

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTYWISE

Information and news from Wicklow
County Council
Fhómhair / Autumn 2019





Message from the Wicklow County Council Chief Executive

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Countywise magazine. Autumn is a busy time in the Local Authority calendar with budget preparations for the coming year. The Council welcomes the sum of €1.724m in much-needed revenue which will arise from the vote to increase the rate of Local Property Tax by 10%.

Congratulations to all the towns and villages across the County on a hugely successful Tidy Towns campaign in 2019. Wicklow Town and Arklow have been awarded Gold Medals in their categories and this is testament to the hard work and dedication of the volunteers who keep our County clean and tidy, hail, rain or shine.

Our commitments under the Social Housing Supply Programme are progressing well. 1 scheme completed so far, 10 schemes currently on site, 2 further schemes to commence on site in 2019 and 9 further schemes to commence on site in 2020. Full details can be found in the Monthly Chief Executive Report on Wicklow.ie

Wicklow County Council is committed to addressing climate change and has adopted a Climate Adaption Strategy. The strategy will allow us to mainstream adaptation over time, into the plans and policies of Wicklow County Council to ensure corporate activities are climate proofed.

Works have commenced on the new Wicklow Town Library and Archives Centre and contracts have been signed for the works on the Knockroe Bends.

With Brexit almost upon us, the Local Enterprise Office has designed an Autumn/Winter Seminar around this important subject. LEO Wicklow is committed to supporting its clients in preparing for the risks and opportunities that Brexit poses by having a number of Brexit supports freely available to businesses.

Wicklow County Council's latest playground project at South Beach Greystones has been hailed as a model for all future playgrounds and is now a template for how similar facilities throughout the Country can cater for children with disabilities.

Congratulations to Wicklow Tourism on a hugely successful Ecotrail which took place in September with start and finish line on Bray Seafront. Securing the Ecotrail Franchise for Wicklow is proving very beneficial: Wicklow is now hosting a strong international sporting event!

Well done to all the individuals, volunteers and other organisations that made Heritage Week 2019 in County Wicklow such a success.

I am very pleased to introduce the Wicklow County Council's Corporate Plan, 2019 – 2024 process which sets out the strategic direction and organisational goals of the Council over the next five-year period. You are invited to tell us what you want your Council to focus on via the Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie

This edition of Countywise shows many examples of the great work being carried out in our County. I hope that you enjoy reading the Autumn edition and remember to check our website, Wicklow.ie for up to date information and follow our social media channels for news and events.

Regards,
Frank Curran



Extra income from Local Property Tax will help fund new projects

Exciting projects in the areas of Climate Adaptation, Community, Transport, Libraries etc will be funded from additional revenue arising from Wicklow County Council's decision to increase the rate of Local Property Tax.

Wicklow County Council voted to increase the rate of Local Property Tax by 10% which will yield the sum of €1.724m in much-needed revenue for the Council.

This additional revenue will be ringfenced to meet the Council's requirement to provide match funding for a number of exciting new projects under the National Development Plan including:

- Blessington Greenway Project
- Arklow Historic Town Centre
- Bray Public Transport Bridge
- New Library/Redevelopment of Fitzwilliam Square, Wicklow
- Greystones Community CCTV Scheme
- Avonmore Way Link Bridge



In 2018 Wicklow County Council secured Government grant funding for projects totalling €27m, which will require a match-funding element of €5.7m.

For 2019 Wicklow County Council has submitted applications for grant funding for projects with a total value of €29m, which, if successful, will require match-funding of €7.4m.

In September 2019 Wicklow County Council adopted a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the County which identified a number of important measures to be taken over the lifetime of the Strategy. The additional revenue from the proceeds of the increase in Local Property Tax will help fund a number of these measures including the appointment of a Climate Action Officer.

The additional revenue will also supplement the level of discretionary funding to be allocated to the five Municipal Districts for the repair and restoration of roads and footpaths as well as important public realm works throughout the County.

Corporate Plan Consultation

Tell us what you want your Council to focus on for the next 5 years!

www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Online-Consultation-Hub



Ecotrail Wicklow 2019:

39 Countries run the Wicklow Mountains from Bray Promenade



Ecotrail Wicklow took place on Saturday 28th with start and finish line on Bray Seafront. More than 1100 participants ran up the Wicklow Mountains, through iconic locations such as Bray Head, Killruddery, Big Sugarloaf, Powerscourt Waterfall, The Wicklow Way and Roundwood Reservoir.

Ecotrail Wicklow offered 4 distances to choose from: 18k, 28k, 45k and 80k.

Early feedback from Social Media is extremely positive, with many praising the organisation, the volunteers and quality of the trails. Through the purchase of the Ecotrail Franchise we have

gained extensive international exposure with more than 39 nationalities taking part in the event.

Ecotrail Wicklow is a fantastic opportunity to help promote and establish Wicklow as the top Outdoors destination in Ireland.

"We're absolutely delighted with how the event went" says Fred Verdier from Wicklow Tourism. "We're getting fantastic feedback on social media from participants. We need to thank the organisers, the volunteers and partners for the amazing job they did on the day".

Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council adds: "Securing the Ecotrail Franchise for Wicklow is proving very beneficial: Wicklow is now host of a strong international sporting event! Wicklow is an amazing year-round walking and trail running destination and Ecotrail Wicklow will help us attract domestic and international outdoor enthusiasts".

Ecotrail Wicklow is an annual event, and next year's edition is set to happen on the 26th of September, 2020.







