated accommodation works. Phase 2 works are currently expected to be complete at the end of Quarter 1 2021.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The construction work commenced in August 2019 and the new alignment was opened to two way traffic on 24th July 2020. The main construction work was substantially completed at the end of October 2020.

Funding is available for Per Cent for Art Commission for the scheme; the Arts Officer is preparing a submission to TII for approval.

A Road Safety Audit at stage 3 was carried out on the 15th October 2020 and some additional safety barrier is required to address problems identified.

The temporary road works speed limit order has been extended to Friday 19th March 2020 to allow for completion of the project landscaping and additional works.

N81 Irishtown West, N81 Whitestown Lower, N81 Hangman's Bend and N81 Tuckmill Lower "N81 Four Studies"

Wicklow County Council received approval from TII to progress the N81 Tuckmill Lower, N81 Hangman's Bend, N81 Whitestown Lower and N81 Irishtown West projects (the 'N81 Four Studies') in accordance with Phases 1 to 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines (PMG).

Given the overlap between and close proximity of the four study areas it was agreed to assess the corridor for Phase 1 from north of Baltinglass to north of Irishtown West. The overall length of the corridor under consideration for the purpose of the feasibility study is approximately 12.8km.

A working draft of Feasibility Report (Phase 1) has been prepared and submitted by Kildare NRO for comment by WCC and TII.

Covid 19 Interim Mobility Schemes

Work is ongoing on the design, procurement and construction of the schemes allocated funding under this programme.

Progress to Date	
Completed	12
Commenced Construction	3
Procurement Stage	8
Design Stage	6
Discontinued	2

Funding allocation of €90,000 has been received for the Wicklow One Way System Scheme

July 2020 Stimulus - Active Travel Measures

Work is ongoing on the design, procurement and construction of the schemes allocated funding under this programme.

Progress to Date

Completed	1
Commenced Construction	15
Procurement Stage	3
Design Stage	5
Discontinued	1

July 2020 Stimulus - Climate Change Adaption

Work is ongoing on the design, procurement and construction of the schemes allocated funding under this programme.

Progress to Date

Completed	0
Commenced Construction	2
Procurement Stage	1
Design Stage	2

Wicklow County Council has received approval from the Department of Transport to transfer allocations of €100,000 into 2021.

- **Laragh/Glendalough Junction** - Construction works commenced on 19th September with works progressing well to improve access for visitors to the National Heritage Site in the townland of Brockagh at Glendalough
- **Ballinaclesh Junction:** Construction has started since early September 2020 and works are currently progressing well on both the new alignment section and drainage works in the townland of Corballis Lower.

DECEMBER 2020



Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics November 2020

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baitinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Callsign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	2			1	1						
Fire Domestic	8	1	2	2	1	1					1
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	6	2	2				1		1		
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	6	2	3		1						
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	0										
Fire Barn / Shed	0										
Other Incidents											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	13	1	5	4		1					2
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	8	2	5	1							
Fire Chimney	4	2		1							1
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	4	3		1							
Fire Vehicle	3		1	2							
Flooding	2		2								
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1			1							
Ambulance Assist	6	5									1
Garda Assist	1			1							
Electrical Incident	1			1							
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	1		1								
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	1					1					
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	4			1			1			2	
Animal Rescue	1			1							
Lock In / Lock Out	0										
False Alarm – Good Intent	6		1	2	1	2					
Malicious False Alarm	2	1	1								
Mobilised into other County	3					1			1	1	
Times Stations mobilised	83	19	23	19	4	6	2	0	2	3	5

There were **72 incidents** attended during the month of November 2020. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **83 occasions** including 3 incidents in neighbouring counties.

Operational activity for the month November **was 50% less than the preceding month** (October 2020 – 154 mobilisations) – October was characterised by a high level of outdoor fires and bonfires associated with Halloween. In addition Level 5 Restrictions appear to have contributed to a reduction in operational activity.



Activity for the month was down 35% on the equivalent month last year, (November 2019 – 128 mobilisations). This can be accounted for by a 70% reduction in the number of fires in buildings (- 7), a 75% decrease in the number of RTCs (- 11), ambulances assists (- 6) and flooding (- 6).

