

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL COUNTYWISE

Reflections on 2020
from Wicklow County Council



Photo: Cloughlea, Manor Kilbride by Michael Kelly

KEEP WELL

IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Message from the Wicklow County Council Chief Executive

As we reflect on 2020, Wicklow County Council's role in the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic to date has been vital.

The Council has provided a range of economic and social supports in response to challenges arising from the pandemic. These have included:

- €11 million in Restart Grants administered to businesses by Wicklow County Council
- A Commercial Rates waiver to eligible businesses for the 9 months since the pandemic took hold in Ireland, supported by a €900 million special funding allocation from the Government
- Handling hundreds of calls through the Community Call helpline
- Providing, befriending and outreach services as part of the Government's 'In this Together' and 'Keep Well' campaigns, as well as arranging a variety of activities to keep community spirits lifted and the public active during the pandemic
- Adaptations to services including library services, with many new members registering for access to eBooks and eAudiobooks between April and October crisis: through supports for their local economy; social assistance for individuals and communities, and swift changes to how they deliver services.

“Local businesses throughout the country have had a very difficult year. Through the Local Enterprise Offices, works to make public spaces safer, and collaboration with businesses to facilitate new ways of trading, local authorities have gone to great lengths to protect their local economy. Retail areas and public spaces are safer for Christmas shopping due to local authorities' work and collaboration with businesses.

“The Community Call, in partnership with the Community and Voluntary sector, has been vital in supporting society's most vulnerable and isolated. Local authorities' commitment to keeping amenities like public parks and library services accessible whilst safe, along with other initiatives, have supported citizens' mental and physical wellbeing at this time. And whilst meeting these challenges they have maintained essential services, like those for the homeless, administration of the planning system and work on water quality.”

I want to thank each and every local authority staff member and the elected members for their hard work and commitment during the pandemic. I am proud to salute their contribution to the national response.”

Wishing you and your family a happy and safe 2021.
Frank Curran



Wicklow County Council



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wicklow.ie



Taking Care of our Wellbeing & Resilience in Wicklow

COVID-19 has turned 2020 into a year like no other.

The National Plan for Living with COVID-19 is fundamentally about our personal and collective resilience and wellbeing. So, let's start with ourselves – keeping well individually will help us support one another and our communities.

We all need a little help at times – Healthy Ireland is building a programme of activities around five simple actions that we can all take to keep well.

1 Keeping active

Outdoor activity is important for physical and mental health. Sport Ireland will support people to stay active through the winter. Look out for online activities you can join.

2 Keeping in contact

Person-to-person connection is vital to our wellbeing. Don't let isolation become a problem – ask for help if you need it, offer help if you can. Wicklow County Council will provide a helpline and support services as part of The Community Call.

3 Getting creative

Learn something new, get back to nature, find ways to relax, rediscover your own locality. Engage creatively with local historical spaces and places. Wicklow County Council and the Creative Ireland Programme will provide initiatives in the arts, crafting, culture and heritage.

4 Eating well

Make the connection between the food you eat and how you feel, mentally and physically. Bord Bia will support healthy eating this winter. Libraries will promote a grow your own food initiative for spring. Safefood's START campaign will help parents to introduce healthier habits with their kids.

5 Minding your mood

Anxiety is a real problem – do not ignore it. Find out where to go if you or someone you know needs support. The HSE's yourmentalhealth.ie website has useful information and look out for the upcoming HSE online *Minding Your Wellbeing* programme.



The National Framework for Living with COVID-19 will help us to manage the risk associated with the virus. However, we also need to focus on wellbeing – the wellbeing of our country and the personal wellbeing of every one of us. That requires three things: healthy people, strong businesses and resilient communities.

Wicklow Community Call helpline is there if you need practical support or someone to talk to:

1800 868 399

Make a daily plan to do at least one thing every day that will keep you well.

There is an abundance of things to do and to discover in Wicklow.

Find what's available at gov.ie/HealthyIreland or on the Wicklow County Council website.



Comhairle Chontae
Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County
Council



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Annual Meeting



At the annual meeting of Arklow Municipal District, Councillor Sylvester Bourke was elected as the Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District and Cllr. Miriam Murphy was elected as the Leas-Cathaoirleach pictured with District Manager, Colm Lavery.

Arklow MD District Meeting in Ballycoog

Arklow MD held their March monthly district meeting in Ballycoog. Holding meetings in different areas is a great opportunity for staff and elected members to learn more about the key areas they represent.

Arklow welcomes the Indian Ambassador

His Excellency Ambassador Sandeep Kumar and Second Secretary Terence Dick paid a courtesy visit to Arklow as part of the Indian Embassy's provincial outreach programme which aims to strengthen the relationship between India and various counties in Ireland.

CCTV



The Arklow Community CCTV system is now in operation at various locations around the town. This will create a safer environment for local people and visitors while it will also assist An Garda Síochana in fighting crime and anti-social behaviour.

Arklow Town Re-opening Committee

Arklow Town Team, Wicklow County Council, Arklow Chamber of Commerce and An Garda Síochana are working in partnership with local stakeholders to help restart the local economy. The following tasks were carried out:-

- A businesses register of all businesses in the district was compiled.
- A new local is best branding campaign was launched
- Research into setting up a new Country Market to be held in the town
- A public survey was carried out

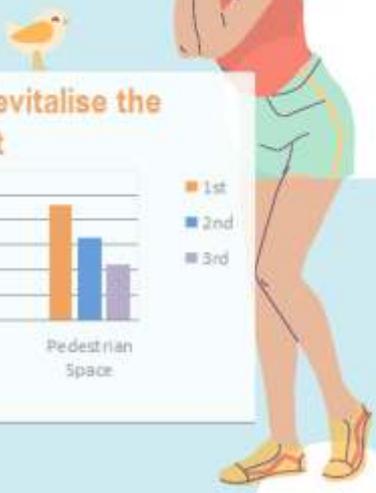
Arklow Town Public Survey

Arklow Town Public Survey was carried out. The findings of the study will help future decision making on improvements to the town centre when funding becomes available. 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.

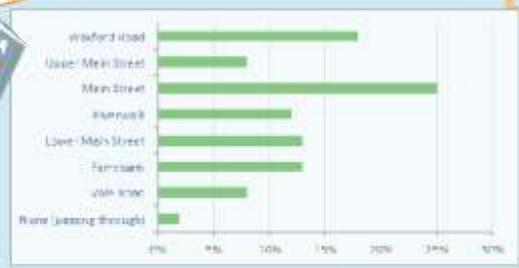
Public Survey Results

Do you think that improved traffic flow on Arklow Main Street would help to revitalise the Town Centre?

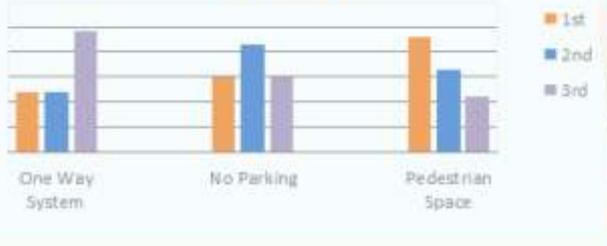
YES!
72%



Which areas of the town do you most frequent for business or pleasure?



Your Preferences to Revitalise the Main Street



The areas where you live

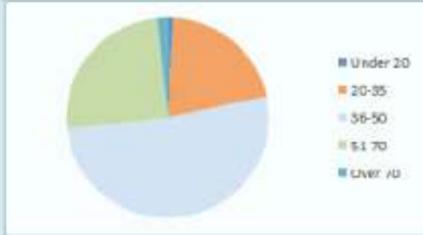


Would you like to see on-street trading and/or dining introduced to the Town Centre?

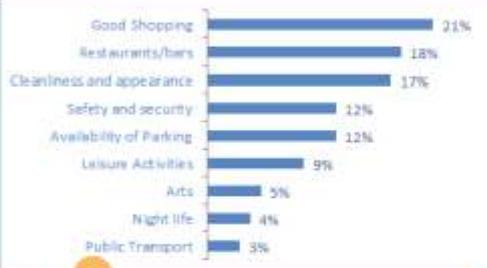
YES!
90%



Most of you who responded were in the 36-50 age bracket!



What in your opinion most discourages people from visiting Arklow Town Centre?



What are your priorities when you go out in Arklow?

Half of you commented that you would like more retail and restaurants, with an emphasis on interesting and quality.

A third of those who commented said they would like more public amenity spaces.

Improvement to the appearance of the town and its environs was important to a lot of respondents.



Arklow Courthouse – Back in Business

Wicklow County Council, in conjunction with key partners The Courts Service and Arklow Business Enterprise Centre (ABEC), was delighted to announce that the redevelopment of the Arklow Courthouse has been completed in December. The building will see the provision of modern court facilities along with a new enterprise hub.

Shop Local Logo Competition

The Arklow & District Chamber of Commerce, Arklow MD & the Arklow Town Team worked 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 was chosen by a panel of judges. Congratulations to Aisha Sheridan who designed the winning logo. This logo will be now used for Arklow's Shop Local campaign.



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 upper floors will provide a blend of co-working space and traditional office space in a town centre location. This results from a collaboration between Arklow Business Enterprise Centre (ABEC) and Wicklow County Council.

ABEC @ the Courthouse plans to support the growing demand for employees who want to cut down on long commute times and work in an Enterprise Hub which meets the needs of a modern, professional and flexible work environment with high speed eFibre access.





Arklow Town Team received LEADER funding for 4 new exciting projects in 2020.

1. **River Tourism** – Harbour to Headwaters project. The project plan is to map the Avoca river from Glenmalure to Arklow and to install educational panels of aqua life of the river and the wildlife on the riverbank with a view to linking to a website at a later stage and an information platform to river conservation.

2. **SEA-nanagins Seafood Festival** will take place in conjunction with the World Shore Angling Championships in 2021. Events will include cookery demonstrations with local seafood, seaside themed workshops, beach activities and live entertainment. The festival will promote and attract



visitors to the town.

3. **Visit Arklow** – To design and develop a new website to promote Arklow Town and its environs. A new destination branding strategy for Arklow is also being designed to coincide with this and will then be used for future marketing communications

4. **Flower Irrigation System** – Arklow 19 Arches Bridge- Installation of a sustainable irrigation system for Winter and Summer pollinator friendly planters on 19 Arches Bridge.

Wave of Light Campaign

The 19 Arches Bridge was lit up in blue to mark Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness during the month of October. This is a global campaign which hopes to spark conversations about baby loss and give bereaved parents and families an opportunity to talk about their precious babies.



International Day of People with Disabilities

Arklow Municipal District celebrated the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) by lighting up the 19 Arches Bridge in purple in December



Development Language Disorder (DLD) Awareness Day

Arklow lit up the 19 Arches bridge in yellow to support the Developmental Language Disorder Awareness Campaign in October.





Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme

Arklow Municipal District continues their Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme. The beautiful lightship tower in place on the Arklow North exit roundabout welcoming people on arrival into the town.



Cycle Lane Arklow

Wicklow County Council obtained €295,000 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.



Swift Boxes

Swift boxes were erected at a number of locations in Arklow to encourage wildlife in the town.



Photo: Wicklow County Councils Heritage Officer, Deirdre Burns, Arklow MD Cathaoirleach Cllr Sylvester Bourke, District Administrator Claire Lawless and Oran O'Sullivan Wicklow Swift Coordinator pictured at Arklow MD offices.

Arklow In Bloom

Arklow MD staff continued to keep Arklow in Bloom with the planting of new flower tubs and assisting the Arklow Town Team with erecting the flower baskets purchased under the Flower Basket Scheme 2020.





Improvement works around the District

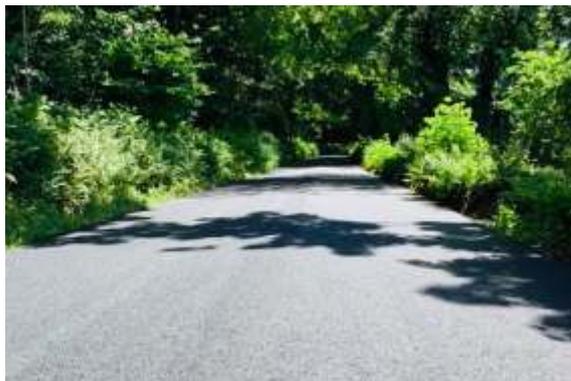
National Transport Authority (NTA) funding - Footpath refurbishment works Avoca to The Meetings.



New footpath construction 4km - The Meetings to Rathdrum.



Upgrade Works on Craffield Road



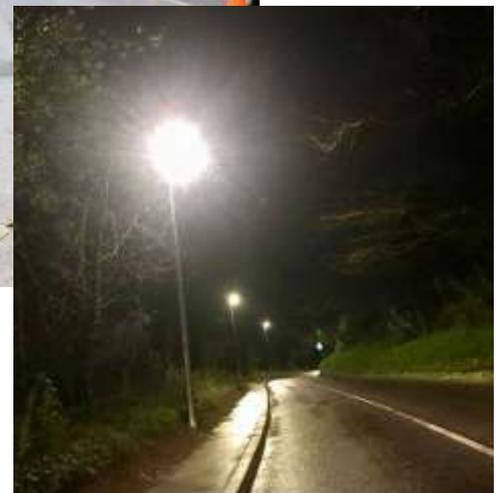
Low cost Safety Schemes Wexford Road - Upgrade of existing pedestrian crossing



Low cost Safety Scheme Knockmore Roundabout- Upgrade of existing pedestrian crossing



New Public lighting in Rathdrum





Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice



Step UP & Step Back



GO ONE STEP FURTHER
TO KEEP EACH
OTHER SAFE



**Stay safe.
Protect each other.**
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Works completed in the Blessington Area under the Active Travel and Climate Adaptation measures.

Following consideration of applications received from local authorities, grants totalling €33 million were allocated to 22 local authorities for 531 active travel projects. These projects, implemented in 2020, include 263 related to the construction and improvement of footpaths, 75 involving cycleway works and 193 associated with improving accessibility. Baltinglass Municipal District were proactive in availing of funding under this measure, to carry out a variety of projects across the Municipal District.

The Active Travel grant scheme is a very positive initiative which will see communities across the country benefiting from improved and more accessible walking and cycling infrastructure as well as stimulating local employment. The projects included in the scheme can make a real difference to people – footpaths and cycle ways that allow children to walk/cycle to school and to local sport clubs; the dishing of footpaths and pedestrian crossings that improve access to local amenities and links to public transport, and improvements to town and village centres that will support our hard hit retail and hospitality sectors.

Dunlavin resurfacing works

R412 Kilcullen Street Dunlavin

Works were undertaken in the resurfacing and relining of the main Street in Dunlavin to provide a safer and more suitable surface to allow pedestrians to use crossing points. Large sections of existing surface were in quite poor condition. This project was completed in November 2020.



Grangecon resurfacing works

Grangecon Village

The resurfacing and relining of the main street in Grangecon was completed in order to provide a safer and more suitable surface for road users. As the existing surface was in need of repair it was decided to earmark this location for works. The project was completed in November 2020.





Stratford resurfacing works

Stratford-On-Slaney Village

After consultation with representatives from the local community, the resurfacing and relining of the main streets in Stratford-On-Slaney (photos above) was undertaken to provide safer and more suitable surfaces for cyclists and to allow pedestrians to use crossing points. Large sections of the existing surface were in need of repair.

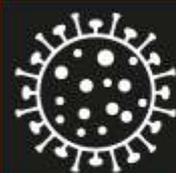
The reconstruction and renewal of defective footpaths was also undertaken and resurfacing of existing footpaths to enable use by pedestrians. These projects were completed in October 2020.

Hollywood Footpath works

Hollywood

350 metres of new footpaths and also street lighting and kerbing to link Hollywood School and village to bus/transport facilities on the N81 were provided. This project was completed in December 2020. These works will be an important addition to the village and will contribute to pedestrian safety, particularly for the active walkers and school going children of the area. The funding for these works and all of the above projects was provided under the Active Travel Grant scheme. Baltinglass MD were delighted to be involved in the completion of these works this year, after having made an undertaking to the people of Hollywood that it was committed to the scheme.





Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice



masking
FOR a
FRIEND

WEARING A FACE COVERING HELPS
US TO PROTECT EACH OTHER



Stay safe.
Protect each other.

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‘Happy to Chat’ Initiative on Bray Seafront

Signs have been placed at four locations along Bray Promenade indicating “Happy to Chat” benches, while observing social and distancing guidelines. The idea is to help tackle loneliness and isolation in the community by breaking down invisible walls between strangers. Simply stopping to say hello to someone at the “Chat Bench” could mean much to vulnerable people in the town.



Bray's “Positivity Stones” helping spread good vibes

The 'Positivity Stones' which aim to help promote positive mental health and wellbeing were installed throughout some of the main public spaces around Bray. The initiative is supported by Connect Bray Neighbourhood Youth Project, Be Well Bray, Comhairle na nÓg, Wicklow County Council and Bray.ie.



Newly Elected Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach

At the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held on the 16th June 2020, Councillor Anne Ferris was elected as Cathaoirleach and Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy was elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach.



(L-R – Councillor Anne Ferris, Cathaoirleach, Municipal District of Bray; Lorraine Gallagher, Director of Services, Enterprise & Corporate Services and District Manager, Municipal District of Bray; Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Leas Cathaoirleach, Municipal District of Bray.)



Bray Central

Work is progressing well on the site and the structural steel throughout the site is complete. Blockwork and brickwork has also commenced on site.

All Members of Bray Municipal District were invited to visit the site in October so that they could see first-hand the progress being made.

There is a significant increase in the level of interest from potential tenants and the letting agents are effectively managing to successfully conduct site viewings while adhering to HSE standards and safety protocols. The development has been rebranded Bray Central which better highlights its Main Street location.

Frontline Workers honoured with Bray Flypast

A flypast by a Rescue helicopter on Bray seafront was held on 25th July in a tribute by the Irish Coast Guard and Bray Air Display, to recognise the dedication of frontline workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Student nurse Olivia Reidy making a presentation to HSE CEO, Paul Reid, on behalf of Bray Air Display and Wicklow County Council. With Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council and Tommy Gannon, Irish Coastguard.





Bray Reopening Committee

The Bray Reopening Committee is a joint initiative with local stakeholders across the community, including members of Bray Chamber of Commerce, the Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána to plan for a considered, responsible return to civic life which is vital to help to restart the local economy in the town. This is in line with the Government's phased roadmap for reopening the country socially and economically.

As a working group, Bray Reopening Committee will continue to work collaboratively in driving a message for the consumers to invest in our town, shop local first and have unity in our community.





Beacon of Hope

A beacon of hope shone from the foothills of Bray Head on Monday 13th April as Easter drew to a close. Lights were shone to the sky from the shoreline, to represent the town standing in solidarity with all of those across the world affected by Covid-19. The display of lights across the sea and towards the skyline continued for around an hour.

