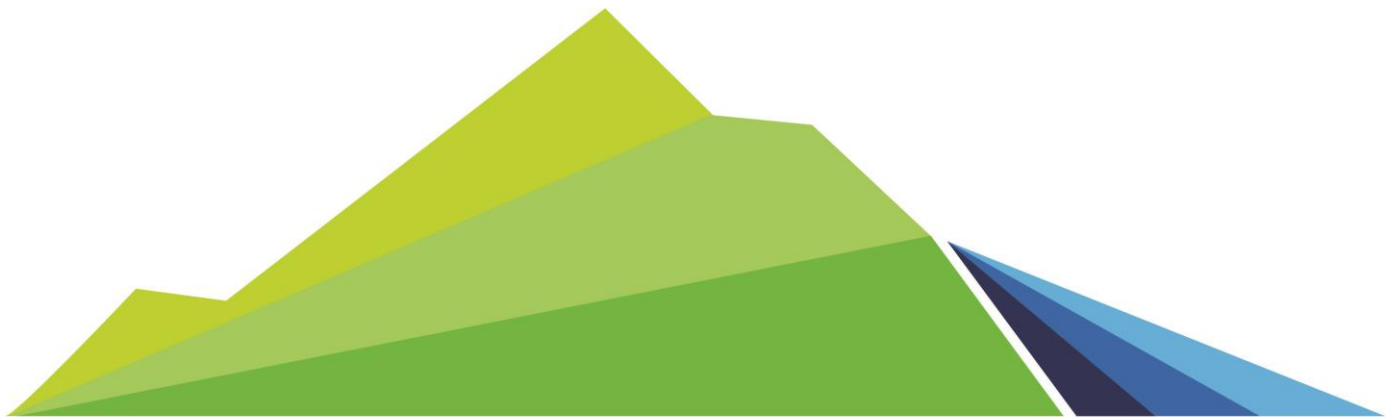




Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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This month:

NTA allocates €240M to Councils - The National Transport Authority has announced a total of €240m to support sustainable transport projects across the country, with Wicklow County Council being allocated funding of €7,616,000.

Projects include the reallocation of overall road space which will include segregated cycling lanes and widened footpaths, cyclist parking, raised pedestrian crossings and reducing road width at crossing points as well as other improvements.

The projects that the NTA are funding will make a real difference to commuters and leisure seekers alike. Improving infrastructure for cycling and walking will make our cities, towns and villages more accessible and attractive for everyone.

Funding will be delivered across a wide variety of regions, bringing the option of cycling or walking to localities both inside and outside the city centre

Wicklow Community Funding Tops €4.64 Million, in 2020 - Grant funding of €4.64m was administered by Wicklow County Council's Community, Cultural & Social Development Directorate in 2020.

Wicklow did exceptionally well under the various Town & Village enhancement schemes in 2020, securing funding of €961,538 for 25 different projects spread across the county.

The Council's own Community Grants scheme paid out €200,000 to 300 groups while the Community Enhancement Programme saw €212,205 awarded to 163 different groups.

The 2020 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme delivered €158,247 to nine projects under Measure 1 initiatives. Additional grant aid is expected under Measures 2 and 3, while the CLAR Programme delivered €60,000 to carpark projects in Knockananna and Askinagap.

The latest round of Rural Regeneration Development funding saw €2.67m allocated to regenerate the town of Baltinglass.

In the sports area, €41,000 was paid out to sporting clubs and initiatives in 2020, while €73,900 was allocated to Creative Ireland projects and under the Healthy Ireland initiative, €115,385 was allocated for Wicklow projects while Libraries received €145,619 specifically for COVID-19 expenditure.

Wicklow Plays its part in Campaign in "Ireland Reads" Campaign -Wicklow County Council Library Service has organised a number of online events to celebrate the *Ireland Reads* campaign, a new campaign to get the whole country reading this month, in the lead up to a national day of reading on Thursday, February 25th.

Wicklow and libraries around the country have teamed up with publishers, booksellers, authors and others for the campaign, which is part of the government's "Keep Well" initiative and aims to celebrate reading and all the benefits it can have for wellbeing and enjoyment.

The campaign is asking everyone to 'squeeze in a read' on "*Ireland Reads Day*". A new website www.irelandreads.ie has been set up where people can pledge to read on the day and see how much time has been pledged by the Irish public so far.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Social Housing Support

	Jan 2021	Jan 2020
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP) *	4,422	4,380
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	343	347
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	2,168	1,662
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	10	10
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	12	11

2. Allocation of Social Housing

	Jan 2021	Jan 2020
Wicklow County Council (including Bray MD)	9	18
Approved Housing Bodies (including Bray MD)	1	1

3. Social Housing Stock

	Jan 2021	Jan 2020
Tenancies occupied	4,548	4,435
Total weekly rental accrual	299,514	302,679
Arrears	2,644,609	1,592,990

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.

4. Casual Vacancies/Relets

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	JAN 2021	SELF ISOLATION UNITS
Arklow	6	1
Baltinglass	6	2
Bray	1	1
Greystones	6	0
Wicklow	29	3

5. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

SCHEMES COMPLETED	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Completed and allocated
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completed and allocated
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated
Whitehall, Baltinglass	34	Completed and allocated
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completed and allocated
Convent Lands	51	Completed and allocated
Urban Villas (FCA Hall), Wicklow Town	8	Completed and allocated
Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue	20	Completed and allocated
Kilmantan Place, Bray	4	Completed and allocated
Total	189	
SCHEMES ON SITE	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Kilbride Lane Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	23 completed. 19 anticipated Quarter 1 2021
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2021
Carnew RAPID BUILD	30	22 Complete. 8 anticipated Quarter 1 2021
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completion anticipated Quarter 3 2021
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow	40	Completion anticipated Quarter 4 2021
Ard na Greine, Bray RAPID BUILD	31	Completion anticipated Quarter 4 2021
TOTAL	237	
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Avondale Phase 2 RAPID BUILD	20	Site start anticipated Q1 2021
Greenhill Road Wicklow RAPID BUILD	36	Site start anticipated Q2 2021
Mountainview NTMK RAPID BUILD	26	Site start anticipated Q1 2021
Sheehan Court, Arklow	7	Site start anticipated Q2 2021
Cedar Court Bray RAPID BUILD	14	Site start anticipated Q2 2021
Three Trouts Greystones RAPID BUILD	40	Site start anticipated Q3 2021
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Site start anticipated Q3 2021
TOTAL	164	

6. Part V

29 Part V units were delivered in 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	Delivered 09/12/20	WCC
Ashford	8	Delivered 30/07/20	CALF
Wicklow	4	Delivered 31/12/20	CALF
Baltinglass	3	Delivered 31/12/20	CALF

It is expected that 25 Part V units will be delivered in 2021, however this is subject to a number of factors including the duration and number of any Covid 19 lockdowns, including the current restrictions and then how quickly the Developers can remobilise and complete units.

The Council nominated a number of Essential sites which included Part V's which are due to be completed by 28th February. This includes the following Part V units:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Enniskerry	2	28/02/2021	WCC
Wicklow	4	28/02/2021	WCC
Delgany	3	28/02/2021	WCC
Greystones	2	28/02/2021	WCC
Wicklow	3	28/02/2021	WCC

Following the government's decision to extend the period for designated essential sites, sites in the Arklow electoral area and the Bray electoral area were issued with letters from The Housing Agency. Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for 43 units in Delgany, Bray, Rathnew, Wicklow, Baltinglass, Dunlavin and Enniskerry with delivery ranging from 2021 -2023 – This includes the 14 units listed above. WCC is in negotiations for a further 32 units.

Wicklow County Council is currently holding discussions with a number of developers at preplanning and planning stage. There are over 100 potential Part V units with planning permission but it's difficult to determine whether they will all proceed or even on what timescale.

Turnkey

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Ballinaclash	2	Q2/Q3 2021	WCC
Tinahely	2	28/02/2021	WCC
Tinahely	1	Q2 2021	WCC

- 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.
- Units have not commenced construction.
- Approval received from Dept. for 5 Turnkey units in Tinahely. 2 Purchased in October 2020 with a further 3 due in 2021 (listed above).
- 2 further Turnkey units under construction in Ballinaclash.
- A new call for Turnkey units was advertised in January. Closing date for submissions is 30th April 2021.

7. Approved Housing Bodes – CALF & CAS

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 was completed in Quarter 4 2020
- Construction ongoing on 40 units (including 4 Part V) via CALF Turnkey in Dunlavin.
- Construction ongoing on 28 units in Arklow.
- Acquisition by AHB of 16 Turnkey units via CALF in Baltinglass with a further 48 units (including 4 Part V units) to be completed in 2021.
- Construction ongoing on 28 units in Wicklow (including 3 Part V) due for delivery in 2021.

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.

8. Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

- › Grant funding for private house - €1,899,714 (€1,211,189.61 spent) Delay due to Covid
- › Grant funding for social house - €472,271.64 (€595,710.77 spent)



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 also sent to all GP's within Co Wicklow in August 2020 to raise awareness of scheme.
Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

During recent works on Casual Vacancies/Relets, the Council fenced large sections of existing social housing gardens in order to provide infill housing. This resulted in 3 three infill sites to develop Age Friendly schemes in Greystones.

It is proposed to build small A rated units, specifically designed for the older tenant, which will be offered to eligible tenants in the local area, who wish to downsize. The larger property will return to the council for reletting to a family, and the tenant will benefit from being able to remain in their community, in an age friendly designed home with high comfort and low utility costs.

