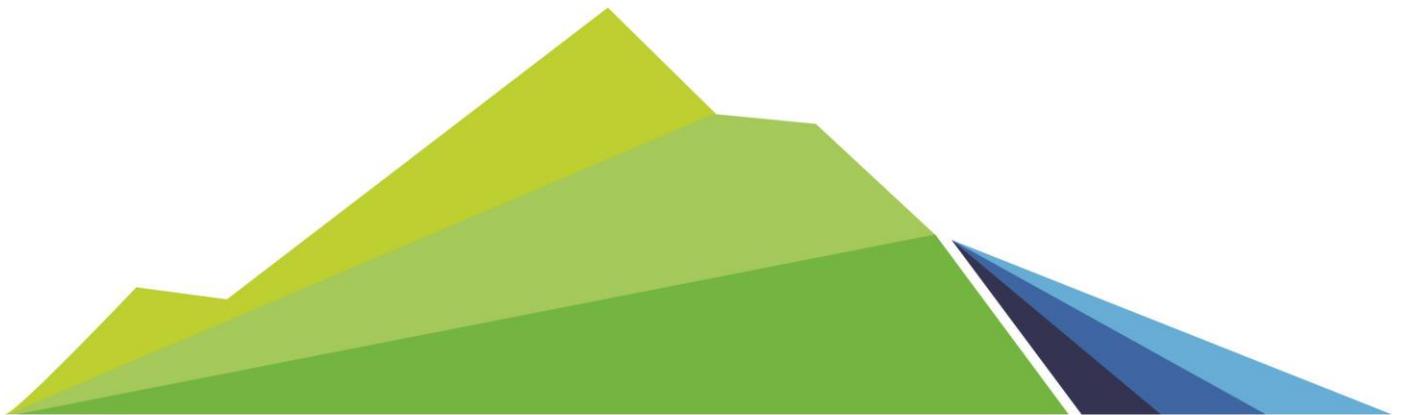




# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



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## **This month:**

### **Grant Funding of €194,050 Allocated**

Over 300 applications were received across the five Municipal District's for Community Grants, Community Pride Grants and Digital Poverty Grants, with grants totalling €194,050 being awarded.

A total of €45,000 was allocated to address digital poverty in the county. Digital poverty is a form of exclusion where people are missing out on services, communication or social interaction due to a lack of skills, access to equipment and or to the internet.

The grants scheme is part of the work of the County Wicklow COVID-19 Community Response Forum and of the implementation of the County Wicklow Digital Strategy.

### **Tracks & Trails 2020 Video Launched**

A new Tracks & Trails video commissioned by Wicklow County Council was launched on 7<sup>th</sup> July. It features Bray Head, the Belmont Way and the Sugarloaf Way.

Presented by Pól O Conghaile, the 10 minute show features a magnificent trail which now links and extends a number of other well-known trails into a long and challenging walk. This new Tracks & Trails follows a route across a very varied terrain including rugged mountain climbs, flat and quiet forest paths, rich farmland and country roads.

The trail, which can be completed in a day, for the experienced walker, or broken into shorter walks, reveals what is best in Wicklow landscapes from breathtaking sea vistas to magnificent rural views stretching across fields, mountains and skylscapes.

### **Destination Recovery Task Force Established**

Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Tourism Alliance and Failte Ireland have established a Destination Recovery Taskforce aimed at supporting tourism. Failte Ireland has launched a nationwide advertising campaign titled *Ireland – Make a Break for It*. The Destination Recovery Taskforce is preparing a national TV/Radio and print media advertising campaign aimed at promoting *Wicklow – Make a Break for It*. Virgin Media TV's Ireland AM will feature Wicklow during week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> August, this will be followed by a radio and print media campaign

## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

### 1. Social Housing Support

	<b>June 2020</b>	<b>June 2019</b>
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP)	4441	4300
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	321	395
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	1924	1420
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	11	8
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	15	10

### 2. Allocation of Social Housing

	<b>June 2020</b>	<b>June 2019</b>
<i>Wicklow County Council</i>	84	104
Approved Housing Bodies	14	13

### 3. Social Housing Stock

	<b>June 2020</b>	<b>June 2019</b>
Tenancies occupied	4496	4367
Total weekly rental accrual	€298,657	€238,292
Arrears	€2,137,783	€1,114,376

### 4. Casual Vacancies/Relets

63

	<b>June 2020</b>	<b>Covid 19</b>	<b>June 2019</b>
<b>Municipal District</b>			
Arklow	10	2	16
Baltinglass	13	2	20
Bray	6	2	8
Greystones	2	0	6
Wicklow	22	4	16

## COVID 19 UPDATE

### Relets for Self Isolation Units

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

## 5. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

## COVID 19 UPDATE

The current pandemic has had a major effect on the programme.

Sites were closed for 7 weeks with 3 exceptions, which were allowed to re-open early (Convent Lands Wicklow, Farrenkelly Greystones and Whitehall Baltinglass. All sites are now open.

Progress is being monitored on site to establish any ongoing effects.

### Social Housing Supply Programme

5 scheme completed 2019/2020	61 units
9 schemes currently on site in 2020	273 Units
further schemes to commence on site in 2020	<u>159 Units</u>
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>493 Units</b>

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 2019	Yes
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated 2019	Yes
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated 2019	Yes
Whitehall, Baltinglass	34	Completed and allocated 2020	Yes
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>		
SCHEMES ON SITE	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS (subject to change due to Covid 19 restrictions)	PART 8 APPROVAL
Whitehall, Baltinglass RAPID BUILD	27	Complete	Yes
Kilbride Lane Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	Completion anticipated October 2020	Yes
FCA Hall Wicklow Town	8	Completion anticipated January 2021	Yes
Kilmantan Place Bray	4	Completion anticipated January 2021	Yes
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Complete	Yes
Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue	20	Completion anticipated October 2020	Yes



Convent Lands	51	21 units complete, balance August 20.	Yes
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completion anticipated October 2020	Yes
Carnew RAPID BUILD	30	Completion anticipated February 2021	Yes
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completion anticipated July 2021	Yes
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>273</b>		
<b>PIPELINE SCHEMES</b>	<b>UNITS</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS CURRENT STATUS (subject to change due to Covid 19 restrictions)</b>	<b>PART 8 APPROVAL</b>
Avondale Phase 2 RAPID BUILD	20	Site start anticipated October 2020	Yes
Ard na Greine RAPID BUILD	30	Site start anticipated October 2020	Yes
Greenhill Road Wicklow RAPID BUILD	36	Site start anticipated December 2020	Yes
Ashtown Lane RAPID BUILD	40	Site start anticipated October 2020	Yes
Mountainview NTMK RAPID BUILD	26	Site start anticipated December 2020	Yes
Old Fire Station Arklow	7	Site start anticipated December 2020	Part 8 approval Arklow M.D. Required.
Cedar Court Bray RAPID BUILD	14	Site start anticipated February 2021	Part 8 approval by Bray M. D. required.
Three Trouts Greystones RAPID BUILD	40	Site start anticipated February 2021	Part 8 approval Gstones M.D.required
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213</b>		

## 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 2/3	WCC
Wicklow Town	3	Delivered 30/06/20	WCC
Rathnew	3	Quarter 2/3	WCC
Greystones	2	Quarter 2/3	WCC
Dunlavin	4	Quarter 2/3	CALF
Ashford	8	Quarter 3	CALF
Wicklow	4	Quarter 2/3	CALF

### Potential units

Negotiations ongoing with a number of developers at preplanning 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	3	Q2/2020	WCC
Wicklow	5	Q2/Q3 2020	WCC
Rathdrum	4	Delivered 17/06/20	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]

Development Site at Convent Lands, Wicklow for 51 Social Housing units commenced on site in March 2019. The project is progressing well and is currently due for completion in June 2020.. The Department of Housing has dedicated €300 million towards delivery of housing through the public, private partnership model in the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan. The Convent Lands site in Wicklow has been included as a project in Bundle 1.

Nominations for allocations have been advised to the Approved Housing Body operating the scheme.

### 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.
- Acquisition by AHB of 8 (Part V) units via CALF in Ashford due by Q4 2020. A further 4 units (2 turnkey and 2 Part V) due in 2021.
- Construction ongoing on a 40 units (including 4 Part V) via CALF Turnkey in Dunlavin .