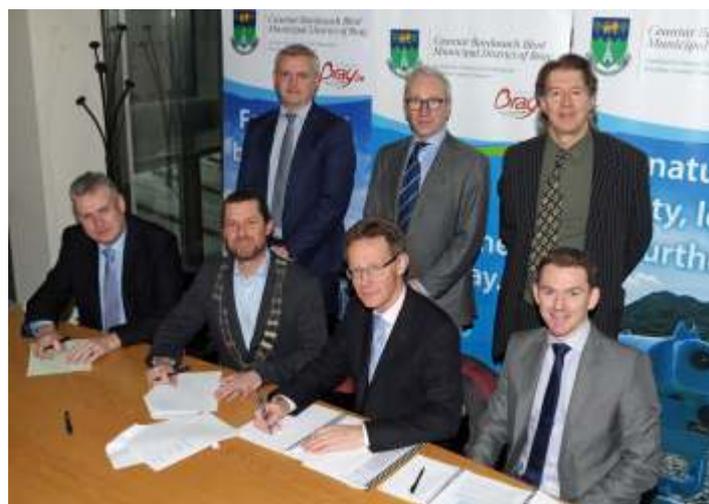
The Bray Head light display was engineered by Barry Clarke, Luke Weir and Ryan O'Neill of Retro Drive-In Movies.



Contract signed for Bray Harbour Study

A contract for Bray Harbour Study was signed by Wicklow County Council in January 2020 with RPS Group.

The project requires the consultants to carry out detailed surveys and report on the options available to protect the harbour from storm conditions. They are required to look into options to provide additional berthing facilities, including the possibility of providing a short term drop on/drop off berth for a small passenger vessel plying between different harbours within an hour or so of Bray. The funding for this exploratory work was approved by members of Bray Municipal District Council in 2018. To date, the consultants have collected and validated the presence of rocky outcrops along the Bray to Greystones coastline which can impact upon sediment transport and thus sedimentation within the harbour. They will now be progressing with the development of suitable harbour options. This assessment is based on long term spectral wave and hydraulic modelling of the existing Bray harbour area which they have already completed.



In photo seated (L-R) are Frank Curran (Chief Executive) , Cllr Steven Matthews, Adrian Bell (RPS Group) and Kristopher Calder (RPS Group)

Standing (L-R) are David Forde (Bray District Administrator), Liam Bourke (District Engineer) and Thomas Murphy (District Manager)



Strand Road Cycle Scheme

Works in progress to complete the link between the Strand Road Cycle scheme and the Bray Harbour Schools Access Scheme & widen the footpath at Marine Terrace.



UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Bray Municipal District Offices turned purple to celebrate the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities, in December.



bray.ie f t @

New mural on the Bray Seafront.



Bray Municipal District staff preparing for re opening of the offices to the public in June.



Coronavirus
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Wash and GO

CLEAN HANDS STOP THE
SPREAD OF COVID-19

**Stay safe.
Protect each other.**

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Templecarrig Stream at St. Crispin's

Greystones Municipal District carried out protection works to stabilise the banks of the Templecarrig Stream at St. Crispin's, Greystones in June 2020.

Using willow whips, supplied by local company Wicklow Willows, the works were carried out by Council staff, by weaving the whips to create a revetment. The whips were laid horizontally and did not have roots when installed. Willow is capable of colonising the dampest of soil and is fast growing.

Photos demonstrate the methods used in June and the progress in September when the willow whips had taken root in the bank and started to grow. This innovative approach at St. Crispin's has garnered interest from other Local Authorities interested in providing similar environmentally friendly solutions, which promote riparian habitats.





Culture Night

Greystones Park & Ride car park received a facelift for 2020 Culture Night in September, when talented artist Aga Grandowicz painted the wonderful mural Tír fé Thonn, depicting maritime scenes.



Planters and bollards on Church Road

Greystones Municipal District installed planters and bollards on Church Road, Greystones which re-allocate public road space to facilitate social distancing and to support local businesses for loss of internal space, due to Covid 19 restrictions. These COVID-19 Interim Mobility Measures encourage more pedestrians

while also facilitating social distancing. The provision of more space for businesses to operate in, allows them to meet their social distancing responsibilities and have positive impacts on consumer confidence and footfall and enhance the town centre.

The works were carried out with the assistance of Greystones Tidy Towns and includes planter boxes and seats designed and manufactured in Ireland with maritime features of thick timbers which will weather well, influenced by the coastal nature of Greystones. Native trees and plants from the All Ireland Pollinator Plan were acquired from a local garden nursery supplier.

Social distancing is here to stay for the foreseeable future and Wicklow County Council wants to ensure that Greystones remains safe and welcoming for all users, while complying with current public health guidance.





Beach Lifeguards

Lifeguards Cormac and Oscar pictured with the new lifeguards hut on South Beach, Greystones June 2020.



Beechwood Park, Kilcoole

New footpaths and tree/planting completed in Beechwood Park, Kilcoole in the Spring of 2020.



Promote Local

Litter bins were used to promote local initiatives during Covid 19 and to remind the public of the importance of social distancing.



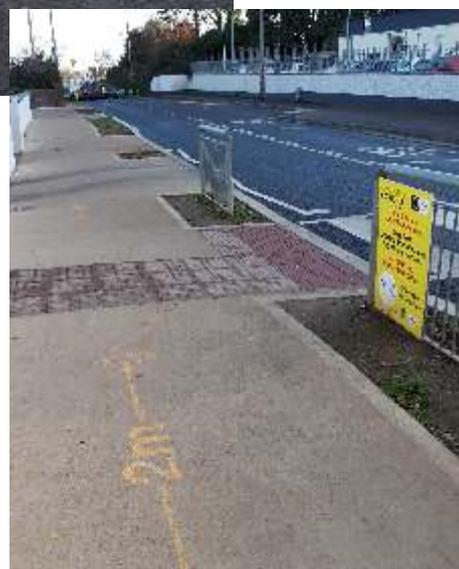


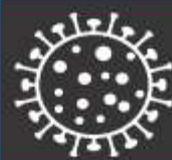
Rathdown Road

Road improvement works were carried out on Rathdown Road in August and September including provision of new cycle lane, footpath improvements, drainage works, and narrowing of the road carriageway to reduce driving speeds. The measures have benefited the local community and particularly young children, by improving traffic safety in the vicinity of St Kevin's School.

Community Enhancement Scheme

Funding was secured under the Community Enhancement Scheme for age friendly projects. It was decided to provide bus shelters at locations in Greystones, which have a generally older population and which are frequented by elderly people. Three new shelters were provided at Applewood Heights, Mill Road and Killincarrig.





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one in a million

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DOWNLOAD THE
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**Stay safe.
Protect each other.**

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All Ireland Community and Council Awards

Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project won silver in the All Ireland Community and Council Awards under the Best Environmental / Ecological Project / Initiative category.

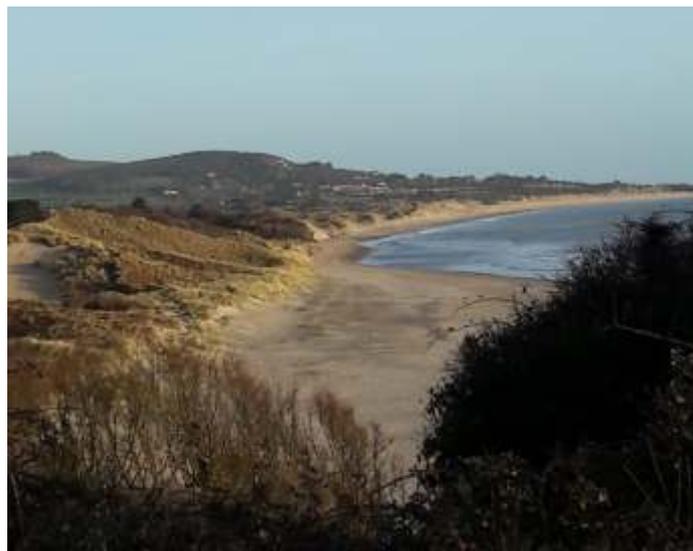
South Westerlies

September 2020 saw the release of “The South Westerlies” to television screens, which showed Wicklow’s amazing scenery.



Upgrade works at the Black Castle area

Travelahawk and the Black Castle areas have been made more accessible for the public.





Works commenced on Fitzwilliam Square and Wicklow Library



Construction of the new Wicklow town library and Wicklow County Council Archives is progressing steadily. It will be in the former Ulster Bank building, on the corner of The Mall and Salt House Lane. The building comprises 1,200+ sq metres over 6 floors. Shelving is currently being fitted and the building will be completed in early 2021 with a likely opening date of April 2021. It will comprise:

- Lower basement (Salthouse Lane entrance) – Local Studies
- Upper basement – Wicklow County Council Archives
- Ground floor (main street entrance) – Children's library
- 1st floor – Adult library
- 2nd floor – IT, study, community room
- 3rd floor – events section – this will host art exhibitions, book launches and other civic events.



Reopening Committee Established

To help support local businesses throughout the district a Reopening Committee was established consisting of members of Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce, Wicklow Town Team and Wicklow Municipal District to identify and implement initiatives under a promotional campaign entitled 'Shop Local - Support Wicklow'. The Shop Local Support Wicklow campaign was funded by Wicklow Municipal District and provides for Temporary Public Signage, a Leaflet Drop to 5,000 households, Shop Local Stickers, Temporary Ground Markings, Banners and a short Promotional Video.





New footpath connecting Rathnew to Ashford



New pedestrian crossing installed in Brittas Bay



Historical Lecterns erected at Black Castle and Abbey Grounds



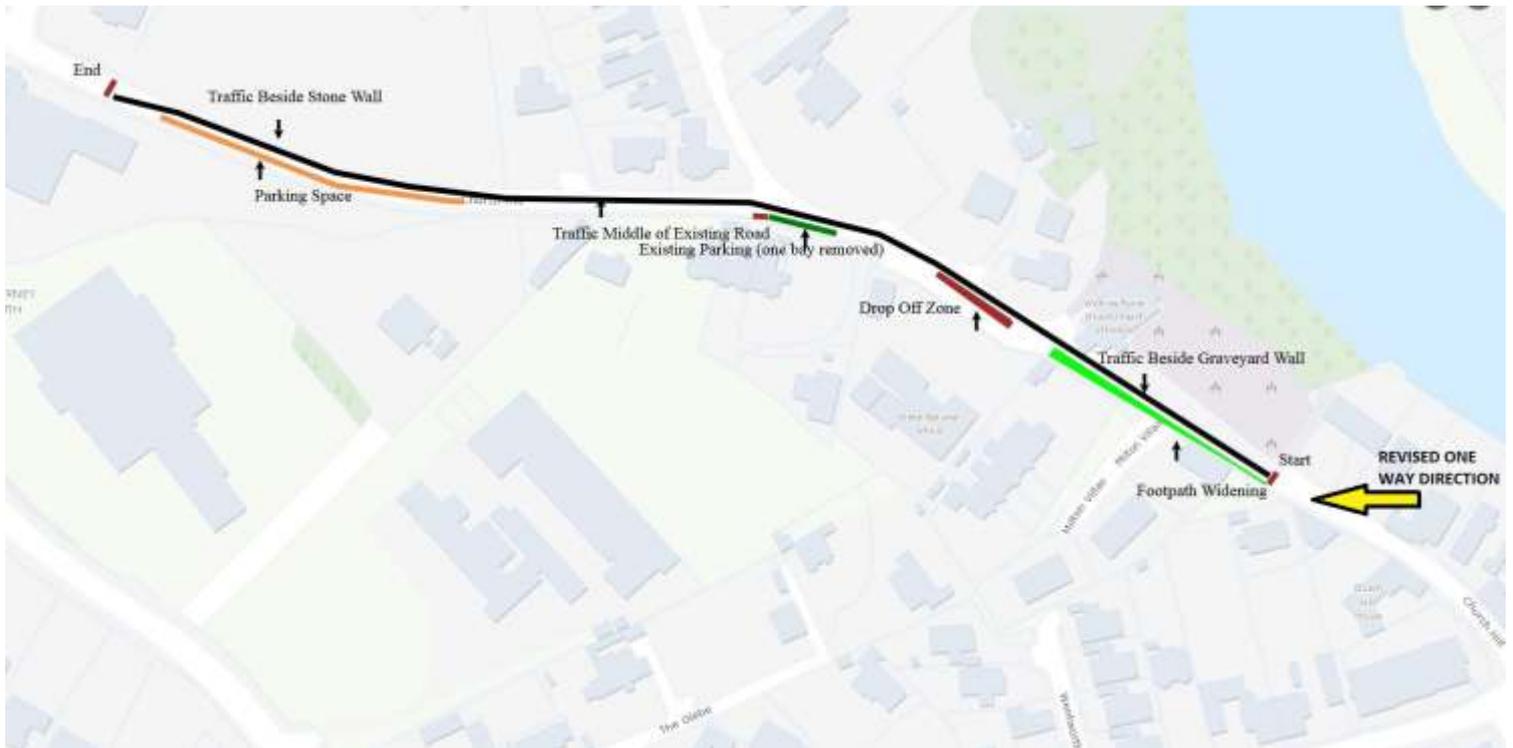
Improvements to Leg of Mutton junction





Wicklow
Municipal
District

Church Hill One-Way System



- 1) One Way Traffic System now starts at base of steps to COI Graveyard, speed control (suitable ramps) to be implemented throughout the system,
- 2) Traffic will now flow alongside the graveyard wall allowing a small amount of additional space for pedestrians (see green area above).
- 3) A new 'Drop Off Zone' will be created outside the school and on school side of road (for approximately seven vehicles) and beside the one-way system, suitable space/protection for passengers exiting vehicles to be provided,
- 4) Existing parking adjacent to entry/exit point of Brickfield Lane will be retained but one space will be removed to assist those exiting the lane,

- 5) Traffic will then be moved to flow down the centre of Church Hill to allow safe exit from premises for residents on both sides of the road,
- 6) After the last house traffic will again be diverted to the right-hand side of the road and the 'spare' lane will be converted into parking spaces (allowing use of existing footpath),
- 7) Just before the end of the one-way system traffic will be moved back into the 'correct lane' prior to re-joining the existing two-way system.



Student Enterprise Programme 2019/2020 Thrived Through Covid-19

2020 was a very difficult year for students across the county with Covid-19, but that did not dampen their entrepreneurial spirit. From September 2019 to March 2020 over 1100 students from secondary schools in Co. Wicklow participated in the Student Enterprise Programme. As the first Covid-19 lockdown took place in March these students did not get the opportunity to participate in the traditional Student Enterprise Programme County Final, where 45 teams were due to showcase their work and compete for a chance to represent Wicklow at the National Finals, they did however get a chance to be judged virtually.

We are delighted to announce that the County Winners in each category were as follows:

Senior Category Winner	TOT Hurlstands, Colaiste Bhríde Carnew
Student Names	Maurice Tobin & Cian O'Tuama
Junior Category Winner	Fore Coats, Colaiste Craobh Abhann, Kilcoole
Student Names	Hugh Donohue & Conor McConnell
Intermediate Category Winner	Kearney Woodcraft, Avondale Community College
Student Names	Dale Kearney

Congratulations also to the two runner ups in the Senior Category:

1st Runner Up	Personalised Pups, St. Marys College, Arklow
Student Names	Sophie Nuzum & Nicole Yau
2nd Runner Up	CleanSole, Colaiste Craobh Abhann, Kilcoole
Student Names	Jeremiah Scott & Sean Lundy

This year's Student Enterprise Programme 2020/2021 is currently underway.

2021



loading...

Sod-Turned On €3 Million Content Creation Hub at Clermont

In September the sod was turned on a new €3m Content Creation Enterprise Hub at the Wicklow County Campus in Clermont, Rathnew.

The Content Creation Enterprise Hub will provide 10,000sq ft of private and co-working spaces and aims to boost job creation in the sector and spin out services feeding into these industries. It is intended to support content creation and will complement the film industry, with a particular focus on businesses servicing productions happening in Ashford Studios and Ardmore Studios.

The Hub will also offer a collaborative social space, conference centre, podcast studio and screening facility along with access to a range of existing meeting rooms and training facilities on the larger Clermont campus.

Construction is expected to commence in early 2021 and it is intended to launch the hub in 2022. €1.43m of this project is supported under the Department of Business, Enterprise & Innovation's Regional Enterprise Development Fund administered by Enterprise Ireland. The remainder will be matched by Wicklow County Council.



SPRING/SUMMER TRAINING COURSES


Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
Cill Mhantáin - Wicklow

14th & 21st January 2021	Bookkeeping for Small Businesses - ONLINE	€120
19th January 2021	Start Your Own Business Course - ONLINE	€75
20th January 2021	Trading Online Voucher - ONLINE	FREE
26th January 2021	Prepare Your Business for Customs Workshop - ONLINE	FREE
28th January 2021	Bookkeeping Using Excel - Wicklow County Campus	€60
2nd February 2021	Brexit Mentoring - ONLINE	FREE
23rd February 2021	Design Your Own Social Media Campaign: Beginners - ONLINE	€50
1st March 2021	Digital Marketing Clinic - ONLINE	€30
3rd March 2021	Start Your Own Business Course - ONLINE	€75
4th March 2021	Trading Online Voucher Seminar - ONLINE	FREE
4th March 2021	Prepare Your Business For Customs Workshop - ONLINE	FREE
9th March 2021	Business Planning & Accessing Finance - ONLINE	€10
25th March 2021	Search Engine Optimisation For Your Website - ONLINE	€15
13th April 2021	Essential Idea Exploration: Proven Tools to Test the Market - ONLINE	€30
6th May 2021	Start Your Own Business Course - ONLINE	€75
18th May 2021	Business Planning & Accessing Finance - ONLINE	€10
20th May 2021	Trading Online Voucher Seminar - ONLINE	FREE
1st June 2021	Digital Marketing Clinic - ONLINE	€30

BOOK ALL COURSES ONLINE:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>

Grow

Start

Pre-Start

2020 REVIEW

Over 2,803 Small Businesses Assisted & Supported by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow

TRAINING

- **1148** Businesses participated

TRAINING COURSES

- **62** Training events

BUSINESS ADVICE CLINIC

- **513** Clients attended Business Advice Clinics - FREE 1 - to - 1

MENTORING

- **243** Businesses received mentoring



TRADING ONLINE VOUCHER (TOV)

- The voucher is a financial incentive for small businesses to develop or enhance their ability to trade online. Under the scheme, a qualifying business may apply for funding to a maximum value of €2,500.
- **475** Applications received
- **€1,000,000** Worth of Approvals



GETTING IRELAND BREXIT READY

BREXIT MENTORING

- **41** Clients availed of Brexit Mentoring

PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS FOR CUSTOMS WORKSHOPS

- 100 Clients Attended the Prepare Your Business For Customs Workshop



COVID-19 - BUSINESS CONTINUITY VOUCHER (BCV)

- A voucher worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy and mentoring costs helped businesses to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic
- **283** Businesses approved
- **€300,000** Worth of approvals



Wicklow Heritage Office

Conserving Wicklow's Built Heritage

Wicklow County Council operates a conservation grant scheme on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This funding is allocated to the owners and custodians of historic buildings in county Wicklow and provides welcome support for carrying out routine repairs and essential conservation works. In 2020 a total of €90,000 was allocated under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) combined, to eight different projects in County Wicklow. This investment in turn supports the livelihoods of so many contractors, craftspeople and professionals.