Sample Incidents (November 2020)

- 08/11/2020 Bray and Greystones crews attended a 2 car RTC on the Dargle Road. The road was closed, occupants were taken to hospital by ambulance.
- 25/11/2020 Greystones and Wicklow Town crews attended a domestic fire at Blackditch – fire was extinguished in room of origin.
- 26/11/2020 Tinahely and Carnew Crews attended a single vehicle RTC at Kelly's Hill, Tinahely, the vehicle had overturned.

Incidents mobilised outside county Wicklow (November 2020):

Kildare (1-incident)

- 04/11/2020 Baltinglass Fire Crew attended a small outdoor fire at Dairy Lane, Saint Johns, Castledermot, County Kildare.

Wexford (2-incidents)

- 19/11/2020 Arklow Fire Crew attended an "ambulance assist" to help with gaining access to an elderly lady who had fallen at Gorteen Lower, Coolgreaney.
- 25/11/2020 Carnew Fire Crew supported Gorey Fire Crew at an RTC involving a bus and a car at Baltyfarrell, Askamore.

General

- A QQI Accredited Firefighter Recruit Course was run in Bray from the 9th to 27th November. 11 students successfully completed the course: Bray (4), Greystones (2), Arklow (2), Blessington (1), Carnew (2). A further qualified firefighter will be joining Dunlavin Station from Kildare Fire Service. Total of new personnel – 12. This leaves 4 vacancies from 99 positions across the county, 3 vacancies in Bray and 1 vacancy in Dunlavin which it is proposed to fill progressively throughout 2021.
- There were weekly teleconferences of the Eastern Region MEM Steering Group attended by the CFO. There have been fortnightly meetings of the Eastern Region Working Group chaired by the CFO.
- The CFO presented to 2 national Senior Fire Officer Webinars with a combined attendance of over 100.
- The Air Corps Crash Rescue Crew, the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management and Clare Fire Service have all run training courses in recent months in the training centre in Bray.

Fire Prevention Statistics November 2020

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	10	1	4		5
Regularisation Certificates					
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	9		4		6

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District	6	2	3	2	
Circuit	1		1		
Dangerous Substances Act	2				
Explosive Act	1			1	

Commencement Notices for November 2020:

Commencement Notices Submitted:

- 7 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 0 Seven day Notice
- 9 Opt Out Declarations
- 6 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents

Submission Statistics

- 40 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 72 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 16 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 8 are Opt Out (50%)
 - 0 Seven Day Notice (0%)
 - 6 are Compliance Documentation (37%)
 - 2 Without Compliance Documentation (13%)
- **18 Valid** Commencement Notices
 - 90 new build residential Units (9 of which are one off houses)
 - 160 new Apartments
- Invalidated CNs for November = 0

- **Certificates of Completion processed in November 2020**

- 31 New No. of CCC submitted
- 29 No. Valid
- 0 No. Invalid

Submission Statistics

29 No. Validated CCCs related to;
20 No CCCs submitted in November 2020
9 No CCCs submitted in October 2020

2 Revised Info Requests

90% => 29 No. @ Multi-Development site => 167 new residential units & 1 Apartment Block (20 Apartments)

5% => 1 No. Schools

5% => 1 Commercial Units Retail, Crèche etc.

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Points to note:

November had highest submission of Certificates of Compliance in 2020. 29 CCC's validated allowing for 167 new residential units.

Developers continue to not allow for 21 day processing of CCC period resulting in high demand for CCC's to be validated. Following Building Control inspections, 33% of submissions have found not to be complete and further works are required.

Building Control inspections have also resulted in 3 enforcement cases being initiated.

Water Services

In 2020 Wicklow County Council staff continued to provide Water and Wastewater Services under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water.

Covid 19:

All staff in the Water Services Department, technical, outdoor and administrative staff continued to work throughout the Covid 19 period and whilst some non-essential work was put on hold during the first lockdown period, there was no interruption to supply and services throughout the crisis. Full operational services across water and wastewater has now been restored.

