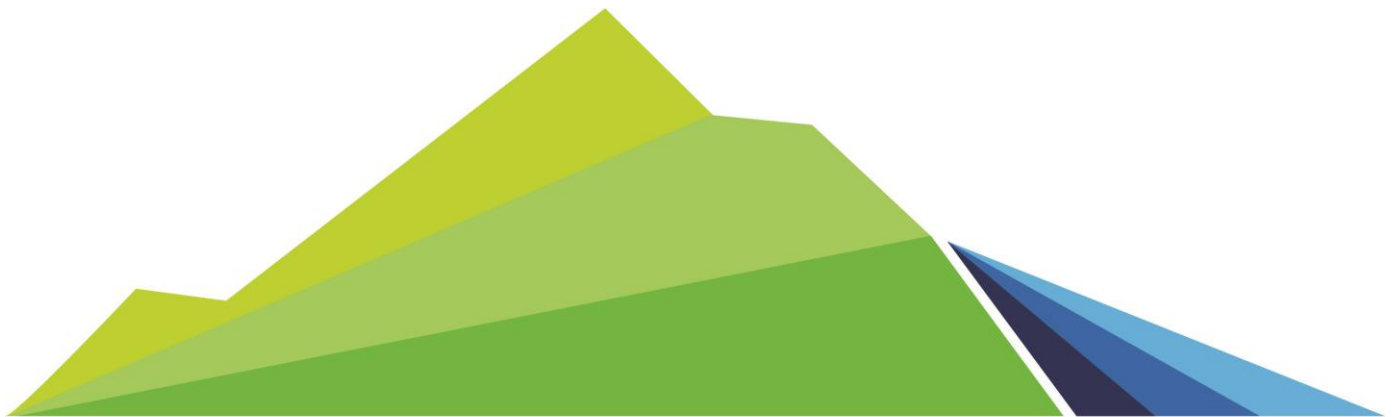




Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



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This month:

Arklow Courthouse – Back in Business

A total of €1.2 million for the refurbishment of the Courthouse was secured by Wicklow County Council and Arklow Municipal District under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund as part of the overall Historic Town Core Project,

The ground floor of the building will be used as a Courthouse with new and improved facilities for all of its users. The upper floors will provide a blend of co-working space and traditional office space in a town centre location.

The Enterprise Hub will provide quality office space for up to six businesses and accommodation for up to 12 individuals in the co-working area which features a hot-desking space where you will be able to drop in and rent a desk for a day.

The next phase of the project, which is due to start in 2021, will see the creation of a new public realm in the adjacent Parade Ground area.

Funding Provided to Boost Wicklow Sports Section

Nineteen Wicklow sports clubs are to share €22,298 under the Small Club Grant Fund for Sports Clubs.

Wicklow SRP were also awarded an additional €18,580 under the Sports Innovation Fund and this will assist community groups who provide sporting activities and allow them to develop new programmes and projects that can advance sport and physical activity in the post COVID-19 public health era.

Knockananna and Asknagap to Benefit from Clar Funding

The upgrading of carparks at Knockananna and Asknagap is to benefit from the latest round of CLAR grants. Some €30,000 has been granted to each community for the work.

CLAR provides funding for small-scale projects in designated rural areas that have experienced significant levels of population decline.

The 2020 programme focused on supporting CLAR communities to deal with the impact of COVID-19 in these challenging times, with a particular emphasis on safety improvements at carparking facilities to meet the public health requirements arising from the pandemic.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Social Housing Support

	Oct 2020	Oct 2019
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP) *	4,519	4,388
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	292	369
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	2,064	1,549
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	15	10
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	20	10

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

2. Allocation of Social Housing

	Oct 2020	Oct 2019
Wicklow County Council	158	159
Approved Housing Bodies	37	14

3. Social Housing Stock

	Oct 2020	Oct 2019
Tenancies occupied	4,523	4,415
Total weekly rental accrual	€299,148	€304,464
Arrears	€2,344,979	€1,400,888

4. Casual Vacancies/Relets

56

	Oct 2020	Of which retained for Self-isolation units
Municipal District		
Arklow	7	0
Baltinglass	12	2
Bray	2	2
Greystones	7	0
Wicklow	28	2

5. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

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

6. Part V

2020 – PART V UNITS DUE FOR DELIVERY 2020

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Wicklow	1	Delivered 25/02/20	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Quarter 4	WCC
Wicklow Town	3	Delivered 30/06/20	WCC
Greystones	2	Delivered 14/08/2020	WCC
Dunlavin	4	Quarter 4	CALF
Ashford	8	Delivered 30/7/20	CALF
Ashford	2	Delivered 15/10/2020	CALF
Wicklow	4	Quarter 4	CALF

Potential units

Negotiations ongoing with a number of developers at pre-planning and planning stage. There are over 100 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
Wicklow	6	Delivered 02/04/20	WCC
Wicklow	2	Delivered 8/5/20	WCC
Wicklow	1	Delivered 01/10/2020	WCC
Wicklow	2	Delivered 12/08/2020	WCC
Wicklow	3	Delivered 07/07/2020	WCC
Rathdrum	4	Delivered 17/06/2020	CALF
Ashford	2	Delivered 15/10/2020	CALF
Arklow	25	Delivered to date 2020	CALF

- Negotiations are ongoing with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units



- Approval has recently been received from the Department in respect of 2 Turnkey units in Baltinglass.
- Application with the Department for a further 5 units in Tinahely.

7. PPP Social Housing Project

Bundle 1 – Convent Lands – complete and allocated

Bundle 3 – Burgage, Blessington – site included in Bundle 3

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

- Acquisition by AHB of 38 turnkey units via CALF in Arklow due by Q4 2020. (25 units delivered in 2020 included in table above.
- Acquisition by AHB of 8 (Part V) units via CALF in Ashford Delivered included in table above.. A further 4 units (2 turnkey and 2 Part V) delivered in 2020 included in table above.
- Construction ongoing on a 40 units (including 4 Part V) via CALF Turnkey in Dunlavin .

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

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 (€828,527.00 spent to date)

› Grant funding for social house - €472,271.64 (€409,583.48 spent to date)

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

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

House Purchase Loans - Rebuilding Ireland

Received	Approved	Declined	Expired	With HA for FI	Incomplete/ineligible
359	106	151	38	27	37

Tenant Purchase Scheme

	To date	Oct 2020
Applications Received	90	2
Completed	5	1
Declined	52	0
Ongoing	33	1

9. Addressing Homelessness

	As at 31/10/20	Year To Date	As at 31/10/2019
No of New Presentations	30	*	
No. of Repeat Presentations	9	*	
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	18	254	47
No. of Adults Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	18	332	40
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	1	2	16
No. of Children	32	501	71
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	7	136	20
Family Circumstances	17	265	34
Leaving Prison Hospital Care	1	21	3
Sofa Surfing	2	53	10
Rough Sleeping	3	30	1
*Stat not recorded prior to August 2020			

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/10/2020	
Families	12
Adults	29
Children	33
Single individual	0



Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31 October, 2020								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	15	18	10	5	2	3	2	3
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31 October, 20190								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	13	20	20					

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, 290 households (225 families & 65 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 31st October, 2020.



- 138 homeless cases and 152 prevention cases to date. 99 properties were sourced by WCC.

COVID 19 UPDATE

During March 2020 emergency measures were taken on foot of the Covid-19 crisis and the Debt Management Process (DMP) of the HAP scheme was suspended in order to safeguard the tenancies of HAP tenants in arrears.

Since the suspension of the process, levels of arrears have increased considerably and, nationally, the DMP will now recommence, albeit with an expanded timeframe as outlined below. The re-start of the debt process is on a staggered basis to take account of the unusual economic situation at present and without undermining the DMP.

Homeless Hub, Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

The successful tenderer was Dublin Simon Community, who has finished the refurbishment work on the facility, with furnishing and fittings commencing in November.

Other Temporary Supported Accommodation

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

New Homeless Facility - Supported Temporary Accommodation, Bray

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

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and has met twice.