The funding schemes for 2021 have been broadened to include two new streams dedicated to Historic Shopfronts and to Vernacular buildings. The contribution that our historic buildings make to our towns, villages and countryside is immense, these buildings very often represent the history of our local places and the generations who built and occupied them and their conservation is to everyone's benefit. For more contact Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer on dburns@wicklowcoco.ie



Archbishop Diarmuid Martin at St. Marys and Peters Church in Arklow to view restoration work and meet those involved.



Dry-stone wall repairs coordinated by Hollywood Tidy Towns group.



**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**
**Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage**



Stabilisation works at the Old Abbey in Wicklow Town in 2014 conserved the medieval ruins which are used as a venue for public events.



Heritage Open Day to celebrate the conservation of the Crusher House in Barravore in Glenmalur.



St. Crispins Church Greystones was repaired under the BHIS in 2014.



The Built Heritage Grant support heritage crafts and skills. Pictured here is George O'Malley master plasterer.

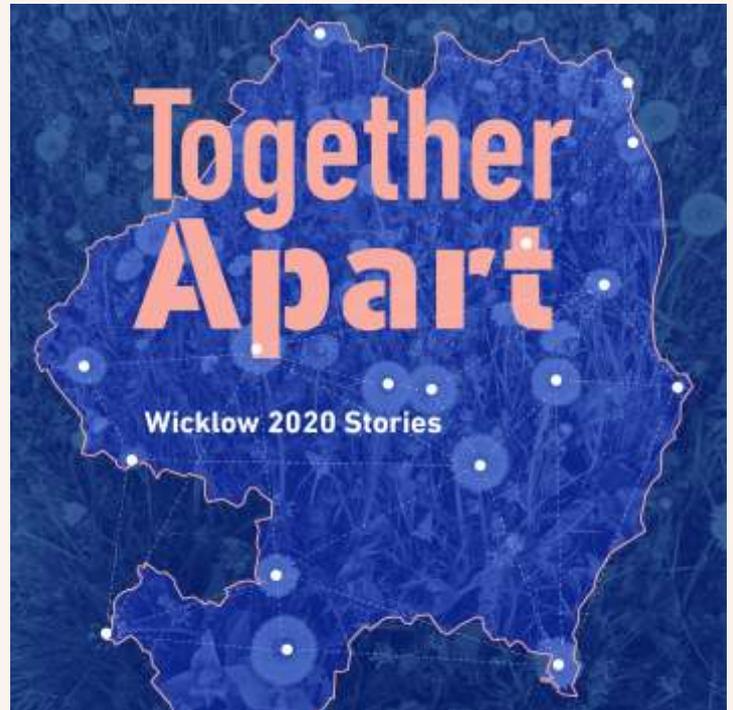
Our Wicklow Heritage – connecting people and place in County Wicklow



County Wicklow has been a member of the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) since 2014, signing up originally under the auspices of the Wicklow Heritage Forum, we are one of an increasing number of community heritage websites nationally.

Early in 2020 we expanded the reach of our Wicklow network by co-ordinating the setting up of an additional five community run sites. These are Medieval Bray Project; Donard History & Heritage; Glens of Lead; Delgany Heritage Village and Glendalough Heritage Forum. The County Wicklow website is managed by the Heritage Office in partnership with the Archives and Library Service. The aim of iCAN is that communities are empowered to curate the history and heritage of their local area. All of our community sites are run by volunteers who participate in our network meetings and training with the National Museum of Ireland.

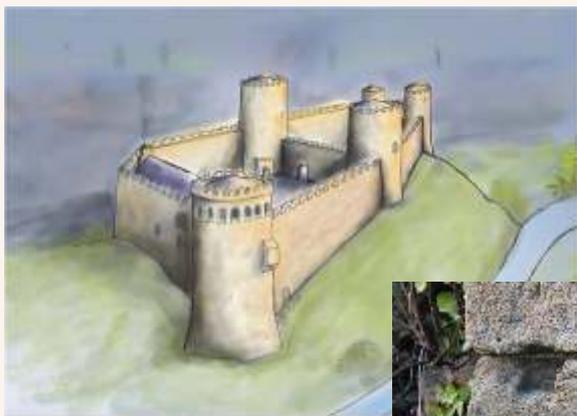
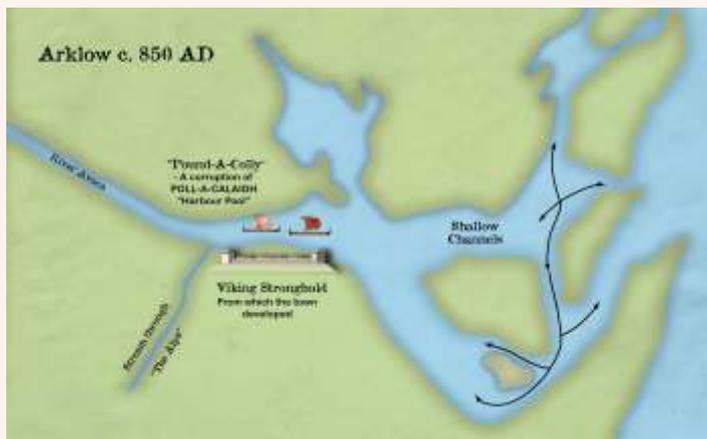
The value of having an online platform for uploading and sharing our Wicklow Heritage was made apparent in 2020 and facilitated the 'Wicklow Together Apart archive' and a wealth of information for Heritage Week. Congratulations to the Glendalough Heritage Forum who won best County Wicklow Heritage Week Award for their short films and other online initiatives made possible through their website and congratulations to iCAN who won best archive in the Community Archive Heritage Awards of UK and Ireland in 2020. Visit Our Wicklow Heritage at www.wicklowheritage.org



Shining a light on Arklow's Medieval Heritage

National Monument Service launched the inaugural Community Monuments Fund (CMF) in September 2020. The fund was co-ordinated by Wicklow County Council's Heritage Office and applications were invited for projects involving the conservation of recorded archaeological monuments, or research and plans aimed at informing their interpretation and access.

The Medieval Arklow Project received an allocation of €7,600 to research the medieval history of Arklow and compile desktop research and records with the long-term view of informing future interpretation and presentation of this aspect of Arklow's heritage. The study team comprised local historian Jim Rees, archaeologist Yvonne Whitty from De Faoite Archaeology and Sarah Nylund, archaeological illustrator. Read more at www.heritage.wicklowheritage.org



Stonemasons mark discovered on Arklow castle window by Yvonne Whitty Archaeologist.

Sharing stories from our Wicklow Rivers

Our rivers are our natural conduits, transecting the landscape and connecting people, place and heritage. Over the years the Heritage office with the support of the Heritage Council has coordinated a myriad of local heritage recording projects. By teaming up with Wicklow's Creative Ireland programme and using rivers as geographic anchors, we have been able to share this amazing heritage via the production of a series of short films. Starting in 2019 with the River Liffey, we have so far produced a dozen short films covering stories on geology, wildlife, history, folklore and archaeology and involving local people in telling the story.

In 2020 we were delighted to partner with the Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO) on our latest project, the Avoca River Stories. Given that the catchment of the Avonmore river, taken together with the Avonbeg and Avoca rivers is the largest in county Wicklow there is a rich reservoir of heritage to dip in to. Six Avoca River Stories were produced in 2020 on the following themes; Vikings & Arklow; the Glenmalure Valley; The Wicklow Gold Rush; Anna Parnell and the Ladies Land League; The Wynn sisters of Avoca Handweavers; and Biodiversity and Natural beauty. Search for the River Liffey Stories and the Avoca River stories on Facebook pages which have been purposefully set up to host these films and to collect and share stories, images and contributions from the wider community. The stories are endless and we would love to develop more. Get in touch via the Facebook pages or contact Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer on dburns@wicklowcoco.ie if you have a story that you would like to share.



New Library for Rathdrum



- L/R: Margaret Byrne and Carmel Moore, Library Staff

– L/R: Brendan Martin, Wicklow County Librarian; Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, Wicklow County Council; Margaret Byrne, Library Staff; Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Pat Kennedy; Carmel Moore, Library Staff and David Lehane, Zest Development.

Use of the library services in Rathdrum is expected to more than double when the new library is opened in the village next summer.

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

The current Rathdrum library comprises less than 40 sq mtrs and is limited in its capacity to deliver services relevant to today's needs.

Nonetheless, despite its limitations, the current library is well used by the people of Rathdrum with 500-plus registered readers paying over 5,000 visits and borrowing over 10,000 items in 2019.

Increases of 150 per cent are anticipated when the new library opens in Summer 2021.

The new library will be four times the size of the current building and will have a greater selection of stock and increased opening hours. There will be multiple study spaces and public access computers.

Maximising the use of natural light will ensure a bright and attractive facility.

This latest development in the County's library service, along with the new library in Wicklow Town, which is nearing completion, is further evidence of the Council's commitment to library services throughout the entire county.

Project Postcard



In November, Wicklow County Council Library Service, as part of the Wicklow County Community Response programme, launched Project Postcard.

The idea was to connect schoolchildren with members of the community by encouraging primary school children to write to nursing home residents or to loved ones. The team designed a fun and engaging postcard, on which the school children could write messages to nursing home residents in Wicklow or indeed, to loved ones, here or abroad. The postcard was designed to be diverse and give scope for creativity, allowing children to be creative. The postcards were

delivered free of charge to Nursing Homes by An Post.

The response to the project was amazing, with nearly 50 schools out of all the 88 primary schools in County Wicklow and over 20 nursing homes participating in the project.

Spreading a little happiness in our community, during such a restrictive time, was what Project Postcard was all about, and it has been a resounding success!

Codema Energy Kits

Joining more than 10 other library services all over the country, Wicklow County Council Library Service now allows you to borrow for free a kit developed by CODEMA to help you understand your energy consumption at home and identify the most important areas of your home for energy upgrades.

It has five practical tools and six exercises which will help you conduct your own home energy audit and find the easiest and most effective areas to reduce your energy.

So go to your local library today and join many other library users all over the country who have made their home more energy efficient!"



Flying the flag for LGBTI



Wicklow County Council Library Service along with LGBTI Allies of County Wicklow and Blessington and district Forum marked social inclusion week in October with a visibility campaign focussed solely on getting a message of welcome and inclusivity out to the LGBTI community.

All 13 libraries across the county displayed or hoisted the distinctive rainbow flag which is recognised as the emblem of this community and also the equally colourful LGBTI allies' flag. The clock tower in Enniskerry was lit up in rainbow colours and Blessington was festooned with flags hanging from many business premises.



Wicklow County partnership arranged to have people from the LGBTI community recorded while telling their stories. Wicklow County Council Library service then shared the subsequent podcasts on their social media platforms. These podcasts give a valuable insight into the true experiences of coming out as gay as well as what it is like to be the parent of a young LGBTI person and they are hugely informative and supportive.

All libraries will have a truly representative collection of reading material which will appeal not just to the LGBTI community but to everyone; this will be on the shelves by the end of December 2020.

BorrowBox

The demand for access to BorrowBox during the first lockdown prompted me to set up an online book club. Our first meeting was held on 6th May and has been running on a regular basis ever since with new members joining along the way. We always have a good laugh at the meetings and even manage to discuss the book most of the time!

So far we have read;

- The Night Boat to Tangier by Kevin Barry
- Dear Mrs Bird by AJ Pearse
- The Crossing Places by Elly Griffiths
- The Perils of Morning Coffee by Alexander McCall Smith
- The Bee Keeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri
- The Rosie Result by Graeme Simsion
- Sal by Mick Kitson
- Good Friday by Lynda La Plante
- The Children Act by Ian McEwan
- The Outrun by Amy Liptrot

New members always welcome.



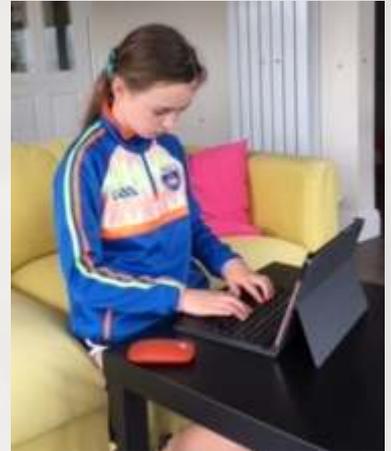
Wicklow County Council Library
Service

On-line Reading and Literacy Supports in the Library

A Dormant Funds account grant allowed Wicklow County Council Library Service to purchase licenses for digital services in support of literacy and reading: Touch-type Read and Spell (TTRS) and Lexia.

TTRS is a touch-typing course that helps improve reading and spelling skills. Lexia is a personalized reading programme that uses a self-paced approach. In the summer a team of three library staff liaised with families to offer it as a home-schooling support and it has proven to be very popular. Lexia was also short-listed for a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award 2020 for best library service.

Other online resources available through the library include e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines, online newspapers, online courses, and language learning. Encyclopedia Britannica is particular useful if you're researching an essay or paper. Also, FindmyPast.ie which provides access to thousands of Irish and British newspapers and is particular useful for history buffs and people researching ancestors.



Call your local branch or logon to www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Libraries to find out more. If you're not a member of the library it's easy to join. Simply bring proof of address and photo I.D. to the library or sign up online.

Promoting Inclusion and Access for All

Wicklow County Council Library Service staff have participated in a number of training initiatives promoting inclusion and access for all. Literacy Development Worker Fergus Dolan hosted a literacy awareness webinar highlighting adult literacy. It provided tips on how to deal with these issues sensitively, how to deliver a literacy friendly service, and how the library service can be more accessible to people with reading and numeracy difficulties.

Library staff also participated in a webinar hosted by Respond Resettlement Worker Naomi Fitzpatrick that dealt with Syrian intercultural awareness. It was very informative and library staff came away with a better understanding of Syrian culture. Senior Executive Librarian Margaret Birchall of Wicklow County Council Library Service, states: "For newcomers to Ireland the library is not just somewhere to read – it is also where they will find out about services and a place to learn English as a foreign language. Libraries are community hubs where we can all build friendships and forge connections."

YOU CAN FOLLOW WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND TWITTER



Blessington Library Events

Move Online!



For most of 2020, libraries were closed for events and gatherings so library staff in Blessington moved the events to the online sphere. The events included a very successful Baby Sign Language four-week workshop for new babies and their parents. This workshop was fully-booked and a great opportunity for parents to connect with each other.

Nearly 50 people zoomed with Storyteller Liz Weir from their living rooms as she regaled us with stories of fairies and magic.

A Zoom adult book club was set-up and the first book “This is Going to Hurt” by Adam Kay went down a treat. A children’s book club was also started on Zoom. “How to Train Your Parents” by Peter Johnson received thumbs-up all round.

There has been huge interest in online events and the interest continues to grow.

Future planned events include craft workshops, music workshops and storytelling. All are taking place through Zoom.



Halloween at Ballywaltrim Library

Halloween 2020 at Ballywaltrim library was filled with story time events for children of all ages. David, Emilie, and Marguerite in suitably spooky attire read tales such as “Gruesome House”, “The Pooka” and “Where Goblins Dwell”. A special Shadow Theatre performance of the poem “Boo!” saw staff narrate and simultaneously act out the text of the poem using props. This event proved popular with both staff and audiences. Library staff looks forward to welcoming back readers in person for next year’s Halloween events. They thoroughly enjoyed producing online story times for Halloween 2020 all of which can be viewed on Wicklow Libraries Facebook and YouTube pages.



Syrian Refugee project



Arklow Library staff prepared welcome packs for the Syrian families who have moved to Wicklow, including library membership cards & brochures, art project kits for children and teens, and copies of the latest editions of Countywise. This project was in conjunction with the Wicklow Resettlement Support agency.



Way With Words Festival 2020



Our festival in March this year was cut short by the pandemic, but some events did happen before the Covid-19 restrictions. Pictured: Alvean Jones leading a workshop on storytelling using Irish Sign Language, with participants James Doyle, Trudy Byrne and Franz Shealy (seated).

Music Generation

As part of our partnership with Music Generation and to highlight our instrument loan scheme we held a very successful open day music workshop where visitors to the library were given the chance to try out instruments, expertly instructed by music teacher Maria Fernandez.



Story Time



When library activities were restricted by the pandemic, among the casualties was our regular Saturday morning story time for children. We quickly responded by moving Story Time online through social media. This has continued from March to date. Here is Kathy Scott in Arklow, reading "Room on the broom" for Halloween.

Arts and Crafts

Saturday mornings in Arklow also included arts and crafts activities presented by staff members, and this was similarly affected by the restrictions. As with Story Time, we moved these online. Pictured: Arklow Library staff member David Wilcoxson with a session on decorating masks for Halloween.





County Wicklow PPN has had a busy year!

County Wicklow PPN was delighted to welcome 70 new member groups of all different types from all around the county in 2020. The PPN supported groups to be informed and have their voices heard through our 35 PPN Representatives who bring the community voice and experience to 18 different boards and committees.

The online Meet Your Councillor events facilitated over 100 people to ask their local councillors about the things that matter to them. The PPN also ran consultations on various national plans and strategies and made submissions on a few.



County Wicklow PPN worked closely with Wicklow County Council to support vulnerable communities during the pandemic. PPN members very quickly set up support services and activities that were entered on to a mapping system that was used to connect people to any help that they needed through the community call.

The PPN also worked with the Irish Red Cross to distribute Nestlé Food hampers to groups that were providing food to the sick and elderly. Working with Wicklow County Council, the PPN was involved in an initiative to address the problems created by the lack of access to digital equipment and supports. The PPN continues to provide the latest pandemic support information



from national and local government through all our media platforms.

Community groups were challenged in many ways during the pandemic. Understanding the new health guidelines and social distancing was at times confusing and groups' capacity to fundraise was severely impacted. County Wicklow PPN provided training to support groups to adapt so they could safely provide limited services and activities and explore new ways of funding. The PPN recorded the issues and concerns of community groups and compiled them into reports that were sent to local and national government.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on people's mental health and wellbeing. Co Wicklow PPN worked with Avril Bailey of the Dublin Human Givens Centre this year to develop Super Charge Your Self Care, a set of six sessions ran with groups to help community activists to mind their mental and physical health. Towards the end of the year these sessions were further developed into video resources and linked in to the government's 'Keep Well' campaign.





The PPN is currently providing groups with Good Governance Training using the Charities Regulator's Governance Code. The first of four modules took place at the end of November and the remaining modules will run in 2021.