Millbank, Mill Road	Stage 1 approved received Nov 2020, site survey carried out Dec 2020, preliminary design underway.
Castle Villas	Stage 1 approved received, site survey carried out Dec 2020, preliminary design underway.
Carraig Eden	Funding received for 14 age friendly apartments from the Dept. Procurement for architects for the draft Part 8 Drawings underway.

9. Purchase Schemes

House Purchase Loans - Rebuilding Ireland

RECEIVED	APPROVED	DECLINED	EXPIRED	WITH HA FOR FI	INCOMPLETE/ INELIGIBLE
391	120	159	42	33	37

Tenant Purchase Scheme

	TO DATE	JAN 2021
Applications Received	98	5
Completed	22	2
Declined	53	0
Ongoing	23	23



10. Addressing Homelessness

	@ 31/01/21	Year To Date	@ 31/01/2020
No of New Presentations	31	31	71
No. of Repeat Presentations	8	8	11
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	10	10	41
No. of Adults Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	41	41	85
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	0	0	Not reported
No. of Children	20	20	73
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	3	3	27
Family Circumstances	16	16	25
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	0	0	2
Sofa Surfing*	5	5	4
Rough Sleeping*	3	3	0
Risk of Homelessness	8	8	0
Staying with Family	7	7	Not reported
Staying with Friends	1	1	Not reported
Women's Refuge	0	0	Not reported
Arrears/Loss of Income	2	2	Not reported
Addiction Issues	2	2	Not reported
DV/DA	1	1	Not reported
Medical Issues	2	2	Not reported
Overcrowding	1	1	Not reported
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	3	3	Not reported
Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/01/2021			
Families	13		
Adults	30		
Children	34		
Single individual	3		

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30 January, 2021

	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	15	17	15	4	4	4	1	3



Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31 st January 2020								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	6	12	11	3	1	0	0	2

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, 310 households (240 families & 70 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 31st January, 2021. (144 homeless cases, 164 prevention cases to date and 2 direct provision). 103 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

- There are 11 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon, with regular transition by the clients to suitable, alternative accommodation.

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, 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 early 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. The successful tenderer to operate the facility is Dublin Simon.

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, 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, operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where there are 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 bi monthly.

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

- 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.
- 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 12 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, to date, 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.



11. Traveller Accommodation

Annual count of Traveller Families

Wicklow County Council is required to undertake an annual count of Traveller families in Co. Wicklow at end November. The count in 2020 showed 275 Traveller families living in the County.

Ballintekin – 3 houses	Detailed design stage and tender documents completed, stage 3 with Dept Nov 2020 awaiting approval to go out to tender for a contractor in Q1
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Approval received for funding from Department, ongoing discussions with proposed tenants on draft design
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 2 houses	Revised stage 1 submitted to Dept for funding 21 st Dec 2020 awaiting approval
DPG Woodview,	Works due to commence on extension for disability

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.

12. 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 and last for a duration of 9 weeks.
- Energy is to be supplied over a 20 year period at a fixed unit rate
- Enerpower are planning on installing additional EV Car Chargers with the system also.

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 1

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

FEBRUARY 2021



- Lot 2 90 houses in Arklow, Wicklow and West Wicklow commenced in December 2020 and all tenants have been contacted in this regard.

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.
- Examining properties in West Wicklow/Glenealy for next tender.



13. Wicklow Community Call

Covid-19 Emergency Fund (Round 2)

Wicklow County Council, in conjunction with Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is currently submissions under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund (Round 2). This is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, in recognition of the important role played by community and voluntary organisations across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The aim of the fund is to assist groups:

- To adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality. Examples of measures supported could be adapting premises to allow for social distancing; offering on-line activities; providing social supports and friendly calls by phone etc.
- To become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign. The grants are aimed at assisting participation in the campaign, in particular with the three themes: staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood.

For more information on the Keep Well Campaign please go to www.wicklow.ie

Who can apply:

- Government Departments and State Agencies (in cases of leveraging funding),
- Locally based community and voluntary groups in disadvantaged urban and rural areas, and,
- Not-for-profit organisations.
- Commercial organisations, individuals and for-profit organisations are not eligible for funding under this programme.

A total fund of €51,290 is available overall. This will offer grants up to a maximum of €3,000 per project with a percentage of grants ring fenced for amounts of €1,000 or less.

Priority will be given to projects that address disadvantage and those that demonstrate the most significant impact.

Applications forms are available on www.wicklow.ie or by emailing ccsdadmin@wicklowcoco.ie. Queries can be made by phoning 0404 20208. Completed Applications should be returned to Community Culture & Social Development, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow, A67 FW96.

Applications can also be emailed to ccsdadmin@wicklowcoco.ie Deadline for receipt of completed applications is Friday 26th February.



Wicklow Community Call

The Community Call Helpline continues to operate from 9-5 Monday to Friday. There is a steady number of calls for requests mainly for information, shopping and delivery. The helpline also refers callers to befriending services when appropriate. There is strong evidence that the links have been established between those who need help and volunteers showing which demonstrates the resilience of communities in the county. The latest lockdown has understandably seen a reduction in the number of volunteers.

The Community Response Forum continues to meet fortnightly to co-ordinate the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and address any issues arising.

The Keep Well campaign is rolling out. A number of resources have been made available on www.wicklow.ie to address 'Staying Connected', 'Minding your Mood', 'Keeping Active', 'Eating Well' 'Getting Creative' and 'Your County'.

The resources have been promoted through social media and conscious of those not online, we are using local radio, leaflets and recently Christmas cards were distributed with information regarding the helpline and the Keep Well campaign. Further actions are being developed to promote the campaign and helpline, to ensure that those who need help can access it.

14. Healthy Ireland

Wicklow County Council as part of the Governments Keep Well Campaign received an allocation of €67,225 to be split across three themes. The amounts and themes and are as follows:

- Your County - €20,168
- Switching Off/Being Creative - €30,251
- Staying Connected (Community Call) - €16,806

Allocation must be spent between January – March 2021. 90% of this funding €60,502.50 was credited to Wicklow County Council's account on the 18th December 2020 with the remaining 10% to be credited when Pobal receive and sign off on return regarding the funding.

Lists of actions that have been set out in budget template and have been submitted are listed below and will be happening over the next three months.

Theme 1 Your County

We aim to harness the resources in County Wicklow, be they human resources, natural resources, community and recreational resources, to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access these resources for their physical and mental well-being – especially the more vulnerable groups such as the elderly.

Wicklow County Council highlights the important role that individual and community resilience will play in contributing to our ongoing response to Covid-19 in the Garden County. Tips and information showing



people of all ages how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines can be found on www.wicklow.ie/wellbeing

- Collaborative actions to address particular disadvantage as identified by community call helpline
- Technology to enable elderly to engage with the 'Keep Well' programme and connect with community/families/friends
- Promotion advertising and awareness of actions aimed at addressing isolation/need for practical supports of age friendly target group
- Measures to identify 'hard to reach' elderly
- Promotion/advertising to enable everyone – especially those most isolated to engage in the Keep Well campaign and address isolation or need for practical support

Theme 2 Switching Off and Being Creative

Switch-off and be creative this winter in Wicklow. Covid-19 has affected all our lives and fundamentally changed the way in which we socially interact, with long periods in 2020 where we cannot attend creative, sporting and recreational activity. We know that this is challenging for our wellbeing and can leave us with a sense of always being 'switched' on, or feeling low and isolated.

Your Local Authority has a range of new initiatives to help you switch off, get back to nature and relax this winter. Nourishing your body and mind as well as getting engaged in activities which distract and interest you, or encourage you to fire up your creative energy, can have a positive impact on your life, mood and connection to others.

We have opportunities to learn a musical instrument, concerts in communities and nursing homes, writing workshops, nature and heritage activities, Active Age Packs, and much more for all ages, all free and countywide, so 'Get Creative' this winter in Wicklow. See www.wicklow.ie/wellbeing

15. Music & the Arts

- Music Network - Deliver instruments and tuition, both group sessions and individual. To include piano, cello, violin, mandolin, voice, guitar, tin whistle & flute
- "Festival in a Van" - music van will visit hospitals, nursing homes & hospice to provide concerts for residents. Successfully trialled in 6 local authorities to date
- Winter Care Packs - 500 packs being distributed, with HSE consultation to those in most need. Age Friendly Older persons service info guide, exercise pack from Local Sports Partnership, info from Gardaí, HSE, Healthy Ireland and others will feature

16. Heritage & Nature

- "My Place, My Heritage" - Irish Community Archive Network - (ICAN) project (part of national programme). Theme will be "Wells & Wellness" concentrating on wells in the local landscape



- "Nature is Good for You" - 5 themes spread over 5 weeks, in association with East Coast Radio
- "Nature on Your Doorstep" - encouraging public to engage with nature, when on their 5km walks - take & upload photographs

17. Libraries & Outreach

- "Doula to You"
 - Connecting expectant and new mothers who may be feeling isolated, focus will be on the mother.
- Ukulele lessons
 - Introductory classes for the beginner. Participants will learn how to play the most common chords as well as a few tunes.
- Yoga online
 - Encouraging public to experience yoga, this introductory course will include Chair, Hatha, Yin and Yoga Flow as well as some meditations.
- Beginners Short Story Writing
 - In this workshop attendees will look at the key aspects of fiction writing, exploring the overlaps and distinct differences between flash fiction, the short story and the novel.
 - They will look at the importance of language and imagery in the "short, short story" as well as the importance of character, plot, point of view, dialogue, conflict and setting in all three forms. With the aid of writing prompts, participants will have the chance to put into practice what they have learned, receiving feedback on their work in a fun and supportive environment
- Family History Classes
 - Every person has a story worth knowing and keeping for posterity.
 - These classes will focus on helping the public to use the library online resources to conduct their own search in order to complete their family tree.
- Art Classes
 - This will consist of workshops where participants will be taught the basics of watercolour and create a finished painting.
- Folklore & Creativity
 - Storytelling & folklore - 6 classes
 - Lockdown Creative Home Workshops
- Healthy Eating & Tobacco Cessation



- "Healthy Eating Made Easy" - 5/6 week nutrition programme. Can be run online, or in person. Participants will be empowered to make healthy, nutritious and economical food choices for themselves and their families.
- Tobacco Cessation project
 - Online awareness of signposting people on their journey to quit smoking.