Housing First

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

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

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

10. Traveller Accommodation

Accommodation Programme at 31st October 2020

Allocations	23
Temporary Covid allocations	3

Capital Programme

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

Further inspections on the fire safety on Halting sites completed week ago 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 were provided with housing units from unauthorised sites.

Hygiene packs were distributed to all authorised sites.

Moratorium on eviction

Circular 8/2020 issued on 30th March 2020 and prevented any termination of a local authority tenancy or eviction from accommodation. In addition, any members of the Traveller community should not be moved on from current locations, save in the circumstances where such a move is necessitated for reasons of hardship or provision of protection and this should be done in consultation with the Travellers involved.

11. Energy Efficiency

Solar Panel Carport - The local energy supply contract will be soon be signed with Enerpower at which time, procurement of the panels, support frame fabrication and other equipment will commence . On- site works will include ducting, drainage, foundation supports and works in the switchroom. Works are due to be completely in early 2021. Energy is to be supplied over a 20 year period at a fixed unit rate.

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 1

- Lot 2 90 houses in Arklow, Wicklow and West Wicklow will commence in November. All tenants have been contacted in this regard.
- Lot 1 88 houses in Bray and Greystones – awaiting determination of Department regarding repointing of properties

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

Currently finalizing costs with the contractor and agreements with Department for 20 properties in Wolfe Tone Square West, Bray. Connections for ESB and Gas will take 6 weeks, after which it is expected that the contractor will commence.



12. Wicklow Community Call

The community call service is now included under the Governments 'Keep Well' campaign.

The Community Call helpline received 45 calls and emails in the last two weeks since 27th October. This is compared to 15 calls/emails in the previous fortnight (13th to 27th October) and 24 in the fortnight before that. - 5 Collection/delivery; 8 Medical/health; 14 Information; 18 Social Isolation/Befriending.

The Community Response Forum meets every fortnight. The forum is working on the 'Keep Well' campaign.

HEALTHY IRELAND

The Government launched the "Keep Well" campaign on the 29th October which aims to support people and communities to mind their physical and mental health over the coming months. The Governments Plan for Living with Covid-19 Resilience and Recovery 2020 – 2021 highlights the important role that individual and community Resilience will play in contributing to the ongoing response to Covid-19. The launch includes the allocation of funding from Sláintecare to support a number of initiatives through the Healthy Ireland Fund that will be rolled out over the coming months. Information about local resources and initiatives will also be available through Ireland's Local Authorities. This launch builds on the "In This Together" campaign which happened earlier in the year. The "Keep Well" campaign is focussed on five main themes:

- **Keeping Active** – keeping active and being outdoors, even during the winter, is important to help physical and mental health and wellbeing. Sport Ireland is leading a series of initiatives that will support people to stay active in their own local areas throughout the winter.
- **Staying connected** – staying connected with people, addressing isolation, supporting volunteerism and initiatives that support 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 can help our general wellbeing.
- **Eating well** – by nourishing our bodies and minds, we can develop a better connection between the food we eat and how we feel and positively impact our physical and mental wellbeing.
- **Minding your mood** – equipping people with information on where to go if they need support. This will also be linked with the local community helpline to ensure that people can access the support they need.

Wicklow County Council has set up a new link on its website: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Wellbeing> where information on the five themes can be found.



PRIDE OF PLACE 2020

Ashford Community and Heritage Centre, Arklow Meals on Wheels, Carnew Bia Abhaile and County Wicklow Volunteer Centre are among the eighty two groups to have been nominated for the Pride of Place 2020. The awards ceremony, which was to be hosted in 2020 by Kerry County Council, will now take place online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. RTE's Marty Morrissey will host the event. The ceremony will be streamed live on the Pride of Place website on Saturday 21st November 2020.

BLESSING LAKES eGREENWAY

On the 9th of November, Minister Eamon Ryan, T.D. Minister of Transport, and Hildegard Naughton, T.D Minister of State, confirmed the allocation of 63.5 million funding for a range of greenways across the country. The Blessington Lakes eGreenway project will receive a sum of €6.4 million of this overall funding allocation in 2021. It is estimated that the budget for the project is in the region of €15 million.

The increased level of funding is representative of the fact that local authorities were originally funded at a rate of 60% pre COVID-19. In recognition of the negative impact COVID-19 has had on local authorities, funding will now be provided at a rate of 100%.

13. County Wicklow Library Services

Covid Leave 5 Home Delivery Service

Since the reintroduction of Level 5 restrictions, library services (nationally) have been online only. Nonetheless, we have had many queries from the public, including those home schooling and people living alone, expressing regret that they could no longer borrow books. With this in mind, it was decided to introduce a countywide delivery service, which would reach all areas – including villages and more isolated areas visited by the mobile library. Vulnerable people are prioritised, but where time does not allow for all in need to receive the service, staff are making additional deliveries. The following fortnightly timetable is now in place:

Week 1

- Mon Bray / Enniskerry / Kilmacanogue
- Tue Greystones / Delgany / Kilcoole / Newcastle / Newtownmountkennedy
- Wed Wicklow / Rathnew / Ashford/ Glenealy
- Thur Arklow / Red Cross/ Barndarrig / Brittas bay
- Fri Blessington / Lacken / Valleymount / Hollywood

Week 2

- Mon Baltinglass / Stratford / Grangecon / Donaghmore / Donard / Dunlavin
- Tue Rathdrum / Annamoe / Laragh/ Roundwood
- Wed Aughrim / Ballinaclesh / Avoca / Ballycoog
- Thur Tinahely / Knockananna / Rathdangan / Kiltegan
- Fri Carnew / Shillelagh / Coolkenno / Ballyconnell



Feedback has been very positive, including the following email:

“It gives me great pleasure to write to you about the continuing and always excellent service provided by the staff and management of Blessington Library. Before the Covid clampdown the Library provided a welcoming environment and played a central role in meeting the needs of the community whether young or old for information, education and entertainment. Since the onset of the Covid emergency, Library staff have left no stone unturned to find ways to continue to support and meet the needs of the community with reading material. The latest example is that today I was the delighted recipient of my latest requested loan, delivered to my doorstep by a Blessington Library staff member. I understand her colleagues were also out delivering books to readers in other parts of the neighbourhood. This home delivery service is an inspired initiative demonstrating the imaginative ways Blessington Library finds to continue to serve its community. I believe it is an initiative deserving of wider recognition. Library staff, along with so many others, are playing their part in supporting the community to deal with the challenges of the Covid emergency.

Sincerely,”
(name and contact details on file, if required)

14. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP:

SICAP Annual Plans 2021 are currently being developed in collaboration with local agencies, stakeholders and the LCDC.

Due to renewed Covid restrictions SICAP supports and services have reverted online.

Both Partnerships continue to strive towards achieving their 2020 targets.

15. County Wicklow Public Partnership Network (PPN):

Facilitated five (each MD), well attended online “Meet the Councillor” events between elected representatives and residents, including with local asylum seekers.

Eight participants from Wicklow are partaking in Social Justice Ireland’s national PPN Stakeholder Training course. Wicklow is the best represented county.

Publication of Wicklow PPN research report “Financial Impact of Covid-19 on County Wicklow Community Groups.” Available online.

Continue to participate on WCC Covid-19 Community Response Forum.



AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVES

Age Friendly Winter Care packages are being prepared for distribution in December. The packages will include the age friendly information guide and the age friendly eircom fridge magnet. Healthy Ireland, Sports & Recreation Partnership, Health Service Executive, Environmental Awareness and Gardaí are all including items in the packs such as pens, recipes books, exercises booklet, stay safe information. These packs will be distributed in early December via Meals on Wheels and Public Health nurses. The aim is to reach those older people most isolated and vulnerable. There will be 500 packs distributed.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

Following a highly successful youth summit in November, Comhairle members are looking forward to the Comhairle na nÓg showcase in December.

WICKLOW SPORTS & RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

Covid-19 Support Grant Scheme

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership made a submission to Sport Ireland under the Covid -19 Grant Scheme and has been approved for the following investment funding;

Investment Measure	
Club Small Grants Scheme	€22,298.86
Inclusive Family Swimming Lessons	€10,080
Additional Covid – 19 Club/Community Supports	€8,500
Total	€40,878.86

“Your Personal Best” Campaign

Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs and Sport, Jack Chambers TD, launched Sport Ireland’s ‘Your Personal Best Month’, which will run throughout November, aimed at getting men over 45 more physically active. In conjunction with this campaign Wicklow Sports and Recreation are hosting a virtual 6 week 0-5K running programme starting on the 9th November.