County Wicklow PPN highlighted the great work going on in the county to combat social exclusion using Social Inclusion Week in November to do so. We work collaboratively with the Wicklow County Council Disability and Inclusion Group to work towards a more accessible county for people with disabilities.



The PPN continues to raise awareness of the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Working with the Environment Office of Wicklow County Council, a mapping tool was developed this year that allows community groups to link the things that they do to the SDGs clearly showing that even the smallest local actions can have an impact on achieving the SDG targets. Co Wicklow PPN has also commissioned an animation to raise awareness of the goals, show how community actions help to achieve the targets and encourage groups to enter their actions on the WCC mapping tool.

County Wicklow PPN have a new website

Our animation, training resources, Representative Reports, submissions, newsletters, work reports and much more is available on our website www.countywicklowppn.ie



Co Wicklow PPN would like to take this opportunity to thank our member groups for their energy, commitment, passion, and empathy, particularly in this difficult year. We look forward to working with you and our collaborative partners to support you in the coming year.

Drinking water

Wicklow County Council staff work with Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement to provide safe and clean drinking water to the people of Wicklow. This year has seen changes to the working environment due to Covid-19. Normal Operation and Maintenance works have been on-going throughout this challenging time with Caretakers, leakage locators, plumbers and leakage inspectors ensuring quality and supplies from Water treatment plants and within networks haven't been affected to the people of Wicklow. Administration, outdoor, technical and engineering staff work together to ensure the best service is delivered on a daily basis.

Operation and Maintenance Works

Reservoir Cleaning: There is an on-going program of Reservoir cleaning ensuring that the highest quality water is supplied and distributed into the networks. The following reservoirs have been cleaned since January 2020:

- Baltinglass Reservoir, Baltinglass Water Supply Zone (WSZ).
- Daggas, Reservoir, Tinahely WSZ
- Tomacork Reservoir, Tinahely WSZ
- Mount Carmel Reservoirs, Enniskerry WSZ
- Glenmacnass, Laragh WSZ
- Marnier's Point reservoir Wicklow WSZ



Burst Mains

On a daily basis there are burst mains. Often these are on smaller mains but regularly they are on larger pipes on roads and can cause a lot of disruption. These can be due to older pipes, pressure build up or pipe strikes. These can happen any time during the day and night and water

leakage inspectors, plumbers and external contractor make themselves available to fix these issues. For example, there was one in Stratford that affected Stratford View and Slaney Village that affected 20 houses in August, another example is the burst on the water main in Blessington on a 100mm pipe and also on the water main attached to Knockieran Bridge, Blessington.

Water main bursts can affect hundreds of households and industrial premises and are addressed as quickly as possible by Wicklow County Council staff and at all hours of the day and night.



Leakage identification and improvement works (Find and Fix)

In any water network there is water exiting the system that is unaccounted for. This is often due to older pipes, pipes cracking, issues around fittings, people striking pipes etc. There can also be increased leakage in very cold weather. The Leakage Inspectors work with the leakage crews through the year to identify areas where there is leakage, this great work helps to identify problem areas and keeps as much water in the system as possible, conserving water and saving money.

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

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

Stimulus Works

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

Pressure reducing valves are being replaced throughout the county as part of the Water Networks Program and also the Stimulus works. Flushing valves in Wicklow, Greystones and Newtown/Newtownmountkennedy are also been replaced to improve pressure in the mains and remove transient pressure.

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



Water Network Programme -- Ashford and two other projects in Greystones

- **Ashford.** In Ashford the old cast Iron main that has been in the ground for a long number of years and has seen a lot of frequent bursts recently and funding was secured to replace it. The total main length was 2.6km and was upgraded to a 150mm HDPE main.

- **Pressure management.** There has been PRV installed directly by Wicklow County Council staff and by contractors under the supervision of Wicklow County Council Water Inspectors and Engineers at Greystones, Newtown, Newcastle and Delgany.

Planning Applications and Connections

The need for organised development of proposed Water Infrastructure is done through approval of water and wastewater facilities through planning application and connections. This is an on-going job by Wicklow County Council Water Services staff to ensure that there is capacity and development of infrastructure is planned and organised.

Backyard Services

To facilitate access and improve the watermain network, Backyard services removal has been on-going over the last few years. This is work that is done by contractors under instruction and supervision by Water Services personnel. This year a number of schemes were completed including Grattan Park, Kindelstown and Kimberley Park, Greystones.

Irish Water Small Town & Village Growth Programme

Water services personnel are working with Irish water and Wicklow County Council Planning Section to identify locations where there is potential for town and village growth. As part of this funding has been set aside by Irish Water to install/improve facilities at identified sites. This process is on-going.

Wastewater

Wicklow County Council staff work with Irish Water under a Service Level agreement to treat Wastewater in the County. This year has seen changes to the working environment due to Covid-19. Normal Operation and Maintenance works have been on-going throughout this challenging time with Caretakers, and General Services Supervisors' ensuring that Wastewater is treated throughout the County and sewer blockages are cleared as quickly as possible. Administration, outdoor, technical and engineering staff work together to ensure the best service is delivered on a daily basis.

Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTP) and Pumping station

Wastewater is transferred by gravity and through pumping stations to Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTP's) where it is treated through primary, secondary and tertiary treatment process to provide high quality effluent. The exact treatment process depends on the size of the plant. The location and size of settlements across Wicklow means that there are varying sizes of plants. The smaller deal with populations of less than 50 people with the largest plant based in Enniskerry.

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



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



Grangecon WWTP has seen new tanks and a distribution system installed. This will ensure that high standard of effluent will continue to be met.



Testing and compliance

The WWTP's have to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Irish Water standards. The larger plants are licenced to dispose to the environment and there is strict testing to ensure that that limits are met. The smaller plants are Certified Plants complying to BOD, COD and SS limits 25/35/125 respectively.

Planning Applications and Connections

The need for organised development of proposed wastewater infrastructure is done through approval of water and wastewater developments through planning application and connections. This is an on-going job by Water Services staff to ensure that there is capacity and development of infrastructure is planned and organised.



volunteer centre

Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Cill Mhantáin

WICKLOW

Dunlavin Native Wins National Volunteer Award

Dunlavin local John Fitzgerald was named a winner in the Safety and Emergency Services category in the national Volunteer Ireland Awards for his commitment to CFR Ireland and Wicklow Rapid Response.

A Community First Responder (CFR) volunteer for over 20 years in his native county Wicklow, John epitomises everything that is good about community volunteers. Working on a local level and witnessing the positivity of his and his colleagues' work, John decided to make their learning known on a national level and support other likeminded volunteers wherever possible.

John set about developing a national representative organisation 'CFR Ireland' to increase awareness of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and work closely with the National Ambulance Service to increase the number of CFR Groups across Ireland. According Wicklow Volunteer Centre Manager Leah Kinsella "We are lucky to have people like John volunteering in Wicklow. Volunteers are often unseen but the contribution they make to Irish society is immense. These awards give us a chance to say thank you and celebrate the difference volunteers make every day."



As a physical event was not possible this year each awardee received a special surprise delivery from Volunteer Ireland announcing their win. It included an engraved trophy, a framed message from President Higgins, complimentary tickets to EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum and of course, a hamper of goodies to celebrate with. All 805 volunteers nominated in this year's awards also received a special thank you card from Volunteer Ireland earlier this month.

YOU CAN FOLLOW COUNTY WICKLOW
VOLUNTEER CENTRE ON FACEBOOK AND
TWITTER



WWW.VOLUNTEERWICKLOW.IE

Positive Budget Adopted for Wicklow

Wicklow County Council adopted the Annual Budget for 2021, on the 23rd November 2020. The Adopted Budget 2021 provides for the ongoing delivery of countywide services within a challenging financial environment. The 2021 Budget provides for expenditure of €118.7m and represents an increase of €2.3m (or 2%) on last year's budget. This increase is mainly as a result of additional pay and pension costs and a significant increase in our housing pre-letting expenditure provision for 2021.

As well as normal day to day operational expenditure, there is also provision in this Budget for the following:

Additional funding of €1m provided for Housing Relets

Allocation of €100k for the Community Grant Scheme

Increased funding for Housing of the Homeless initiatives

Increased funding for Fire Service operations

Increased funding for Local Roads Improvement Works

Additional staff provisions for Libraries

Funding for implementation of Climate Action Adaptation Plan initiatives

Increased funding for IT operations

Funding for energy saving measures to meet reduced energy consumption targets

Increased matched funding provision for NDP Capital project schemes



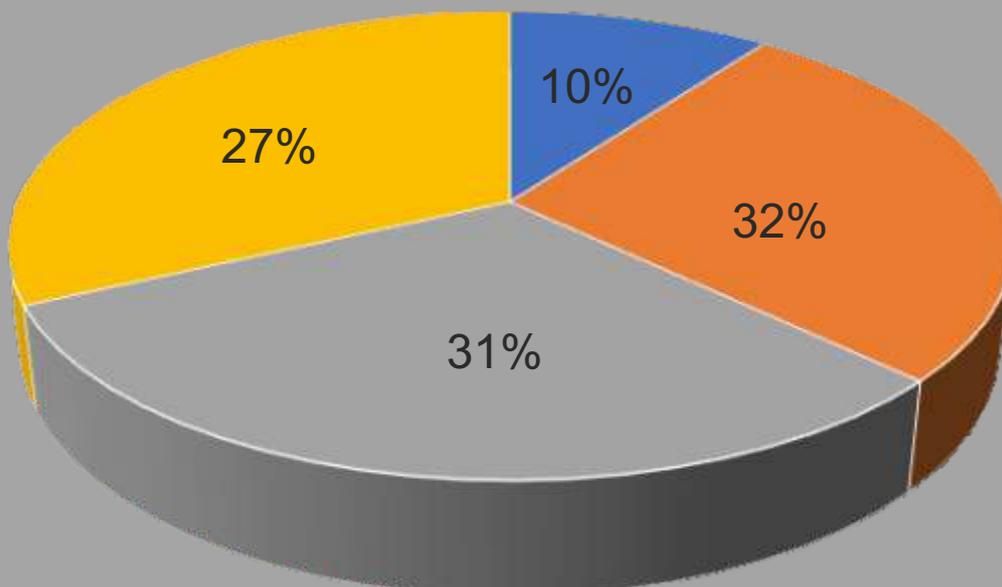
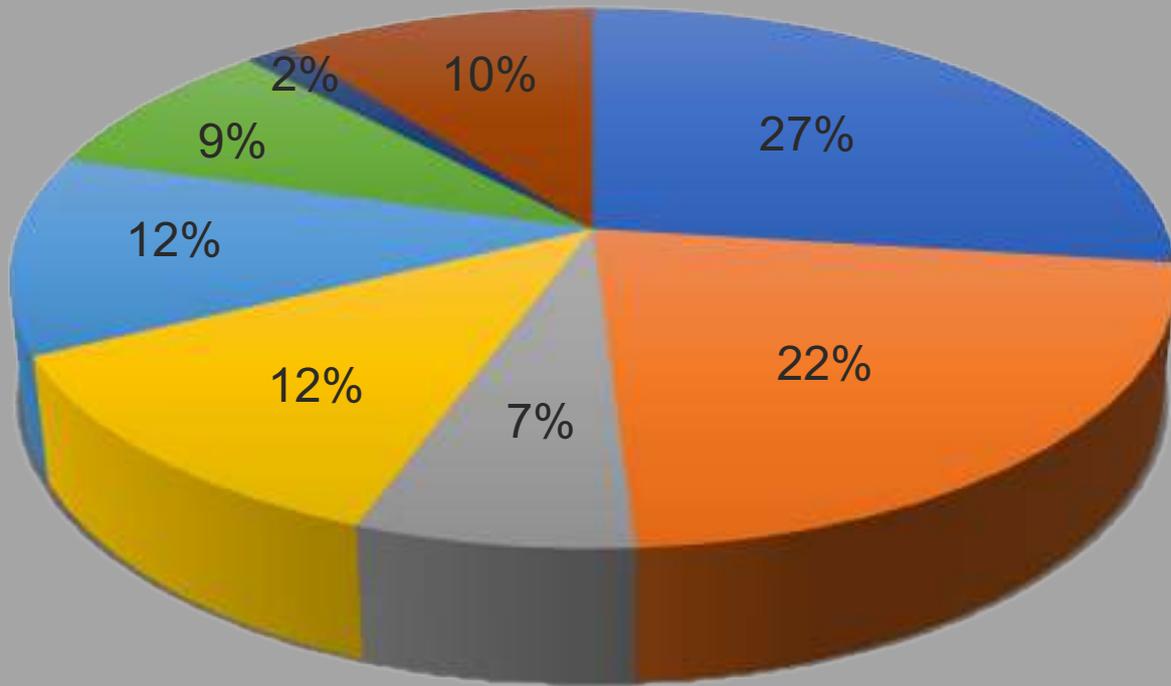
Total Expenditure €118.7 million

Discretionary Funding

For Municipal Districts in 2021

General Municipal Allocation €208,500

(Festivals, Tidy Towns, Economic Development, Town Teams)



A full copy of the Adopted Budget can be downloaded from www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Finance

Customer Service Innovation Hub opens to the public



Wicklow County Council is delighted to announce the launch of the newly developed Customer Service Innovation Hub at County Buildings

The Hub, which is open and fully operational since the beginning of October, will lead in the process of major organisational change and improvements to promote efficiency of operations and customer service.

The development of the Customer Service Hub supports a key strategic goal of Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024 which focuses on an excellent service delivery, promoting inclusivity and efficiency for all users.

The service at the Hub is delivered by a team of highly trained staff, with a clear focus on citizen centric approach, committed to providing efficient and professional customer service throughout the County.

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

In addition, all queries and correspondence are centrally managed and supported by Microsoft Dynamics Customer Relationship Management system which will facilitate case management and timely responses to customer queries.

Welcoming the completion of the Customer Service Innovation Hub, Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, said: “The new Customer Service Hub provides an inclusive environment for a

range of services and will significantly improve communication and engagement with our citizens.”

Chief Executive, Mr Frank Curran, stated: “The delivery of an efficient and effective service to the highest possible standard is one of our main overarching goals in the Council's Corporate Plan. The development of the new Customer Service Innovation Hub at County Buildings will be a key channel in 2021, to deliver a much-improved customer service, reflecting the importance of innovation in our service delivery”.

The Public foyer has been refurbished to create a bright modern area with upgraded public facilities with separate private meeting rooms available to discuss matters in a confidential environment.



Refurbished Council Chamber Officially Opened

The refurbished Council Chamber at Wicklow County Council has been officially reopened by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pat Kennedy, having undergone extensive work during 2020.

A modern civic space that is fully accessible to all with an extended public gallery for members of the public and representatives of the media has been created by architect for the project, Ms Pamela Kennedy, KUBE Architecture, and Moston Construction.

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

Completion of the works is timely as the recently signed Ministerial Order giving effect to the holding of remote Council meetings or a blend of remote and physical meetings means that elected members can return to the Council chamber in a safe environment with other elected members participating remotely.

Welcoming the completion of the refurbishment works, Cllr Pat Kennedy said: “The newly refurbished Council Chamber is now a bright, inclusive and welcoming space that will not only facilitate the elected members in performing statutory Council business but will also be a place to welcome communities from all over County Wicklow to civic events and functions. I look forward to a time when we can all gather together again safely to celebrate all of our achievements in a civic environment that we can all be proud of and enjoy.”

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Frank Curran, stated: “Wicklow County Council like the wider business community, as a result of the challenges that Covid 19 presented, has had to adapt to new work practices and embrace new technology in order to continue to deliver essential services to the people of County Wicklow. Modern technology systems now available in the Council Chamber will assist the Councillors perform their policy making, representational and oversight role in a professional, effective and efficient manner.”

Wicklow County Council comprises 32 elected members from across the five Municipal Districts - Bray, Arklow, Greystones, Wicklow and Baltinglass - and perform a wide range of functions including representing the views of the community on various statutory committees and forums.



Roads & Transportation

Road Schemes on the N81 & N11

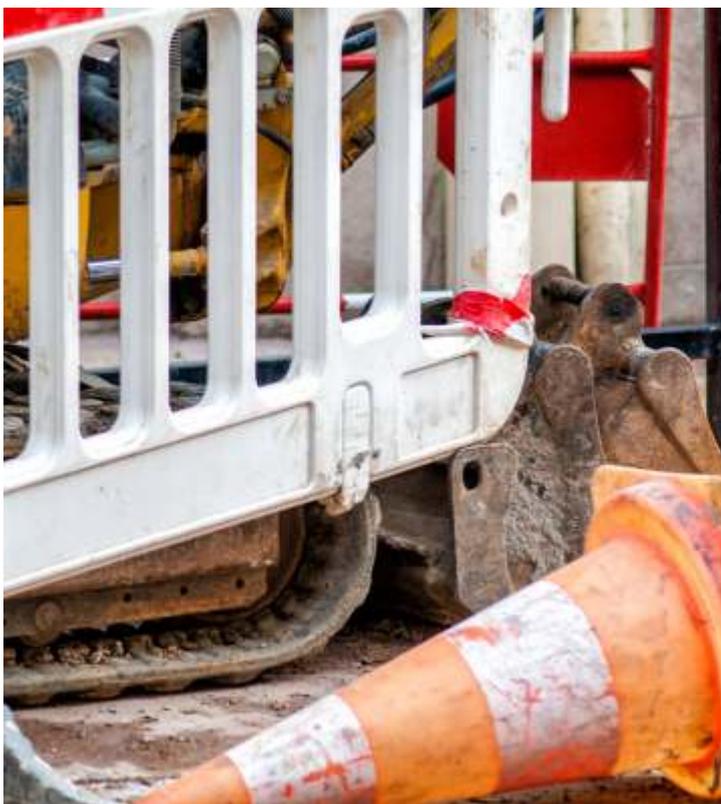
N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment scheme was opened to two way traffic in July 2020. The project is located on the N81 south of Hollywood Cross at the junction with the local road L8314. The project consisted of realignment of the N81 over a distance of 0.85km.



N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

The N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue is approximately 1.6km long and located between Junction 7 and Junction 8 of the N11. Construction of this scheme is currently underway and is due for completion in 2021.



TO KEEP UP TO DATE ON

ROADWORKS & CLOSURES

See www.wicklow.ie/Living or follow us on social media



Roads & Transportation

Ballinaclash Junction

Construction has started since early September 2020 and works are currently progressing well on both the new alignment section and drainage works in the townland of Corballis Lower.



Laragh/Glendalough Junction

Construction works commenced on 19th September with works progressing well to improve access for visitors to the National Heritage Site in the townland of Brockagh at Glendalough.