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

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



## 8. Housing Schemes Remediation

### Glending, Blessington – Remediation

**Stage 2 and Stage 3 Phase 3A – No 1 to No. 12 Glending Road** have been completed.

**Stage 3 Phase 3B** – Glending phase 3b is complete as of 18th December 2018.

**Phase 4** - works have commenced.

## 9. Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

› Grant funding for private house €1,768,217 in 2019 no budget for 2020 yet (€316,319.24) spent to date)

› › Grant funding for social house € 500,000 in 2019, no budget for 2020 yet (€ 99,443.48) spent to date)

### House Purchase Loans – Rebuilding Ireland

#### Up to 30/06/2020

- **335 received up to 30/06/2020**
- 111 approvals
- 132 declined
- 23 previously approved but approved
- 41 further information/with HA
- 26 either incomplete, ineligible

#### 2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

##### May 2020

- 83 applications to 30/06/2020
- 4 sale completed
- 14 declined
- 65 remaining various stages – incomplete, with L.A., withdrawn.

#### June 2019

- **79 received to 30/06/2019**
- 10 approvals
- 18 declined
- 3 further info/with HA

#### June 2019

- 22 applications to 30/06/2019
- 1 sale completed
- 3 declined

## 10. Addressing Homelessness

	30/06/2020	30/06/2019
Covid presentations	18	
No of Presentations	43	50
No. of Repeat Presentations	0	4
No. of Households (Families)	16	21
No. of Adults (Individuals)	27	31
No. of Children	22	48
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	1	19
Family Circumstances	23	16
Leaving Prison Hospital Care	0	1
Sofa Surfing	7	7
Rough Sleeping	4	2
Own Door Temporary Accommodation	30/06/2020	30/06/2019
Families	12	13
Adults	19	19
Children	26	33
Singles	6	3

### Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	5	8	15	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Children Only</i>				5	5	2	3	2

### Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	6	7	11	0	2	2	0	3
<i>Children Only</i>				0	4	3	0	4

**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.

**Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (Covid-19) Act 2020** With effect from Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020, new emergency measures were introduced into law to protect tenants during the Covid-19 emergency period. In summary, a notice of termination cannot be served during the Covid-19 emergency period. All notices of terminations which were served before the emergency period are paused until end of June, and tenants in general cannot be obliged to leave their rented accommodation during this time.

The Mid East Region Homelessness Management Group has completed a brief analysis of the impact of the moratorium on evictions to date, on the extent of homelessness in the region and is recommending that the emergency measures pertaining to notice of terminations be extended, as a homeless preventive measure, with an exemption to be applied to termination notices that relate to rent arrears and/or anti-social behaviour.

## Cold Weather Initiative

The Cold Weather Initiative, a partnership arrangement between the Council and the Dublin Simon Community, with the assistance of Five Loaves Homeless Services, opened on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019, in Bray to provide emergency night shelter for homeless individuals.

Referral protocol is through Wicklow County Council, Dublin Simon, Five Loaves and the Gardai.

**COVID 19 UPDATE** A new operational model has commenced at the Cold Weather Initiative to endeavour to achieve the necessary health and safety standards around Covid 19 protocols. Opening hours have been extended with a corresponding increase in staffing resources. Sanitary facilities have been increased and extensive temporary modifications have been introduced to ensure separation of beds and provision of secure isolation unit.

Due to the high risk to clients if there should be Covid + cases reported in the CWI, the Council is finalising plans to relocate the residents to another, more suitable facility, where 24 hour accommodation will be provided and adequate self isolation facilities will be available.

## 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, 244 households (189 families & 55 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

120 homeless cases and 124 prevention cases to date. 83 properties were sourced by WCC.



**COVID 19 UPDATE** The Homeless HAP Placefinder and the HAP team continue to progress cases. Key focus at present is on maintaining payments to landlords and reviewing differential rent of those clients who have reduced income during this time.

## **Sonass Facility, Wicklow** - Transition to Family Homeless Hub.

Following the advice that Sonass 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 will be in a position to commence operations and management of the facility pending finalisation of the legal handover.

**COVID 19 UPDATE** Refurbishment work is substantially complete on the facility, initially providing self isolation units for vulnerable clients during the current crisis.

## **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.

## **Housing First**

With Housing First, the priority is to support a person who has experienced homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible, without any preconditions around sobriety or mental health treatment. Then continue working intensively with them on these issues once they are housed. 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 3 clients under Housing First. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of accommodation.



## 11. Community Cultural & Social Development

### Wicklow Community Call

The Wicklow Community Call continues to operate from Wicklow County Buildings from 9.00a.m. to 5.00p.m., seven days a week. The Call Centre is now staffed by CCSD staff. The centre was set up with a special Helpline and dedicated email and is available to elderly and vulnerable people and those who are cocooning who need urgent assistance at this time.

### County Wicklow Library Services

#### Mid-Year E-Stats

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in libraries being closed from mid-March to June. Services are currently reopening, with all of Wicklow County Council's 13 libraries being open to the public by early July – (making it the first local authority to reopen all its libraries).

Library closures, gave public libraries the opportunity to promote the many online facilities available. There is a large range of online services available nationally, including

- E-books
- Downloadable audio books
- E-languages
- E-magazines
- E-newspapers

Mid-year stats show a sharp increase from those of 2019, with Wicklow's users

<b>E-stats 2019 Totals</b>	<b>Wicklow</b>	<b>National</b>
Active Online Borrowers	757	19,680
Per 1000 population	5.3	4.1

<b>E-stats Jan- June 2020</b>	<b>Wicklow</b>	<b>National</b>
Active Online Borrowers	1,745	44,702
Per 1000 population	12.25	9.4



<b>E-stats 2019 Totals</b>	<b>Wicklow</b>	<b>National</b>
Items downloaded	35,365	759,170
Per 1000 population	248.3	159.4

<b>E-stats Jan- June 2020</b>	<b>Wicklow</b>	<b>National</b>
Items downloaded	31,559	739,229
Per 1000 population	221.6	155.2

The above statistics show that usage stats by the end of 2020 will be double those of 2019. On all of the above stats, Wicklow County Council was either 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> highest per head, compared with other local authorities. These results were achieved through a steady online campaign of promoting the service, in addition to library staff having promoted the service to the public, on joining the library or renewing their membership.

### Wicklow “Active Members” – No. 2 in Ireland

National Oversight & Audit Commission (NOAC) Report on “Active Library Members” for 2019 shows Wicklow County Council as the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest nationally, per head after Cork City. Wicklow shows 17.3% of population registered, whereas the national average is 12.7%.

These stats reflect people who borrowed an item in 2019.

It also includes people who downloaded an online book from Borrowbox or used Wi-Fi.

It does not include people who joined, but didn’t do any of the above or visited a library on a casual basis, e.g. to read newspapers, etc.

Note: Figures for all locations are down substantially, primarily due to people being allowed 12 items per person – so no need to join as many family members as previously.

<b>NOAC 2019 - Active Membership</b>	<b>Active Reg 2019</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Reg as % Population</b>
Wicklow	24,585	142,425	17.3%
National Total / Average	604,665	4,761,865	12.7%



## Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP programme implementers continue to provide targeted supports across the county to disadvantaged individuals, voluntary groups and communities.

SICAP mid-year review to be undertaken in July/August by Wicklow LCDC in conjunction with Pobal.

## County Wicklow Public Partnership Network (PPN):

PPN Annual Conference 2020 planned for Arklow is now postponed until May 2021

Ongoing work with Wicklow Community Response Forum (Covid 19) and Digital Poverty Sub Group

Further development of PPN Disability sub-group

Policies/Strategies/Submissions: CAN Local Authority Tenants Consultation; Corona Citizen's Science Project; WCC Tree Strategy; Irish Hedgehogs Survey; Strategy for Criminal Justice Consultation; Significant Water Management Issues Consultation.

## Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020

<b>Town &amp; Village</b>	<b>Closing Dates</b>	<b>No. Applications permitted</b>
Accelerated Measure 1st call COVID-19 adaptations	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2020	5 applications
Accelerated Measure 2 <sup>nd</sup> call COVID-19 adaptations	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	5 applications
T&V Main Scheme	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	6 applications



## Accelerated Measure 1<sup>st</sup> Call

- 25 Expressions of Interest Received
- Assessed according to the criteria in the guidelines

Submitted on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020:

Project	Town or Village	Funding sought
Covid-19 related adaptations for a number of community centres in the county to comply with public health requirements	Brockagh; Aughrim; Newtownmountkennedy; Rathnew; Lacken; Ballyguile; Annacurra; Enniskerry	€25,200
Shop local campaign for village – Super Saturday Promotions; Vibrant Village campaign; bike rack and benches	Dunlavin	€4,455
Covid -19 related adaptations to allow for social distancing including links, line markings and footpath buildouts	Roundwood	€36,000
Covid-19 related adaptations to comply with public health requirements for access to the Little Sugarloaf walk	Little Sugarloaf	€5,040
Village Pod – digital platform to link people with local businesses and encourage shop local	No. of villages	€18,000



## Digital Poverty Scheme

Wicklow County Council has just allocated €45,000 in grants to address digital poverty, as part of the response to COVID-19 and as part of the implementation of the County Wicklow Digital Strategy.

Many crucial services are now being delivered online because of COVID-19 restrictions and this is a trend that will continue into the future. However those most vulnerable are experiencing difficulty in accessing services because of a lack of digital equipment or access to Wi-Fi. This fund is aimed at enabling organisations to purchase vital equipment such as tablets, laptops and dongles that can be accessed by those in most need of them. To have qualified for the grant, the project must achieve an impact in one or more of the following:

- Enabling on-line education, reskilling or training for disadvantaged groups
- Enabling online youth work/mental health interventions
- Support for vulnerable families
- Support for those in Direct Provision
- Community outreach to vulnerable groups while social distancing
- Combating isolation for older people

There was a large response to the funding call with over 30 applications received, most of which were eligible and received funding.

## Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

### National Play Day

Wicklow Sports and Recreation received €2000 in funding from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs for this year's National Play Day which took place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The theme for National Play Day was Playful Communities, Playful Homes with play packs being provided by Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership to those who hosted an event.

## Community Enhancement Programme 2020

Michael Ring TD, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, announced details of the 2020 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. The programme is administered by Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area. The funding allocation for Wicklow is €61,767. The closing date for submission of applications to Wicklow County Council is 4.00 p.m. on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The application form and guidelines have been circulated via email to the Members, all Wicklow Local Authority Staff and the PPN. Advertisements have been placed in the local papers and on the Wicklow County Council website. Any requests for application forms should be emailed to [cep@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:cep@wicklowcoco.ie) or telephone 0404 20208.



## Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

### 1. Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Action Plan 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). Many of the 142 actions listed in the LECP have come from the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Action Plan. The CWETT which was initiated in 2013 was a collaborative project initiated by Wicklow County Council and involved the business community from across the county and the County Enterprise Board (now LEO Wicklow).

#### Town Teams

Town Teams in Arklow, Blessington, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow continue to meet on a monthly basis and 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.

Following the success of the Bray Re-opening Committee, Wicklow County Council proposes 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.

The membership of the Re-Opening Committees consist of MD Cathaoirleach (Chair), MD Manager, MD Administrator, MD Engineer, Chair of the Town Team, Representative of the Chamber of Commerce and An Garda Síochána, in some cases the Town Team has taken on the role of the re-opening committee.

#### Arklow

Arklow Community CCTV system is in now in operation. An application was submitted by the Town Team to the Department of Justice and Equality which received approval for the maximum grant of €40,000 towards the installation of a community-based CCTV system. Arklow Municipal District will partly fund the project also. Visiconnex were awarded the contract to install the 11 CCTV cameras which are now strategically placed around the town at locations between Upper Main Street to Lower Main Street, River Walk and the North Quay.



All businesses in the district have received a pack highlighting the business supports available to them through the various Government announced initiatives which will also invite their input and suggestions on any new measures that could be implemented in the short term to assist in reopening our towns and thereby our shops and businesses.

- Businesses have been offered standard temporary ground markings, in order to help businesses implement queuing measures to encourage social distancing.
- A public traffic survey for the town has been compiled and members of the public will be invited to have their say - this survey will go up on the Public Consultation Hub on the WCC website today.
- A businesses register of all businesses in the district is in progress.
- Shop Local Campaign is underway - A new logo has been designed
- Photographer will go around to the businesses to take photos for our shop local campaign which can be used on Arklow Town Team page and our new website that will be developed and designed in the near future.
- A new Farmers Market to be held in the town – this is being researched at present.
- The Chamber of Commerce are looking into a Shop Local Voucher Scheme.

## **Blessington**

- The committee decided to go with Wonderful West Wicklow for the shop local campaign. Letters going out this week to businesses across the MD with posters and business support details.
- A lot of businesses are applying for the Restart Grant Scheme, most interest is in this.
- Consideration was also given to the development of a COVID-19 Safety Charter similar to the Failte Ireland Charter
- The committee is a sub group of the Blessington Town Team
- Under the Covid Interim Mobility measures Blessington has secured €23,000
- business per week.

## **Bray**

Bray.ie's objective quickly moved from promoting the town as a tourism destination to encouraging our community to support local businesses to ensure that the main street survives.

- With the setting up of the Re-opening committee, it was a collaborative approach – one voice / one strategy, we discussed our approach to recovery under the following headings (with COVID-19 compliance at the forefront):



- Economic
  - Social
  - Environmental
  - Cultural
- In light of an accelerated phased reopening plan – we introduced a shop local campaign called #ShopLocalFirst <https://www.bray.ie/shoplocalfirst> supported by branded material and video content.
  - We agreed a strong communications strategy using the tagline ‘Bray Bouncing Back’ which was supported by a PR, Marketing and digital plan.
  - We introduced a new look business directory.
  - We introduced dedicated COVID-19 information hubs on Bray.ie which aimed to help connect local businesses with customers, share some practical hints, tips, supports and links to help the town and community bounce back.
  - We utilised our social media networks extensively to drive our initiatives and increase engagement.
  - To date four press releases have been issued to local media, all gaining high levels of exposure.
  - We’re starting to revise our ‘Summer in Bray’ campaign and when it is safe to do so, we will start to promote Bray as a great option for a staycation, showcasing the towns assets from our unique experiences.

## **Greystones**

Greystones 2020 in partnership with Greystones Municipal District recently launched a campaign to restart the local economy in the district.

A wide range of resources to support local businesses emerging from COVID-19 restrictions have been introduced, including:

- A new business hub on the website [www.greystones.ie/business-hub](http://www.greystones.ie/business-hub) with full information, including details of financial supports, to assist businesses in the Greystones district to thrive again
- A local business WhatsApp group that offers support and help when it’s needed
- A “Think Local, Buy Local campaign” throughout the area, local media and social media, including distribution of Think Local stickers throughout the district and advertising on local bins to promote support of local businesses.
- Greystones MD wrote to 90 businesses’ locally to advise them of the initiatives and offered to provide ground markings to help them implement queuing measures to encourage social distancing.



- Local businesses were also advised of the free fast track licensing system for outdoor furniture, there have been no applications to date.
- The social media campaign is ongoing with regular updated posts to promote the Think Local – Buy local campaign.
- Greystones MD funded advertising to promote the campaign on bins throughout the district.
- Two new businesses have open in Greystones in recent weeks - Sonnys restaurant and Gino's gelato Ice Cream.

## **Wicklow**

- Agreed Tagline “Shop Local Support Wicklow”
- WMD Members agreed to fund all proposals from Discretionary Fund
- Set up VMS at entrances to town with Tagline
- Businesses canvassed re free social distancing stencils required –Press release completed
- Short promotional video completed and circulated
- Examples of NTA projects that can be applied for - circulated to Chamber
- Letter drop to 5000 households
- Stickers for shops with tagline
- 4 banners in production – to tie in with existing e.g. Time to Enjoy, Time to Discover– “Time to Shop Local Support Wicklow”
- Promotion of 15 minute parking courtesy period – stickers being prepared for each meter
- Section 254 Applications – 2 received
- Canvass Wicklow People to do an article on Re-opening and possibly do an article on a business per week

## 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**.

**Accommodation:** Fáilte Ireland has engaged Crowe Consultants to develop a Toolkit to help attract investment in accommodation. It is estimated that Wicklow requires an additional 175 Hotel Rooms over the next five years based on 4% growth, this is assuming that the additional 50 rooms that have extant planning permission are developed. The re-activation of the County Wicklow Accommodation working group is proposed for the end of July.