“Keep Well” Campaign

This winter we must all #KeepWell and look after our physical and mental health and as part of this campaign Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership are running a 5 week online yoga programme. This will run Tuesday mornings at 10am and Wednesday evening at 6.30pm starting 17th November.

Activities for All

Sport Ireland and the Local Sports Recreation Partnerships are passionate about helping people get active, participating in physical activity and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to do so in their own community. There is a 4 Week Physical Activity Plan for people with a disability on www.sportireland.ie and this will help improve your fitness, skills and balance in a fun way.



Virtual BuggyFit

A free 5 week online exercise class has been setup by WSRP in collaboration with HD Fitness, Blessington. These classes allow moms exercise with their babies and will run Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11am starting on Tuesday 17th November. A facebook group will also be setup to offer motivation, mind-set and guidance during the programme.

Training & Education

Date	Course	Location	Attended
28/10/20	Safeguarding 1 – Child Protection	Online	12

Inclusive “Get Active” 4 Week Step Challenge Campaign

All HSE Adult Disability Services and Special Schools are being contacted to participate in this challenge. A Healthy Ireland Pedometer will be provided and leaflet to each participant to record your daily steps.

TOWN & VILLAGE 2020

Round 1 Accelerated – Submitted		
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 footpath, new public seating, signage & shopfront improvements	Funded €39,600
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
Bray MD	Streetscape improvement	

Town & Village Main Scheme – September 30 th – Awaiting Decision		
Stratford	Community shop/cafe/offices/living over the shop/playground	€199,800
Lacken	Community Centre/café	€100,000
Laragh	BCP/remote working hub	€100,000
Blessington	Masterplan for sports and recreation area	€200,000
Enniskerry	Public realm enhancement	€98,000
Avoca	Public realm plan	€68,455
Annamoe	Public realm	€100,000
Ashford	Public realm	€100,000
Aughrim	Age friendly works	€100,000
Shopfront scheme	Painting scheme – countywide	€90,000



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

Works are progressing well on site. Scaffold is continuing to be removed from the site. The works crane is due to be dismantled and removed in the coming weeks. Site visits continued for potential tenants over the past month and have been very positive. The elected members of Bray Municipal District visited the site in October.

Town Teams

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

Arklow Town Team

The Arklow & District Chamber of Commerce, Arklow MD & the Arklow Town Team continue to work closely together on a number of initiatives to promote a Shop Local Campaign. A competition was held to invite the community to submit ideas for a symbolic logo for Arklow Town. The winning logo as chosen by a panel of judges was designed by Aisha Sheridan.

To support the Arklow Shop Local Campaign, free Christmas parking is available in Arklow from the 16th November until the 3rd January 2021, including on-street parking also.

The results of the Arklow Town Public Survey were recently announced. The findings of the study will help future decision making on improvements to the town centre when funding becomes available.

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The results are a valuable resource for all those who have an input into the future shaping and decision making in our town and will greatly assist in making Arklow a vibrant and welcoming town for future generations.

Arklow Towns 6th Annual Christmas Festival will take place on the 28th November. The popular Christmas tree Light Switch–On event will go virtual for 2020. Festivities will commence at 4 pm on Saturday, 28th November, with DJ Oisín Molloy, Live from his Living Room. The Golden Ticket draw will return again this year with lots of prizes to be won. The Best Christmas Window Display Competition will once again feature as dressing windows for Christmas really helps to create a wonderful atmosphere in the town. Online completions will include best dressed Festive Pet, Find the Elf, Best Dressed Christmas Tree and many others.

New events for the 2020 festive season include:-

Arklow Festive Trail - This free family activity will create a fun filled day out to enjoy with the children. Self-guided trail leaflets will be delivered to your door or viewed online at www.wicklow.ie from the 1st December. Share your photos on social media to be in with a chance to win a weekly prize. One lucky winner who cracks the Christmas Code from the 10 clues at different location around the town will be in with a chance to win a family pass to Tayto Park.

Santa on Tour spreading Christmas cheer to people in Arklow on the 28th November. Santa will arrive in Arklow and will tour the town aboard Arklow's Fire Services, Fire Engine (giving the reindeers a break!).

Christmas Harbour Lights – Over the festive season walk down by the beautiful marina and see how it has been lit up for the Christmas holidays.

Santa's Post Box - Post your wish list directly to Santa in the North Pole. The post box will be located outside Arklow Library. Santa will do his best to reply to each and every letter received.

A full list of events and competitions taking place is available on the Arklow Christmas Festival Facebook page.

Bray Town Team / Bray Reopening Committee

Following a meeting in early November a number of extra virtual events were agreed to support the virtual switch on of the Christmas Lights. These extra virtual events are:

- Online Workshops for Christmas food and drink
- Children's Competitions

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- Children's storytelling online
- Santa's Post-box
- Illumination of Town Hall and Civic Offices for the festive season
- The Christmas Light Switch on is 21st November 2020

Blessington Town Team

The last meeting of Blessington Town Team was held at the end of October and members continue to work closely to support the Hello Neighbour Campaign. Members noted the importance of continuing to promote the shop local campaign.

Members noted the extra importance of celebrating the festive season and using visual events

- Streaming of the Christmas light switch on Saturday 28th November at 6pm
- Ringing of St. Mary's Church bells
- Streaming of message from Santa Claus to all the children in the area
- Santa's Post-box outside Credit Union which will offer the opportunity of posting letters directly to the North Pole

Greystones 2020

'Greystones will shine bright this Christmas'

Greystones will come alight on Saturday 21st November when the town's lights are switched on as normal.

Greystones 2020, with support from all the businesses in the town, Greystones Municipal District, Wicklow County Council. & Cairn Construction have ensured that the lights will be back & although there will be no festive Burnaby Park event, the team have planned lots more, including:

- Live streaming of the switch on worldwide with music, celebrities, theatre and more
- The town will be illuminated as normal with two giant Christmas trees
- Five online Christmas workshops
- Competitions online for children and adults with lots of prizes
- Twelve Days of Christmas Song painted on twelve shop windows
- Santa's Post Box for the children to deliver their letters



Wicklow Town Team

Particularly in the lead up to Christmas Wicklow Town Team continue to promote Wicklow Town and its retailers through their Facebook page and website www.wicklowtown.ie. Following on from the establishment of the Reopening Committee back in June The Wicklow and District Chamber of Commerce, Wicklow Municipal District along with the Town Team continue to work closely together on a number of initiative to promote Wicklow through the “Shop Local Support Wicklow” campaign.

The switching on of the Christmas Lights in Wicklow Town this year will be by way of a virtual event on Saturday 28th November. This will allow residents to watch the switch on of the lights from the safety of their own home. To join the fun, log onto www.wicklowtown.ie/christmaslights. To add to the festive cheer additional lights have been added this year.

The Town Team together with the Wicklow Municipal District will again sponsor the Best Dressed Christmas Window competition again this year. The winner and runner up will receive a Christmas Hamper and Wicklow Town Vouchers.

An application submitted by Wicklow Municipal District and the Town Team under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, Accelerated Measure Round 3 for large Towns has been successful in achieving funding in the sum of €40,000 for the purchase and installation of portable street awnings.

The final stages of the Historical Trail project and the backlighting project are nearing completion and it is the intention of the Town Team to continue to pursue their long term goals with the N11 project as well as the Wicklow Greenway.

Town Re-Opening Committees

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

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

Funding for Public Realm Enhancements

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



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

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

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

Town and Village Funding

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

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

Extension of Section 254 permits for tables and chairs

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

Love Wicklow, Shop Local Campaign

Wicklow County Council is promoting a Love Wicklow, Shop Local campaign to encourage people to shop locally in the run up to the festive season. The campaign focuses on the use of radio advertising and interviews, with social media content and supported by an online presence.