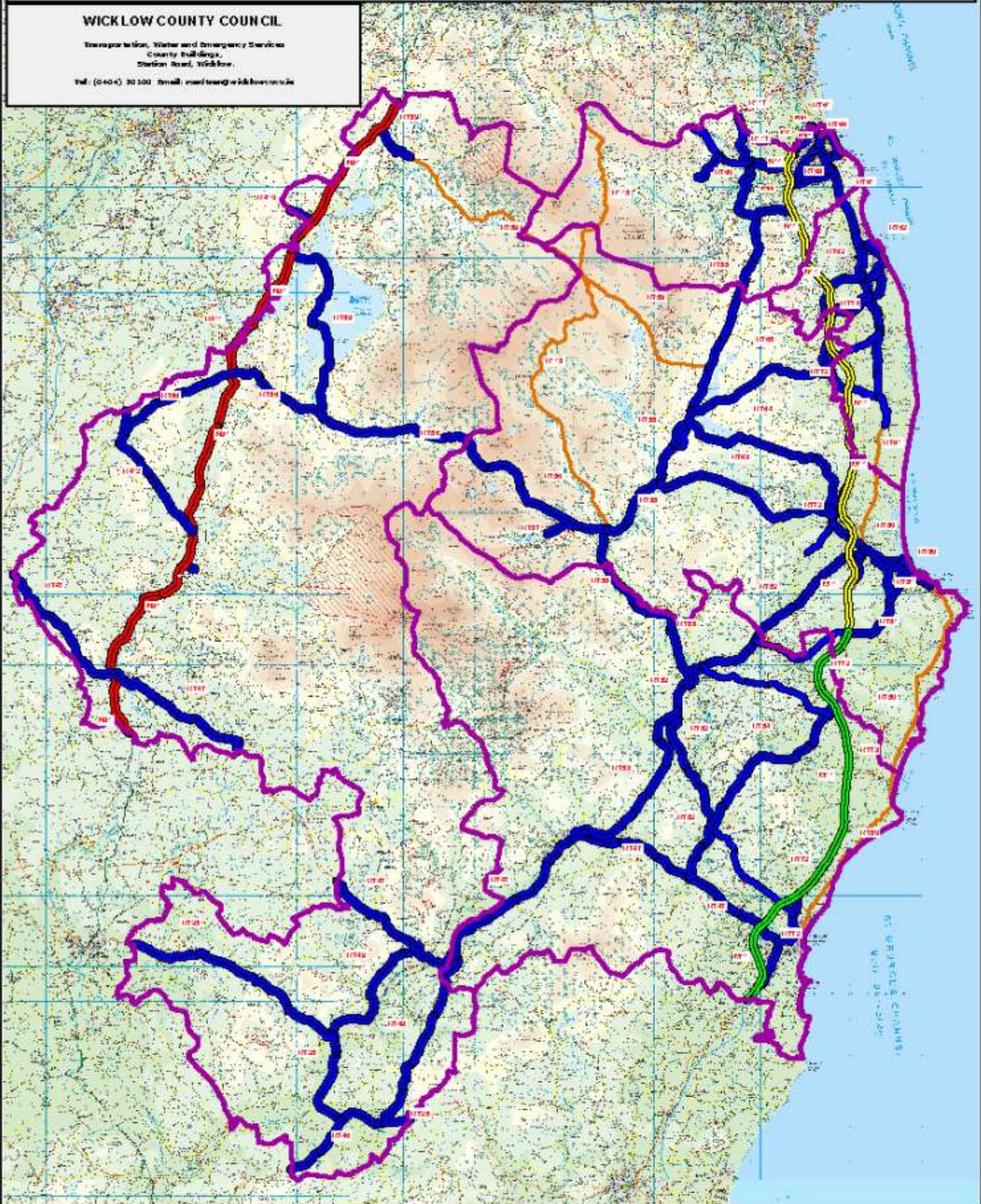
Wicklow County Council Road Gritting Programme

2020/2021

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Transportation, Water and Emergency Services
County Buildings,
Station Road, Wicklow

Tel: (0404) 30 300 Email: enquiries@wkbk.ie



Map Legend:
WCC Priority 1 Roads on Gritting Schedule:
WCC Priority 2 Roads on Gritting Schedule:
Regional roads not on Schedule:
County Boundary:

Wicklow roads gritted by private contractors:
TII MMARC
Contractor:
BAM PPP:

Scale: 1:75

Drawn By: DOB

Checked By:

Ordnance Survey Ireland. All rights reserved.
Licence Number: 3017/2400NA/Wicklow County Council

BE WINTER-READY



Helping make you, your home and your business more resilient and prepared for severe weather



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

USEFUL KNOWLEDGE

- The timing and geographical location of a weather event, as well as recent weather conditions, can impact significantly on the individual and on society
- Heavy rain can turn to snow when temperatures are close to zero
- Winds can exceed general warning thresholds in exposed areas such as coasts and high ground and also in some low lying areas due to funnelling effects
- High waves can occur on lakes as well as along coasts
- Ice is not always visible on roads and surfaces
- Fog/ice can persist all day
- Hail showers can result in potentially lethal road conditions as the hail gets quickly compacted by traffic
- Heavy downpours can lead to flash flooding and poor visibility
- Thunderstorms: Be aware of the dangers of lightning and DO NOT take shelter under an umbrella or a tree. It is dangerous to be out over open water. Be careful of landline phones or any metal that connects with the ground. Lightning can strike the same spot twice

Keep yourself informed about the meteorological conditions from Met Éireann with detailed 7-day forecasts available for over 3,000 locations on www.met.ie and mobile App.

Please subscribe to push notifications of Warnings on the Met Éireann App.

GENTLE REMINDER: CHECK ON YOUR OLDER RELATIVES AND NEIGHBOURS



If it's difficult for you to get around it will be impossible for them.

- Do you have their phone number(s)?
- Phone them or call around
- Make sure they have enough fuel, food supplies and necessary medications
- If in doubt call the Gardaí and ask them to check

You can get more information from:

- www.met.ie (weather)
- www.iws.ie (water safety)
- www.hse.ie (health)
- www.rsa.ie (road safety)
- www.tii.ie (traffic information)
- www.flooding.ie (OPW)
- www.emergencyplanning.ie

BE WINTER-READY



Met Éireann's Weather Warnings



www.winterready.ie

@emergencyIE



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

LoCall OEP: 1890 252 736 or 0761 001 608
e-mail: oop@defence.ie

WEATHER WARNINGS

Met Éireann is the National Meteorological Service of Ireland and one of its most important roles is to issue weather forecasts and warnings for Ireland. This Public Weather Service mandate is primarily to protect life and ensure citizen safety. The service also supports the activities of the citizen and other agencies to mitigate damage to property and reduce disturbance to economic activity.

Met Éireann's main suite of warnings are issued between 10am and midday and these are updated as new information becomes available. In general, warnings will not be issued more than 48-hours ahead of the expected adverse weather but advisories on potential hazards can be issued up to a week in advance.

Local authorities are the lead agencies for coordinating the response to severe weather emergencies. Where weather emergencies are judged to impact public safety at national level a National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG) is activated by the Office of Emergency Planning on request from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government which is the Lead Government Department for weather emergencies.

Met Éireann provides the weather briefings at the NECG, which brings together all Government Departments and relevant agencies and organisations, to support the locally led response and ensure coordination across the "Whole-of-Government" for the duration of the emergency.

COLOUR CODING EXPLAINED



STATUS YELLOW: Weather that does NOT pose a threat to the general population but is potentially dangerous on a localised scale.

Be aware about meteorological conditions and check if you are exposed to danger by nature of your activity or your specific location. Do not take any avoidable risks.



STATUS ORANGE: Infrequent and dangerous weather conditions which may pose a threat to life and property.

Prepare yourself in an appropriate way depending on location and activity. All people and property in the affected areas can be significantly impacted.

Check your activity/event and delay or cancel as appropriate.



STATUS RED: Rare and very dangerous weather conditions from intense meteorological phenomena.

Take action to protect yourself and your property. Follow instructions and advice given by the authorities under ALL circumstances and be prepared for exceptional measures.

This colour coding is used throughout Europe via the Meteoalarm system www.meteoalarm.eu

STORM NAMING

Naming storms by National Met Services has been shown to raise awareness of severe weather. It provides a clear, authoritative and consistent message to the public and prompts people to take action to prevent harm to themselves or to their property.

Met Éireann, the UK Met Office and KMNl (Netherlands) collaborate in forecasting and naming storms. The names are chosen from public suggestions and are in alphabetical order, alternating between gender.

- A storm is named by a National Met Service when Orange Level wind warnings are forecast to impact over a wide area overland
- Orange or Red level gusts can occur in exposed areas without the event being named

Once a storm is named by a National Met Service the name is retained. For example: Ophelia was named by the National Hurricane Center (USA) and Emma by IPMA (Portugal).

Marine Warnings

Small Craft Warning: Beaufort Force 6 or 7 forecast out to 10 nautical miles offshore around Irish Coasts.

Gale Warning: Gale Force 8 or higher forecast out to 30 nautical miles offshore (Irish Coastal Waters) and the Irish Sea.

Yellow Gale Force 8/Strong Gale Force 9

Orange Storm Force 10

Red Violent Storm Force 11/Hurricane Force 12



COVID-19

Home Crime Prevention Advice



Keep lights on inside and out.



Do not keep large amounts of cash at home.



Keep valuables & keys out of sight.



Be alert to online and telephone scams.



Do not share personal or financial data.

For up to date advice on COVID-19 visit HSE.ie

Visit www.garda.ie for more crime prevention advice

An Garda Síochána encourages the reporting of Hate Crime. For more information see the **Garda Diversity & Integration Strategy**



COVID-19

Home Crime Prevention Advice



KEEP UNEXPECTED CALLERS OUT

Do not open the door. Use the door chain. Look for ID.



Use only the services of people you know and trust.



If you require assistance call your local garda station.



Keep a lookout for friends and neighbours while adhering to appropriate physical distancing.



For up to date advice on COVID-19 visit HSE.ie

Visit www.garda.ie for more crime prevention advice



Community Call support is available

We are here if you need someone to talk to or practical help or support.

National government, local government and the community and voluntary sectors have joined together in the Community Call initiative to provide a dedicated helpline in each local authority area to offer support if you need it.

The Community Call can provide:

- **Delivery of food, medication, fuel or other household items**
- **Someone to talk to or keep in touch with**
- **Other practical supports**
- **Signposting and referral to reliable information and services**

Helpline numbers and emails for all local authorities are available at
www.gov.ie/communitycall.

Calls can also be made via a national phone number
0818 222 024.

Get in touch

You can contact the Wicklow Community Call helpdesk by phone or email.

Phone: 1800 868 399

Email: CovidSupport@wicklowcoco.ie

**If you are unable to call or email please TEXT us on:
087 245 6874**

Community Call is part of the Government's 'Keep Well' programme of activities and initiatives to help you look after your mental and physical wellbeing. Find out more about what is happening in Wicklow at www.wicklow.ie/Living or at www.gov.ie/healthyireland.

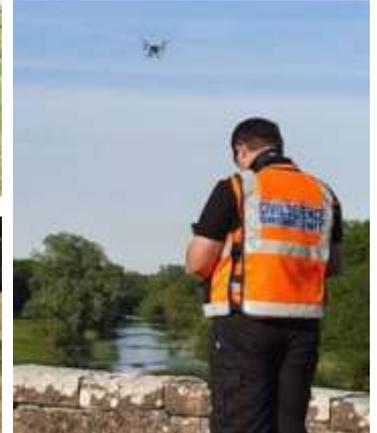


Wicklow Civil Defence

Wicklow Civil Defence currently has 40 members based in Greystones, Baltinglass and a newly formed unit in Arklow and intends to run a recruiting campaign in the new year. Wicklow Civil Defence members were kept busy during lock down with 1,212 requests for assistance, ranging from shopping for the vulnerable through to transportation to medical appointments in Dublin.



Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Civil Defence are at the forefront on using Drone and UAV Technology within Ireland. Currently Wicklow Civil Defence is using a Matrice 210 Drone which has both 30 x Optical Zoom Camera and Thermal Imaging Camera to assist local Emergency Service Agencies in carrying out their respective roles. The use of this technology has greatly benefited Civil defence and Currently there are 20 units throughout Ireland that use drone technology to assist in such operations as search and rescue of missing persons, thermal mapping of fire grounds, providing rapid situational awareness with mapping technology and imagery, assessment of utility and infrastructure damage and can be used to create before and after maps of an impacted area in the event of a natural disaster such as flooding. To date 2020 the unit has been deployed 6 times to assist both local authorities such as Wicklow Fire Service and Coast Guard as well as three inter county deployments to assist with search of missing



An exciting addition to the units capabilities is the acquisition of the Sonar E.M.I.L.Y Platform which will arrive at the unit sometime in December. Sonar E.M.I.L.Y which stands for Emergency Integrated Lifesaving Lanyard is a robotic device used for Rescue/Recovery and is equipped with side sonar technology. This unit operates on battery power and is operated either by remote control or can be pre-programmed to operate autonomously and is able to be deployed from shore, a boat, pier or even can be dropped from a helicopter and will be the only one in Ireland which is exciting times for both the Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Civil Defence.



New Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee Established

A new Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee was established by Wicklow County Council in October. The committee is a result of Wicklow County Council's ongoing commitment to disability issues, and our continued partnership with the Disability Federation of Ireland.

Wicklow County Council are the first local authority in the country to ratify a group of this kind and invest their resources into disability inclusion in this way.

Background to the Committee

The purpose of the committee is:

1. to achieve a multi-departmental approach to making the services provided by Wicklow County Council accessible to all citizens in the county.
2. Ensure the implementation of existing relevant policies at local authority level, namely the
 - a) Disability Act 2005,
 - b) National Disability Inclusion Strategy, NDIS,
 - c) United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, UNCRPD,
 - d) Public Sector Duty.
3. Ensure that the above policies are incorporated into the development and implementation of the Wicklow Local Development Plan, the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP), the Corporate Plan and all other internal documents and strategies.

Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, will chair the committee, which will also include:

- People with disabilities,
- Additional senior council staff,
- Elected representatives from each Municipal district,
- the DFI Disability Officer and Wicklow County Council Access Officer,
- other key community representatives from the Public Participation Network, Children and Young Peoples Services Committee, Local Sports Partnership and Development Companies.

Key achievements so far:

- Participated in the Make Way Day campaign, which highlights the obstacles people with disabilities face on footpaths, for example cars parked illegally, wheelie bins and sandwich boards).
- Celebrated International Persons with Disabilities Day by lighting up landmarks around the county purple, including Municipal district Offices and Arklow Bridge
- Completed a new sensory garden and organised a series of Parent Support Webinars, with the support of the Blessington Access Group and Blessington & District Forum.
- Completed the first Changing Places facility in the Wicklow County Library
- Worked with district engineers to assess the accessibility of new developments and ensure they are as universally designed as possible when opened.

For more information about the committee, please contact Lauraocallaghan@disability-federation.ie





Lockdown and Restrictions Increases Environmental Awareness

The Pure Mile, an environmental initiative which aims to create a greater awareness of the countryside of the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, saw an increase in people getting outside and improving and enhancing their local areas.

The Pure Mile is an environmental, community, heritage initiative, established by the Pure Project, which encourages communities and groups living in rural areas of Wicklow, South Dublin and Dun-Laoghaire, to adopt a mile of road, or miles of road, in their local area, or in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and organise litter picks, clean-ups, anti-dumping campaigns, research information about their local wildflowers, plants, trees, animals, and the built, cultural, and social heritage of an area.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the annual Pure Mile Gala Evening, which would usually attract hundreds of Pure Mile Volunteers, was cancelled this year. However, Pure consider it important to celebrate the hard work and achievements of the Pure Mile Volunteers in Cleaning Up The Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

2020 was the eleventh year of the Pure Mile, with the largest number of groups and volunteers involved in the project since it was established in 2009. In the first year the Pure Mile had 6 miles of road, and over the years the project has grown extensively to over 100 communities, groups, scouts, beavers, primary schools, secondary schools, walking groups, cycling groups, running groups, businesses and organisations, who collectively improved and enhanced over 650 miles of road, mountains, woodlands, valleys, forestries, upland amenities, car parks, and beaches, with the removal of tonnes of illegal dumping and litter from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. Over 300 litter picks and clean-ups were organised in 2020 and additional projects included, natural heritage, built heritage, community, biodiversity and education.

The groups ranged from all over Wicklow, South Dublin and Dun-Laoghaire and each one will receive a Pure Mile Certificate, and all are included in the popular Pure Mile Calendar, which launched last month.

Twenty of the Pure Mile groups will receive Certificates of Recognition for their efforts and a cash prizes of €250, with a total of €5,000 distributed

to groups which will further assist them in their local projects to improve and enhance the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

Pure was launched in 2006 and since that date it has proven extremely successful, in both reducing illegal dumping, and engaging with all demographics in society. It's the first project of its kind in Ireland involving a multi stakeholder approach collaborating with, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council.

If any groups, communities, individuals, schools, walking groups, cycling groups, scouts, businesses, anyone, want to get involved in next year's Pure Mile, they can contact Pure at info@pureproject.ie or download and application from www.pureproject.ie/what-we-do/the-pure-mile/. You can also write to; Pure Project, Wicklow Mountains, National Park, Kilafin, Laragh, Bray, Co. Wicklow and they will post out all the information or request an application form and information pack by phoning Pure on 0404 45547.

Further information on Pure can be found on www.pureproject.ie





The Many Pure Miles of Enniskerry



Kilquiggin Pure Mile People



Resavoir Cogs Pure Miles Upland Cleanup



Cool Killer Cow Whispers Pure Miles



Coolafancy Pure Mile



Glenheiste Pure Mile



Grange Con Pure Mile People



EcoTrail Pure Mile 1



Craugh Road Pure Mile

Minister Visits Wicklow

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD met with the Chief Executive, Frank Curran and Senior Officials in Wicklow County Council today to discuss progress on the Housing Programme.



The Minister commended Wicklow County Council on its progress on delivery to date saying 'we share a common goal that we want all our citizens to have access to good quality housing to purchase or rent at an affordable price. In Wicklow today, I am reassured that the Council is committed, energised and mobilised to deliver on its ambitious delivery targets and I want to reiterate that my Department and the relevant stakeholders are here to assist and support in realising that task. We know that demand has outstripped supply by some way and that it is crucial we increase supply. Homelessness remains a major problem and one I am committed to helping our local authorities deal with.'

Frank Curran, Chief Executive stated that 'Wicklow is projected to exceed its target for Housing Delivery with anticipated output of 1,297 housing units by 2021 over the three delivery streams of Build, Acquisition and Leasing. This outcome highlights the critical focus and priority that has been firmly placed by Wicklow on responding to the Housing challenge through the development and implementation of the Delivery Programme. He added that 'the significant challenges faced by the Council in dealing with homelessness is being met through a variety of methods, with social housing delivery, the

development of supported accommodation and also of interagency relationships to ensure a coordinated and structured response.'

The Minister then embarked on a whistlestop tour, visiting the Homeless Hub facility at Fitzwilliam Road, refurbishment of which is nearing completion and turning the sod at Hawkstown Park, Wicklow a development of 40 family homes.