Sustainability:

Sustainability continues to be a key concern of both Wicklow County Council and Irish Water, with Wicklow County Council staff playing a key role in locating and managing leaks throughout the county. The Leakage Inspectors work with the leakage crews through the year to identify areas where there is leakage, this great work helps to identify problem areas and keeps as much water in the system as possible, conserving water and saving money.

First Fix 2020

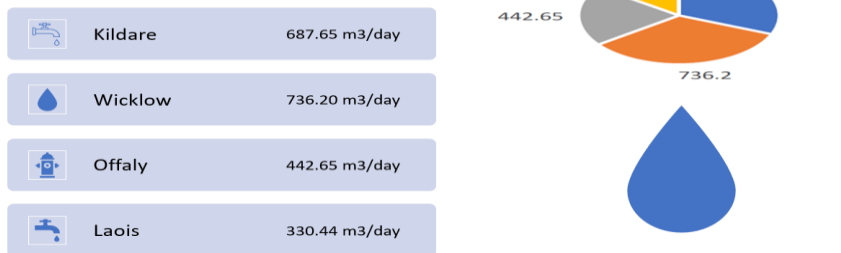


Figure 1. First Fix 2020 – (Wicklow Co Co crews 736.2m³/day)

The leaks identified by the Wicklow County Council Leakage crews up to October alone saved 736m³/day going out of the system as unaccounted for water, this figure to year end is expected to reach 880m³/day.

Current Cumulative (m³/d)

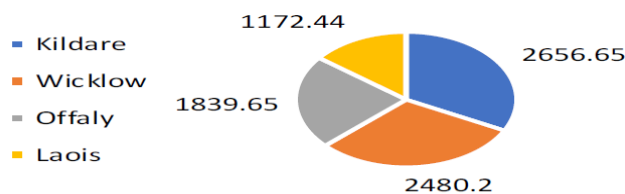


Figure 2. Current Cumulative 2020 – (Wicklow CoCo 2480.20m³/day)



2019

1744m³/day



2020

2480.2m³/day

With the addition of contractor’s leakage savings this figure was cumulative 2480 m³/day up to the end of October, extrapolating this figure to the end of the year is nearly 3000 m³ of water saved daily. This is an increase of 42% on the leakage savings of 2019.

Stimulus Works:

There was an additional significant funding stream provided to Wicklow County Council water and waste water sections from Irish Water in the form of a Stimulus package. This was in addition to annual allocations. The funding has been secured to improve the Water Network in Wicklow. For example at Rathdrum Water Treatment Plant the old 6” raw water main was leaking and clogged up and has been replaced with a 180mm HDPE pipe. This has been replaced. Defective Sluice valves, Hydrants, air valves (picture below), meter covers and trip hazards are being replaced throughout the county, this works is complete.

Pressure reducing valves are being replaced throughout the county as part of the Water Networks Program and also the Stimulus works.

Flushing valves in Wicklow, Greystones and Newtown/Newtownmountkennedy are also been replaced to improve pressure in the mains and remove transient pressure.

Work has also finished on laying a 100mm main between two areas in the Wicklow Water Supply Zone. These works will allow one of the oldest reservoirs in Wicklow Water Supply Zone to be decommissioned: Seacrest reservoir.



Air Valve replacement, Carnew



Pump Replacement and pipe upgrade works

Waste Water Treatment Plants:

There is on-going maintenance and upgrade to machinery and parts at waste water treatment plants this year. Inlet screens have been replaced at a number of locations throughout the county this year such as Aughrim, Donard and Knockananna. The project like others will see the installation of a new control panel. Baltinglass WWTP among others has seen a few upgrades this year such as new Refrigerator Sampling Units, Auger replacement and Screens.



Aughrim Screen Upgrade.

Upgrade works are on-going at a number of plants throughout the County. This is to help provide for the ever-increasing population of Wicklow and ensure that the capacity is within the plants. Currently upgrading Barndarrig Wastewater Treatment Plant. Installation of new inlet screen, control panel and two large primary settlement tanks.