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Local businesses have shown innovation in the face of adversity and have enhanced the shopping experience for their customers through the increased use of online shopping, delivery services and click & collect options. Now, more than ever, it is important that people shop locally and support the businesses at the heart of their communities.

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

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

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

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

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

Love Wicklow, Shop Local

Tourism

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

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

The Key Priorities are:

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

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



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

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

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

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

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

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

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

- Developing a detailed understanding of the volume, needs and motivations of the best prospects customers;
- Planning suitable visitor facilities and car parking sites within the park compatible with conservation objectives;
- Identifying the widest range of activities and sites of interest within the Park, compatible with conservation objectives;



- Development of physical links between all facilities to provide a flexible, interconnected visitor management plan;
- A seasonal strategy of 'flexing up' the visitor facilities to meet demand but visitor experience led;
- Identifying links of activities and sites of interest throughout Wicklow with Visitor Orientation Recommendations
- Compliance with statutory planning and environmental legislation, local and national government policies etc.

Thematic Experiences

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

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

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

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

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



A new Wicklow Passport section has also been developed on the new Website. This section is designed to focus on the towns and villages in Wicklow and the local attraction and activities. An extensive campaign to promote the Wicklow Passport to local and national media has been planned and will be implemented once Covid restrictions are eased.

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

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

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

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

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

Wicklow County Council has acquired the old St Joseph's site in Rathdrum from the HSE. The development of the site will be at the core of the latest proposals for the regeneration of Rathdrum. The site is centrally located beside St Saviour's Church, adjacent to the Memorial Park and car park, with children's playground and adult gym nearby. An application is currently being prepared seeking funding through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund for the development of a multi-use Community and Enterprise Centre at the site, increased connectivity through improved road and pedestrian access and enhancements to public realm. The proposed development will help to stimulate further growth in social, community and economic activities in the wider Rathdrum area.



We are currently preparing this RRDF submission in respect of Rathdrum which has to be submitted by 1st December 2020.

Climate Action

Climate Action Applications have also been submitted in respect of Wicklow and Arklow Harbours aimed at ensuring both harbours can benefit from development of the offshore wind energy industry.

The Wicklow harbour application was submitted to apply for funding to develop the physical infrastructure in Wicklow harbour in order to accommodate crew transfer vessels servicing the offshore wind sector.

Similarly the application in respect of Arklow is to facilitate servicing of the offshore wind industry and to investigate the possibility of developing enterprise units for small businesses engaged in marine activities. Offshore wind has a cross governmental mandate secured through the delivery of the Climate Action Plan targets of 3.5 GW of offshore wind by 2030.

Maritime

Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow

The Strategic Review will identify ways in which the economic base of County Wicklow could be strengthened through its ports and harbours and formulate recommendation for Wicklow County Council.

Key Recommendations:

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

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

There are currently three wind farm projects in development:

- Arklow Bank
- Codling Bank
- Dublin Array

All three have commenced stakeholder engagement.



Development of joint substation to facilitate Wind Farm

Green energy developer SSE Renewables and Irish-owned data centre owner and operator, Echelon Data Centres have announced an agreement to develop a joint 220kV substation at the Avoca River Business Park, Arklow, Ireland. The new infrastructure will facilitate the development of Ireland's first large-scale offshore wind farm, off the coast of Co. Wicklow with an export capacity of 520MW, and Echelon's DUB20 (Arklow) 100MW data centre.

The joint initiative marks the first time in Ireland that an offshore wind farm and a data centre have agreed to develop grid infrastructure. The substation development is expected to require an investment of around €50m to deliver. Upon completion, the proposed offshore wind farm and data centre will both directly connect to the Irish national grid via the new shared substation.

The landmark deal is an innovative step forward for the renewable energy and data centre sectors. Sharing grid infrastructure and locating data centres closer to renewable sources of generation such as offshore wind delivers on a key decarbonisation goal set out in Ireland's Climate Action Plan to facilitate regionally-located data centres and minimise grid reinforcements. It also helps deliver a Climate Action Plan target of installing 1GW of offshore wind by 2025.

The development agreement will support the delivery of 250 new jobs for Arklow. This includes the creation of up to 80 new jobs during the construction of the substation. Upon completion of both the technology and renewable energy projects, the data centre will support 90 full-time operational roles while a further 80 full-time jobs will be created locally to support the day-to-day operation of the offshore wind farm.

Maritime Business Development Group

The next meeting of the MBDG is due to take place on 3rd December 2020. At the previous MBDG meeting held on 29th October 2020 three presentations were made to the group. RWE Renewables gave a presentation on the Dublin Array Offshore Wind Farm, RPS Consultants gave a presentation on the Bray Harbour Feasibility Study and Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions gave a presentation on an options study to consider two potential sites in Co. Wicklow for the creation of a deepwater harbour development.



FLAG Funding

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

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

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

Food and Beverage Strategy

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

Wicklow Naturally October Feast

The last 4 weeks focused on the delivery of the Wicklow Naturally Feast. Approximately 35 events (either physical or virtual) were planned and while many of the physical events were hit hard by the new restrictions, the online events were tremendously successful. The meetings, subject to Covid-19 regulations included:

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

Social Media

A publicity/social media programme is being operated, and our social media coverage is increasing substantially.

- Facebook: 2030 followers (original target: 400)
- Instagram: 846 followers
- Twitter: 344 followers

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Our Facebook posts during October Feast were very strongly engaged with:

- Engaged use with Facebook page in October: The number of people who engaged with your Page. Engagement includes any click or story created. (Unique Users): 28 Days: 114,045
- Organic reach: The number of people who had any content from your Page or about your Page enter their screen through unpaid distribution. This includes posts, stories, check-ins, social information from people who interact with your Page and more. (Unique Users): 28 Days: 1,227,909

Food Incubation Centre

The food incubation centre business survey was closed and is being interpreted. The final chapter of the incubation centre report is being written and will be submitted in November.

Structure of Wicklow Naturally

An application for company formation has been made in the name of "Wicklow Naturally"

The make-up of the board is being agreed. Wicklow County Council will be invited to nominate a director and secretarial and administrative support will be provided by Wicklow County Council. .

A full task/activity list for Wicklow Naturally has drawn up for 2021, and individual responsibilities are being identified.

Membership

Membership is currently at 91, and we are waiting final information or confirmation from around 15 of these on different aspects of their blog/website listing.

We are continuing to sign-up members but are trying to do this at a rate which allows time for the directories to be written.

Food Poverty

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.



2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

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

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
Grants Approved (number/ value)			
- Measure 1	- 33/€888,954.62	- Meet Demand	- 26/€573,164
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 8/€11,427	- Meet Demand	- 3/€3,850
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	53	55	58
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73	75	60
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	832	800	1252
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	9

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METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	546	470*	1143
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	458	440	586

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

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

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2019	2020	Year to Date 2020
Trading Online Vouchers	39	No Limit	364

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

November 2020 Activities

- ✦ A high level of demand for business advice clinics is being met by business advisors providing additional clinics which are run remotely
- ✦ The autumn winter training programme offers a combination of core training courses, digital marketing clinics and Covid Crisis related courses to LEO clients
- ✦ The November Network of Entrepreneurial Women network meeting took place on 4th November via Zoom.
- ✦ Extremely high volume of applications for the Trading Online Voucher are being accepted and assessed depending on budgets being available. Incomplete applications are causing delays in assessing them.
- ✦ Weekly newsletter is circulated to clients on supports, training courses, events and other relevant information.
- ✦ Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- ✦ Payment claims for the Business Continuity Voucher Scheme are finalised.
- ✦ A dedicated team of Brexit Advisors are in place working with companies to get Brexit ready.
- ✦ Prepare Your Business for Customs and One to one Customs mentor clinics are being held.
- ✦ National LEO 'Look for Local' campaign is promoted and supported by LEO Wicklow.
- ✦ The Management Development Programme for managers continues through November on Zoom.
- ✦ Preparations are ongoing to organise the Spring Summer 2021 training programme.
- ✦ Student Enterprise Programme continues to be rolled out through Secondary Schools in Co.Wicklow.