Theme 3 Staying Connected

It is so important at a time like this to stay connected to friends, family and community. This could be for practical supports, like a shopping delivery when you need it; your vital medicines delivered to your door when you can't make it yourself; someone to walk your dog when you are keeping yourself safe. The Community Call Helpline (1800868399) and the website www.wicklow.ie/wellbeing is offering help and supports and a list of agencies that offer further supports for those feeling particularly lonely and isolated.

This is also a call to action to communities to find ways to support those most vulnerable to stay connected and make a plan to keep well. The important thing is to get that message out to everybody that supports are there to build our resilience and mind our mood. We will get through this together by helping each other where and when we can.

"Ask for help if needed – offer help if you can"

- Community Call - Collaborative Community Response Forum (CRF) measures to enable engagement with 'Keep Well' theme and community call
- Community Call - Promotion/advertising/awareness of CRF collaborative measures to enable engagement with 'Keep Well' theme and community call
- Befriending Activities - Collaborative measures to animate and enable communities to take part in befriending services at community level
- Befriending Activities - Promotion/advertising/ awareness of collaborative measures to animate and enable communities to take part in befriending services at community level and raise awareness of service to individuals

18. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Both SICAP implementers, namely Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership successfully completed the end of year review of their 2020 programmes. All KPIs were met or exceeded, all actions completed, budget parameters complied with, case studies and narrative reports submitted.

The LCDC will now give final approval to the SICAP Annual Plans 2021 of both Partnerships. As the end of year review is complete and both Annual Plans are fully approved, the SICAP March funds can now be released to the Programme Implementers.

19. County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN):

Co. Wicklow has 17 individuals participating on the current run of the 8-week national PPN Stakeholder Training course provided by Social Justice Ireland and Waterford Institute of Technology. It is targeted at PPN members, WCC staff and elected members.



PPN participation in submissions/consultations: NTA Review of the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area; Codling Park Windfarm Development; Blessington SEC Energy Survey; Co Wicklow Screen Sector Strategy; UCD Research on Older Workers; National Carers Strategy Review.

Good Governance for Community Groups: 37 PPN members participating in this training course run in collaboration with Carmichael Centre.

20. Sports & Recreation Partnership

Training & Education

Date	Course	Location	No's
03/02/21	Sports Capital Club Information Webinar	Online	47
03/02/21	Safeguarding 1 – Child Protection	Online	12
10/02/21	Safeguarding 2 – Club Children's Officer	Online	12

Programmes

Online Inclusive classes for children and teens with a physical or intellectual disability starting on the 1st February running for four weeks. These 30 minute classes run Monday – Friday at 10.30 each morning ranging from yoga, dance and family fun fitness.

Operation Transformation

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the 18th 19th and 20th February, the Operation Transformation 5k run went virtual. Registration was on Athletics Ireland <https://eventmaster.ie/event/x9D3HPyS91> to take part in this event. There was also a minimum fitness test brochure on our website https://wicklowlsp.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/OT_WICKLOW.pdf

Brochures

Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership have the following three brochures available to keep you active at home;

- Older Adult Home Exercise Plan
- Activities for All
- National BeActive Exercise Plan

These brochures are available online at <https://wicklowlsp.ie/> for download or you can contact us on 0404 20100 or email at wicklowlsp@wicklowcoco.ie to send you a copy.

21. County Wicklow Library Services

Resilience Campaign

As part of the Department of Health’s ‘Keep Well’ Resilience programme during Covid 19 Wicklow County Council Library Service set up a 6 week ukulele online course with Bray musician, Pat Byrne and a 10 week creative writing course with local author Tanya Farrelly. Both courses are fully subscribed. Online yoga and family history also feature as elements of the “Keep Well” programme.



Pictured is Siobhán Dunn from Dunlavin, who is delighted to be playing a few tunes already.

“Ireland Reads”

This campaign by Libraries Ireland encouraged people of all ages to pledge to take some time to read on February 25th. The drive behind this is to highlight the pleasures of reading, especially at this time.

Wicklow County Council gave its public representatives an invitation to be reading role models and quickly secured offers from Deputy Simon Harris and Councillors Avril Cronin, Grace McManus, Jodie



Neary, Dermot O'Brien and Mags Crean, all of whom were happy to submit recordings of themselves reading and endorsing the programme.

Other "Ireland Reads" events included online Rhyme Time sessions for Toddlers and babies in targeted areas across the county and an exclusive interview with local best-selling author Sam Blake in conversation with Ballywaltrim Librarian, David Forde.

"Grow It Forward" Campaign

Libraries Ireland is partnering with Grow it Yourself to roll out the Grow It Forward campaign under the Government's "Keep Well" Programme.

"Grow It Yourself" (GIY) will have 50,000 packs for distribution following the launch of the campaign around 20th March. As the original plan was that Libraries would distribute packs through our physical library branches, this plan has been reviewed to take account of current restrictions.

The following has now been agreed nationally.

- GIY have engaged with An Post to distribute, at a reduced rate, 25,000 packs to people who register on the GIY website after the launch in March
- At the same time, GIY will send the remaining 25,000 packs to each of the 30 Library Authority HQs and we will advertise that these are available from our Library Service to library members or those who would like them are asked to join the library
- Library Authorities will make their own arrangements to get the packs to their customers i.e. either through their existing delivery mechanisms or by posting out to customers. Given that there will be a maximum of c 830 packs per Library Authority.

The packs will include 6 packs of seeds and a Growing Guide. Details of how to join your library will be included on the Growing Guide and the envelopes used will include the Libraries Ireland logo.

Executive Librarian, Fiona Scannell has agreed to be Wicklow County Council's "Grow It Forward" ambassador for the project. She will receive training from GIY and will have access to the GIY App. Fiona will liaise with GIY and promote the campaign to colleagues and to the public and bring their enthusiasm and energy to make this campaign an exciting, positive initiative for libraries.

We believe that this campaign will be an opportunity to showcase the wealth of information we have in libraries around this subject and, taking a longer term approach, will lead to more talks, classes, seminars around growing and gardening both on site and online over the coming months.

22. Covid-19 Community Response

COVID-19 Emergency Fund Round 2

The Department of Rural and Community Development has announced the COVID-19 Emergency Fund Round 2 in conjunction with Wicklow County Council and Wicklow LCDC. The funding is in recognition of the important role played by community and voluntary organisations across the country during the pandemic restrictions.



A total of €1.7m has been provided nationally. Wicklow County Council/ Wicklow LCDC has been allocated €51,290 for this fund. There is a greater emphasis on disadvantaged groups and areas this time around. We will be inviting applications that demonstrate a significant impact in line with the objectives of the funding scheme. Applications will be assessed based on the strength of the impact and the target group.

Objectives:

- To adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality. Examples of measures supported could be adapting premises to allow for social distancing; offering on-line activities; providing social supports and friendly calls by phone etc.
- To become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign. The grants are aimed at assisting participation in the campaign, in particular with the three themes: staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood.

Who can apply:

- Government Departments and State Agencies (in cases of leveraging funding),
- Locally based community and voluntary groups in disadvantaged urban and rural areas, and,
- Not-for-profit organisations.

Keep Well Campaign

The Keep Well campaign is a government initiative to encourage and support everyone to make a plan that will help to get us through the COVID-19 restrictions.

A number of resources have been made available under the following themes; 'Staying Connected', 'Minding your Mood', 'Keeping Active', 'Eating Well' 'Getting Creative' and 'Your County'. The resources have been promoted through social media and conscious of those not online, we are using local radio, leaflets and recently Christmas cards were distributed with information regarding the helpline and the Keep Well campaign.

A number of agencies in the county are involved in the development and roll out of this programme in the county, which is overseen by the Community Response Forum. Further actions are being developed to promote the campaign and helpline, to ensure that those who need help can access it.

Community Call

The Community Call Helpline continues to operate from 9-5 Monday to Friday. There is a steady number of calls for requests mainly for information, shopping and delivery. The helpline also refers callers to befriending services when appropriate. There is strong evidence that the links have been established between those who need help and volunteers showing which demonstrates the resilience of communities in the county.

The Community Response Forum continues to meet fortnightly to co-ordinate the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and address any issues arising.