He then visited the housing development on the site of the former FCA Hall at the Murrough in Wicklow, which will provide a further 8 homes in 2020, finishing the day with a visit to Jameson Heights in Kilmacanogue, a welcome development of 20 homes in this area of high housing demand.



Firefighter Jason Keogh helps make Covid-19 masks more comfortable for Healthcare Staff

A County Wicklow firefighter's unique approach to solving an issue with face masks for healthcare workers has been hailed as an example of how local authorities embraced the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis.



Based in Carnew Fire Station, Jason learned from a social media post that a 3D printer could be used to make a simple plastic device that relieved the pressure on the ears of people wearing protective masks.

“I heard of people in hospitals whose ears were bleeding after a day wearing the surgical masks,” said Jason, “In the fire service we wear them going out to the calls, and we are happy to take them off after only two or three hours. I can't imagine what it would be like after a 12-hour shift.”

He explained: “The piece I make sits at the back of the neck and the loops of the mask go over it, relieving the pressure on the skin. I had a 3D printer and had never really done anything with it, so I made a few for some friends, and then somebody put it up on Facebook and the next minute I was swamped!”

Jason has now made around 4,000 and is still going. Demand was so great that he had to buy another 3D printer because the first one could only make five at a time.

“I gave 120 to Wicklow Fire Service, to cover every station, and I sent some to Wexford General Hospital, Tallaght Hospital and University Hospital Waterford,” he said.

Each piece costs only a few cents to make and Jason has not charged for them. However, some friends have made donations to allow him to buy filament which is the raw material used by 3D printers.

Jason, who has been with the fire service for three years, has also begun making face shields in response to requests from hairdressers returning to work.

Faced with the challenge of social distancing, and with many of their own staff working from home, local authorities brought novel solutions to the complex problems posed by the new realities of Lockdown.



Wicklow County Council

Staff Charity Fund

The Staff Charity Fund has been in existence since 1985 and since it has been established, approximately a quarter of a million has been given to numerous local, national and international charities and causes over the years.

Some of the charities we have donated to in 2020 are listed below:

St Vincent de Paul Conferences

Blessington - €500

Bray - €500

Wicklow - €500

Arklow - €500

Ashford/Glenealy/Rathnew - €500

Rathdrum - €500

Brittas Bay - €500

Greystones - €500

Purple House - €500

Rathdrum Cancer Support - €500

Roundwood Cancer Support - €500

Wicklow Cancer Support - €500

Arklow Cancer Support - €500

Bray Women's Refuge - €500

Childline - €500

Five Loaves - €500

Wicklow Together - €500

Wicklow Dementia Support - €500

Pieta House - €500

Gavin Glynn Foundation €500

#OUTDOORS
FOR EVERYONE



Respect Private
Landowners –
Please don't
Trespass



Outdoor recreation plays an important role in supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of society. People are encouraged to enjoy the outdoors while adhering to Government protocols and public health guidelines.

For more information on being active in the outdoors, visit: gov.ie

Launch of Wicklow Naturally



Earlier in the year and stemming from the Co. Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy, a collaboration made up of food and drink representatives, Wicklow County Council, Local Enterprise Office and County Wicklow Partnership created a food and drink brand called 'Wicklow Naturally' and launched the website in April. It is a brand created to celebrate the food and drink producers who work hard to deliver high quality products to consumers through the hospitality sector, retail, food and drink events as well as key tourism events. 'Wicklow Naturally' is the food and drink brand championing our county's food and drink producers and is a membership network which promotes sustainability among its members. The network includes include chefs, restaurants, hospitality and retail members representing the wonderful selection of produce available in our county, from the finest quality beef and lamb, to cheeses and other dairy products, jams and chutneys honey and a fabulous selection of beer, whiskey, gin and locally produced wine.



OctoberFeast

In October the Wicklow Naturally October Feast was launched and included approximately 35 events (physical and virtual) across the county. While many of the physical events were hit hard by the Covid 19 restrictions, the online events were tremendously successful. Some of the events that took place included cookery demonstrations and tastings, foraging tours, Meet the Maker events, demonstration videos. October Feast has been incredibly successful in raising the profile of Wicklow food and drink locally, nationally and internationally.



Shop Local

During the Summer months, Wicklow County Council and the businesses of Wicklow launched a Shop Local campaign to help promote local businesses around the County. Wicklow County Council assisted these businesses by:

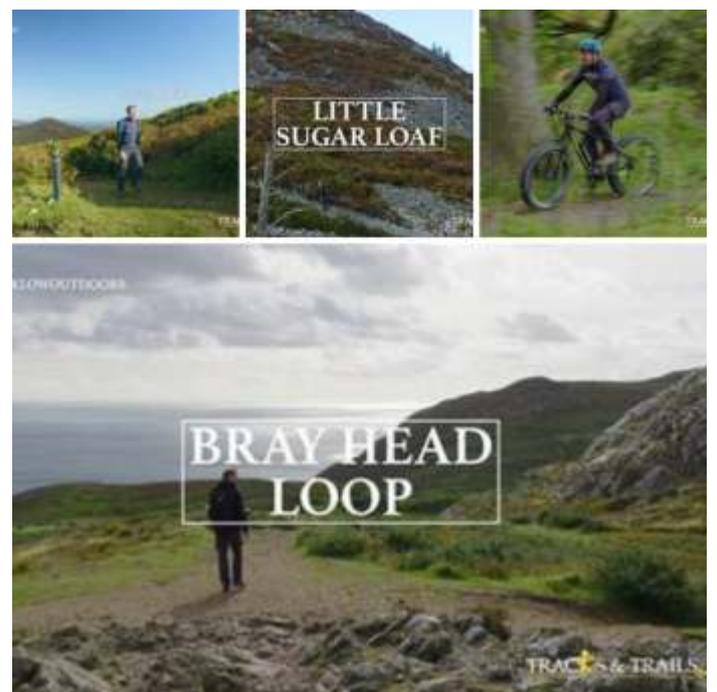
- providing promotional support on social media and Wicklow.ie,
- providing temporary ground markings to facilitate queuing outside premises in order to encourage social distancing and
- by helping local businesses expedite the required consent for use of public spaces for seating and tables, and social distancing measures,
- introducing a fast-track license application procedure with all fees waived for a period of three months.

This campaign continued into the Christmas period and the public were encouraged to 'Shop Local' throughout the County.



Tracks & Trails

A new Tracks & Trails video commissioned by Wicklow County Council and presented by travel writer Pól O Conghaile was launched in July. It featured Bray Head, the Belmont Way and the Sugarloaf Way. The video was launched at a special virtual event on July 7th on www.visitwicklow.ie.



Wicklow Passport: Stamp Your Journey Through Wicklow



Wicklow County Tourism and Wicklow County Council have recently introduced the Wicklow Passport initiative with the objective to invite locals and visitors to discover our County.

Collect the various Wicklow Stamps and discover the many sceneries, activities, attractions, foods and much more that Wicklow has to offer. The Wicklow Passport is a fantastic opportunity to bring visitors to the hidden gems around the County.

What is it?

Inspired by the 'Camino Passport' in Spain, the Wicklow Passport requires 18 stamps that can only be collected at the respective towns or villages represented on each stamp. For example, you can only get the Shillelagh stamp at stamping locations around Shillelagh. The Wicklow Passport can be stamped through a network of participating businesses within each area. Collect the following stamps: Arklow, Ashford, Aughrim, Avoca, Baltinglass, Blessington, Bray, Dunlavin, Enniskerry, Glendalough, Newtownmountkennedy, Greystones, Hollywood, Rathdrum, Roundwood, Shillelagh, Tinahely and Wicklow Town.

Where do I get a Wicklow Passport & where do I get it stamped?

The Wicklow Passport can be purchased for €2 online at <http://visitwicklow.ie/passport>. Free passports are available at participating stamping locations or through the Wicklow Libraries in Bray,

Greystones, Arklow and Blessington. The list of stamping locations is available at <http://visitwicklow.ie/passport> by clicking on each icon.



Become a Wicklow Ambassador and enjoy discounts and offers!

Collect 15 or more Wicklow Stamps, and claim your Wicklow Ambassador Certificate. Send a photo of your stamped passport, and upload it to the online form at: <https://forms.gle/a7Uanm1FGKbVpe4aA>.

Keep your passport and use it to enjoy offers, discounts and deals at participating Wicklow businesses (coming up!).



The High Quality of Wicklow's Rivers, Lakes, Estuaries, Coastal Waters & Groundwaters



Arklow River Walk

Recently the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updated the national water quality status for rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters & groundwater. The EPA updates this status every three years.

Unfortunately, the national water quality trend is downwards with an average decline in quality of 5%, leaving just 53% of waters in Ireland at an acceptable quality status. The EU Water Framework Directive (2000) stated that all waters must be at “Good” or “High” status by 2015.



Glendalough Upper Lake

The good news for Wicklow is that our water quality has improved by 9% during the same period, with the number of waters at Good or High Status increasing from 56% to 65%.

Any waters with a downward trend in quality will be assessed to identify the likely cause and the relevant stakeholders will be engaged to find a solution. To find out what water quality is in your area, log onto www.catchments.ie

Below is a list of some of the common factors that can impact on water quality:

1. Animal slurry, soiled water or silage effluent seeping from poorly managed farmyards.
2. Poorly performing or overloaded wastewater treatment plants serving our towns or villages
3. Poorly managed clear-felling of forestry plantations.
4. Wastewater seeping from poorly maintained or damaged household septic tanks.
5. Ploughing or spraying pesticides/slurry in fields too close to watercourses.
6. Untreated or poorly treated wastewater discharging from industrial and commercial sites.
7. Oil leaks from old or damaged home heating oil tanks.
8. Building sites discharging silty water after heavy rain.
9. Incorrect disposal of sheep dip.
10. Washing cars and buses over surface water drains connected to our rivers.
11. Household wastewater pipes miss-connected to surface water pipes flowing to our rivers – often associated with household extensions of mix-ups during construction.
12. Land drainage allowing water to enter rivers too quickly causing flooding, bank erosion and siltation.

County Wicklow Water Quality Status Trends

Priority Area for Action	River	Waterbody Name	Location	Old Water Quality Status	New Water Quality Status	Water Quality Trend
	Goldmine	Goldmine_10	Woodenbridge	Good	High	↑
	Avonmore	Avonmore_40	Downstream of Laragh	Good	High	↑
	Glencullen	Glencullen_10	Knocksink Wood	Good	High	↑
	Redcross	Redcross_20	Kilpatrick	Good	High	↑
Yes	Dereen (Pearl Mussel)	Derreen_10	Toorboy	Good	High	↑
	Knickeen	Knickeen_10	Ballyvaghan	Good	High	↑
Yes	Coolboy	Coolboy_20	Coolatitn	Moderate	High	↑
	Brittas	Brittas_10	Talbostown	Moderate	Good	↑
Yes	Liffey	Liffey_20	Ballysmuttan	Moderate	Good	↑
	Coolalug Stream	Coolalug_10	Killaveng	Moderate	Good	↑
Yes	Dw	Dw_10	Aghavannagh	Moderate	Good	↑
Yes	Avonmore	Avonmore_10	Downstream of Lough Tay	Moderate	Good	↑
	Glenmachass	Glenmachass_10	Mall Hill	Moderate	Good	↑
Yes	Three Mile Water	Threemilewater_20	Magherabeg	Moderate	Good	↑
Yes	Derry	Derry_50	Clonegal	Moderate	Good	↑
Yes	Coolboy	Coolboy_10	Greenfort	Moderate	Good	↑
	Little Slaney	Little Slaney_10	Rostyduff	Moderate	Good	↑
Yes	Slaney	Slaney_70	Rathvilly	Moderate	Good	↑
	Mine	Mine_20	Ballingate	Poor	Good	↑
Yes	Dargle	Dargle_30	Brag	Poor	Moderate	↑
Yes	Douglas (Kiltegan)	Douglas_20	Kiltegan	Poor	Moderate	↑
	Blacklion	Blacklion_20	Rathglass	Poor	Moderate	↑
Yes	Slaney	Slaney_50	Baltinglass	Poor	Moderate	↑
	Poulaphuca Reservoir	Pollaphuca Lake	Blessington	Moderate	Good	↑
	Glendalough Upper Lake	Glendalough Lake	Glendalough	Moderate	High	↑
	Newtown	Newtown_10	Cooladoyle Wood	High	Good	↓
	Vartry	Vartry_10	Ballinastoe	High	Good	↓
Yes	Kings	Kings_Liffey_20	Lockstown	Good	Moderate	↓
	Ballydonnell	Ballydonnell_10	Ballysmuttan	Good	Moderate	↓
	Avonmore	Avonmore_70	Meetings of the Waters	Good	Moderate	↓
	Newcastle	Newcastle_10	Sea Road	Good	Moderate	↓
	Greese	Greese_20	Spratstown	Good	Moderate	↓
	Rathnew Stream	Rathnew_10	Rathnew	Good	Poor	↓
	Browns Beck Brook	Browns Beck_010	Downstream Donard	Good	Poor	↓
	Avonbeg	Avonbeg_30	Greenan	Moderate	Poor	↓
	Avoca	Avoca_10	Avoca	Poor	Bad	↓
					↑	↓
					25	11

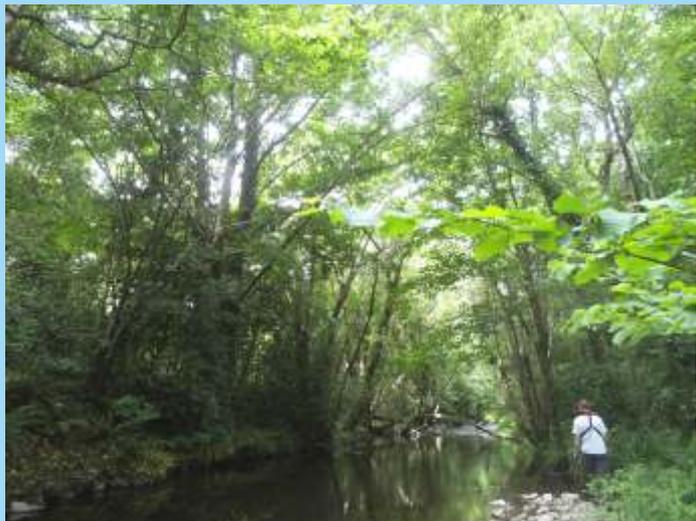
Notes

Rivers Highlighted in Blue are Blue-Dot waterbodies and must achieve High Status -i.e. Good Status is not good enough for these.

Priority Areas for Action are waterbodies that have been prioritised nationally for catchment assessments to identify what is causing issue.

Rivers Highlighted in Grey are designated for the protection of our dwindling Pearl Mussel Populations.

The High Quality of Wicklow's Rivers, Lakes, Estuaries, Coastal Waters & Groundwaters



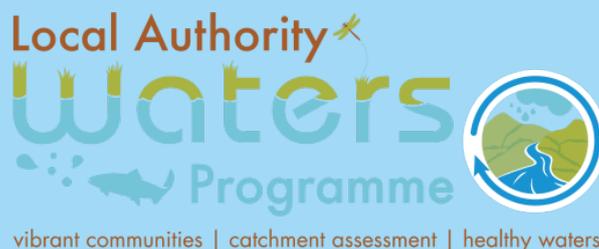
In its efforts to protect and improve water quality The Pollution Control section of Wicklow County Council has been busy carrying out river walks, inspecting septic tanks, farm yards, industrial/commercial discharges, sewage treatment plants, bathing waters, pollution incidents and complaints, and reviewing planning applications.

As part of a national water monitoring programme, the Pollution Control Team takes water samples at over 130 different sample locations throughout the county a number of times each year to check on water quality. Every three years the EPA checks the insect life in the water at the same locations. They combine the insect quality, water quality and measurements on river flow/structure and fish populations to give an overall water quality status.



The Pollution Control team also assist the Local Authority Waters Programme Office (LAWPRO) consisting of a team of catchment scientists who are assessing waterbodies that are below standard nationally. They are currently carrying out catchment assessments in 12 catchments in Wicklow to investigate the cause of poor water quality and they will engage with the relevant parties in an effort to resolve the issues.

Public engagement on water quality is a key part of improving waters and Wicklow's Waters Community Officer, Donal O'Keeffe is always on hand to help with communities interested in protecting and improving water quality. Funding is now available for community water projects so log on to www.watersandcommunities.ie for details of how to apply. Applications must be in by 9th February 2021. Contact Donal at dokeeffe@lawaters.ie or 085-8700126 if you would like information or help on projects to help protect or improve your local watercourse.



Festival in a Van to visit Wicklow Nursing Homes



“Festival in a Van” is new mobile live outdoor venue that brings the magic of live COVID safe performances to community settings around the country. Supported by the Creative Ireland Programme, the initiative offers local audiences and event organisers with a completely mobile and flexible solution to the current restrictions of live performance.

Three vans have been transformed into mini mobile pop-up venues, with drop down staging and full sound and lighting rigs. Led by a group of theatre professionals, the “Festival in a Van” team have re-configured the indoor performance experience to an outdoor setting with a mission to support artists and give small communities access to live cultural experiences.

The team of sound technicians, stage and production managers, all with full COVID safety training, will travel with the vans, thereby providing welcome employment to events support industry.

The Keep Well initiative is part of Government's resilience and recovery plan for Living with COVID-19. This campaign is aimed at showing people of all ages how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines. Most importantly it is also designed to foster connection and safe engagement with friends, family and neighbours as we try to live with Covid-19.

Wicklow County Council, supported by the Keep Well Initiative through Healthy Ireland, Sláintecare and the Creative Ireland Programme is delighted to present a series of “Festival in a Van” concerts at nursing homes in Wicklow.

Residents and staff alike will be able to embrace the season in a safe way with Christmas Carols and other works performed live in their nursing home grounds by Irish musicians.

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: “We hope that in a very difficult year for older people and nursing homes in particular, that this will bring some joy and good cheer to their homes. This is being brought to Wicklow through the ‘Switch off and be Creative’ strand of the Healthy Ireland Fund.”

The Van is visiting locations in Kilcoole, Wicklow Town, Dunlavin and Baltinglass. Musicians include Niall O'Sullivan (Trumpet) and Shóna O'Sullivan (Voice) and Dr Eamonn Sweeney.

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017–2022



Wicklow County
Arts Office





European Week of Sport

EWOS took place from Wednesday 23rd – 30th September. Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership ran numerous virtual and face to face events throughout the week from an Online Nutrition Talk with Daniel Davey, POUND Fitness on Bray Promenade, Virtual 5K walk/run with 280 people taking part and receiving a Wicklow SRP medal on completion, Dance with Zoe in the Abbey Grounds in Wicklow Town, Sunrise Yoga and a Dip in the Ocean on Bray Promenade and to finish off the European Week of Sport a Sunset Yoga and a Dip in the Ocean on Greystones South Beach. Overall four hundred people took part in this active week across the county with all events free of charge to participants.