Installation of Settlement Tanks Barndarrig.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI's):

Under the Annual Service Plan with Irish Water, WCC continued to be scored on Key Performance Indicators. The 2019 overall score was 87.1%. In 2020 the KPI performance score for Quarter 1 was 93.9%, Quarter 2 was 95.5% and for Quarter 3 was 90.8%. This continues to reflect the excellent performance of Wicklow County Council staff across all pillars within the Annual Service plan. The overall score for Wicklow County Council is comprised of a range of KPI scores over the year, including:

- A score of 100% was achieved for microbiological compliance in the drinking water supply.
- A score of 99% 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 UWWTD effluent quality standards.
- A score of 95% was achieved for the notification of interruptions.
- A Score of 100% was achieved for a timely response to Workflow Queries.
- A Score of 95.5% was achieved for Financial – Operations Expenditure Control (working within budget).

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	675,595
Greystones Municipal District	246,834
Wicklow Municipal District	230,793
Arklow Municipal District	135,700
Parking Permits	65,351
Parking Fines	283,626
Wicklow County Council	1,637,900

Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. HR and Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in November

Preliminary and final interviews Staff Officer
 Preliminary interviews Senior Staff Officer
 Waste Water Inspector
 Temporary Clerical Officer

Employee Numbers

	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020
Managerial/ Administrative	285	292	294	293
Professional/Technical	102	105	104	105
Outdoor	318	321	320	324
Temporary/ Seasonal	62	62	55	31 (reduction relates to lifeguards)
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	8
Total	775	788	781	761

	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019
				280
Managerial/ Administrative	278	280	272	103
Professional/Technical	104	104	98	318
Outdoor	312	316	318	62
Temporary/ Seasonal	38	65	88	8
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	771
Total	740	773	784	

(Excludes figures for Fire-fighters)

Access to Information

F.O.I. Requests

November 2020	10
January to November 2020	90

November 2019	16
January to November 2019	127

Ombudsman Requests

November 2020	5
January to November 2020	24

November 2019	3
January to November 2019	25

Press Releases

September 2020 – 14 Press Releases

Register of Electors

The Franchise staff are continuing to work on database maintenance required to maintain the Register of Electors including updating Eircodes, dates of birth, spelling errors and other relevant database maintenance in advance of the Live Register.

Letters are continuing to be issued to electors to establish whether they are still resident and the replies are being updated onto the Register or forwarded to other local authorities for registration at new addresses as required.

We have issued approximately 1500 RFA forms to new estates and houses that have been sold in Wicklow since February 2020. However, it should be noted that there has been a less than 10% response rate. The Postal and Special Voters list was complete in advance of the Draft Register publication but there will be some minor adjustments to be made prior to the Live Register publication date.

We have also issued approximately 1500 letters to electors to establish Eircodes for those electors who had none. The majority of these letters were for West Wicklow. The response has been positive to date and we are aiming to have up to 98% of the County covered with Eircodes by the time the Live Register is published in February.

We had a highly visible social media campaign, in conjunction with the Department's own social media campaign to raise awareness of the importance of checking the 2021/2022 Draft Register of Electors. The Draft Register is still available on www.checktheregister.ie if any elector wants to check same.

The 2021/2022 Draft Register was published on the 1st November 2020 in line with statutory regulations.

Due to the Covid 19 Emergency and restrictions there were no Fieldworkers carrying out work on the Draft Register of Electors for 2021/2022 which makes it even more imperative that electors check themselves that they are registered to vote.'

Customer Service Innovation Hub

Opened to the Public since the 5th of October. The below statistics are for Quarter 4 2020.

Customer Service Innovation hub			
2020 Quarter 4			
Communication	no.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of phone calls	22584	Appointments	89
No. of e-mails	1698	General	240
No. of Elected Members Reps	156	Housing	151
CRM Cases	293	Motor taxation	1871
Social Housing Applications	133	Revenue	287

Communication

Communication has been a vital tool in our organisation, especially over the challenging last few months. Due to the need for us all to maintain social distancing alternative methods of holding and administrating meetings had to be introduced. Various technologies such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom and Cisco WebEx have been tested and deployed throughout the organisation, depending on the business need.