23. LECP

Goal 1: Develop community capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban and rural regeneration

Regeneration Funding Schemes:

Rural Regeneration Development Fund 2019/2020 (RRDF)

Area	Overview of Proposal	Funding Awarded
Baltinglass	Work ongoing on restoration of the Courthouse reuse as a library/Heritage and Digi-hub with outdoor event space Consultants working on public Realm enhancement, parking improvement, pedestrian crossings, ramps, boardwalk and riverside fencing	€2.7mn (total cost €3,566,968)
Newtownmountkennedy	Consultants being appointed for Main st. Design; mobility /transport plan; community facilities	€357,750

Both projects are underway but progress has been affected by COVID-19 restrictions

Town & Village 2020

This funding scheme supports economic and social development projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000.

This year there are two elements to the Scheme.

1. 2020 Accelerated Measure

This measure aims to assist communities and local businesses in the delivery of projects that address the short term challenges of social and economic recovery following the COVID-19 emergency. The focus is on adapting to public health requirements, particularly social distancing.

Funding is available up to €25,000 - €40,000 in exceptional circumstances

2. 2020 Town and Village Main Scheme

Round 1 Accelerated		
Dunlavin	Shop Local campaign	Funded €4,500
Roundwood	Public realm	Funded €36000
Comm Centres	Adaptations for COVID measures for 10 centres	Funded €16,200
Round 2 Accelerated – August 14 th		
Enniskerry	Car parking improvements, new	Funded €39,600

	footpath, new public seating, signage & shopfront improvements	
Ballinaclesh	Renovations to community centre	Funded €39,600
Laragh	Improvements to pedestrian movements; provision of safe pedestrian spaces and public awning	Funded €24,300
Tinahely	Tinahely Mens Shed building refurbishment after a fire	Funded €4,950
Baltinglass	Painting and planting scheme	Funded €9,000
App	App to encourage shop local – county wide	Funded €22,500
Round 3 Accelerated >10,000 – August 28 th		
Kilcoole	Age Friendly benches	Funded €18,000
BCPs	Fit out for BCP centres	Funded €40,000
Rathdrum	Age friendly benches and bus shelter	Funded €24,000
Round 3 Accelerated <10,000 – August 28 th		
Greystones 2020/MD	Footpath improvement around Burnaby Park	Funded €40,000
Arklow MD	Biodiversity project	Funded €35,550
Wicklow MD	Outdoor Shelter/awnings	Funded €40,000

Town & Village Main Scheme – September 30 th		
Stratford	Community shop/cafe/offices/living over the shop/playground	Funded €199,800
Laragh	BCP and remote working hub Brockagh	Funded €100,000
Enniskerry	Public realm enhancement	Funded €98,000
Avoca	Public realm and recreation facility works	Funded €68,455
Annamoe	Public realm enhancement	Funded €100,000

CLAR 2020

Wicklow county council have successfully secured €60,000 for two projects under the Clar programme. Knockananna Community Group and Asknagap secured funding for carparks.

Goal 2: Promote Active Citizenship and Public Participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making

Age Friendly Programme

The Age Friendly programme is focusing on the Keep Well Campaign and the Community Call. 500 winter care packs were delivered to those most isolated and vulnerable in the county and were very well received. 17 tablets were delivered to 7 participating nursing homes Wicklow in order to assist residents stay connected. Funding for these was through Age Friendly Ireland and the HSE.



Training for setting up a Befriending service in Arklow has started with two sessions complete.

Comhairle na nÓg

The Comhairle na nÓg, through the Coordinator, are taking part in the COVID-19 Community Response Forum, bringing the perspective of young people.

Funding has been secured from DCYA to continue to support the Comhairle na nÓg. Tablets were purchased for use by the Comhairle in each Municipal District, to help them to keep the youth council going during the COVID-19 restrictions.

PPN – report attached

Goal 3: Strategic Direction – Develop high quality integrated services, available to all communities, in particular, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups

1. Healthy Wicklow Strategy

Round 3 of Programme is underway but implementation has slowed down because of COVID-19. An extension to 31st December 2021 has been granted. €30,000 has been allocated to a number of groups under the Healthy Ireland Mental Health Small grants Scheme.

Under the Healthy Ireland Fund, Wicklow County Council has received €67,225 to help with the 'Keep Well' campaign. This is a national campaign, part of the government plan for 'Living with COVID-19' focused on 5 major themes:

- Keeping Active & Being Outdoors – even during winter it is important to help physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Keeping in Contact – staying connected with people and addressing isolation as person-to-person connection is important to our wellbeing
- Switching Off and Being Creative - Switching Off and Being Creative or learning something new, getting back to nature and finding ways to relax
- Eating Well – by nourishing your mind and body we can positively impact our physical and mental wellbeing.
- Minding Your Mood – relaxation, mindfulness and asking for help if needed.

2. Migrant Integration Strategy

The DRAFT Migrant Integration Strategy has recently been completed and was presented to the LCDC. It will go to the full Council meeting in February.

3. County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy – Wicklow Naturally



Wicklow County Council was awarded Leader funding for the implementation of the Food and Beverage Strategy. Consultants were appointed in 2019 for 2020 and proceeded to roll out the Food and Beverage Strategy in spite of the challenges presented by Covid 19. The consultants are on hand until the end of February and are available thereafter to assist with various aspects of the project.

Highlights of the Programme

- The creation of a Wicklow Food and Beverage brand Wicklow Naturally and the establishment of a network of 100 members consisting of producers, the hospitality trade, retailers and service providers.
- The creation of a website and associated social media
- Producer events (pre lockdown)
- Production of labelling and promotional material
- Launch of the Wicklow signatures dishes – featured on Nationwide
- Participation in a US PBS TV network – Ireland County by County.
- Engagement with food writers
- Engagement with the Aldi Grow programme
- Development of a business plan for a food incubation hub
- Formation of a company limited by guarantee
- Participated in the “Love Local” campaign
- Food Poverty and Food Sustainability

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

- October Feast

Approximately 35 events were held in October, the online events were tremendously successful resulting in 1,227,909 engaging with the website or social media during the course of the month.

Events included

- Food demonstrations
- Foraging Tours
- Meet the Maker events
- Demonstration videos

Next Steps

Preparing an application for funding for 2021 for the administration of the company and the development of the brand, representation at events etc.



Goal 4: Develop a vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector

Bray Area Partnership has teamed with Southside partnership and was successful in securing Dormant Accounts funding for a social enterprise support project. SEED, Social Enterprise Expansion and Development, provides both mentoring and training to Social Enterprises in the North Wicklow area. County Wicklow Partnership's social enterprise project is providing support and training to social enterprises in the rest of the county. It also provides start-up funding through the LEADER Programme.

- A Rural Youth Online Social Enterprise Entrepreneurial Training Programme
- Covid 19 Training Support Programme for new and existing Social Enterprises in Co Wicklow

24. International Women's Day 2021

As part of the Women and Diversity in Local Government project the female councillors of Wicklow County Council plan to mark International Women's Day with a webinar on Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7pm. The theme of the webinar is:

Breaking Down Barriers: A conversation with County Wicklow's women councillors

The webinar invites women who have ever wondered what it is like to be a woman in local politics to join a discussion between Wicklow County Council's female elected representatives and national experts on women in politics.

Claire McGing (author of Women Beyond the Dail) and Caitriona Gleeson (CEO of Women for Election) will be talking to Wicklow County Council's women Councillors about local government, life in politics and how to support more women to enter politics.

The webinar can be accessed by registering for the event on Eventbrite.



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 Bray Central site is currently shutdown as per government guidelines. Oakmount is in negotiations with a retail anchor since late 2020 and this is progressing well.

Town Teams

Town Teams in Arklow, Blessington, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow continue to meet virtually where possible to progress various projects. Activity, particularly engagement with stakeholder groups has been curtailed due to Covid restrictions.

Arklow Town Team

Members of Arklow Town Team received a presentation on projects delivered in 2020 which included:

- Arklow Town Heritage Panels launched in Arklow Library
- Flower Basket Scheme 2020- 119 baskets purchased.
- Arklow Community CCTV system now in operation.
- Three new bus shelters have been installed in the Arklow Municipal District.
- A Town Reopening Committee was set up.
- A Public survey for the town was carried out.
- Two successful annual fundraising events were held for Nollaig na mBan and International Women's Day

The members also received an update on the four new projects that were granted funding by LEADER in 2020 which included:-

• River Tourism – Harbour to Headwaters project	€17,062.87
• SEAnanagins Seafood Festival	€14,554.95
• Flower Irrigation System on the 19 Arches Bridge	€ 5,358.45
• Design and develop a Visit Arklow Website	€ 4,690.21
Total amount received	€41,666.48

All new projects are progressing well.

FEBRUARY 2021



Arklow Town Team intends to continue the Flower Basket Scheme this year and is hoping to offer a subsidised rate to retailers where possible.

A virtual 5k / 10k event to support International Women's Day is also currently being organised. Details of how to sign up and register for the event will be circulated in the coming weeks.

Bray Town Team / Bray Reopening Committee

Bray Town Reopening Committee met in February and discussed the current Level 5 restrictions.

An Garda Siochana gave an update of Operation Fanacht in Bray District. The committee are planning ahead for reduction of restrictions and hope to carry out deep clean of Main Street, distribution of social distancing markings to businesses and also to push the Shop Local messaging.

Blessington Town Team

The last meeting of Blessington Town Team was held (online) on Tuesday 2nd February 2021.

The Hello Neighbour initiative is continuing and some new volunteers have come on board. There has been a lot of positive feedback on the Age Friendly Newsletters produced and circulated by Blessington and District Forum. Blessington Tidy Towns are continuing to do clean ups and developing plans for 2021 and members continue to be active in their 5km area.