Autistic Spectrum Disorder Camp

In partnership with Adventure.ie, Tusla and Triple A Alliance, Wicklow SRP ran a Teen ASD Rock Climbing & Abseiling camp in Dalkey Quarry with 11 teenagers taking part. This event proved very successful and enjoyable for all participants.





Bike Week 19th – 27th September 2020

This year's Bike Week was a huge success which saw twenty fun-filled events across Wicklow with over 1200 people taking part and catering for all age groups and abilities. Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership organised a number of community events from a family cycle, bike maintenance workshops, Blessington Greenway Leisure cycles, teenage and women only mountain biking taster sessions in which was collaborated with Michelle Muldoon, the 2018 Endurro World Series Masters Champion along with engaging with a wide range of schools, organisations and clubs.





Katie Taylor Bursary

Zach Cullen is this year's recipient of the Katie Taylor Bursary Award. Zach lives in Rathrum and is studying Materials and Architectural Technology with concurrent Teacher Education. He is a current member of the Wicklow Senior and U20 Football squad along with playing GAA with University of Limerick college team and his club Avondale GAA and is a very worthy recipient.

The award was presented by the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Pat Kennedy, who commented: "I would like to congratulate Zach on this great achievement and the very best of luck in his college course."



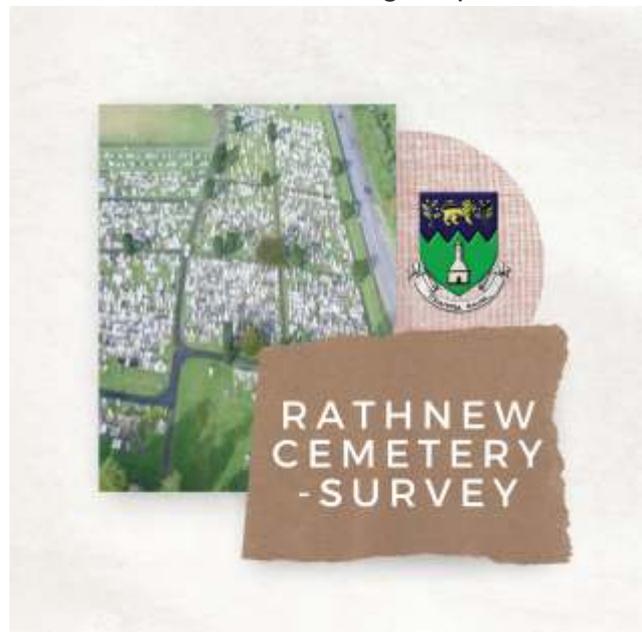
Dance Camp – Direct Provision Centres (Wicklow Town & Ashford)

Summer Dance Camps for children in Rathmore Direct Provision Centre Ashford and The Grand Hotel Direct Provision Centre, Wicklow Town was provided by Wicklow SRP with thirty children taking part in two one week dance camps.



Rathnew Cemetery

Graveyards are an important feature of the historic landscape and frequently provide clues to understanding our past.



Irish Graveyards on behalf of Wicklow County Council recently completed a survey of interments at Rathnew Cemetery. A map of the graveyard showing each plot along with a plot number and a list of all recorded interments in the plot will shortly be erected in the cemetery.

The survey can be viewed at www.irishgraveyards.ie. In order to search the records log on to the Irish Graveyard website www.irishgraveyards.ie and click on the search button. Select Co. Wicklow on the county tab and Rathnew on the graveyard tab.

Click on the last name tab and enter the surname of the person you wish to find and do the same on the first name tab. At this stage you can then click on the submit button to find all interments for the details selected.



Outdoor recreation plays an important role in supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of society. People are encouraged to enjoy the outdoors while adhering to Government protocols and public health guidelines.

For more information on being active in the outdoors, visit: gov.ie

COVID changes consumption and recycling patterns

Wicklow's five recycling centres remained open at all stages during Covid restrictions and experienced the changes in consumption and waste generation. The pandemic and restrictions changed people's behaviour. Staff in our recycling centres remained on duty to handle the extra recycling that resulted. A study undertaken by the Clean Technology for the EPA showed major changes in consumption during the first three month lockdown.



The above is some of the waste statistics which point to increased consumption at home. Glass recycling rose by 46% and online retail broke all previous records taking 15.5% of market share which generated extra volumes of cardboard recycling. Food retail was up 17%. Recycling centres and bottle banks experienced a surge in usage.

Recycling centres operated as an essential service during the first lockdown in March 2020 and remained open for the duration of COVID restrictions with safety measures in place. Footfall during this time was extremely busy due to an increase in home maintenance and general clear outs of peoples sheds and attics, as well as, significant amounts of packaging generated from increased online shopping.

Staff carried a significant additional workload handling the extra volumes while implementing social distancing for visitors and maintaining a safe experience for all visitors. They controlled numbers on site, disinfected surfaces all while dealing with the extra volume of recycling. Total volumes of recycling are up year on year with a 36% increase in glass and a 16% increase in cardboard for the year.

Our frontline staff in the recycling centres and elsewhere across the organisation kept services going for the people of Wicklow. Illegal dumping is another area where a spike was noted by the report and our enforcement team worked through the lockdown taking extra precautions when

handling dumped waste but ensuring we took enforcement action against those dumping. The full report A First Look at the Environmental Impacts of the Pandemic in Ireland is available on <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/sss/> It does provide a few positives including a fall in carbon emissions, an increase in outdoor activity with 93% walking and the National Biodiversity Centre reporting a 70% increase in biodiversity records submitted.

A big Thank You to all our frontline staff who worked through the lockdown.



Karl, Daryl, Kris and Paul from Bray Recycling Centre



Mylie and Andrew at Avoca Recycling Centre

Do you know where your waste goes?



Householders are responsible for the proper disposal of their waste. The only legal way to dispose of waste is by using the services of an Authorised Waste Collector who holds a valid waste collection permit or at an Authorised Recycling Facility.

You can find a list of Authorised Waste Collectors for Wicklow on www.nwcpc.ie

The Waste Management section in Wicklow works tirelessly to investigate waste related complaints. In 2019 2,317 cases of littering and illegal dumping were investigated. Evidence was found relating to people who had handed over their waste to people who they thought were going to bring it to an authorised facility. They were wrong! Many ended up with a court conviction and a fine. Don't let this be your waste – check out the guidelines below for proper waste management tips!

1. Wicklow County Council operates five RECYCLING CENTRES at The Murrough (Wicklow), Bray, Arklow, Avoca and Rampere Baltinglass. A wide range of materials can be recycled free of charge. Almost 6,300 tonnes of materials were recycled at the centres last year. We take all electrical goods, polystyrene packaging and all scrap metal items.
2. Bring glass bottles, jars and drinks cans to your nearest bottle bank facility. Please keep these sites clean having respect for the local community and businesses that provide space.
3. Only use waste collectors who can show you a permit for waste collection. Bogus collectors will dump your waste illegally. A cheap or handy option can lead to a heavy fine for you.
4. Home Composting or the Brown Bin is the solution for food waste.
5. Inform yourself about waste. For more information check out <https://www.mywaste.ie/>.

Contact Details

Environmental Awareness Office

Wicklow County Council

Email: eao@wicklowcoco.ie

Tel: 1890 222278 / 0404 64120

“Dump the Dumpers”

Report illegal dumping via the 24 hour lo-call telephone number 1850 365 121. Wicklow County Council, the Gardaí and the EPA will follow up on the information provided by the public, as appropriate.

Waste Enforcement

Wicklow County Council

Email: wastemanagement@wicklowcoco.ie

Tel: 0404 20127



Wicklow County Council Recycling Centres

The Murrough Opening Times

Wicklow Town

Monday-Thursday 9.00am–4.30pm
Friday 9.00am–3.30pm
Closed for lunch Mon-Fri from 1-1.45pm
Saturday 9.00am - 1.45pm



Arklow Opening Times

Croghan Industrial Estate (beside the NCT Centre)

Monday-Thursday 9.00am–4.30pm
Friday 9.00am–3.30pm
Saturday 9.00am-1.45pm

Bray Opening Times

Beechwood Close, Boghall Road, Bray

Monday-Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm
Saturday 10.00am - 2.00pm

Avoca Opening Times

Ballymurtagh, Avoca (between the Meetings of the Waters and Avoca)

Tuesday-Friday 9am–1pm and 2pm-3pm CLOSER MONDAYS
Saturday 9am – 2pm

Rampere Opening Times

Baltinglass

Monday– Friday 8:30am- 4.00pm
Saturday 8:30am –1:00pm

**We do not accept unsegregated waste
Material must be clean, separated and placed in the correct containers**

Materials accepted at All the Centres:

GLASS Place green, clear and brown in correct containers	PLASTIC BOTTLES & CONTAINERS
NEWSPAPERS MAGAZINES Keep these dry. No plastic.	STEEL FOOD CANS & empty Aerosol cans Also, biscuit tins, jam jar lids, metal coat hangers & other small metal items.
ALUMINIUM/DRINKS CANS	MOBILE PHONES & CHARGERS
GREETING CARDS, DIARIES, CALENDARS, WRAPPING PAPER	LIGHT BULBS CFL, Energy Saving, Fluorescent, ordinary bulbs. Place ordinary bulbs in separate container
TEXTILES	BATTERIES Household, dry cell and car/tractor
CARDBOARD/PAPER BAGS Flatten and keep dry. Remove any metal or plastic windows/tag	BEVERAGE CARTONS 'TETRA-PAKS' RINSED! Only Beverage & Food Cartons NO CONDITIONER CARTONS
Polystyrene	WASTE OIL
Large and Small Scrap Metal Items	
ELECTRICAL GOODS There is no charge for these goods. Televisions, Computers, Small goods such as toasters/kettles, Fridges, Cookers, Washing Machines, etc	

Paint and paint cans are accepted in Bray Recycling Centre

For Recycling Queries contact 1890 22 22 76



Supporting older people in their homes - Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisor appointed

In July 2020 Ireland's new Programme for Government pledged a mission and vision of an Age Friendly Ireland. The approach taken in the agreed programme for government is to support older people to live in their own homes and communities with dignity and independence, for as long as possible. The programme's ambition is to enable everyone, of all ages, to live longer healthier lives in their own homes and communities. This vision is central to the overarching principles of the World Health Organisations Age Friendly Framework and core to the joint departmental Housing options for our Ageing Population Policy. The aim of the housing policy is to ensure that older people will have greater choice by developing a range of housing options that are suited to their needs, so they can plan ahead and, insofar as possible, choose the right home for them.

Age Friendly Ireland has supported the development and implementation of the policy document and in response to Action 4.13: 'Local Authorities will identify and assign an individual on their housing teams to work with older people in terms of sourcing appropriate accommodation', all Local Authorities have assigned a staff member to undertake this role so that this resource is available in all of the 31 local authorities across the country.

A member of staff of Wicklow County Council, at the appropriate technical level of expertise, has participated in training provided by Age Friendly Ireland to enable them to become the local authority specific age friendly Housing Technical Advisor. This will ensure that they can provide specialist advice to the authority itself, to private sector interests who want to get involved in providing age-friendly housing and to individuals from the public generally.

Wicklow County Council Age Friendly Advisor can be contacted via Customer Service Hub. Phone: 0404 20100 or email: customerservice@wicklowcoco.ie

Illegal Waste Collection

Beware of unauthorised waste collectors operating in the County Wicklow area.

Only give your waste to Collectors who have a valid Waste Collection Permit. Always ask to see the Waste Collection Permit. Always note the Waste Collection Number on the Waste Collection Permit.

The Waste Collection Permit will display the Waste Collector's Name, Address and Waste Collection Permit Number. The vehicle should clearly show the Name of the Waste Collection Permit Holder and the Waste Collection Permit number.



It is a criminal offence to give waste to a unauthorised collector. Penalties upon conviction can be up to €5,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment

Report any information you have on illegal dumping to Litterline, 1890548837 or 0404-20127

Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service

Wicklow County Archives Digitised Collections are a-growing!

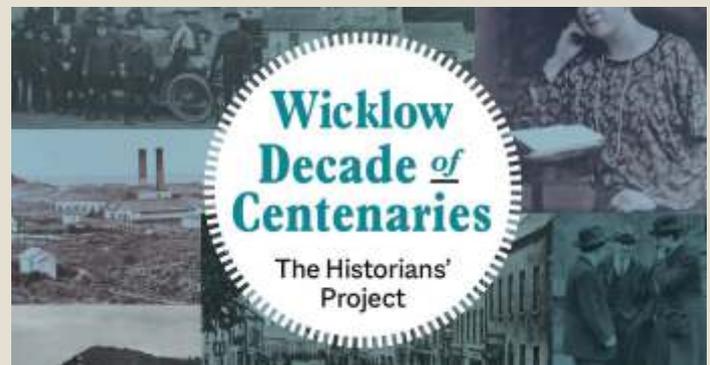
The records of Wicklow Town Commissioners and Urban District Council dating from 1847 are the latest collection to be added to our online digital archives at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections>.

These 19th century local government records, along with our digitised Grand Jury and Workhouse records, give us a flavour of life in our county towns and districts at that time. Have a search for your district or family name – you never know what you might find!



them in a wider context. Often presenting the “grey area” of the many contradictions and inconsistencies of this period - telling human stories of courage and tragedy where national allegiances were often at odds with local ties. The project is hosted on our community archives platform <https://wicklowheritage.org/>.

Podcasts of these Wicklow historians discussing this era in Wicklow will also feature in two upcoming History Ireland Hedgeschools, as well as a county publication of a selection of these wonderful articles. (Supported by Wicklow County Council and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for Ireland's Decade of Centenaries Programme).



Wicklow Decade of Centenaries: The Historians' Project

The Wicklow County Archives Service is honouring the work of County Wicklow's historians who serve their communities in documenting our county's history and heritage. This Wicklow Decade of Centenaries project features 30 articles from 12 Wicklow historians working across the county. They describe the tumultuous period of the War of Independence and Civil War in Wicklow, capturing local information and human stories for generations to come. Compiling an archive of local historical knowledge about this pivotal era promotes a deeper understanding of the local experience of these events and developments while placing

Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service

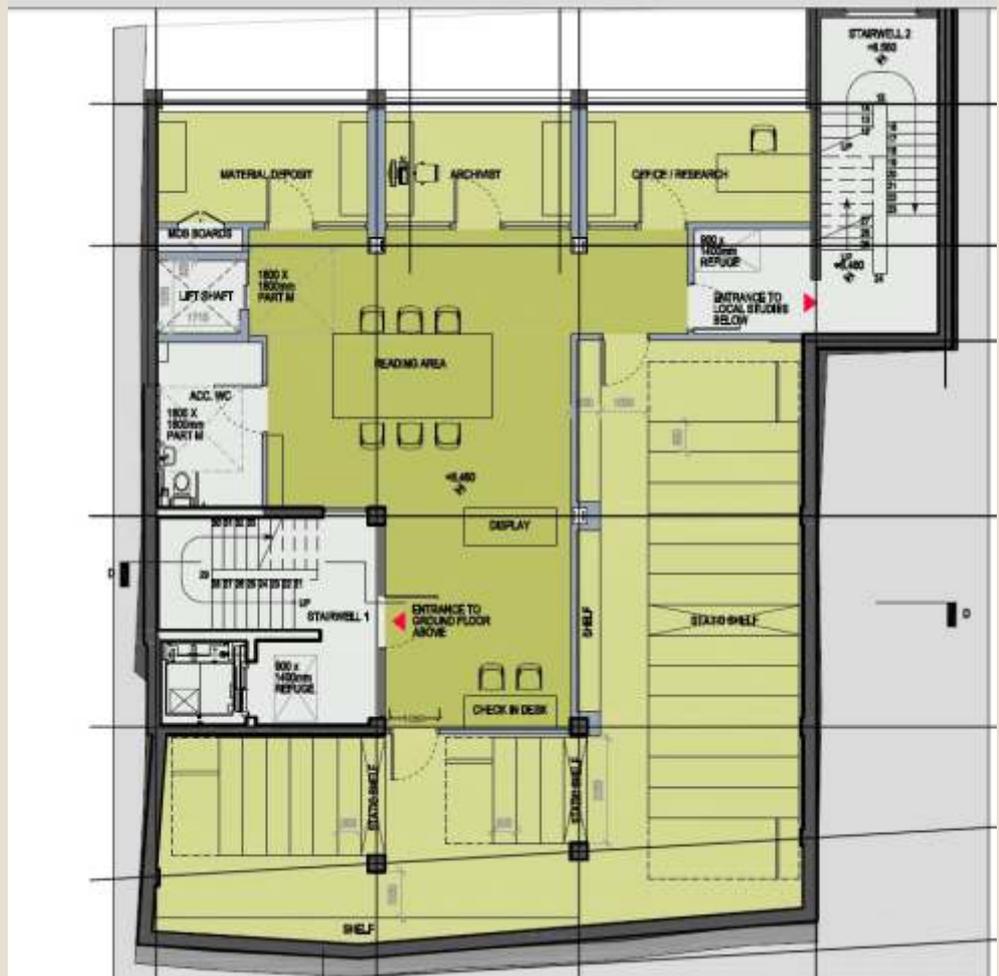
Bicentenary of Henry Grattan's Death - History Ireland Podcast

Did you know that the famous parliamentarian Henry Grattan lived in County Wicklow? His beloved home of Tinnehinch in Enniskerry is where he spent his twilight years. To mark the bicentenary of his passing, History Ireland partnered with the County Archives Service and Bray Cualann Historical Society to mark his Wicklow connection with a specially recorded Hedgeschool panel discussion on Grattan's life and work. Historians David Dickson, Patrick Geoghegan, Sylvie Kleinman and Tim Murtagh reassess his often misunderstood legacy in this fascinating discussion now available on our community archives network Our Wicklow Heritage at <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/people/henry-grattan-podcast> or wherever you get your podcasts!



New home for the Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service

Wicklow County Archives Service will be relocating to the new Wicklow Library & Archives building in Wicklow Town in early 2021. The Archives & Genealogy Service, along with Wicklow Local Studies will form a centre of excellence for local, historical and genealogical research in County Wicklow. The Archives will have a large reading room for researchers to study the extensive Wicklow County Archives collection, including research PCs and a microfilm reader. The Archivist will be on hand to assist with Wicklow records, local history and genealogy enquiries as well as co-ordinating special projects for schools, history and community groups.



Climate Action Team Established in Wicklow County Council



Wicklow County Council has established a new Climate Action Team to lead on the delivery of Climate and Biodiversity across local government services. The Team sits in the Directorate of P l a n n i n g ,

Development and Environment and consists of four staff, which includes the Climate Action Officer, the Heritage and Biodiversity Officer, the Environmental Awareness Officer and Administrative Support. The new team is working to implement actions from the Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Climate Charter, both of which were adopted in 2019. Work will be undertaken on a new Climate Action Plan in 2021 which will address both mitigation and adaptation, taking account of new measures introduced in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Amendment Bill (2020).