Our key objective is to ensure that there is clear, consistent and appropriate communication between Wicklow County Council and all Staff. Communication has been delivered through Microsoft Teams and other technologies such as Zoom, as well as our traditional methods, such as e-mail and text alerts.



2. I.C.T.

Response to Covid-19

The IT Department continue to support all the systems setup to respond to the additional business needs arising from the response to COVID19:

- Restart Grants – online form setup and backend Assendus & Agresso systems integration.
- Community Call Helpline
- Remote Working Requirements
- Return to work desk arrangements
- Government Networks
- Phone Systems
- Call Conferencing
- Communications and awareness
- More Laptops have been procured and configured to provide more working from home facilities for vital business areas.
- Remote working licencing has increased in all business areas with ~300 WCC users now having the facility to work remotely using a combination of Citrix and Cisco

IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 36 tickets a day providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.

Domain Migration

- The domain migration and the mailbox migration project have been completed and all domain and email accounts have been migrated.
- Server migration has begun and some Servers have been migrated successfully.
- The team continue to upgrade all legacy operating systems to Windows 10 to ensure continued support from Microsoft.

GIS & Data Collection Systems

- A Summary of Progress regarding the Strategic Development Goals Application is currently being prepared and is to be examined by the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office with a view to a nationwide rollout.
- Development of CRM System automation continues, particularly for the new Customer Service Innovation Hub and the Covid Community Response Hub.
- Draft maps have been prepared for the County Development Plan which are to be examined by the members for their input.
- Parallel projects in Housing, Roads and Environmental Services departments are on-going and integration to CRM and GIS systems have being developed and rolled out.
- Final versions of the GIS Departmental Viewers and Editors has been completed and expected to go live early 2021.



Customer Service Delivery

- Support for the newly opened Customer Service Innovation Hub is ongoing with further improvements and enhancements implemented. The Customer Service project requires a high level of IT collaboration with both hardware and software elements integrated into the Hub.
- Work continues with the business process mapping and DPIA's are being carried out for each process as it arises.
- Avaya IP Office Phone System has been modified to integrate the Avaya Contact Centre Select Hardware Appliance and software. This has led to greater integration with call reporting systems and has improved customer service delivery.

eServices

Wicklow.ie – pageviews for 2020 to date are over 1,459,825. This is a 1.35% YoY increase. The introduction of new Cookie Preferences in October under Data Protection will see a reduction in statistics going forward.

- Social media accounts – followers to date
 - o Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 9,108 followers. This is a 47.45% YoY increase.
 - o Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 6,974 followers. This is a 14.33% YoY increase.
 - o Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 1,833 followers. This is a 102.32% YoY increase.
- During December, the Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie had the following items up for consultation –
 - o Part 8 - Main Street, Improvement Works, Redcross Village
 - o Part 8 - Construction of a Community & Enterprise Centre, Rathdrum
 - o County Wicklow Screen Sector Strategy
 - o Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Greenway – Part 2
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month. In December we focused on highlighting the National campaigns as part of the Level 5 lockdown and reshared allot of HSE resources.
 - o #KeepWell
 - o #OutdoorsForEveryone
 - o #CommunityCall
 - o #BeWinterReady
- Local campaigns included the #LoveWicklowShopLocal and a Stop Food Waste video series with Chef Catherine Fulvio.
 - o The #StopFoodWaste videos reached 63.6k on Facebook with 41k 3 second video views.