The issue of dog fouling and irresponsible dog owners was discussed as an area of concern with Baltinglass MD and Blessington Tidy Towns to work together to examine innovative ways of addressing the issue.

Greystones 2020

Greystones 2020 are currently restructuring & reviewing their policies and membership to take account of economic and other changes since they originally set up. Having regard to a number of recent developments in Greystones, the committee are keen to maximise the benefits which may be derived from major new developments locally, such as the proposed Greystones Media Campus and the off shore Codling Windfarm, and plan to rebrand Greystones 2020 in the coming months.

Wicklow Town Team

Wicklow Town Team met on Wednesday 27th January.

Actions discussed at that meeting included: –

- The Abbey Grounds
- The Heritage Walk
- Park and Ride
- Community Power Scheme/Sustainable Energy Community



- East Coast Greenway
- Proposed development of a Youth Theatre

Wicklow Town Team along with Wicklow Municipal District were successful in their application under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 for the provision of portable awnings in Market Square.

In these Covid-19 times the provision of the awnings, while providing a covered outdoor space, will provide a year-round pedestrian space and will also add to the visitor experience for Tourists visiting the nearby historic Gaol. Free Wi-Fi is also available at this location and the upgrading of lighting in the Square will further enhance the area.

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 plenary town re-opening meeting will be organised once arrangements for the lifting of the current Covid 19 restrictions are known.

Re-opening Business

Outdoor tables and chairs licensing under section 254, to support social distancing for business to re-open has been extended to the end of March 2021.

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.

Wicklow Passport:

Wicklow County Tourism will be introducing 5 new stamps to include the towns of Carnew, Donard, Redcross, Brittas Bay, Delgany, Kilmacanogue, Kilcoole and Newcastle with the total number of stamps available now being 24 and there are also plans on an extensive promotional campaign around the Wicklow Passport to help promote Wicklow to the domestic market when it is safe to do so.

New Website:

Wicklow County Tourism is currently developing strong editorial content for the website to help showcase and promote the various Wicklow Themes. Themes worked on include Wicklow Walks, Cycling in Wicklow, Wicklow Family Activities, Wicklow Gardens, Wicklow Foods and Flavours, etc. while communications are also ongoing with the members to update and enhance the information on the site.

Trail Digitisation:

Work is currently ongoing between Wicklow County Tourism and the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Officer to help digitise trails around Wicklow. This project will help to better display and promote the Wicklow walks. It will also make it easier for visitors to find and do the trails.

Celtic Routes Project:

Working with partners in Wales, Wexford and Waterford, Wicklow County Tourism continues to work to improve the promotional activities of the Celtic Path. An extensive promotional campaign is planned to be launched in March with TV, Print and Social Media activities around the UK and Ireland.

Accommodation: The County Wicklow Accommodation working group are progressing with planning the next steps in order to develop a prospectus aimed at tourism providers to invest in County Wicklow.

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.



Wicklow County Council is currently preparing tender documents seeking design options for the redevelopment of the Abbey Ground. A number of meetings have taken place with the tender brief due to be advertised in the coming weeks.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

A Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan for Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park has been commissioned by Fáilte Ireland, working with its strategic partners the Office of Public Works (OPW), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Coillte along with the National Monuments Service and Wicklow County Council,

The aim of the Masterplan is to improve the visitor experience in Co Wicklow and the consultant team, led by Consarc Design Group, are asking the public for their input into the project.

Public consultation will run from February 22nd to March 12th and due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, this will mostly be facilitated through the Consultation Hub on <https://www.wicklow.ie> and also with a series of Zoom virtual drop-in sessions with the consultant team, facilitated by the Paul Hogarth Company

The Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park Masterplan covers the full range of visitor attractions and activities available in the area, with a particular focus on active outdoor activities – primarily walking and cycling, and the visitor experience in the Glendalough valley.

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.

Rural & 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.

Arklow Historic Town Core: Tender was recently advertised on eTenders with the closing date extended to 17th February 2021. The Tender assessment to appoint a contractor will be carried out once all submissions have been received.

Fitzwilliam Square Public Realm: This project is largely completed, with some minor outstanding works to be concluded.



Bray Public Transport Bridge: it is the Council's intention to advertise the Part 8 for this project in Q1 of 2021. (The current planning permission would expire prior to the substantial completion of the bridge). Detailed design will continue and it is planned to go to tender for the construction of the bridge later this year.

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.

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 in Rathdrum. The Part 8 for this development was presented to the members of Arklow Municipal District on 10th February 2021 and was approved.

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 a recommendation for Wicklow County Council. The review was endorsed by the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC in March 2020.

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.

Offshore Wind Energy

Seven Offshore Projects have been designated Relevant Projects by the government and are in line to receive a valid grid connection offer. Six of these projects are in the Irish Sea with four off the coast of Wicklow.

- Dublin Array RWE (2 projects Bray and Kish Banks)
- Codling Wind Park Fred Olsen/EDF (2 projects, Codling I and Codling II)

The Development of the designated Relevant Projects is dependent on the enactment of the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill, 2020 expected in 2021.

- The expansion by SSE Renewables of the Arklow Bank wind Farm is proceeding under an extant consent process. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage had last October granted a foreshore licence to carry out site investigation works in an area off the coast at Arklow, however this has been challenged in the High Court by an environmental activist. Separately, the developer of the project SSE Renewables proposes to make an application to Wicklow County Council for the development of the offshore operations facility at Arklow Harbour. SSER plan to locate their sub-station at Avoca River Park.
- Codling Bank has appointed consultants to engage in the necessary environmental investigations in anticipation of being in a position to apply for the necessary planning consents
- Dublin Array has completed a non statutory public consultation process

Key Milestones

- The anticipated enactment of the Marine Planning and Development Bill
- The Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) Auction whereby the companies bid for a grid connection (expected 2021)

The estimated value of each of the above projects is between €1 and €2 billion. In addition to the benefits provided to the community, including investment, employment, training and skills development, and the



opportunity to develop Wicklow as a Centre of Excellence for Offshore Wind Energy, a mandatory Community Benefit Fund must be provided by all RESS projects. This will be of significant value for the County Wicklow community.

Council officials are engaging with Enterprise Ireland and the educational bodies with regard to developing a business cluster and skills and training requirements.

Maritime Business Development Group

The Maritime Business Development Group met on 4th February 2021. A presentation was given by Liam Curran of Enterprise Ireland on Offshore Wind Energy, explaining what opportunities there may be and timelines. The members also agreed to hold less frequent MBDG meetings and instead have local sub committees set up to cover the respective harbours and port areas who would report back to the MBDG. Dr. Anamarija Frankic also provided an update on the Native Oyster Restoration projects (NORRI).

Food & Beverage Strategy

The contract with Jonathan Birnie Associates, the company engaged to implement the food and beverage strategy has concluded. The first meeting of Wicklow Naturally a company limited by guarantee was held on 11th February. It is proposed that Wicklow Naturally will have a presence at a number of events in 2021 to promote the brand locally and nationally, in the second and third quarters of 2021. The company is preparing an application for LEADER funding to engage a co-ordinator to continue rollout of the strategy including the development of a Food Incubation Hub. Wicklow County Council and LEO Wicklow continue to receive enquiries about suitable premises from food and beverage businesses considering relocating to Wicklow and is seeking to identify premises suitable for food production in the short to medium term

An initial batch of Wicklow Naturally plaques have been delivered to a number of members over the past few weeks with more still to be delivered. The members are promoting the brand through posting images on social media with their plaques.

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
	2020	2021	2021
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 27/€663,778.00 - 3/€3,850	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	No approvals to date
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
	2020	2021	2021
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	58	TBC	4
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73	75	15
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	832	TBC	123
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	12	1

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2020	2021	2021
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this	1302	TBC	113

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metric			
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	761	TBC	59 (including Brexit mentoring)

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2020/2021	2021/2022	Year to Date
No. of Secondary Student Participants	962	TBC	962

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2020	2021	Year to Date 2021
Number of Applications	Programme review	Programme review	Programme review

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2020	2021	Year to Date 2021
Trading Online Vouchers	425	TBC	36

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2020	2021	2021
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	8	11	3

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2020	2021	2021
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	21	23	3 about to commence

2021 Activities

- ✦ A dedicated team of Brexit Advisors are in place working with companies to continue to work with clients to help them adapt to new Brexit reality.
- ✦ 2 days of Brexit one to one mentoring clinics on January 12th and 22nd are delivered with 12 client companies availing of the service.
- ✦ Prepare Your Business for Customs workshop scheduled for 26th January with 20 businesses registered to attend.
- ✦ A high level of demand for business advice clinics is being met by business advisors providing additional clinics which are run remotely
- ✦ Despite School closures the Student Enterprise Programme continues to be delivered remotely with online resources being provided to all participating Secondary Schools in Co. Wicklow.
- ✦ The November Network of Entrepreneurial Women network meeting will take place on 6th January via Zoom.
- ✦ Extremely high volume of applications for the Trading Online Voucher Scheme were received by the deadline of 31st December 2020 in order to avail of the 90% grant. The grant has now reverted to 50% from 1st January 2021.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ National LEO 'Look for Local' campaign is promoted and supported by LEO Wicklow.
- ✦ The Management Development Programme for managers continues MDP continues until the 11th of February 2021.
- ✦ The first of 5 Start Your Own Business Courses for 2021 commenced on Tuesday 19th January.
- ✦ A two-day Bookkeeping for Small Businesses course took place on Thursday 14th January and was booked out.