The key priority for 2020 was embedding Climate Action as a key concern across all services of the organisation. The new Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee has met five times in 2020 and Climate Action is now a standing order on the agenda of every management team meeting. The Climate Action Team has met with staff from services across the organisation to discuss the integrated Climate Action into all services delivered by the organisation. Climate action is being incorporated into all policy documents with the Corporate Plan and the County Development Plan being key documents.

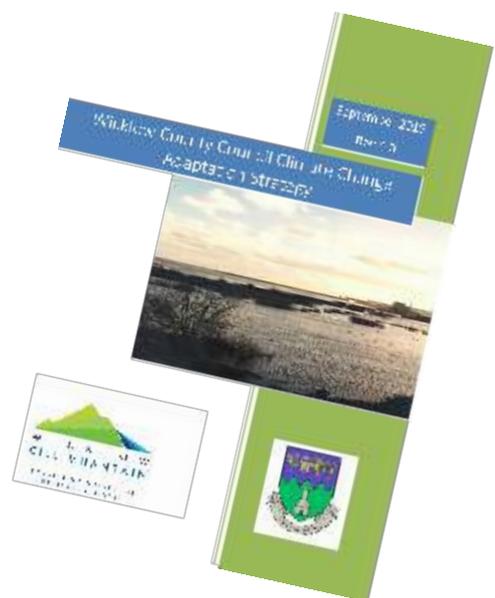


The Climate Action Team has already progressed many actions with notable achievements which include:

- Work on the development of a Tree Policy for Wicklow County Council
- Administration of Tree Grants to community groups
- Development of a new mapping tool for Sustainable Development Goals
- Sustainable Energy Communities – With the support of Wicklow County Council, 6 Sustainable Energy Communities have commenced work on their Energy Master Plans.
- Funding has been secured to carry out Local Biodiversity Plans for Towns and Villages.



Climate Action is now central to the activities of Wicklow County Council. Wicklow County Council will provide robust leadership on Climate in its delivery of services and will seek citizen engagement so that we can build a more resilient future for all in Wicklow.



Wicklow now has eight Sustainable Energy Communities

Eight Wicklow Communities are now pointing us in the direction of a wiser energy future. The eight communities have all signed up under SEAI's Sustainable Energy Community programme, SEC for short. Communities in the programme are provided with a mentor from SEAI to learn about energy use in their community, before embarking on a deeper analysis of energy usage, which leads to an Energy Master Plan. The Energy Master Plan, including sample audits, profiling and identification of opportunities is done by consultants paid for with a 100% grant by SEAI. The programme looks at the full range of energy usage in the community, including householders, businesses, workplaces and community facilities. Once the analysis is complete the communities can then proceed to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects which receive grant funding from the SEAI.

Wicklow County Council has taken on an active role in supporting SECs, one of three local authorities in the country to do so, along with Meath and Kildare. While funding of 100% is provided by SEAI, many communities found the bridging of funding a daunting challenge. Recruitment of consultants was another hurdle. Wicklow County Council has now stepped in to assist by becoming lead party in a grant application for an energy master plan, taking on the role of recruitment of consultants and paying for the plan before claiming the money back from SEAI. Six communities have already commenced Energy Master Plans and two more have signed up to the programme. Glenmalure Rural Energy Group became the first to complete its energy master plan in November. Laragh, Newtownmountkennedy, Greystones/Delgany, Blessington and Wicklow are all in progress. Enniskerry and Kilcoole expect to commence their energy master plans soon.



The SEC programme is generating momentum in the shift to cleaner, more affordable energy for all in County Wicklow and delivering on Goal 7 of the SDG which deals with clean and affordable energy.



Mapping delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals

Wicklow County Council has developed a new mapping tool, the first of its kind in Ireland, which will allow us to share how we engage on delivering sustainable development. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals, each of which has its own set of targets and indicators. They deliver on the three pillars of sustainable development, environmental, social and economic. They will allow us to measure progress between now and 2030. They focus on the key issues we need to address to create a better future for all. Delivery on the goals is intrinsically linked to Climate Action.

Wicklow County Council created the map which is available on <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Climate-Action-and-Biodiversity/Sustainable-Development-Goals> to facilitate a sharing of information on what actions are projects are delivering on sustainability and to

encourage us to take a closer look at each individual goal. The map will be used to display some of the work the council is doing as well as the diversity of actions and projects undertaken by groups throughout the county. Anyone can submit an action, small or large. There is a simple online form to be filled which takes only a few minutes. You can add a photo and tag your activity to a location. Wicklow County Council would like to encourage any group active in Wicklow to take a look and think of what activities they have to add to the map.

The Wicklow Public Participation Network was a partner in developing this project and organized a seminar in October on the Sustainable Development Goals. The map was developed in-house by Wicklow County Council's GIS Officer.



Wicklow County Council wins Excellence in Local Government Award for Relove Fashion Competition



Wicklow County Council won the Sustainable Environment category in the annual Chambers of Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. Wicklow created a new competition called Relove Fashion, focused on the repurposing of textiles to create new outfits, which introduced students to waste prevention and the circular economy.

Wicklow worked with local authorities from Dublin City, Meath, Westmeath and the Rediscovery Centre to deliver the competition for secondary schools. The competition involved students taking an old outfit or item of fabric and using their skills in repair, needlework and design to create a new piece. The competition was designed to complement the Home Economics curriculum, incorporating resource efficiency. Students responded with enthusiasm creating unique outfits which demonstrated their skill in working with fabrics to create a modern look from older clothes.

The project showcases the role fashion can play in delivering a circular economy under Ireland's National Waste Prevention Programme and the lead local authorities aim to stimulate interest in waste prevention. The competition will expand involving more local authorities and schools for 2020.



Glenart College students eliminating single use plastic bottles

The students of Glenart College, Arklow have a new bottle filling water station which allows them to avoid purchasing a single use plastic bottle. Students have their own personal water bottles which they can refill at the dispenser. In a world of Covid the dispenser is hand free, sensing the presence of a bottle and filling it with chilled water. The machine keeps track of the number of refills, counting the hundreds each day and thousands each month.

Wicklow County Council provided the machine to Glenart College. A further fourteen secondary schools across the county have received machines funded by Wicklow County Council, with support from the EPA, under the Local Authority Prevention Network. Student and staff in the

school have worked hard to ensure that bringing your reusable bottle to school has become the norm.

This project delivers on SDG12 Responsible Consumption and Production. Eliminating single use plastic is key area for taking action for a circular economy.



Pictured are first years - (I to r) Killian Burke, Shannon Webster, Lily Doyle-Weston, Carla Mullen, Amy O'Halleran and Shane Ward

Anti-dumping campaign tackles dumping at Charity Shops



Wicklow's networks of charity shops provide a great service for the people of Wicklow, as well as raising valuable funds for their causes. Dumping outside closed shops has always been a problem but the problem increased during Covid 19 restrictions. Often it is material which is unsuitable for reuse or sale that is dumped, leaving the charities to foot the bill for

disposal.

Wicklow County Council sought funding from the Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications for a project to monitor and take action on dumping on the streets outside charity shops. Shops were encouraged to ensure they had signage in situ, warning people that fines would be issued if they dumped. The project used CCTV to catch offenders dumping materials on the public street outside the charity shops, and resulted in a number of fines being issued. Wicklow County Council will continue to work with charity shops to prevent this dumping and will continue to take action against offenders.

Charity shops are an important resource in our town centres offering reuse opportunities for many items. It is important that we all respect these services and assist them to run their shops in a manner that both respects the volunteers working there but also focuses our interaction on helping to raise funds for good causes.

Charity shops deliver on SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production by promoting reuse in a circular economy.



Bikes for Africa



The Rotary clubs of Bray and Wicklow, in conjunction with Wicklow County Council, collected bikes to be donated to Africa last August. The collections were part of the 'Bikes for Africa' campaign which aims to provide students with transport to school. The bikes, once collected, were sent to Shelton Abbey Prison where they were refurbished and repaired.

Collections took place in the Bray, Wicklow and Arklow recycling centres and also at the Greystones Municipal District office. Over 400 bikes were collected. Volunteers from the Rotary Club ran the collections. Staff from the recycling centres arranging their storage and movement on to Shelton Abbey.

The cost of refurbishing bikes and shipping them to their final destination in The Gambia, West Africa was met through funding from the Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications under the Anti-Dumping initiative. A mattress amnesty was also funded under the Anti-dumping initiative.

WE WANT YOUR OLD BIKE!

The Rotary Clubs of Bray and Wicklow in conjunction with Wicklow County Council's recycling centres are seeking used bikes to refurbish and send to schools in West Africa.

A initiative that aims to provide transport for students in West Africa is being supported by the Wicklow Rotary Clubs and Wicklow County Council. The initiative is called 'Bikes for Africa' and aims to collect used bikes from the public to be refurbished and sent to schools in West Africa. The bikes are collected from the public and are then sent to Shelton Abbey Prison where they are refurbished and repaired. The bikes are then sent to West Africa to be used by students in schools. The initiative is supported by the Wicklow Rotary Clubs and Wicklow County Council. The bikes are collected from the public and are then sent to Shelton Abbey Prison where they are refurbished and repaired. The bikes are then sent to West Africa to be used by students in schools. The initiative is supported by the Wicklow Rotary Clubs and Wicklow County Council.

Wicklow Rotary Clubs
Presented last Saturday at the Shelton Abbey Prison where the bikes were collected. Presenters: Gerry Keenan, Andy Kelly, Michael Wicklow Rotary Club and The Wicklow Rotary Clubs. (Clockwise from top left)

Bray Rotary Clubs
Presented at the Shelton Abbey Prison where the bikes were collected. Presenters: Gerry Keenan, Andy Kelly, Michael Wicklow Rotary Club and The Wicklow Rotary Clubs. (Clockwise from top left)

Greystones Rotary Clubs
Presented at the Shelton Abbey Prison where the bikes were collected. Presenters: Gerry Keenan, Andy Kelly, Michael Wicklow Rotary Club and The Wicklow Rotary Clubs. (Clockwise from top left)

This project delivers under SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production and also SDG 4 Quality Education.



Stop Food Waste Challenge with Catherine Fulvio



Earlier this year Catherine Fulvio from Ballyknockan House Cookery School filmed a series of videos making some beautiful recipes that can help to use up leftovers and avoid food waste. This was a joint campaign by four local authorities led by Laois and including Meath and Westmeath, as well as Wicklow.

The four week video tutorial series complemented the main themes of the Stop Food Waste Challenge. These are Pre-shopping planning, Savvy Shopping, Smart Storage and cooking with Reuse. The videos appeared on Facebook pages of the four local authorities involved as well as the Stop Food Waste Facebook Page. Each week there was also Facebook live Q&A with Catherine via the Stop Food Waste Facebook page.

Overall the campaign was a huge success reaching 327,000 people, with over 55,000 watching at least one video. Catherine also gave an interview on East Coast FM and a cookery segment on Ireland AM as part of the campaign.

The recipes were too good to waste so we have put the videos up on the web for all to use. Visit <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Keep-Well/Eating-Well> to view the videos.

This project delivers under SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production.



Plans for the year ahead

We want to play our part in how the County continues to respond to the impacts of Covid-19 and make sure that we all move forward in healthy and helpful ways. We are interested in supporting the Migrant Integration Strategy and ensuring that the youth voice is present in that work. We are interested in the County Development Plan and how our views can contribute to that. We are going to do a training about the 'No Hate Speech' movement and hope to develop some actions from that. We have a survey on 'youth attitudes towards drugs' that we will roll out when things get back to some level of normality. We will continue to attend the Climate and Biodiversity SPC and bring the youth voice to that important space. We are also looking forward to the day we can have a meeting in the newly refurbished County Council Chamber!

"I recently joined the amazing Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg a few weeks ago.

Since then I have attended the National Comhairle na nÓg showcase, which I found amazing. I hope to be able to bring the voice of the youth in Wicklow to the forefront, just like in my school with me being the joint chair of the student council, and my work with [SpunOut.ie](https://www.spunout.ie). Comhairle is an amazing community and organisation to be involved with and I can't wait to see what the future holds for me."

Dean Pegman Browne

That's a wrap!
- By Ethan Kelly

"2020 is almost over and what a year it's been. So, what way to prepare for the future than to look back and what a wild year it's been not just for the Comhairlí but for each Comhairle member.

While most Comhairlí have taken to online calls on 'Zoom' and emailing each other, for some it just hasn't felt the same since before the pandemic when groups met face to face. And while the future does look scary and completely unprecedented, there are talks of major vaccines being currently rolled out meaning there is hope for a much better and brighter future for all of us.

I think it's safe to say that this year has taken its toll on all of us. Maybe you've taken up a new hobby or grown out your hair or finally caught up on sleep which seems to be the most popular option. But whatever you've done, it's important you have someone that you can talk to or a good creative outlet to relieve stress because while being locked behind doors can be bad, being locked inside your own mind can be much much worse.

On a more personal note I'd like to add that while we've all been remotely working for the time being, it's given me a lot of time to reflect. This year has made me realise what I'm grateful for. I'm incredibly grateful for my health, my family and the fact I have a home which not everyone can say and for that I'm thankful I've had all this spare time.

Corona won't be a hot-button issue forever and until the time comes when things truly feel normal again, I'd like to say that I hope this year has changed all of us for the better."



The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is delivering on the Government's commitment to ensure every citizen, wherever they are, has access to the internet via high-speed broadband.

National Broadband Ireland (NBI) is delivering on this commitment and made significant progress in 2020.

Key Objectives – Fibre to the Home

All counties will see premises passed in the next two years and over 90% of premises in the State will have access to high-speed broadband within the next four years. Surveying is the essential first step and network planning for Kilcoole & Blessington areas is already underway.

Broadband Connection Points (BCP) : Short-term Solutions for Rural Connectivity

BCPs are being prioritised for early roll-out and will provide connectivity and support remote working and connected communities. Communities will have access to free high-speed broadband in advance of the main deployment. BCP locations have been identified and mapped and will all be connected to high-speed broadband before March 2021.

As part of the BCP programme the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is leading on a Remote Working Strategy for which the NBP is a key enabler.

Further Queries

Further details are available through the NBI website www.nbi.ie This owner of any premises can register their interest in receiving deployment updates.

General Queries

Search the High-Speed Broadband Map, available at www.broadband.gov.ie. The map is colour coded and searchable by address and Eircode. This shows premises included in the National Broadband Plan and those targeted by commercial operators. The Intervention Area is colour coded Amber while blue areas represent those where commercial operators are, or have committed to, providing a service.

Follow the instructions on the broadband plan information resource or contact the Broadband Development Officer @ BDO@Wicklowcoco.ie



Contact Wicklow County Council...

	Telephone	Fax	Email
General enquiries	0404 20100	0404 67792	customerservice@wicklowcoco.ie
Arklow Municipal District	0402 42700		ArklowMD@wicklowcoco.ie
Baltinglass Municipal District			
- Blessington	045 891222	045 865813	BaltinglassMD@wicklowcoco.ie
- Tinahely	0402 38174		
Bray Municipal District	01 2744900	01 2860930	BrayMD@wicklowcoco.ie
Greystones Municipal District	01 2876694	01 2877173	GreystonesMD@wicklowcoco.ie
Wicklow Municipal District	0404 20100		WicklowMD@wicklowcoco.ie
Arklow Recycling Centre	0402 32759		eao@wicklowcoco.ie
Avoca Recycling Centre	087 2288132		eao@wicklowcoco.ie
Bray Recycling Centre	01 2116666		eao@wicklowcoco.ie
Rampere Landfill and Recycling Services Baltinglass	059 6481677		eao@wicklowcoco.ie
Wicklow Recycling Centre	0404 64120 (LoCall 1890 222 276)		eao@wicklowcoco.ie
Arts Office	0404 20155		wao@wicklowcoco.ie
Civil Defence	0404 67402	0404 67294	cdo@wicklowcoco.ie
Community, Cultural & Social	0404 20208	0404 20113	dce@wicklowcoco.ie
Enterprise & Corporate Services	0404 20158	0404 20112	corporate@wicklowcoco.ie
Environmental Services	0404 20236	0404 67792	env@wicklowcoco.ie
Litter Line	(Lo Call 1890 548 837)		
Environmental Awareness Officer	0404 20100		eao@wicklowcoco.ie
Fire Services - HQ Fire Prevention & Administration	01 2862929	01 2861535	firehead@wicklowcoco.ie
Freedom of Information	0404 20158	0404 20112	foi@wicklowcoco.ie
Heritage Officer	0404 20191	0404 67792	dburns@wicklowcoco.ie
Housing & Corporate Estate	0404 20120	0404 67792	housing2@wicklowcoco.ie
Law Agents	0404 20122	0404 20144	lawagents@wicklowcoco.ie
Local Enterprise Office	0404 30800		enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie
Local Sports Partnership	0404 20100		ahubbard@wicklowcoco.ie
Motor Tax - Wicklow	0404 20118 (Lo Call 1890 333 339)	0404 20293	motortax@wicklowcoco.ie
Motor Tax - Bray	01 2744937	01 2744955	motortax@wicklowcoco.ie
Motor Tax - Blessington	045 858031	045 891248	motortax@wicklowcoco.ie
Planning	0404 20148	0404 69462	plandev@wicklowcoco.ie
Register of Electors	0404 20161	0404 20112	franchise@wicklowcoco.ie
Revenue	0404 20128	0404 20140	finoff@wicklowcoco.ie
Roads & Transportation	0404 20181	0404 20101	roadtran@wicklowcoco.ie
Wicklow Family History	0404 20126	0404 67792	wfh@eircom.net
Wicklow Film Commission	0404 30800		wfc@wicklowcoco.ie



www.wicklow.ie



@wicklowcoco



Workplace Partnership



This newsletter was produced in-house by Wicklow County Council staff.

Libraries

County Library Headquarters
Tel: 01 2866566
Fax: 01 2865811
library@wicklowcoco.ie

- Arklow 0402 39977
- Aughrim 0402 36036
- Ballywaltrim 01 2723205
- Bray Eglington Rd. 01 2862600
- Baltinglass 059 6482300
- Blessington 045 891740
- Carnew 053 9426088
- Dunlavin 045 401100
- Enniskerry 01 2864339
- Greystones 01 2873548
- Rathdrum 0404 43232
- Tinahely 0402 38080
- Wicklow 0404 67025

Out of Hours Calls Service

Wicklow County Council has put in place an out of hours call service to deal with calls which are considered to be of an emergency nature and require immediate assistance outside of the normal office hours i.e. 9.00am to 5.00pm.

The service is provided between the hours of 5.00pm and 9.00am, Monday to Friday and all day Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

Calls relating to:

- Public Water or Sewerage matters; callers will be advised to call Irish Water directly on **1850 278278**.
- For all other Council Services please phone the Wicklow County Council out of hours emergency service at **01 2916117**.
- For emergency services such as Fire Service, Ambulance or Gardai etc callers are advised to ring **112 or 999** directly.