**Destination Town Funding** - An application to Failte Ireland on behalf of Wicklow Town has been made in respect of Destination Town Funding. If successful this could result in funding of over €500k in respect of development of tourism amenities in the town.

**Key Towns as Visitor Hubs:** Fáilte Ireland has announced an investment of €15.5 million available through local authorities to boost the attractiveness and tourism appeal of towns across the country. Funding of between €250,000 and €500,000 will be available to local authorities to develop towns in their area which have the potential to become a 'destination town' for tourists. The 'destination towns' will need to demonstrate their capacity and appeal to attract more international visitors to stay overnight.

Fáilte Ireland has set aside up to €500,000 in Destination Town Funding for County Wicklow; Wicklow County Council is working on an application for funding under this theme.



## **Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study**

Failte Ireland, with its strategic partners OPW, NPWS and with Wicklow County Council advertised for consultants to develop a tourism Masterplan for Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park and a Visitor Orientation Plan for County Wicklow. A team of consultants has been appointed and will commence engagement with all stakeholders in the coming months

## **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 clips aimed at internet viewers, airlines and traditional media.

The new trails include the Bray Head to Sugarloaf Trail and the Tinahely Looped Walk.

**Wicklow Passport:** Featuring stamps designed representing attractions, towns and villages when a visitor obtains 15 stamps they will qualify for a certificate as a Wicklow Ambassador

**Eco Trail:** The Eco Trail is the largest Trail Running Event in Ireland and is due to take place on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the running of the event will be kept under review in the light of Covid 19.

## **Destination Recovery Task Force**

Wicklow County Council and Failte Ireland have established a Destination Recovery Taskforce aimed at supporting tourism in the county. The taskforce which is chaired by Mr Frank Curran, CE is representative of all sectors of the tourism industry in the County and is supported by Failte Ireland . Failte Ireland has developed a Safety Charter which supports the safe re-opening of tourism businesses, they have also developed the Ireland Make a Break For It advertising campaign and featured Wicklow on 19<sup>th</sup> July in the national media.

As part of the Task Force Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Tourism Alliance are launching a marketing campaign which market the County as a holiday destination nationally.

## **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.

With regard to the RRDF applications submitted in February 2020 in respect of Blessington, Newtownmountkennedy, and Rathdrum, Wicklow County Council was unsuccessful on this occasion..



A new round of RRDF funding has been announced with a closing date 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 (now 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.

### Maritime Business Development Group

An Aquaculture working group has been established to work with industry experts and investigate the proposal to restore natural oyster reefs off the coast of County Wicklow.

## 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. A workshop is planned for the end of March to publicise this project.

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.

A decision on these FLAG funding applications is expected in the coming weeks.

## Food and Beverage Strategy

The implementation of the Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy continues.

Highlights of the work undertaken to date include:

- Continued blogging and social media posting throughout the month.
- Continued membership sign-up and listing on the website (13 additional members added in June – approximately the same will be added for July). Membership is now over 50 companies. A focus on obtaining retail members for Wicklow Naturally was agreed for July, but other members will also be signed up.
- Preparation of Wicklow Naturally members for the filming of RTE's Nationwide absorbed a lot of time in June. This took place and presented the Wicklow Signature Dishes as well as a number of Wicklow Naturally companies. It was viewed as a big success and will be aired in September or October.
- Submission of the final draft of the feasibility study for the Food Incubation Centre took place.
- Meeting and reporting of the steering committee

Following on from our Goal 1 deliverables 4 and 5 (Engage with Fáilte Ireland and identify promotional opportunities and Enter into Foodie Destinations Ireland)

- There has been continued engagement with Caren Carruthers of Failte Ireland
  - The Taste the Island campaign has been cancelled this year.
  - Foodie Destinations Ireland has been postponed this year however the working group will continue preparations in the autumn.
  - The Ploughing Championship has also been cancelled.



- Two of the subgroups are working to identify and create events to populate an activity calendar to promote Wicklow.

## **Working Groups Progress**

### Signature Dish Chefs Group

- Signature dishes have been agreed and were presented at the RTE event.
- Hotels and Restaurants have been identified to be approached for membership and commitments to serve the signature dish.
- A hoteliers networking event is being planned for Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of July – Specific hotels are being invited to this.

### Tell the Wicklow Story/Food Activity Calendar

- The group is working to populate the editorial publishing calendar and develop a food activity calendar.
- This calendar records all activity and timetables future activity.

### The Wicklow Food Poverty Experts Group

- Group meeting every three weeks
- Anne Kavanagh (CWP) has agreed to chair the group.
- A food poverty strategy is being created with members of the working group inputting evidence around food poverty with the working group.
- Evidence has been gathered, identifying the key areas of food poverty, the main agencies operating to address food poverty. The group is contacting organisations to create a map of activity and is designing questionnaires to identify causes, solutions etc from both an agency and beneficiary perspective.

### Local Food to Local People

- The group has met twice
  - Small local retailers have been recommended for membership
  - Discussions and Design of a retail affiliate scheme is progressing with this group and a final recommendation will be presented to the August Steering Committee.

## 2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

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

<b>METRICS: Grants</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 33/€888,954.62 - 8/€11,427	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	- 16/€301,961 - 4/€4,812
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			

<b>METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	53	55	48
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73	75	<b>30</b>
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	832	800	926
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	4

<b>METRICS: Business Advice &amp; Mentoring</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	546	470*	745
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	458	440	391

<b>METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1134	1100	1121

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

<b>Trading Online Voucher</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>No of Trading Online Vouchers approved</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Year to Date 2020</b>
Trading Online Vouchers	39	262	186

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

## Training

During June and July training continued to be delivered online via Zoom with excellent participation from businesses on the following courses:

Course	Date of Course	Number of Attendees
Trading Online Seminar	16 <sup>th</sup> June	125
Trading Online Seminar	21 <sup>st</sup> July	150

Preparations are underway for the Autumn Winter 2020 Training Programme with the fourth Start Your Own Business course for 2020 commencing on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

## **June 2020 Activities**

- ✚ The regional food academy programme to help food businesses get onto retail shelves is open for applications in May. Wicklow food businesses are being encourage to apply.
- ✚ On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June the 'Network of Entrepreneurial Women' meeting was held virtually, via Zoom These meetings will be held via video call on a monthly basis till the end of 2020.
- ✚ A review of the Student Enterprise Programme for school year 2020/2021 is currently underway by the Local Enterprise Office Network nationally. At National level and locally in LEO Wicklow, everybody is committed to making the programme available to secondary schools for the coming school year ( albeit in a much revised format which is cognisant of restrictions and precautions around the spread of Covid 19.
- ✚ The Business Continuity Voucher Scheme closed on 15th May. LEO Wicklow received close to 300 applications from local businesses from all sectors seeking support through the scheme. All applicants have been contacted and supports arranged, the financial administration and reporting element of new support will be processed over next couple of months.
- ✚ Work has commenced on the autumn winter training programme which will offer a combination of core training courses, Brexit supports and Covid Crisis related courses.
- ✚ A high level of calls, emails and enquiries continue to come in, in relation to the changes around the Trading Online Voucher scheme, appointments for business advice clinics, mentoring requests, Microfinance Ireland enquiries and other supports due to the impact of the COVID lockdown on business performance.
- ✚ Extremely high volume of applications for the Trading Online Voucher are being accepted and assessed depending on budgets being available.

## 3. Planning and Development

### Forward Planning

#### **Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly 2019-2031 & Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan**

The new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region (EMRA) came into effect on the 28th June 2019. This was subsequently subject to a Ministerial direction which was confirmed in January 2020. The final RSES and accompanying documentation is available at the following link:

<https://emra.ie/final-rses/>

The requirement for a **Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP)** to be prepared for the Dublin metropolitan area as part of the RSES is set out in Project Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework (NPF). The MASP provides a 12 to 20 year strategic planning and investment framework for the Dublin metropolitan area.

A MASP implementation group has been formed, with 'terms of reference' and governance structure agreed by the Regional Assembly in May 2020. The Implementation Group, whose function is to oversee progress on the implementation of the Dublin MASP, offers an opportunity for enhanced spatial coordination of land use planning and strategic infrastructure delivery in the Dublin metropolitan area. The Implementation Group will drive strategic housing, employment and regeneration opportunities that are identified in the MASP in tandem with the delivery of key public transport, enabling infrastructure and metropolitan scale amenities, in order to achieve targeted population and employment growth as set out in the accompanying RSES and NPF.