Training

Upcoming courses include the following:-

The Spring Summer 2021 training programme offers a combination of core training courses, digital marketing clinics and Covid Crisis related courses to LEO clients.

Upcoming courses/workshops for February/March 2021 include:-

- ✦ Social Media for beginners takes place on 23rd February and is fully booked.
- ✦ Local Enterprise Week takes place 1st to 5th March and there are a number of training events planned for that week.
- ✦ A Trading Online Voucher Seminar will take place on 4th March.
- ✦ Additional Brexit one to one mentoring clinics have been scheduled for 18th February and 3rd March to meet ongoing demand.
- ✦ The 2nd Start Your Own Business Course commences on 3rd March and is fully booked.

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- ✦ The Lean for Micro introduction workshop takes place on 17th February and recruitment has commenced to fill the Lean for Micro programme which will start end February and run over 6 months.
- ✦ The virtual National Enterprise Awards will take place on Thursday 11th February from 6pm. This year's event will be streamed live at the link: <http://localenterprise.ie/awards>
Join us to cheer on our finalist Peter McPharland of Gravitie Ltd: <https://gravitie.cloud/>
- ✦ The 'Hi-Start: Get your Business Investor Ready Programme', run in partnership with LEO Dublin City, South Dublin, DLR and Finglas, finalised succesfully with two LEO Wicklow based participants.
- ✦ The 'Breakthrough Innovation Programme', run in partnership with LEO Dublin City, South Dublin, DLR and Finglas, continues throughout January and February. So far 9 Wicklow based companies have taken part and recruitment continues for the next intakes



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-PlansStrategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2021-2027/IssuesPaper>

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-RegionalCounty-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2021-2027/Stage-2>

Directions regarding the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan were discussed at the September Council meeting. The Forward Planning team is 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

Wicklow Heritage & Biodiversity Plans

- Nature is Good for You campaign as part of Healthy Ireland Keep Well – Online programme of biodiversity talks via zoom with Wicklow Library Service, production and distribution of publications on Biodiversity
- Local Biodiversity Action Plans for towns and villages in County Wicklow: A joint action with County Wicklow Partnership supported by the LEADER programme. Expressions of interest to be sought Spring 2021.
- Applications for funding made to Heritage Council's County Heritage Plan fund
- Protected Structures Grants: The BHIS and HSF schemes open for applications in 2021, deadline extended to 26th February. €72,000 available under BHIS and four streams of funding under HSF, including historic shopfront scheme and vernacular buildings funding.

Planning Applications

A total of 67 valid applications were received during January, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	11 (05 refer to rural House applications)
Housing Developments*	02
Agricultural Structures	02
Commercial	03
Other Developments**	49
Total	67

* Large hsg Development

PRR 21/58, 95 dwellings, Ballynerrin, Wicklow – Tom & Pat Redmond

**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 90 applications in January, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	09
Individual Houses	22 (14 refer to a rural Hse)
Other Developments	58
Other Developments Requiring EIA	01
Total	90

In relation to decisions issued in January 2020, in comparison to the same period for 2021, the details are as follows:

	31/01/2020	31/01/2021
Total Number of decisions issued	73	90
Total Number of decisions to grant	64	78
% Grant Rate	88%	87%

No. of Applications withdrawn

January 13 (05 refer to rural house applications)

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

Planning Enforcement

Enforcement

New Files	18
Advisory Letters	33
Warning Letters	08
Enforcement Notices	06
Legal files	00
Closed	20

Court Cases:

- 2 Cases listed High Court February
- 1 Case listed for hearing District Court February

Vacant Sites

- 25 no. sites now stand on the Register.
- 01 Section 12(4) Notice of Valuation issued

Derelict Sites

- 03 No. of sites on Register
- 01 site removed from Register
- Levies totalling €87,100 recd.
- 2 Notices served

Short Term Letting

The Short Term letting team is in place with the exception of the technician which is being recruited at present and a replacement for the Graduate Planner which is being recruited at present.

- 01 Application for Registration received in 2021
- Total received to date: 38 (20 from 2019 and 17 from 2020 and 1 from 2021)
- Total files from 2019 is 27
- Total files from 2020 is 69
- Total files from 2021 is 01
- 02 complaints received in 2021
- 1 warning letter issued
- 4 properties from 2019 being investigated at present
- 41 properties from 2020 being investigated at present
- 33 properties from 2021 being investigated at present
- UD files created from 2020 in 2021 is 8

4. Environmental Services

Waste Management

No. of Complaints Opened	261
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	198
No of Litter Fines Issued	21
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	1
No. of Warning Letters Issued	1
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	1
No. of Burning Applications Granted	2
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	14
No. of notices issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	1
No. of files prepared for Court under the Litter Pollution Act	1
No. of cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	1
Income - Litter	€2,075.00
Income – Waste Management	€16,026.00

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

The last SPC for Climate Action and Biodiversity was held on 11th February via Teams and provided an update for the members on action items.

Priority Action items:

- EV Chargers will be installed at Shoreline Greystones, Main Street Blessington and the area office in Blessington in the coming weeks .
- 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 were asked to identify public lands which could be suitable for community woodlands. CARO have issued 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. Three proposed parcels of land have been forwarded to Teagasc to carry out a desk top study on their suitability for the scheme.
- A Foamstream machine has been purchased from Furlong Equipment Ltd and will initially be deployed in the Bray Municipal District. – training on the use of the machine has been delayed due to COVID restrictions.
- A policy document is being drawn up on the use of Glyphosate by Wicklow County Council and will be submitted to the next SPC for approval.
- The role out of the national training programme has commenced. Training for Wicklow County Council elected members and senior management took place on Friday 29th January 2021. The role out of the training will continue for all staff throughout 2021.

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. Work progressed during December with audits in Newtownmountkennedy and Greystones/Delgany while only desk top desk top studies and data gathering continued in January.
- Glenmalure is now completed with final report approved and submitted to SEAI. A claim for grant payment has been made to SEAI and payment received from SEAI in January. The committee is now focused on identifying projects to implement.
- Laragh is also complete and due to be presented to the Community, once a final review is completed by the committee.
- Wicklow Town held a public engagement online event on the 28th of January which was well attended. Participants were invited to take part in online surveys to gather data on energy usage. Blessington has a similar event programmed for mid February.
- A presentation was made to the Association of Irish Energy Agencies on the role Wicklow County Council plays as lead partner for SECs

Environmental Awareness

- The Relove fashion competition was judged in January. The final was postponed until late February due to the closure of schools and a virtual final is now planned with alternative strategies in place for whether schools are open or closed at that time. An Instagram account

has been opened to announce finalists and each outfit for the final is being filmed and will be shown on Instagram during February in the run up to the final.

- The Sustainable Development Goals mapping tool has been delivered with the map developed in house by our GIS Officer. Work is ongoing to promote its use and the wider engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals across the services of Wicklow County Council. A case study on the project has been written and submitted to CARO for distribution nationwide. A presentation on the project was made to the Midlands region with CARO in January.
- 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 applied for 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. This project will help to facilitate Wicklow County Council's commitment to designate spaces for pollinators.
- The annual Tidy Towns, Estates and Environmental Awards were launched at the beginning of July and judged in August and September. Announcement of the results was made in January. All winners were notified and the results distributed via social media, the website and local media. Certificates and cheques have been issued.
- 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 carry out litter picks in 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 is delivering 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 bottle bank campaign was undertaken first to correspond with peak usage over the Christmas period and into January.
- Following on from the successful Stop Food Waste recipe campaign with Catherine Fulvio in July a new Christmas themed campaign was undertaken in December and early January. A series of seven short videos were developed with Catherine Fulvio covering preparation for Christmas, the management of food at Christmas and using the leftovers. Wicklow worked with six other local authorities to fund and deliver the campaign. In Wicklow 64,000 people viewed the videos on social media with 41,000 watching for greater than three seconds, the time it takes for a message to be retained.
- A proposal was made to local authorities in the CARO Eastern Midlands subregion to develop a joint Transition Year Climate Action programme to guide schools on engaging students in action at local level. All four local authorities have agreed to participate.
- Work commenced with Wicklow Tourism to address sustainability in Wicklow's tourism sector. A webinar is planned and a meeting is planned with Wicklow Partnership and Community and Economic Development to discuss how we can support the sector.

Recycling Centres

- Recycling centres have been incredibly busy over the Christmas period. Overall for 2020 the amount of glass recycled increased from 3170 tonnes in 2019 to 4277 tonnes in 2020 a 32% increase and additional cost of €50,000 to the council. This is likely due to change of socialisation patterns caused by the closure of pubs and restaurants. Cardboard recycled increased by 16% for the first 10 months of the year but will likely be higher when the busy Christmas period is taken into account due to increased packaging from online shopping.
- An order has been placed for a new baler and conveyor for Wicklow Recycling Centre, the old baler was 40 years old and no longer fit for purpose. The new baler will be far easier to operate and will increase efficiency and safety at the centre.

- A new Welfare unit will be placed in Avoca Recycling Centre on 19th January resulting in significantly improved welfare facilities for the staff on the site.

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

Life Guards

- The bathing season runs from 1st of June to the 15th September as did Lifeguard Patrols. Recruitment of life guards will commence in March 2021

Dog Licences Renewed 2020.