Training

Upcoming courses include the following:-

- ✦ Google Adwords for Business takes place on 24th November - booked out.
- ✦ Brexit one to one mentoring takes place on 2nd December - booked out.
- ✦ The first of 5 Start Your Own Business Courses for 2021 commences on Tuesday 19th January.
- ✦ The next Trading Online Voucher Seminar is scheduled for Wednesday 20th January 2021.



3. Planning and Development

County Development Plan Review

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

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

Directions regarding the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan were discussed at the September Council meeting.

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

Heritage

Heritage & Biodiversity Plan Actions:

- Community Monument Fund announced by National Monument Service of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government. Medieval Arklow desktop research and interpretation successfully completed, recoupment claim for of €7700 submitted.
- Heritage Plan action: Community Archaeology Project (Focussed on Glendalough and Preban) films, podcasts and publications produced
- National Heritage Week awards ceremony on 20th October Glendalough Heritage Forum won best County Award.
- Biodiversity Action Plan Project: Brittas Bay biodiversity management and survey; Swift phase 2 project; Biodiversity Awareness actions – video tutorial and publications, events
- Draft World Heritage Site Tentative List application made to DHHLG for the Glendalough Valley. Follow up workshop scheduled for Dec.
- Our Wicklow Heritage Network: Part of Irish Community of Archive Networks (ICAN). ICAN won 'best Heritage Archive' in the Community of Archive and Heritage Group Ireland and UK (CAHG) for 2020. Ongoing co-ordination of multi-platform website hosting County Wicklow Heritage and the following community heritage recording groups; Delgany Tidy Towns, Glens Of Lead, Medieval Bray Project, Glendalough Heritage Forum and, The Glen/ Donard. Shortlisted for the Chamber Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award 2020, results to be announced 23rd November

- Creative Wicklow/ Heritage Plan project: River Liffey Stories (x 3 short films produced) & Avoca River Stories (x 6 short films) is underway. Partnership project with LAWCO and WCC.
- Nature is Good for You campaign to be launched in Nov as part of WCC Healthy Ireland wellness initiative.

Protected Structures Grants: Funding allocations made for 2020. €60000 allocated to Wicklow projects under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, €35,000 allocated to St. Patrick's Church, Wicklow Town under the Historic Structures Fund with an additional allocation received of €15,000 under the Governments July stimulus package. All projects completed and recoupment claim submitted. New funding streams under HSF and BHIS announced 18th November, closing date for applications end of Jan 2021.

Planning Applications

A total of 142 applications were received during October, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	39 (26 refer to rural Hse applications)
Housing Developments*	05
Agricultural Structures	05
Commercial	02
Other Developments**	91
Total	142

* Large hsg Development

PRR20/1077 20 Dwellings, Ballymanus Lr & Ballyfree East, Glenealy – Peter King Construction
PRR 20/1087 59 Dwellings, Togher More, Roundwood – Lukai Limited

**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 97 applications in September, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	08
Individual Houses	18 (11 refer to a rural Hse)
Other Developments	59
Other Developments Requiring EIA	01
Total	86

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

	31/10/2020	31/10/2019
Total Number of decisions issued	731	812
Total Number of decisions to grant	636	691
% Grant Rate	87%	85%

No. of Applications withdrawn

October 10 (4 refer to rural hse applications)

*Withdrawals may not have been lodged in the month of October

Planning Enforcement

Enforcement

New Files	16
Advisory Letters	28
Warning Letters	12
Enforcement Notices	03
Legal files	02
Closed	13

Vacant Sites

25 no. sites now stand on the Register.

2 sites on appeal

Valuations to be sought for two additional sites on the Register

Derelict Sites

04 No. of sites on Register

1 Section 8 Notice of Intention

4. Environmental Services

Waste Management

No. of Complaints Opened	195
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	163
No of Litter Fines Issued	18
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	4
No. of Warning Letters Issued	2
No. of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	11
No. of Burning Applications Granted	14
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	0
No. of Notices issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	3
No. of fixed penalty notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court included in Court lists	45
Income – Litter	€1,890.00
Income – Waste Management	€5,350.00

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

An Implementation plan with actions from the Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Climate Charter are being developed by a task group of which M Cahill is a member. The draft Implementation Plan (guidance and tool kit for all LAs) will be submitted to environment committee of the CCMA for approval and rollout.

Progress on actions in the climate adaptation strategy was submitted to CARO for collation at national level

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

Priority Action items:

- Installation of EV Charging points in Greystones. 4 No. Chargers are proposed for Shoreline Greystones. There is a 6 week lead in time to delivery so installation is likely to happen early November 2020. 2 suitable locations have been identified in Blessington for the installation of EV Charging points and quotes have been received.

- 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 sections are asked to identify public lands which could be suitable for community woodlands. CARO will issue guidance on this project which is being funded by the DAFM.
- A submission has been made for funding of a research project by UCD and Trinity to look at nature based solutions for flood protection in the Upper Avoca Catchment. Response on the submission is still awaited.
- Alternatives to Glyphosate – following a number of pilot studies throughout the Country Foam stream has emerged as the preferred options as an alternative of Glyphosate for weed control. Wicklow County Council have purchased a foam stream machine and are awaiting delivery of same.
- A workshop will be held with the members of the Climate and Biodiversity SPC to agree on the content of the Climate Action section on Wicklow.ie

Energy

- 3 Counties Energy Agency who are advising Wicklow County Council on energy projects etc are awaiting criteria from the ASEAI for BEC grant applications 2021. Following the receipt of the criteria 3 CEA will assist an application for the 2021 grant

SEC

- Covid 19 restrictions interrupted progress of Sustainable Energy Committees. Grant amended deadlines have been agreed with SEAI to allow for the continuation and completion of Energy Map Plans for Glenmalure, Laragh, NewtownmountKennedy, Greystones/Delgany.
- Glenmalure is now completed with Laragh expected to be complete by the end of the year. Wicklow and Blessington were due to start their EMPs in early summer and a priority now is to get work with these two communities under way. An online seminar will be held on the 17th of November to promote the programme in Wicklow with SEAI mentors and 3CEA.

Environmental Awareness

The Relove fashion competition (a Wicklow County Council initiative) piloted successfully in 2019 in partnership with Meath, Westmeath and Dublin City Councils and the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun was relaunched for 2020. Six more local authorities joined the competition the focus is on producing wearable clothing, design and good use of skill with textiles and it is hoped that this will be strengthened in the competition to develop circularity skills among students in textiles and fashion. In Wicklow 23 teams from six secondary schools entered. The judging and delivery of a virtual final for early next year is currently being planned.

The Sustainable Development Goals mapping tool has been delivered with the map developed in house by Wicklow County Councils GIS Officer. An online seminar was held with the PPN to launch it publicly, with over 50 participants attending. Work will now be undertaken to promote its use, and the wider engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals across the services of Wicklow County Council.

A new tree grant has been developed as a climate action to facilitate more planting of trees by local groups in County Wicklow. 21 applications were received with 17 approved for grant following consultation with the relevant Municipal District.



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

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

A series of Teacher training seminars on Green Schools themes was held with An Taisce on the 22nd of October

Recycling Centres

Recycling centres continue to work at almost normal capacity; some reductions remain in opening hours to facilitate additional cleaning of the centres. Staffing has remained difficult due to ongoing pressure of workload in Bray, changes in requirements to process WEEE as well as Annual Leave being mostly towards the second half of the year due to COVID restrictions in Spring.

- A new electric forklift has been ordered for Bray Recycling centre to replace old diesel machine this is funded by Climate Action Budget.
- Tenders have been requested for a new baler for Wicklow Recycling Centre as the existing one is over 40 years old and no longer fit for purpose.
- New Welfare unit has been ordered for Avoca Recycling centre, currently awaiting grant of Fire Safety Certificate and Disability Access Certificate.

Brittas Bay Carparks

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

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

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

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

Dog Licences

A total of 424 dogs were licenced for the month of October 2020. Of this 182 were issued through Licences; ie, this is 44% of all licences that were issued for the month.

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 to be submitted by FT and Co. to Wicklow County Council on 11th November 2020.
- As per the judgement the draft plan must be circulated to all stakeholders for agreement

Harbours and Ports

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

At the ordinary meeting of Arklow Municipal District the held on the 11th November 2020 the Members, in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), were presented with a CE Report on the proposals to develop storage facilities for fishers at South Quay, Arklow. The proposals, as detailed in the report, were passed unanimously by the Members present.