The membership of the MASP Implementation group comprises representatives from each of the seven metropolitan local authorities, the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) and key infrastructure, transport and enterprise agencies.

### 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. The First Chief Executive's Report was issued to the Elected Members on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Members, following consideration of the report, may issue directions to the Chief Executive regarding the preparation of the Draft Development Plan.

### Heritage

#### **Heritage & Biodiversity Plan Actions:**

- Phase 2 County Swift Project underway. Community engagement with Tidy Towns groups and individuals being asked to report sightings. New nesting boxes and callers installed in county buildings and at Dunlavin library.
- Our Wicklow Heritage Network: Co-ordination of meetings and training with National Museum. Ongoing content to community heritage 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.
- Launch of National Heritage Week (15<sup>th</sup>- 23 Aug) call to action for project organisers.
- Gardening for Biodiversity Publication: Local Authority Heritage Officer publication made freely available as an online resource and via hard copy
- Together Apart Wicklow Stories 2020 Project: A campaign which uses the heritage website to curate a people's community heritage archive of life in Wicklow in 2020.



- Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project: Survey work ongoing in June
- All Ireland Pollinator Plan: Each MD is provided with signs and undertakes to manage selected areas in a pollinator friendly manner (reduced mowing and removal of cuttings)

**Protected Structures Grants:** Funding allocations announced on 10<sup>th</sup> June by DCHG. €60000 has been allocated to Wicklow projects under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme.,. €35,000 has been allocated to St. Patrick’s Church, Wicklow Town under the Historic Structures Fund.

## Planning Applications

A total of 116 applications were received during June, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	26
Housing Developments	09
Agricultural Structures	00
Commercial	06
Other Developments*	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>

\*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 56 applications in June, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	1
Individual Houses	18
Other Developments	35
Other Developments Requiring EIA	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>

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

	30/06/2019	30/06/2020
Total Number of decisions issued	503	347
Total Number of decisions to grant	422	304
% Grant Rate	84%	88%

## No. of Applications withdrawn

June 11

\*Withdrawals may not have been lodged in the month of June



## Planning Enforcement

### Enforcement

New Files	22
Advisory Letters	16
Warning Letters	10
Enforcement Notices	03
Legal files	00
Closed	08

### Courts

- 06 Cases listed for hearing in Circuit Court in June
- 3 Orders & costs granted to WCC with stay
- 1 Undertaking given to Court with stay
- 1 Case undertaking complied with struck out as resolved.
- 1 Case adjourned to next sitting
- 1 Case listed for mention in the High Court adjourned to October 2020
- 1 Case listed for hearing in July 2020

### Vacant Sites

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

### Derelict Sites

- 04 No. of sites on Register
- 03 further sites to be investigated

## 4. Environmental Services

### Waste Management

No. of Complaints Opened	<b>296</b>
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	<b>241</b>
No of Litter Fines Issued	<b>53</b>
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	<b>7</b>
No. of Warning Letters Issued	<b>10</b>
No. of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	<b>11</b>
No. of Burning Applications Granted	<b>9</b>
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	<b>0</b>
No. of Notices issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	<b>15</b>
No. of fixed penalty notices issued	<b>2</b>
No. of files prepared for Court included in Court lists	<b>56</b>
Income – Litter	<b>€4,550.00</b>
Income – Waste Management	<b>€20,411.85</b>

### Climate Action

At the most recent meeting of the SPC, a presentation was received from the PPN on submission they received on Wicklow County Councils proposed Tree Management Policy An Implementation plan with actions from the Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Climate Charter being developed by a task group of which M Cahill is a member. The draft Implementation Plan (guidance and templates for all LAs) will be submitted to environment committee of the CCMA for approval and rollout.

Pilot training for Climate Action Officers is being held in October and WCC County Council's Climate Action will attend and will provide feedback to the CARO

#### Priority Action items:

- Installation of EV Charging points in Greystones. Considering the pros and cons of a pilot scheme to install a number of chargers in South Beach Car Park, near the council offices.
- Tree Policy to be drawn up for the County. Initial consultation underway and internal meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June to progress this. – Three consultants were invited to tender to compile the Policy however none of the parties were interested in tendering – alternative options are now being considered.
- Community Woodlands: 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.
- LIFE2020 funding application for Sustainable Flood Protection in the Upper Avoca Catchment. Awaiting response from County Wicklow Partnership on whether they are willing, and have the resources, to be involved in the management of this application.



## Environmental Awareness

National Spring Clean was rescheduled due to Covid-19 with a June relaunch for the campaign. Clean up kit was provided to participating groups and collections for the bagged litter.

The Relove fashion competition 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 a Wicklow County Council initiative, The focus is on producing wearable clothing design and good use of skill with textiles will be strengthened in the competition to develop circularity skills among students in textiles and fashion. Schools were notified about this years competition so teachers can incorporate it into their planning for the year

Work has continued with the Wicklow PPN to explore the development of a mapping tool to record projects and actions that deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.

A project to fund the collection, repair and shipping to Africa of old bikes is to be funded under the Anti –Dumping Initiative. The Rotary Club, Bray is a partner in the project.

A new tree grant has been developed as a climate action to facilitate more planting of tree by local groups in County Wicklow.

Wicklow County Council is working with Laois, Meath and Westmeath to develop an online version of the Stop Food Waste Challenge which will be delivered by video on social media. Catherine Fulvio will be the presenter for the four week series of videos which will feature some of her recipes as well as tips and advice on avoiding food waste.

## Recycling Centres

Wicklow's 5 Recycling Centres are now working at almost normal capacity; some reductions remain in opening hours to facilitate additional cleaning of the centres. Social distancing markings have been painted on the ground and in buildings. Glass collections at bottle banks increased by 53% in April and 58% in May. Collections have been increased by the contractor Glassco but there remain some issues with bottle banks being full.

## Anti-Dumping Initiative 2020

WCC was granted approval for 5 projects under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2020. Total value of the approvals is €54,495. The projects approved are:

- 1. Tackling the increased dumping at bottle banks during the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. Value €6,045**  
This project will use CCTV to identify people/cars dumping at particular bottle banks that have seen a significant amount of dumping during the current lockdown.
- 2. Mattress amnesty – Bray. Value €24,500**  
There have been a significant number of mattresses dumped throughout the county this year. This project will provide an outlet for the public in the north of the county.
- 3. Mattress Amnesty – Arklow. Value €17,100**  
This project will provide an outlet for the public in the south of the county.
- 4. Preventing dumping at Charity Shops. Value €4,200**  
Dumping outside charity shops is an issue on the rise in each of the towns. This project will purchase CCTV cameras that WCC can deploy outside any charity shop where dumping is an issue.



## 5. **Bikes for Africa. Value €6,650**

WCC is working with the Rotary Club of Bray to collect, repair and ship bikes to Africa in County Wicklow. Bikes that have been dumped or abandoned will be gathered by WCC and given to the Rotary Club. The Rotary Club will repair these and ship them to Gambia. The regional waste office in Dublin is planning environmental waste awareness campaigns for the region.

## Lifeguards

The Lifeguard season commenced on the 1st June. Lifeguards are present on Bray South Promenade, Greystones, Wicklow Harbour, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Arklow. Lifeguards are present on these beaches from 11am to 7pm daily.

## Dog Licences

The total amount of dogs licenced in County Wicklow during the month of June 2020 was 252, with 107 (42%) being renewed through Licence.ie. Of the 252 licences issued there were 19 lifetime licences issued.

## Caravan Park Season

Caravan Park owners were written to in March 2020 and informed not to open due the Covid-19. Under the Government's accelerated roadmap to reopening Ireland, caravan parks reopened on June 29th. Applications have been received and all parks are being run in line with government guidelines.

## 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.

- Priority Geotechnical Limited completed site Investigation on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September and factual report received in January 2020- results of the site investigation will inform the proposed remediation plan which is scheduled for completion in November 2020.
- Website is up and running and regular updates will be made to keep the Public and Members informed of progress.
- Environmental risk assessments as per EPA guidance document and a draft remediation plan are currently being carried out.

## Ports and Harbours

Eight cargo vessels berthed in Wicklow Port during June 2020. Seven of vessels had a single transaction (Import or Export) while one was a double transaction (Import and Export)

Six ships imported forestry products (3 had timber and 3 had logs). Two ships exported scrap metal and one ship exported glass.