- Annual Licences 3493
- Lifetime Licences 242
- General Licences 0
- Total 3735

- On-line purchases:
- Annual 1378
- Lifetime 190
- General Licences 0

- 42% of all dog licences renewed were done on-line.

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 Llimited (BRIL) on 27th November. BRIL now have 3 months to make a submission on the draft plan.

Harbours & Ports

- Section 146B application for alterations to the harbour/marina mixed development recently submitted by Sispar Ltd to An Bord Pleanála on the 29/10/2020. By notice dated the 13/01/2021 the Board has invited submissions or observations to be made to it in respect of the plans and particulars submitted by Sispar Limited regarding the proposed

alteration. Application is now on display in County Buildings and on the Wicklow County Council website.

- The Harbours Unit is currently compiling a preliminary list of projects in Wicklow and Arklow for funding under the 2021 DAFM programme.
- Proposed revised harbours dues are to go to Arklow and Wicklow Municipal District for consultation only.
- A new temporary office was installed at North quay Wicklow
- A review of the Wicklow and Arklow Bye-laws has commenced
- At the end of January 2020 a Clean-up of Arklow Harbour dock took place and resulted in the removal of the equivalent of 28 fish boxes of waste (mainly comprising of drift wood, tree branches and general debris)

Wicklow Port – Shipping Activity 2020

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions
January 2020	3	3	0	3
February 2020	4	4	0	4
March 2020	9	8	1	10
April 2020	9	8	1	10
May 2020	8	8	0	8
June 2020	8	7	1	9
July 2020	11	11	0	11
August 2020	10	9	1	11
September 2020	9	9	0	9
October 2020	10	10	0	10
November 2020	14	12	2	16
December 2020	11	11	0	11
Total 2020	91	89	6	101
Total 2019	116	89	27	143
Total 2018	138	126	12	150

TOTAL			2019			2020
	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL
Forestry Products	105,039.00	24,253.00	129,292.00	100,378.00	3,615.00	103,993.00
Metals	-	30,660.00	30,660.00	-	44,507.00	44,507.00
Sand	2,460.00	-	2,460.00	-	-	-
Waste export	-	8,999.00	8,999.00	-	-	-
Glass	-	-	-	-	3,006.00	3,006.00
TOTAL	107,499.00	63,912.00	171,411.00	100,378.00	51,128.00	151,506.00

Environmental Services

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

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

Private Water Supplies

- 1 Annual Sample Plan was prepared and agreed with the HSE
- 0 Private water supplies monitored and 0 were found non-compliant
- 0 were found non-compliant with microbiological parametric values.
- 0 group water schemes were found to be non-compliant
- 0 Do not consume notices were issued.
- 0 boil water notices were lifted from private water supplies after improvement works and obtaining compliant test results.
- 0 boil water notice was issued on a private water supply following receiving non-compliant microbiological and health advice from the HSE.

Petrol Vapour Recovery Regulations

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

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 2 Lakes were monitored involving 12 sample stations for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 8 Rivers stations were monitored involving 15 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.
- 1 Desk Study of the Avonmore_80 river sections was completed due to deterioration in water quality

Planning & Development

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

Well Grants

- 11 New Applications
- 2 Number of New Wells
- 11 Number of New Pumps
- 15 Treatment/Disinfection Equipment
- 26 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 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.

Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections

- 1 Annual Inspection plan was prepared for all environmental inspections planned for 2021.
- 1 Annual Report was prepared on Environmental Inspections carried out in 2020.

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 and will go on display to the public in February 2021.

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

5. Transportation, Water and Emergency Services

	4th January 2021	11th January 2020	18th January 2020	25th January 2021	1st February 2021
Access Issues (Attended)	16	18	19	15	12
Cable Fault (Attend)	7	7	7	7	7
ESB Required (Attended)	32	31	30	28	30
Knock Down (Attended)	3	3	3	3	3
Materials required	3	3	3	3	3
No Supply	6	7	7	7	8
On Hold	19	19	19	21	23
Submitted	263	278	256	240	241
Traffic Management Required	13	15	21	16	11
TOTAL	362	381	365	340	338
Percentage of lights not working	2.43%	2.56%	2.45%	2.28%	2.27%

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	3		4	1	4	12
Cable Fault (Attend)	1			5	1	7
ESB Required(Attended)	7	2	4	4	13	30
Knock Down (Attended)	1	1			1	3
Materials required	1		1		1	3
No Supply	1	4	1	2		8
On hold		1	16	4	2	23
Submitted	25	56	63	56	41	241
Traffic Management Required	6				5	11
Grand Total	45	64	89	72	68	338
Percentage Not Working	1.54%	2.70%	2.69%	2.63%	1.90%	2.27%

Transportation Statistics (General)

	Total 2020	Running total 2021	December 2020	January 2021
Solicitors Queries	842	64	75	64
Road Closure Applications	23	2	0	2
Road Opening Licences	1279	135	70	135
Abnormal Load Applications	33	2	4	2

Winter Maintenance programme commenced on 12th October 2020

Week Commencing	28/12/2020	04/01/2021	11/01/2021	18/01/2021	25/01/2021	
Total number of gritting nights	7	7	3	5	3	
Total number of routes gritted	103	115	30	81	27	
Total estimate tonnage used	423	542	117	360	107	

M11/N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The project team met with the Sponsoring Agency Management Group to discuss a further Bulletin Update expected by the end of April. This will again provide more detail and progress of the scheme with the remaining corridor but also the development of design in-line with the Stage 2 of Project Appraisal process.

The scheme design consultants ARUP continue to progress the assessment of the emerging preferred corridor under TII Project Management Guidelines and are confident that the announcement will be made by the end of Q2 2021. The project team are continuing to meet virtually with the public and any interested groups. Contact to both the liaison and project team can be made at n11m11@arup.com

M11/N11 Interim Bus Priority Project

A progress meeting was held in February and a review of the feasibility report was undertaken which included an assessment of the cost/benefit analysis of the scheme. The NTA prepared a submission for the scheme as a proposal to be included in the NDP Review which closed in January.

N11 Kilmacanogue Parallel Service Road

The switch to Phase 2 Traffic Management was completed in the first week of February, with the mainline traffic travelling on the new running lane. The relocated Bus Stop is also in operation.

This has allowed works to commence on the construction of the two overhead gantry bases, construction of accommodation works to both the businesses and residential premises along the new service road. Following the completion of the accommodation works, construction of the concrete plinths to delineate the service road from the mainline traffic will commence.

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.

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

"N81 Four Studies"

Wicklow County Council requested 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') from Phase 1 Feasibility Report to Phase 2 Route Selection in accordance with Phases 1 to 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines (PMG).

The design team in the Kildare NRO continue to progress the scheme with Route Selection (Phase 2) on behalf of Wicklow County Council.

Sustainable Transportation Measures Grant Schemes

An allocation of €7,616,000 has been allocated by National Transport Authority for Sustainable Transport Measures including the following schemes, and also includes Covid Programme and Stimulus Programme.

- **Bray Strand Road Cycle Scheme** – Shareridge Civil Engineering have commenced works on site. It is expected that the construction phase will last approximately 6 months.
- **Wicklow Port Access Road Pedestrian & Cycle Link Scheme** – Aecom Ireland Ltd. have been appointed consultants for the Scheme. They will commence the Design phase for the Scheme.
- **Arklow Transport Study** – Tenders have been received for Consultants to carry out the Arklow Transport Study. These are now being assessed and it is anticipated that Consultants will be in place to commence the study by the end of February 2021.
- **Bray Southern Cross Road Improvement Scheme** – JB Barry Transportation Ltd. have been appointed consultants for the Scheme. They will commence the Preliminary phase for the Scheme.
- **Upper Dargle Road Bus Priority Measures** – Tenders have been sought for Consultant Engineers to bring the scheme from Preliminary Design Stage through to Completion. The closing date for return of tenders was 27th January 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. Works currently stood down in line with Government Restrictions associated with Covid-19 pandemic.

- **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. Works currently stood down in line with Government Restrictions associated with Covid-19 pandemic.

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	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	0										
Fire Domestic	13			4	4		2**	1	1		1*
Fire Caravan	2			1		1					
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	16	4	4	2	2		1	1		1	1
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	2		1	1							
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	0										
Fire Barn / Shed	0										
Fire Alarm or CO₂ Activation											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	24	10	3	6		1	1	2			1
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	5	2	2	1							
Fire Chimney	12	4	2	2		1	1				2
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	4	2	1	1							
Fire Vehicle	3	2			1						
Flooding	2		1	1							
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	0										
Ambulance Assist	10	2	3	2					1		2
Garda Assist	0										
Electrical Incident	1		1								
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										

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Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	0										
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	0										
False Alarm – Good Intent	3	2	1								
Malicious False Alarm	0										
Mobilised into other County	5					1		1	1	2	
Times Stations mobilised	102	28	19	21	7	4	5	5	3	3	7

* supported by crew from Hacketstown, Carlow

** supported by crew from Naas on 27/01

There were **87 incidents** attended during the month of January 2021. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **102 occasions** including 5 incidents in neighbouring counties.

The most common activity during the month (totalling 73%) was: alarm activations (24%), RTCs (16%), Domestic Fires (13%), Chimney fires (12%), Ambulance Assists (10%), Vehicle fires (12%).

Operational activity for the month of January **was down 9% on the preceding month** (December 2020 – 112 mobilisations).