- Part 8 for Floating Pontoon, South Quay, Wicklow was approved by the members of Wicklow Municipal District at their September meeting, however development cannot commence until a fore shore licence has been sanctioned by Department of Housing Planning and Local Government and this could take up to 18 months.

The following works have been completed in recent times:

- Ducting for the navigation lights on the North and South Piers, Arklow is currently under way and due to be completed next week. The new navigation lights are delayed in transit due to COVID 19
- Installation of new fenders and railings on the East Pier, Wicklow completed
- Resurfacing of a section of the East Pier Wicklow has been completed
- New Railing on the east pier Wicklow completed
- Installation of new ladders on the North and South Quays, Wicklow complete
- Recess ladders on the North Quay in Wicklow partially complete and due to be finished in the next two weeks
- 50 tonne bollard installed on the North Quay Wicklow complete – load test to be carried out
- Installation of public lighting on the East Pier in Wicklow to commence next week
- Erection of safety signage in both Wicklow and Arklow underway.
- Public Park in Greystones Harbour due to open end of November or early December

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

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

Private Water Supplies

- Of the 23 Private water supplies monitored and 3 were found non-compliant with microbiological standards.
- The water suppliers concerned were requested to take remedial action and 2 boil water notices were issued.

Deco Paint and Dry Cleaner Regulations

- 2 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installations was inspected.
- 4 Retailer of Paints/Varnishes was inspected.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants - Ambient Monitoring

- 67 River/Lake samples were taken and analysed upstream and downstream of discharges of public wastewater treatment plants involving 609 individual analyses were monitored on behalf of Irish Water.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2020

- 2 Septic tank inspections were carried out and 2 found non-complaint. 2 advisory notices were issued to rectify the problem with the non-compliant septic tanks.
- 31 inspections were completed in the year as per EPA National Inspection Plan. 14 were found compliant and 16 non-compliant. 16 advisory notices were issued and 9 notices were complied with. The other 7 are due to attain compliance in 2021.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 2 Lakes were monitored involving 11 sample stations for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 39 Rivers were monitored at 72 stations involving 164 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plan

Pollution Control Team participated in East & Midlands WFD Operational Committee meeting to consider the selection of water bodies that require protection and restoration under River Basin Plan 2022-2027 on 8th October. The East & Midlands WFD Management Committee met to consider and agree recommendation on the selection of water bodies that require protection and restoration under River Basin Plan 2022-2022 on 14th October. Pollution Control Team participated in South East WFD Operational Committee meeting to consider the selection of water bodies that require protection and restoration under River Basin Plan 2022-2027 on 20th October. The South East WFD Management Committee met to consider and agree recommendation on the selection of water bodies that require protection and restoration under River Basin Plan 2022-2022 on 31th October.

Planning & Development

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

Well Grants

- 12 New Applications
- 0 Number of New Wells
- 2 Number of New Pumps
- 2 Treatment/Disinfection Equipment
- 23 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 are 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 cost of sampling/testing the quality of the well where treatment is required may only be included under the treatment grant. The cost of testing the quantity of a well may be included under the new scheme.

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 presented to the Arklow District Members.

Following the confirmation of the preferred flood relief scheme an Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be prepared and submitted to An Bord Pleanala.

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5. Transportation, Water and Emergency Services

Public Lighting

	28th September 2020	6th October 2020	12th October 2020	19th October 2020	27th October 2020	2nd November 2020
Access Issues (Attended)	10	13	13	11	10	13
Cable Fault (Attend)	0	3	5	6	7	8
ESB Required (Attended)	16	28	28	28	29	30
Knock Down (Attended)	1	3	3	4	4	4
Materials required	4	4	4	4	4	4
No Supply	16	16	17	17	16	16
On Hold	0	0	0	2	2	2
Submitted	224	255	276	302	296	316
Traffic Management Required	8	8	9	6	6	6
TOTAL	279	330	355	380	374	399
Percentage of lights not working	1.89%	2.23%	2.40%	2.57%	2.53%	2.70%

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)		1	6	2	4	13
Cable Fault (Attend)	1		6		1	8
ESB Required(Attended)	16	1	2	1	10	30
Knock Down (Attended)	1	1			2	4
Materials required				3	1	4
No Supply		6	2	4	4	16
On hold		1			1	2
Submitted	77	71	39	31	98	316
Traffic Management Required	1		4	1		6
Grand Total	96	81	59	42	121	399
Percentage Not Working	3.29%	3.44%	1.81%	1.54%	3.45%	2.70%

Transportation Statistics (General)

	2019	Running Total 2020	September 2020	October 2020
Solicitors Queries	775	663	122	70
Road Closure Applications	40	21	4	1
Road Opening Licences	1418	1071	99	188
Abnormal Load Applications	35	26	3	6

Winter Maintenance programme commenced on 12th October 2020

Week Commencing	12/10/202	19/10/202	26/10/202	02/11/202	09/11/202	16/11/202
Week Number	1	2	3	4	5	6
Total number of gritting nights	0	0	0	4		
Total number of routes gritted	0	0	0	18		
Total estimate tonnage used	0	0	0	76		

M11/N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

Site Surveys and Field Walk over works have been completed for 2020. Engagement with relevant government agencies and stakeholders is continuing.

The Arup Design Team are progressing the Preferred Options Assessment Report that will establish the preferred corridor(s), a Stage 1 Preliminary Options Assessment report is expected to be released by the end of Q4 2020.

Tenders awarded include: The appointment of McCann FitzGerald for Advice on Environmental and Planning Law for Phases 2 and 3 of the scheme development.

The appointment of Dr. Martin Hogan of Corporate Health Ireland as Human Health and Environmental Impact Assessment during Phase 2 to Phase 4 of the scheme.

M11/N11 Interim Bus Priority Project

ARUP has produced a draft feasibility report; workshop with TII/NTA will be held in November and a review of the feasibility report will be undertaken.

N11 Kilmacanoge Parallel Service Road

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

Diversion of the Gas main and the additional new foul sewer line across the N11 has been completed. Consultations with Irish Water are continuing regarding the redesign of the foul sewer rising main along the hard shoulder of the south bound carriageway between Kilmacanoge and Junction 7.



Some daytime lane closures on the northbound carriageway were necessary (w/c 16 Nov 2020) outside of peak hours to facilitate the construction of the median concrete safety barrier.

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

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

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

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

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

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

Covid 19 Interim Mobility Schemes

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

Progress to Date

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

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

July 2020 Stimulus - Active Travel Measures

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

Progress to Date

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

July 2020 Stimulus - Climate Change Adaption

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

Progress to Date

Completed	0
Commenced Construction	2
Procurement Stage	1
Design Stage	2

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

- **Laragh/Glendalough Junction** - Archaeological consent from Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has been received for construction. IAC Archaeology have finalised the test trenching works around existing house remains and IAC continue to engage with the Department. Construction works commenced on 19th September with works progressing well in general. Road Safety Audit Stage 2 is also being progressed. Recent wet weather has impacted the anticipated progress.
- **Ballinaclash Junction:** Construction has started since early September 2020 and works are currently progressing well on both the new alignment section and drainage works. The Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act is with the Garda for review. Land transfer to be completed, Road Safety Audit stage 2 is under review.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	633,422
Greystones Municipal District	234,110
Wicklow Municipal District	216,463
Arklow Municipal District	128,714
Parking Permits	56,746
Parking Fines	252,905
Wicklow County Council	1,522,360

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baitinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Callsign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	7		1	2	1	1					2
Fire Caravan	2			1	1						
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	11	3	3	2	1	1	1				
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	2	1	1								
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	2			1		1					
Fire Barn / Shed	2	1	1								
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	19	6	1	5	1	2	2			1	1
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	20	4	4	10	2						
Fire Chimney	7	1	1		1		1		1	1	1
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	45	30	7	6	1		1				
Fire Vehicle	7	1		3	1	1					1
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	0										
Ambulance Assist	9	1	3		3					1	1
Garda Assist	0										
Electrical Incident	0										
Gas Leak	0										
River Rescue	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	4	1		1	1					1	
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	1										1
Lock In / Lock Out	1	1									
False Alarm – Good Intent	3	1	1				1				
Malicious False Alarm	3			1	1	1					
Mobilised into other County	9					3	1	2	3		
Times Stations mobilised	154	51	23	32	14	10	7	2	4	4	7

141 incidents were attended during the month of October 2020. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **154 occasions** including 9 incidents in neighbouring counties.