There were three marine notices in June and have one Radio Navigational Warning being broadcast by the Coast Guard.

Part 8 Public Consultation for the following projects concluded on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

- Installation of a floating pontoon and associated services at South Quay, Wicklow Town
- The construction of 14 storage units, for active registered fishers (under license agreement), with internal dimensions of approximately 35 sq metres and associated site works including provision for connection to



services and two concrete slab work areas approximately of 8 metres by 4 metres at the Inner Harbour / Dock, Off South Quay, Arklow Harbour, Co. Wicklow.

## Pollution Control

### Pollution Response & Investigation

- 7 Water pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 2 Air Pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 2 Noise Pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 2 Sewage Overflow complaints were received and investigated.

### Private Water Supplies

- 2 Boil Water Notices issued on Private Drinking Water Supplies requesting remedial action.

### Deco Paints and Solvent Regulations

- 1 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installation was assessed and issued with certificate of compliance.

### Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2020

- 2 Septic tank inspections – 1 compliant, 1 not and 1 advisory notice issued to correct the issue.

### Licensed Wastewater Discharges to Waters/Sewer

- 4 Licensed facilities inspected and 9 samples taken to check for compliance with emission limits.
- 1 Warning letter issued requiring remedial action for breach of emission limit.

### Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 4 Lakes were monitored involving 5 samples taken for checking compliance with quality standards
- 113 River samples taken for checking compliance with quality standards.

### Water Framework Directive River Catchment Assessments

Catchment assessments continue in the following river catchments that have deteriorated in quality:

- Upper Vartry Catchment - agricultural pressures on water were identified.
- Aughrim River – urban wastewater & licensed wastewater pressures were identified.
- Upper Newtown River – agricultural pressures were identified.
- Rathnew Stream – urban wastewater and agricultural pressures were identified.

### River Assessments Above & Below Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants

- 3 Rivers comprising 6 samples were analysed to check for any impact from the discharge 3 municipal wastewater treatment plants.

## Bathing Water Monitoring Programme

There are 6 designated bathing waters, 4 of which fly Blue Flags\*, which will be monitored 10 times through the season until 15<sup>th</sup> September. Results for this season are shown below. The POOR result for Bray on 25<sup>th</sup> May resulted in a Bathing Prohibition until investigations could be carried out. A repeat sample on 27<sup>th</sup> May showed bathing water had returned to Excellent quality and the Prohibition was lifted.

	25/05/2020	08/06/2020	22/06/2020	29/06/2020
*Bray South Prom	<b>POOR</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
*Greystones South Beach	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
Siverstrand	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
*Brittas Bay North	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>SUFFICIENT</b>
*Brittas Bay South	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
Clogga	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>

There are 8 other non-designated bathing areas around the County monitored less frequently. The results so far this season are shown below.

	25/05/2020	22/06/2020
Bray South of Harbour	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
Greystones The Cove		<b>EXCELLENT</b>
Kilcoole	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
The Murrough	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
Wicklow Harbour	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
Wicklow Lifeboat Area	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
Arklow South Beach	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
Arklow The Cove	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>

<b>HSE Classification for Individual Samples per 100ml of sample:</b>				
<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Sufficient</b>	<b>Poor</b>
E. coli	≤ 250	251 - 500	501 - 1000	>1000
Intestinal Enterococci	≤ 100	101 - 200	201 -250	>250

## Planning & Development

- 3 Environmental reports on commercial planning applications
- 3 Environmental reports on agricultural planning applications
- 7 Environmental reports on forestry or felling applications



## Well Grants

- New Applications 8
- Provisional Approvals 7
- Grants provided 8
- Number of New Wells 1
- Number of New Pumps 4
- New Equipment (Filters etc.) 7

## 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 is presently being done expected completion: in the next few weeks . Possible disposal options for the dredge material are currently being investigated.

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

Initial meeting with the foreshore section of the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government has taken place.



**5. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services**

**Public Lighting**

	2/6/2020	8/6/20	15/6/20	22/6/20	29/6/20	07/07/20
Access Issues (Attended)	14	15	15	15	15	15
Cable Fault (Attend)	1	1	1	1	5	5
ESB Required (Attended)	31	25	25	25	26	26
Knock Down (Attended)	5	5	5	5	5	5
Materials required	2	1	1	1	1	1
No Supply	18	18	17	17	17	17
On Hold	0	0	0	0	0	0
Submitted	233	245	212	204	211	261
Traffic Management Required	20	19	17	16	16	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>324</b>
Percentage of lights not working	2.19%	2.23%	1.98%	1.92%	2.00%	2.32%

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONE S MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)		1	9	1	4	15
Cable Fault (Attend)			5			5
ESB Required(Attended)	2		3	1	20	267
Knock Down (Attended)	1		2	1	1	5
Materials required					1	1
No Supply		3	3	7	4	17
Submitted	45	104	23	20	69	261
Traffic Management Required	1		7	3	1	12
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>342</b>
Percentage Not Working	1.68%	4.59%	1.6%	1.21%	2.85%	2.32%

## Transportation Statistics (General)

	2019	Running Total 2020	May 2020	June 2020
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	775	335	41	57
<b>Road Closure Applications</b>	40	12	0	0
<b>Road Opening Licences</b>	1418	561	93	121
<b>Abnormal Load Applications</b>	35	26	1	4

## TII funded projects

### N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment Scheme

Traffic is now diverted onto the new alignment of the N81 at Knockroe Bend Realignment.

There are still traffic lights at the north end of the project to enable the last part of the tie-in to be constructed. Speed limits are still in place until completion of the works.

### N11 Kilmacanoge Parallel Service Road

Phase 1 works are expected to be complete at the end of August with works then switching the verge side of the southbound carriageway.

### Arklow Municipal District

Arklow Municipal District obtained funding from the National Transport Authority under the COVID-19 Interim Mobility Funding for the construction of a footpath and cycle lanes on the R-772 between M11 Junction 20 and The Pound Hill, Arklow.

## Parking Income

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	
Greystones Municipal District	<b>110,794</b>
Wicklow Municipal District	<b>92,305</b>
Arklow Municipal District	<b>58,198</b>
Parking Permits	<b>28,086</b>
Parking Fines	<b>115,963</b>
<b>WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	<b>705,853</b>

## Operational Fire Statistics June 2020

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baitinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Callsign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
<b>Two Stations Mobilised</b>											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	2				1	1					
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	4	1	1							1	1
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	2							1	1		
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	0										
Fire Barn / Shed	7								1	3	3
Fire Alarm or CO <sub>2</sub> Activation	19	7	3	3	1	2	2		1		
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	25	16	4	1		3			1		
Fire Chimney	1	1									
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	10	3	5								2
Fire Vehicle	4	2	1			1					
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	3	2	1								
Ambulance Assist	11	2	6	1		1				1	
Garda Assist	1	1									
Electrical Incident	0										
Gas Leak	0										
River Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	0										
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	1		1								
Malicious False Alarm	3	1	1								1
<b>Mobilised into other County</b>	<b>8</b>					3	2	2	1		
<b>Times Stations mobilised</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

There were **94 incidents** attended during the month of June 2020. Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **101 occasions** including 8 incidents in neighbouring counties.

Operational activity for the month June was **down 24% on the preceding month** (May 2020 – 133 mobilisations) due mainly to a decrease in gorse fires and domestic fires. **Activity for the month was up 10% on the equivalent month last year, June 2019.** While the number of Road Traffic Collisions was down from 21 to 4, the number of gorse fires was up from 10 to 25 and ambulance assists were up from 3 to 11 year on year.

### Sample Incidents (June 2020)

There were 6 separate gorse fires attended on Bray Head, some due to fires re-kindling. There were 5 separate malicious fires on the old Golf Club lands at Ravenswell. There were 3 separate gorse fires at Ballinaslingan near the Scalp on the Dublin border.

- 04/06/2020 Arklow Fire Crew were involved in a multi-agency operation to rescue an elderly man who had fallen from a cliff onto the sea shore north of the town. The man was winched on board a Coastguard helicopter and taken to Beaumont Hospital Dublin.
- 06/06/2020 Tinahely and Carnew Fire Crews were mobilised to a single vehicle RTC at Saint Kevin's Church Killaveny. Car was on its side with one casualty trapped.
- 18/06/2020 Bray and Greystones crews were called to assist the ambulance service on the motorway near Kilmacanogue. A horse transporter broke down and when a horse was being transferred to another vehicle it kicked a female handler causing serious injuries.
- 26/06/2020 During a night of electrical storms it was reported that lightning had struck a garage beside a house at Kilmacoo, crews from Rathdrum and Arklow were mobilised. The garage was destroyed and the timber house damaged.