FINANCIAL

Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30th NOVEMBER 2020							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	21,058,593	24,541,664	86%	(26,480,818)	(30,692,854)	86%	(5,422,226)
Road Transport & Safety	21,808,204	23,611,358	92%	(14,166,542)	(16,493,380)	86%	7,641,662
Water Services	4,577,059	5,560,661	82%	(5,740,756)	(6,545,641)	88%	(1,163,696)
Development Management	21,741,225	11,242,546	193%	(17,092,878)	(6,144,652)	278%	4,648,348
Environmental Services	10,282,560	11,837,313	87%	(1,157,315)	(2,002,200)	58%	9,125,245
Recreation and Amenity	6,993,082	7,663,027	91%	(780,002)	(847,647)	92%	6,213,080
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,151,400	1,479,516	78%	(524,426)	(819,228)	64%	626,973
Miscellaneous Services	23,724,075	11,879,184	200%	(19,276,887)	(6,156,153)	313%	4,447,188
Central Management Charges	17,124,644	18,407,601	93%	(974,658)	(1,000,000)	97%	16,149,986
Local Government Fund				(12,576,960)	(13,720,320)	92%	(12,576,960)
Pension Levy				0	0		0
Commercial Rates				(29,342,316)	(31,950,795)	92%	(29,342,316)
	128,460,842	116,222,870	111%	(128,113,558)	(116,372,870)	110%	347,284

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st November 2020 to 30th November 2020.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30th NOVEMBER 2020					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2020	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/11/2020
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	17,913,607	54,225,925	(49,021,336)	(1,811,965)	21,306,231
Road Transport & Safety	(42,851,352)	14,643,087	(12,582,178)	(506,608)	(41,297,052)
Water Services	(10,670,498)	232,000	(730,269)	(15,000)	(11,183,767)
Development Management	(9,612,396)	1,594,269	(617,744)	(208,642)	(8,844,512)
Environmental Services	968,611	3,578,432	(2,348,361)	(489,375)	1,709,307
Recreation and Amenity	(914,062)	4,430,730	(3,778,346)	(190,250)	(451,928)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(885,558)	325,650	0	(288,750)	(848,658)
Miscellaneous Services	(14,326,148)	4,321,527	(3,198,214)	(1,777,216)	(14,980,051)
	(60,377,798)	83,351,619	(72,276,447)	(5,287,806)	(54,590,431)

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2020										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2020	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/11/2020	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	5,217,406	32,009,800	0	0	(12,968,589)	24,258,617	(16,864,650)	7,393,967	1,279,563	73%
Rents & Annuities	1,853,579	15,218,824	0	(1,639)	0	17,070,764	(14,278,750)	2,792,014	0	84%
Housing Loans	402,724	1,680,732	0	0	0	2,083,455	(1,641,062)	442,394	0	79%

Nine Month Rates Waiver: A 100% waiver of commercial rates was applied for a 9-month period from 27 March 2020 to 27 December 2020 to all ratepayers except a small number of categories. The waiver applied as a credit in lieu of rates for the 9-month period covered in 2020. The excluded categories are mainly utilities, banks, large supermarkets and corporates.

There is no application process required for this scheme. Wicklow County Council has automatically applied a 100% credit in lieu of commercial rates, for the nine-month period, to classes and categories of occupied rateable property where the occupying business is not in an excluded category. In the event a business qualified for the nine-month credit in lieu of rates and the business has already paid their full rates bill for 2020, their account will show a credit balance. A refund will be arranged by the Council if requested.