The month preceding Halloween is generally characterised by a large number of nuisance fires, bonfires, rubbish fires and gorse fires. This year the number is estimated to be 45 bonfires / rubbish fires and 20 fires in bushes / gorse. There were 10 such fires in the Oldcourt Estate Bray, 8 at Fassaoire Bray, 8 at Sea Crest / Ocean View Wicklow Town.

Operational activity for the month October **was the same as the preceding month** (September 2020 – 153 mobilisations).

Activity for the month was up 16% on the equivalent month last year, (October 2019 – 132 mobilisations). This can be accounted for by an increase in RTCs (+9), gorse / bushes on fire (+13) and chimney fires (+6).

Sample Incidents (October 2020)

- 02/10/2020 Arklow and Wicklow Town Fire Crews supported by the hydraulic platform extinguished a fire in the former Ormonde Cinema on Main Street Arklow.
- 04/10/2020 Greystones and Wicklow Town crews extinguished a derelict house fire at Lott Lane, Kilcoole.
- 10/10/2020 Arklow and Wicklow Town Crews responded to a domestic fire at Church View, Arklow.
- 12/10/2020 Wicklow Town and Rathdrum Crews responded to an incident in Glenealy involving heavy metal doors.
- 16/10/2020 Carnew crew were mobilised to a fatal incident on Main Street.
- 17/10/2020 Arklow and Wicklow Town crews attended an RTC on the M11 near Jack Whites involving an overturned trailer carrying cattle.

Incidents mobilised outside county Wicklow (October 2020):

Kildare (6-incidents) examples

- 04/10/20 Baltinglass Fire Crew supported crews from Carlow Town and Athy at an RTC at Colstown, Castledermot, County Kildare.
- 08/10/20 Baltinglass Fire Crew supported by a fire crew from Carlow Town extinguished a tractor on fire in a barn at Grangeford, Moone, County Kildare
- 30/10/20 Baltinglass Fire Crew attended a machine on fire in a shed at Knockroe, Castledermot, County Kildare.
- 30/10/20 Blessington Fire Crew assisted by a crew from Naas dealt with a fire at a derelict garage in Ballymore Eustace, County Kildare.
- 31/10/20 Dunlavin Fire Crew dealt with a large bonfire at Naraghmore, Crookstown, County Kildare.
- 31/10/20 Dunlavin Fire Crew were alerted to a bonfire at Ballytore, County Kildare.

Wexford (3-incidents) examples

- 06/10/20 Arklow Fire Crew were mobilised to assist Gardai to make the road safe at Gorteen, Coolgreaney.
- 11/10/20 Arklow Fire Crew extinguished a car fire at Forcheater, Inch.
- 29/10/20 Arklow Fire Crew supported Gorey Fire Crews at a fire in sheds and offices at Ballygarrett.

General

- Assessment of 50 candidates to join the Fire Service was carried out during the month. This included suitability tests which included:- a ladder climb, strength and fitness tests, claustrophobia test. This was followed by on-line interviews and medical assessment. Successful candidates were offered places on a recruit / induction course in Bray to start on 9th November. Vacancies were filled as follows: Bray (6), Greystones (2), Arklow (2), Blessington (1) and Carnew (2).
- Countywide emergency medical refresher training and cardiac first responder training took place.
- A project to standardise medical equipment in all stations was completed.
- The NDFEM used Bray Fire Station to run a 1-week officer course.
- The Air Corps crash rescue team trained on Breathing Apparatus for 2 weeks in Bray Fire Station with Wicklow Fire Service instructors.

Fire Prevention Statistics

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	2		4		16
Regularisation Certificates			2	1	
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	3		1		10

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

Building Control

Commencement Notices for October 2020:

Commencement Notices Submitted:

- 8 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 3 Seven day Notice
- 19 Opt Out Declarations
- 3 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents

Submission Statistics

- 58 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 81 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 27 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 16 are Opt Out (60%)
 - 2 Seven Day Notice (7%)
 - 8 are Compliance Documentation (30%)
 - 1 Without Compliance Documentation (3%)

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- **31 Valid** Commencement Notices
55 new build residential Units (19 of which are one off houses)
- Invalidated CNs for October = 1

Certificates of Completion processed in October 2020

- 24 New No. of CCC submitted
- 18 No. Valid
- 0 No. Invalid

Submission Statistics

18 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 17 No CCCs submitted in October 2020
- 1 No CCCs submitted in September 2020

11 Revised Info Requests

88% => 21 No. @ Multi-Development site => 55 new residential units & 2
Apartment Block (40 Apartments)

8% => 2 No. Schools

Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. HR and Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in October

Temporary Part Time School Traffic Warden – Baltinglass MD
 General Services Supervisor (internal)
 Staff Officer (shortlisting)
 Temporary Clerical Officer
 Firefighters Carnew, Dunlavin, Bray, Blessington, Greystones, Arklow
 Clerk of Works
 Technician Grade 1
 Library Assistant
 Temporary Part Time Branch Librarian

Employee Numbers

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

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

(Excludes figures for Fire-fighters)

Access to Information

F.O.I. Requests

October 2020	4
January to October 2020	80

October 2019	8
January to October 2019	111

Ombudsman Requests

October 2020	1
January to October 2020	19

October 2019	7
January to October 2019	22

Press Releases

September 2020 – 15 Press Releases

Register of Electors

The Franchise staff are continuing to work on database maintenance required to maintain the Register of Electors including updating Eircodes, dates of birth, spelling errors and other relevant database maintenance in advance of the Live Register. Letters are continuing to be issued to electors to establish as to whether or not they are still resident and the replies are being updated onto the Register or forwarded to other local authorities for registration at new addresses as required. We have issued approximately 1500 RFA forms to new estates and houses that have been sold in Wicklow since February 2020. However, it should be noted that there has been just under 10% response rate to these forms being issued. Contact has also been made with Nursing Homes in the County to update their Disabled Special Voters List which has been positive with all Nursing Homes on the system engaging with us.

We have established a highly visible social media campaign, in conjunction with the Department's own social media campaign to raise awareness of the importance of checking the 2021/2022 Draft Register of Electors and for those who wish to receive a postal vote from home on the grounds of ill health/cocooning due to Covid-19. We have contacted the Year Heads of 5th and 6th Year Classes in all the Secondary Schools in Wicklow to register students who will reach 18 on or before 15th February 2021.

The 2021/2022 Draft Register was published on the 1st November 2020 in line with statutory regulations and is being rolled out in hard copy to libraries, post offices and Garda stations. The Draft Register was issued to TD's, Councillors and Senator via email zipped files on the day of the statutory publication of the Register.

Due to the Covid-19 Emergency and restrictions there were no Fieldworkers carrying out work on the Draft Register of Electors for 2021/2022



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 Ascendas & 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 277 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.

Network and Infrastructure

- Assisted in the preparation and publication of Draft Register.
- Migrated and updated iHouse application with additional functionality

Domain Migration

- The domain migration and the mailbox migration projects are progressing well, all domain and email accounts have been migrated. Legacy exchange servers are due to be decommissioned, testing will commence in late November.
- A plan for Server migration has been drawn up and some Servers have been migrated successfully.
- Retention policies have been amended for mailboxes and we are encouraging staff to Cryoserver to access archived emails in a bid to reduce mailbox sizes.
- The team continue to upgrade all legacy operating systems to Windows 10 to ensure continued support from Microsoft.



GIS & Data Collection Systems

- Strategic Development Goals Application is currently being populated by members of the PPN as part of the Climate and Biodiversity Action. A version supporting older browsers was also made available to the public.
- Development of CRM System automation continues, particularly for the new Customer Service Innovation Hub.
- Design map template for County Development Plan completed and data collection exercise 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.
- Testing of new GIS Departmental Viewers and Editors has commenced. Migrated to HTML5. These will include further improved features.