## **Incidents mobilised outside county Wicklow (June 2019):**

### **Kildare (5-incidents)**

- 04/06/20 Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to support Naas Fire Crews at an RTC outside the church in Eadestown, County Kildare.
- 06/06/20 Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to support Naas and Newbridge Fire Crews at a 2-car RTC in Naas town centre, County Kildare.
- 15/06/20 Baltinglass Fire Crew and tanker were mobilised to a car fire at Sheriffhill, Moone, County Kildare.
- 24/06/20 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to a tree on fire at Broadleas Commons, Ballymore Eustace, County Kildare.
- 24/06/20 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to an outdoor fire at Timolin Terrace, Timolin, Ballytore, County Kildare.

### **Wexford (3-incident)**

- 11/06/20 Arklow Fire Crew were mobilised to support Gorey Fire Station at a fire near a building site in Gorey, County Wexford.
- 20/06/20 Arklow Fire Crew were mobilised to support Gorey Fire Station at a domestic fire at Barroge, Inch, County Wexford.
- 28/06/20 Arklow Fire Crew were mobilised to support Gorey Fire Station at an RTC at Ballyfad Post Office, County Wexford.

### **General**

- Firefighter Jason Keogh (Carnew) received national media coverage for his development, production and free distribution to front line workers of plastic clips to attach the loops of facemasks behind the head, making wearing them more comfortable.
- Station Officer Derek Ryan (Dunlavin) completed over 600 deliveries to vulnerable members of his local community since the introduction of restrictions. Firefighters in Greystones also provided a similar service.
- Wicklow Fire Service Twitter Account added 36 new followers during the month bringing the overall figure to 1,488.

- All stations have received the latest guidance from Wicklow County Council in relation to Covid-19 and each station has been assessed, ongoing measures are in place to ensure compliance.
- All stations have resumed Weekly On-Station Training. It is also used to update members on a weekly basis if additional guidance or protocols have been issued.
- 5 Cardiac First Responder Refresher Courses and 2 Emergency First Responder Refresher Courses were delivered in Bray Fire Station, with 6 Students per course and in line with social distancing and return to training guidelines. These courses have been used as a pilot to develop additional procedures and guidance for further training particularly where the number of students will increase to 8 and 10 per course.
- Plans are underway with other Fire Training Centers and the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management on the resumption of Fire-fighting Skills (Recruit), Breathing Apparatus Wearers and Officer Courses commencing August/September. Wicklow County Fire Service will have a major role to play in setting a standard national approach for this training.
- The launch of the new Fire Appliance based in Wicklow Town took place during the month and is now fully operational.
- A number of members participated in the Rescue Organisation Ireland's "Frontline to Finishline" Charity Relay Walk during the week 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June in aid of Pieta House and Alone Ireland.

## Fire Prevention Statistics June 2020

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	4		2		11
Regularisation Certificates	1		2	2	4
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	6		1		1

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

## General

The National Building Control Office is further developing the Building Control Management System (BCMS) to allow Fire Safety Certificates to be submitted on-line. Fire Officers are being trained on the system and the launch is expected in the coming months.

Fire Officers have registered with the Court Services online e-Licensing system (CSOL) which will allow those applying for licences to do so on-line. It is expected to be launched in the coming months.

## Building Control

### **Commencement Notices for June 2020:**

36 Commencement Notices Submitted:

- 6 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 2 Seven day Notice
- 20 Opt Out Declarations
- 8 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents

### **Submission Statistics**

- 55% of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
  - 66 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested:  
23 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
    - 14 are Opt Out (60%)
    - 2 Seven Day Notice (10%)
    - 4 are Compliance Documentation (17%)
    - 3 Without Compliance Documentation (12%)
  - 22 **Valid** Commencement Notices
    - 18 new build residential Units (9 of which are one off houses)
  - Invalidated CNs for June = 2
- **Certificates of Completion processed in June 2020**
    - 10 No. of CCC submitted
    - 10 No. Valid
    - 0 No. Invalid
    - 50 % of CCC Revised Information required & requested
    - 
    - 10 No. Validated CCCs related to;
      - 3 No CCCs submitted in May 2020
      - 7 No CCCs submitted in June 2020

# JULY 2020



90% of CCC for Multi-Development site => 47 new residential units

25% of CCC for Multi-Development site inspected => 13 new residential units

100% of CCC for Commercial Units inspected => 1 Unit

\*\*BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

## Organisational Development and Financial Matters

### 1. Recruitment

The following assessments were held in June:

Customer Service and Innovation Hub, Assistant Staff Officer and Clerical Officer (internal)

All other scheduled interviews were postponed as a result of COVID-19.

#### Employee Numbers

	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
Managerial/ Administrative	280	285	292	294
Professional/ Technical	103	102	105	104
Outdoor	318	318	321	320
Temporary/ Seasonal	62	62	62	55
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>781</b>

	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
Managerial/ Administrative	280	278	280	272
Professional/ Technical	105	104	104	98
Outdoor	313	312	316	318
Temporary/ Seasonal	54	38	65	88
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>784</b>

(Excludes figures for Fire-fighters)

### 2. Access to Information

#### No. of F.O.I. Requests

June 2020	6
January to June 2020	46

June 2019	10
January to June 2019	76

#### No. of Ombudsman Requests

June 2020	2
January to June 2020	16

June 2019	0
January to June 2019	8

### 3. Press Releases

May 2020 – 16 Press Releases

### 4. Register of Electors

The Franchise staff are continuing to work on database maintenance required to maintain the Register of Electors. Letters are continuing to be issued to electors to establish whether or not they are still resident at the address which they are registered and the replies are being updated onto the Register or forwarded to other local authorities for registration at new addresses as required.

Contact is also being made with Nursing Homes in the County to update their Disabled Special Voters List. It is hoped that when Covid-19 Restrictions are lifted that we can continue with our planned engagement with the Older Persons Network with a view to contacting electors who are still living at home but unable to visit a Polling Station for health or mobility reasons that they can be granted a Disabled Postal Vote.

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

### 5. Refurbishment works

Moston construction returned to site on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, 2020. They have appointed a Covid-19 compliance officer who is on site at all times to ensure necessary restrictions and PPE are in place.

The Council Chamber has been completely stripped back to the concrete walls, ceiling and floor removed. The wall for the new extension to the Chamber has been erected; the new entrance has been reconfigured – leading directly to the new ‘break out area’ (previously the Wurzburg room). New AHU (air conditioning units) have been installed on the ceiling. Wurzburg room has been stripped out and entrance wall demolished. Public toilets have been reconfigured and enlarged for accessibility. The Cathaoirleach meeting room has been reconfigured to allow for the new interview room.

#### Customer Service Innovation Hub

- Design of the hub has been slightly modified to comply with restrictions of Covid-19 – glass panels are now included in the design.
- Counters have now been fitted.
- IT hardware has been ordered for the Hub – using laptops and docking stations for all the staff to future-proof for remote-working or flexible-working conditions, if necessary.

All internal walls at the Old Reception area and the Planning counter have been demolished and cleared and a new partition wall has been erected to create the new Planning meeting room

**Phase 1** of the refurbishment – the New Customer Service Innovation hub is scheduled to be completed mid-end of August.

Completion date for the full project including the Council Chamber is scheduled for December. Holding the first Council meeting there in January (if Covid 19 restrictions are lifted).

## 6. Communication

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

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

Chambers Ireland are seeking submissions for 'The Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020', this gives us the opportunity to showcase best practice in our local Authority and to recognise the skills, hard work, innovation and enthusiasm of our staff here in Wicklow.

Chambers Ireland are particularly focusing on the following criteria in all submissions; Community Engagement, Impact, Innovation and Engagement with other local authorities. We are currently collating our submissions.