Activity for the month was down 17% on the equivalent month last year, (January 2020 – 123 mobilisations) which perhaps are mainly due to the effects of COVID lockdown. There was a significant reduction in fires in buildings, down 77% (- 20) and a 140% increase in ambulance assists (+10).

Sample Incidents (January 2021)

- 08/01/2021 Tinahely fire crew supported by colleagues from Hacketstown extinguished a house fire at Askanagap.
- 10/01/2021 Bray Fire Crew were involved in a multi agency operation with Gardai, Ambulance Service and Coastguard units to rescue a casualty who had fallen from cliffs north of the town.
- 19/01/2021 Blessington and Dunlavin crews extinguished a fire in a bungalow at the Banks, Ballyfoyle.
- 27/01/2021 Arklow and Wicklow Town fire crews attended a caravan fire at Askintinny, Clogga – no injuries reported.
- 30/01/2021 Greystones Fire Crew supported by Civil Defence engaged in pumping and sandbag operations to protect properties from flooding at Sea Road, Kilcoole. Wicklow Town and Arklow Town crews were involved in similar incidents in their areas.

Incidents mobilised outside county Wicklow (January 2021):

Kildare (2-incidents)

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- 04/01/21 Dunlavin Fire Crew supported crews from Athy at a domestic fire Ballitore, County Kildare.
- 07/01/21 Baltinglass Fire Crew and crews from Carlow town attended a 2-vehicle RTC at Barnhill, County Kildare.

Wexford (3-incidents)

- 11/01/21 Carnew Fire Crew were mobilised to assist crews from Gorey at a 2-vehicle RTC at Baltyfarrell, Monaseed, County Wexford.
- 24/01/21 Carnew Fire Crew attended a chimney fire at Clonamona, Craanford, County Wexford.
- 30/01/21 Arklow Fire Crew attended a flooding incident at Scarnagh, Coolgreaney, County Wexford.

Fire Prevention

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	3		3		9
Regularisation Certificates					1
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	2				6

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

Commencement Notices for January 2021:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 17

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

Submission Statistics

- 35 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
 - 94 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 16 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 9 are Compliance Documentation (56%)
 - 6 are Opt Out (37%)
 - 1 Without Compliance Documentation (6%)
 - 0 Seven Day Notice (0%)
 - 5 Valid Commencement Notices
 - 11 new build residential Units (0 of which are one off houses)
 - Invalidated CNs for January = 0
- **Certificates of Completion processed in January 2021**
 - 17 New No. of CCC submitted
 - 16 No. Validated
 - 0 No. Invalid

Submission Statistics

- 16 No. Validated CCCs related to;
- 3 No CCCs submitted in November 2020
- 2 No CCCs submitted in December 2020
- 11 No CCCs submitted in January 2021
- 7 Revised Info Requests
- 62% = 10 No. @ Multi-Development site => 60 new residential units
- 6% = one off houses
- 32% = 5 Commercial Units Retail, Crèche etc.

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Points to note:



Non Essential construction sites closed from 8th January due to Level 5 Restrictions. NBCO guidelines requested that all users of BCMS take account of current Level 5 Restrictions before submission of Notices to BCMS. Building Control have continued to assess all Commencement

Notices and Certificates of Completion submitted, however non-essential construction projects have been requested to amend Commencement Notice Date to reflect Level 5 restrictions in line with NBCO guidelines.

Building Control inspections have continued for Essential commenced and completed works.

Building Control carried out 1No. joint inspection of construction sites with National Building Control Office, in Wicklow Town.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	30,539
Greystones Municipal District	10,381
Wicklow Municipal District	8,202
Arklow Municipal District	4,879
Parking Permits	6,710
Parking Fines	20,770
Wicklow County Council	81,481

Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. HR and Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in January:

Preliminary Administrative Officer

Employee Numbers

	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020
Managerial/ Administrative	292	294	293	292
Professional/Technical	105	104	105	108
Outdoor	321	320	324	323
Temporary/ Seasonal	62	55	31 (reduction relates to lifeguards)	31
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	8
Total	788	781	761	762

	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019
Managerial/ Administrative	280	272	280	285
Professional/Technical	104	98	103	102
Outdoor	316	318	318	318
Temporary/ Seasonal	65	88	6	62
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	8
Total	773	784	771	775

(Excludes figures for Fire-fighters)

Access to Information

F.O.I. Requests

January 2021: 4	January 2020:10
Jan -January 2021: 4	Jan – January 2020: 10

Ombudsman Requests

January 2021	1
January to January 2021	1

January 2020	0
January to January 2020	0

Press Releases

January 2021 – 12 Press Releases

Register of Electors

The 2021/2022 Live Register was published on 1st February 2021 in line with statutory regulations. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 Emergency we are limited in the number of areas we can distribute the Register to. The Register is available for inspection in each of the Municipal District Offices and at the Customer Service Hub in County Buildings. The Political Extract was generated and issued to all Council Members, TD's and Senator via email. They will also receive a pdf copy of the Register books themselves. All Reports and Returns regarding the Register of Electors has been returned to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The total number of Electors on the 2021/2022 Live Register of Electors is 102,346 and there are 206 polling stations in Wicklow.

The Franchise staff will continue to strive for excellence on the Register of Electors database. We are continuing to accept applications from 18 year olds and new residents moving into the county in the event that an electoral event occurs and there is a requirement for a Supplement Register. We will continue to make contact with new housing developments and urban areas where new developments are coming on stream in an effort to get new residents register. The Special Voters list has been issued to each of the Nursing Homes in the County for their information along with application forms to register new residents. We have had discussions with Wicklow County Council's Older Person's Network Liasion Officer to highlight the option of Postal Votes for those elderly or vulnerable electors who may not wish to visit a polling station.

We will continue to work on areas where there is a lack of Eircodes. We have assisted the LGMA in their exercise to have other Local Authorities achieve similar Eircode coverage on their own Register of Electors.

We have an ongoing social media presence and have placed ads in print media encouraging electors to use www.checktheregister.ie to check that they are registered to vote. It is hoped that once Covid restrictions are lifted that we will be in a position to establish voter registration days in schools, shopping centres and libraries.'



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 user and email accounts have been migrated.
- Server migration is progressing along planned schedule.
- The team continue to upgrade all legacy operating systems to Windows 10 to ensure continued support from Microsoft.

GIS & Data Collection Systems

- Development of CRM System automation continues, particularly for the new Customer Service Innovation Hub and the Covid Community Response Hub.
- Draft map production for the County Development Plan has begun and contact with 3rd party consultants has commenced.
- 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.
- GIS Departmental Viewers and Editors has been completed and are currently within use across the organisation.

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.

3. FINANCIAL

Revenue Account

Due to year-end adjustments that are currently being carried out as part of the 2020 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) process, we are not in a position to provide January 2021 expenditure figures in the normal format at this time. This situation will be regularised during the Quarter 1 period. The below table outlines the 2021 adopted budget by service division.

REVENUE ACCOUNT			
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st JANUARY 2021			
	Expenditure	Income	NET
	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	€
Housing and Building	28,035,818	(33,580,464)	(5,544,646)
Road Transport & Safety	22,299,168	(15,497,938)	6,801,230
Water Services	5,823,666	(6,857,035)	(1,033,369)
Development Management	11,471,622	(6,226,652)	5,244,970
Environmental Services	11,897,222	(2,069,370)	9,827,852
Recreation and Amenity	7,946,046	(882,197)	7,063,849
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,496,632	(834,228)	662,404
Miscellaneous Services	10,447,823	(7,747,758)	2,700,065
Central Management Charges	19,212,563	(1,000,000)	18,212,563
Local Government Fund		(12,006,898)	(12,006,898)
Pension Levy		0	0
Commercial Rates		(32,078,021)	(32,078,021)
	118,630,560	(118,780,561)	(150,001)

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 January 2021 to 31st January 2021.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST JANUARY 2021					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2021	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/01/2021
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	22,242,937	6,064,539	(1,996,688)	0	26,310,787
Road Transport & Safety	(43,649,380)	(161,374)	(1,412,935)	0	(45,223,688)
Water Services	(11,511,553)	49,682	(220,839)	0	(11,682,711)
Development Management	(8,754,146)	(13,459)	(262,679)	0	(9,030,284)
Environmental Services	1,856,315	(215,232)	(191,550)	32,915	1,482,449
Recreation and Amenity	110,458	(988,172)	(552,123)	0	(1,429,838)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,037,076)	0	0	0	(1,037,076)
Miscellaneous Services	(15,258,702)	(8,628)	55,027	0	(15,212,303)
	(56,001,147)	4,727,356	(4,581,788)	32,915	(55,822,663)

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31st JANUARY 2021										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2021	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/01/2021	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates										
Rents & Annuities	2,735,687	1,656,225	0	(16,695)	0	4,375,217	(1,226,662)	3,148,555	0	28%
Housing Loans										

NB The commercial rated figures will be populated after the 2020 rate demands are issued. The updated 2021 housing loan figures will be available in next month's report.

The rent collection percentage is below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2020

The Discretionary Funding allocation for 2021 was decreased in line with the 2021 LPT rate reduction. The 2021 funding provision consists of mainly General Municipal Allocations used to support local groups and initiative etc. There was no public realm funding allocated this year, however any unspent monies in this area from 2020 will be made available to Municipal Districts in 2021.

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 Council meeting of March 2nd 2020. Capital Investment Programme 2021 – 2023 is currently being prepared. 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