Customer Service Delivery

- Customer Service Innovation Hub was officially launched on 27th November. 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 will integrate more completely with call reporting systems and improve customer service delivery

eServices

- Wicklow.ie – pageviews for 2020 to date are over 1,346,518
- Social media accounts – followers to date
 - Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 9,001 followers.
 - Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 6,905 followers.
 - Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 1,762 followers.
- During November, the Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie had the following items up for consultation –
 - Part 8 - Bogmeadow Car Park in the Monastery Townland, Enniskerry
 - Part 8 - Main Street, Improvement Works, Redcross Village
 - Identifying a need for Enterprise Centre and Remote Working Facilities in Rathdrum
 - Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Greenway – Part 2
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month. In November we focused on highlighting the National campaigns as part of the Level 5 lockdown.
 - #KeepWell
 - #OutdoorsForEveryone
 - #CommunityCall
 - #BeWinterReady

On a county level we have been trying to raise awareness to 'Check the Register' and ensure citizens are registered to vote

FINANCIAL

Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st OCTOBER 2020							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	18,371,046	24,541,664	75%	(23,327,933)	(30,692,854)	76%	(4,956,887)
Road Transport & Safety	16,752,970	23,611,358	71%	(10,595,652)	(16,493,380)	64%	6,157,318
Water Services	4,082,871	5,560,661	73%	(4,829,219)	(6,545,641)	74%	(746,349)
Development Management	19,707,301	11,242,546	175%	(15,695,665)	(6,144,652)	255%	4,011,636
Environmental Services	9,228,796	11,837,313	78%	(1,026,867)	(2,002,200)	51%	8,201,928
Recreation and Amenity	6,075,128	7,663,027	79%	(578,564)	(847,647)	68%	5,496,563
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,088,829	1,479,516	74%	(446,662)	(819,228)	55%	642,167
Miscellaneous Services	22,485,479	11,879,184	189%	(17,453,829)	(6,156,153)	284%	5,031,649
Central Management Charges	15,427,670	18,407,601	84%	(890,127)	(1,000,000)	89%	14,537,543
Local Government Fund				(11,433,600)	(13,720,320)	83%	(11,433,600)
Pension Levy				0	0		0
Commercial Rates				(26,674,833)	(31,950,795)	83%	(26,674,833)
	113,220,089	116,222,870	97%	(112,952,953)	(116,372,870)	97%	267,136

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 October 2020 to 31st October 2020.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st OCTOBER 2020					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2020	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/10/2020
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	19,000,508	44,812,936	(43,488,472)	(1,811,965)	18,513,007
Road Transport & Safety	(42,851,352)	10,919,218	(11,945,737)	(506,608)	(44,384,480)
Water Services	(10,670,498)	215,622	(601,117)	(15,000)	(11,070,993)
Development Management	(9,612,396)	1,562,822	(617,744)	(208,642)	(8,875,959)
Environmental Services	968,611	3,066,118	(2,114,826)	(489,375)	1,430,527
Recreation and Amenity	(914,062)	3,697,267	(3,435,929)	(202,250)	(854,974)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(885,558)	146,870	0	(288,750)	(1,027,438)
Miscellaneous Services	(15,413,049)	4,115,838	(2,749,135)	(1,777,216)	(15,823,562)
	(60,377,798)	68,536,690	(64,952,960)	(5,299,806)	(62,093,873)

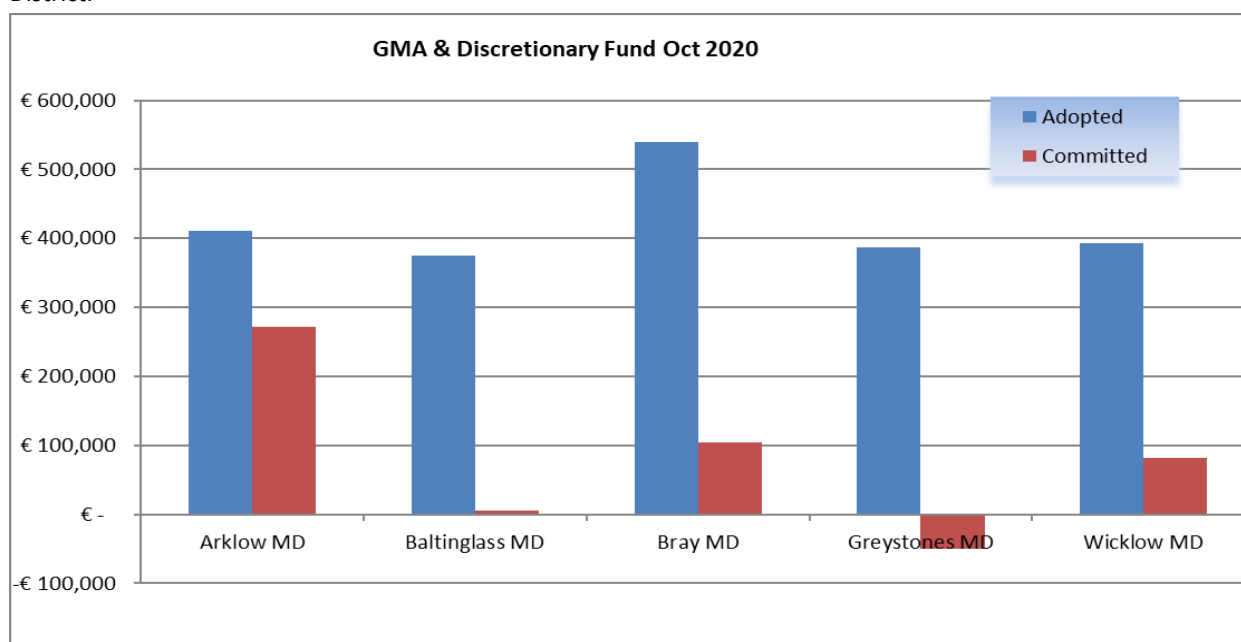
Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31st OCTOBER 2020										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2020	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/10/2020	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	5,217,406	32,009,800	0	0	(12,760,684)	24,466,522	(15,024,973)	9,441,550	0	75%
Rents & Annuities	1,853,579	13,960,362	0	1,493	0	15,815,433	(12,980,473)	2,834,960	0	82%
Housing Loans	402,724	1,523,113	0	0	0	1,925,836	(1,498,306)	427,530	0	78%

Nine Month Rates Waiver: A 100% waiver of commercial rates was applied for a 9-month period from 27 March 2020 to 27 December 2020 to all ratepayers except a small number of categories. The waiver applied as a credit in lieu of rates for the 9-month period covered in 2020. The excluded categories are mainly utilities, banks, large supermarkets and corporates. There is no application process required for this scheme. Wicklow County Council has automatically applied a 100% credit in lieu of commercial rates, for the nine-month period, to classes and categories of occupied rateable property where the occupying business is not in an excluded category. In the event a business qualified for the nine-month credit in lieu of rates and the business has already paid their full rates bill for 2020, their account will show a credit balance. A refund will be arranged by the Council if requested.

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2020

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



Municipal District	C/F from 2019	Adopted	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	52,813	410,500	324,743	138,570
Baltinglass MD	159,389	375,500	164,261	370,628
Bray MD	180,991	539,500	284,436	436,055
Greystones MD	165,252	387,500	115,780	436,972
Wicklow MD	205,713	393,500	286,834	312,379
Total	764,158	2,106,500	1,176,055	1,694,603

Capital Investment Programme 2020-2022

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

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

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



Restart Grant Scheme

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

RESTART GRANT SCHEME	APPLICATIONS	VALUE
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	2	€20,000
APPLICATIONS PAID	1,060	€4,012,905
GRAND TOTAL	1,062	€4,032,905
RESTART GRANT PLUS SCHEME		
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	8	€76,426
APPLICATIONS PAID	1,209	€6,539,983
GRAND TOTAL	1,217	€6,616,409
TOTAL APPROVED AND PAID	2,279	€10,649,315