## 7. I.C.T. Report

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

- Restart Grants – online form setup and backend Assendus & Agresso systems integration.
- Community Call Helpline
- Remote Working Requirements
- Return to work desk arrangements
- Government Networks
- Phone Systems
- Call Conferencing
- Communications and awareness

### IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 36 tickets a day.

### Domain Migration

- The domain migration and the mailbox migration projects are progressing well. 40% of email accounts are migrated.
- 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

- Initial development of the Strategic Development Goals have been mapped as part of the Climate and Biodiversity Action.
- Development of CRM System automation.
- Data analysis underway for the upcoming County Development Plan.
- 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.

### Customer Service Delivery

- Work continues with the business process mapping and DPIA's are being carried out for each process as it arises.
- Plans are underway to build upon the existing Avaya IP Office Phone System to integrate the Avaya Contact Centre Select Hardware Appliance and software.

### eServices

- Wicklow.ie – pageviews for 2020 to date are 841,051.
- Social media accounts – followers to date
  - Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 7,704 followers.



- Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 6,621 followers.
- Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 1,323 followers

The Social media platforms have been one of the main channels for communications during the COVID-19 pandemic. Collectively a total of 493 posts were published to the 3 main channels in May. Alongside this, the Library Service, Bray Municipal District, Civil Defence and Local Sports Partnership have been very active.

- During June, the Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie had the following items up for consultation –
  - Part 8, 3 Units in Ballintekin (re-advertised);
  - Part 8, Back Street, Hudson’s Square, (Abbeylands), Arklow, Co. Wicklow;
  - Part 8 - Blackhill Road, Glenealy;
  - Part 8 - Pontoon South Quay, Wicklow;
  - Part 8 - Storage Facilities for Fishers at South Quay, Arklow;
  - Killincarrig Village Improvement Scheme
  - Commercial Rates Deferral 2020
  - ReStart Grants.

## Broadband Development

- Clermont was selected as a National pilot as a Broadband Connection Point under the NBP. It was selected for its size and range of services which could be provided from that location. Robust testing of the network will be carried out to test its ability to support remote working hubs, enterprise hubs, public access and business supports. Connection of other BCP’s are currently being scheduled. It is anticipated that all BCP’s will be connected by end of Q4 2020.
- National Broadband Plan - Surveys have also been undertaken in Blessington Area, Newtown / Kilcoole areas to assess readiness for the roll out of the NBP.

## FINANCIAL

### 1. Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH JUNE 2020							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to date	Actual income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to date	
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
A - Housing and Building	11,098,300	24,541,664	45	(12,304,924)	(30,692,854)	40	(1,206,624)
B - Road Transport & Safety	8,126,597	23,611,358	34	(3,868,738)	(16,493,380)	23	4,257,859
C - Water Services	2,409,726	5,560,661	43	(3,076,021)	(6,545,641)	47	(666,295)
D - Development Management	6,884,840	11,242,546	61	(5,485,462)	(6,144,652)	89	1,399,378
E - Environmental Services	5,311,169	11,837,313	45	(529,537)	(2,002,200)	26	4,781,632
F - Recreation and Amenity	3,239,569	7,663,027	42	(806,106)	(847,647)	95	2,433,463
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	596,137	1,479,516	40	(190,592)	(819,228)	23	405,545
H - Miscellaneous Services	4,288,476	11,879,184	36	(1,835,933)	(6,156,153)	30	2,452,543
J - Central Management Charges	8,685,396	18,407,602	47	(519,339)	(1,000,000)	52	8,166,057
LG - Local Government Fund				(6,860,160)	(13,720,230)	50	(6,860,160)
PL - Pension Levy				-	-		-
RA - Commercial Rates				(15,975,398)	(31,950,795)	50	(15,975,398)
	<b>50,640,210</b>	<b>116,222,871</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>51,452,210</b>	<b>116,372,780</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>(812,000)</b>

### 2. Cashflow/Overdraft

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

### 3. Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH JUNE 2020					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2020	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers To/From Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/06/2020
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	19,000,508	26,315,966	(26,205,303)	(1,066,465)	18,044,706
Road Transport & Safety	(42,851,352)	5,019,166	(6,633,943)	(309,858)	(44,775,987)
Water Services	(10,670,498)	89,212	(366,781)	(10,000)	(10,958,067)
Development Management	(9,612,396)	934,660	(21,135)	(133,642)	(8,832,513)
Environmental Services	968,611	1,531,218	(1,228,447)	(326,250)	945,132
Recreation and Amenity	(914,062)	1,936,271	(1,086,879)	(141,000)	(205,670)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(885,558)	(61,621)	0	(152,500)	(1,099,679)
Miscellaneous Services	(15,413,049)	2,776,419	(1,966,497)	(713,410)	(15,316,537)
	<b>(60,377,796)</b>	<b>38,541,291</b>	<b>(37,508,985)</b>	<b>(2,853,125)</b>	<b>(62,198,615)</b>



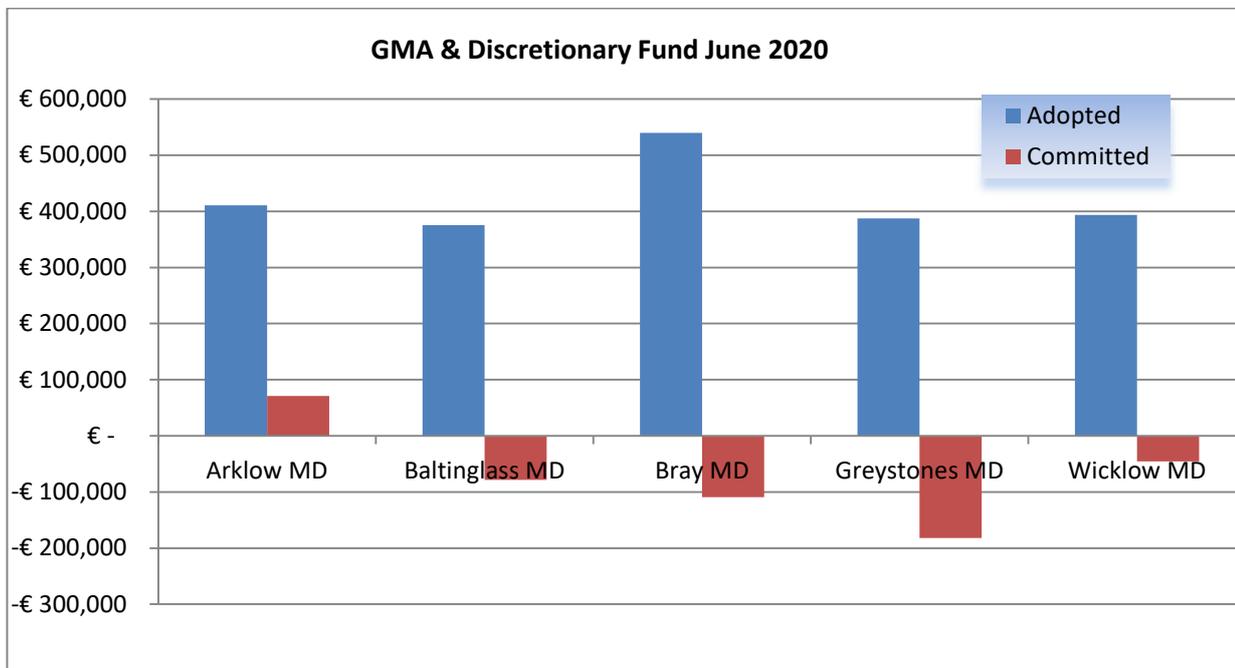
**4. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections**

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30TH JUNE 2020									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/20	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/06/20	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates *	5,217,406	32,009,800			37,227,206	(11,624,874)	25,602,332		33%
Rents & Annuities	1,853,579	8,300,473		(2,383)	10,156,435	(7,525,680)	2,630,755		74%
Housing Loans *	402,724	768,785			1,171,509	(909,020)	262,489		78%

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

**5. 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.



<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>C/F from 2019</b>	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Committed</b>	<b>Balance to Expend</b>
	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	52,813	410,500	123,950	339,363
Baltinglass MD	159,389	375,500	80,817	454,072
Bray MD	180,991	539,500	71,587	648,904
Greystones MD	165,252	387,500	(16,881)	569,633
Wicklow MD	205,713	393,500	159,980	439,233
<b>Total</b>	<b>764,158</b>	<b>2,106,500</b>	<b>419,453</b>	<b>2,451,205</b>

**6. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>156,956,000</b>	<b>212,308,000</b>	<b>212,843,000</b>	<b>582,107,000</b>