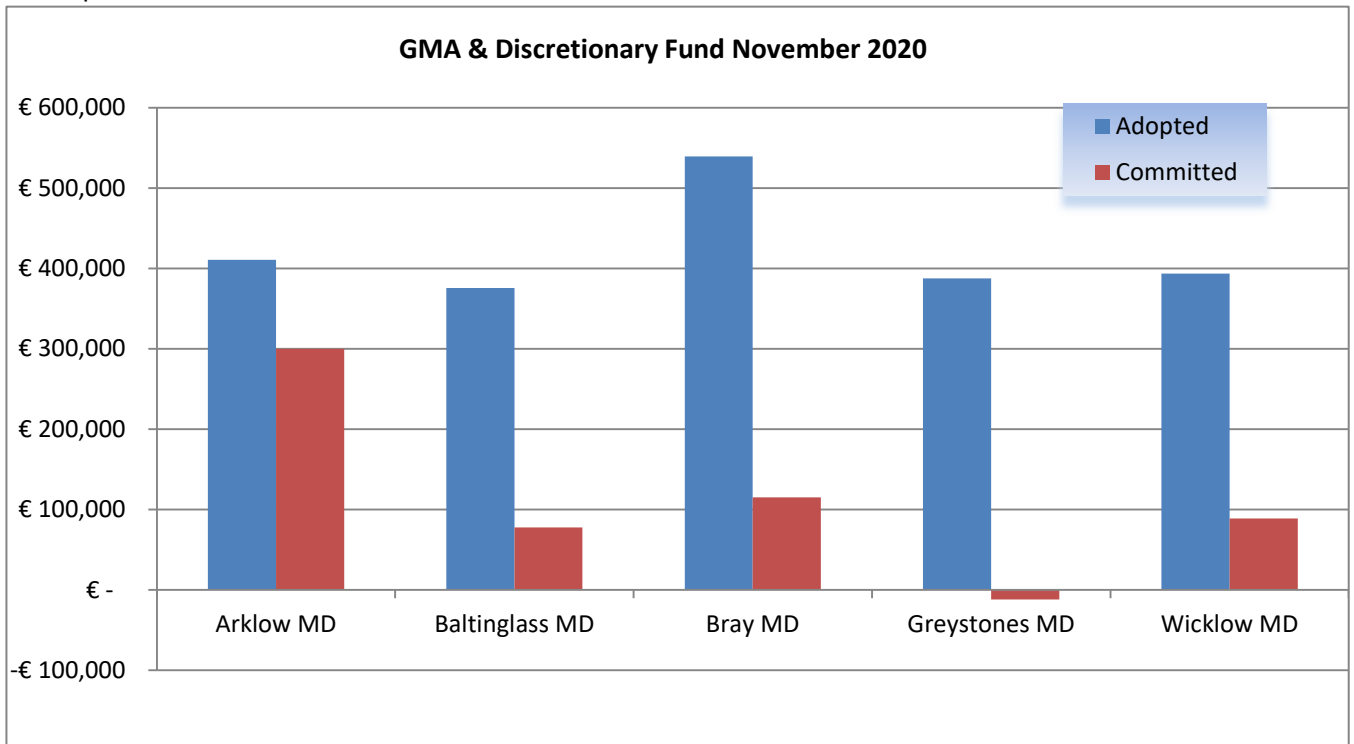
Restart Grant Scheme

The Restart Grant Scheme statistics in relation to applications approved and paid out up to the end of November are outlined in the table below.

RESTART GRANT SCHEME	APPLICATIONS	VALUE
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	371	1,207,120
APPLICATIONS PAID	1,064	4,040,105
GRAND TOTAL	1,435	€5,247,226
RESTART GRANT PLUS SCHEME		
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	46	332,867
APPLICATIONS PAID	1,455	10,230,248
GRAND TOTAL	1,501	€10,563,115
TOTAL APPROVED AND PAID	2,936	€15,810,341

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2020

Discretionary Budget 2020: €2,106,500. The graph and table below outline the discretionary budget for 2020 by Municipal District.



Municipal District	C/F from 2019	Adopted	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	52,813	410,500	352,840	110,473
Baltinglass MD	159,389	375,500	237,241	297,648
Bray MD	180,991	539,500	295,994	424,497
Greystones MD	165,252	387,500	153,468	399,284
Wicklow MD	205,713	393,500	294,665	304,548
Total	764,158	2,106,500	1,334,208	1,536,450

Capital Investment Programme 2020-2022

The Capital Investment Programme 2020-2022 for Wicklow County Council which details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was approved by the Members at the Ordinary Council meeting of March 2nd 2020.

The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Proposed Expenditure			
	2020	2021	2022	Total
	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	119,892,000	147,722,000	135,450,000	403,064,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	21,960,200	35,220,000	37,283,000	94,463,000
WATER SERVICES	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	1,900,000	3,390,000	1,650,000	6,940,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	1,225,000	2,725,000	5,225,000	9,175,000
AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	1,250,000	6,000,000	19,150,000	26,400,000
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	3,155,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	7,155,000
OVERALL TOTAL	156,956,000	212,308,000	212,843,000	582,107,000