Arklow named Ireland's Best Kept Large Town

All the tremendous hard work and commitment has paid off for The Tidy Town committee, local volunteers and Arklow Municipal District as Arklow wins Best Kept Large Town.

All entrants were marked against strict adjudication criteria that included cleanliness, the outward appearance of buildings, the presentation of roads, public facilities and the natural environment.

This is a magnificent achievement for the town.



Arklow Blooms for Summer 2019

Arklow Town Team continues to enhance and improve the image of Arklow's Main Street with the Flower Basket Scheme 2019. The Main Street was in bloom again this summer as over one hundred and seventy two baskets were purchased by businesses in the town. The project is being supported by Arklow Municipal District (AMD).

The Town Team would like to thank Bolands for their assistance in supplying the baskets.

Arklow Municipal District has also installed planters around the town which have been designed and planted by Arklow Municipal District staff.



Light it up Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness

Arklow Municipal District lit up Arklow Courthouse and the 19 Arches Bridge GOLD during September to support Childhood Cancer Foundation's Light It Up Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness Campaign.





Release Wellness Festival

A new wellness festival supported by Arklow Municipal District kicked off in Arklow this summer. The successful event took place on the grass area near the Duckpond. Release Wellness is a community based event which features local fitness and wellness coaches, local food and local artists.

Arklow Historic Town Core Project

Work will begin in October on the Arklow Historic Town Core Project. The objective of the project is the redesign of public realm within the historical centre of Arklow: enhanced landscaped public space, reduced parking, bicycle parking and enhanced bus stops. Initial works will start on the renovation of the existing courthouse to make proper provision for the court services and to provide a digital hub space.





Festival Funding

Presentations were made to a number of local Festival Committees by Arklow Municipal District (AMD), acknowledging their achievements and contributions to their communities within the district.

On behalf of the Members of Arklow Municipal District, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach, presented cheques totalling €5,000 to 7 festival committees including Arklow Tidy Towns, Arklow Music Festival, Arklow Halloween Festival, Arklow RNLI, Inbhear Mór Performance Ensemble, Arklow Christmas Festival Committee and Light Up Avoca Village.



Rathdrum shows its best side to Enterprise Town Awards Judges

The very best of what Rathdrum has to offer was showcased to a panel of judges who visited the town on Monday 30th September as part of the Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards 2019.

Lunch was served in Avondale house which was provided by Orla's Kitchen and served by Victorian Tea Times in Arklow. The judges visited the town for a three-hour period taking in the market, meeting local business people and community groups. A presentation event was hosted by Centra where guest speakers spoke about what Rathdrum has to offer. A number of videos featuring local businesses and community groups were also shown showcasing Rathdrum at its best.

The committee, who has been working diligently on this project since Rathdrum was selected in June, certainly put their best foot forward for the town. The support from local business, voluntary groups and community representatives was overwhelming.

The winners will be announced at a gala awards ceremony in the Lyrath Hotel, Kilkenny, on 5th December.





Road Resurfacing in the Arklow Municipal District

The Arklow Municipal District resurfaced approximately 10km of road and applied surface dressing to a further 16.5km to roads in the district between April and July 2019. These works were carried out under the annual Roads Programme which is grant funded by the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport and through a discretionary fund available to Council members.



Wicklow County Council Staff Charity Fund

The Staff Charity Fund has been in existence since 1985. Since it was established €280,000 has been donated to numerous local, national and international charities and causes over the years. Some of the charities we have donated to during 2019 are listed below:

St. Vincent De Paul

- Ashford, Glenealy, Rathdrum
- Arklow
- Blessington
- Bray
- Brittas Bay
- Greystones
- Wicklow



Purple House

- Rathdrum Cancer Support
- Wicklow Cancer Support
- Roundwood Cancer Support
- Concern
- Bray Women's Refuge
- Focus Ireland
- Childline
- Five Loaves
- Wicklow Together
- Wicklow Dementia Support
- Bray Lakers
- Pieta House
- Tiglin Ashford



St. Kevin's Way Improvement Works

Under the 2018 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), Wicklow County Council were approved funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development to upgrade the route of St Kevin's Way to the value of €160,000. The majority of this fund has been earmarked for repairing sections of the trail currently in use, and on rerouting short sections of the trail from the Wicklow Gap Road.

Saint Kevin's Way is a 30km (19 mile) long pilgrim path in the hearth of County Wicklow. It begins in the village of Hollywood, crosses the Wicklow Gap, and ends at the remains of the medieval monastery in Glendalough. An alternative spur route begins at Valkeymount and joins the main trail at Ballinagee Bridge. It is typically completed as a full day's walk by hikers. The trail follows in the footsteps of Saint Kevin who crossed the Wicklow Mountains and founded the

monastery at Glendalough in the 6th century. The journey later became a route of pilgrimage for visitors to Glendalough.

The official waymarked route was created and opened in time for the millennium celebrations in 1999, with funding primarily coming from the Heritage Council. In May 2019, a new management committee for St Kevin's Way was formulated, with representatives from the relevant stakeholder groups involved in the trail maintenance and promotion. These include staff and volunteers from Wicklow County Council, Coillte, National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Hollywood Forum, Wicklow Uplands Council and County Wicklow Partnership.

Many walkers have already noticed improvements on the route, such as improved signage, water management and new trail sections. For example, two sections of St Kevin's Way have now been taken off the Wicklow Gap Road, resulting in a safer experience for walkers on the route in the Ballinagee Bridge area. Walkers in this area no longer need to trek on the Wicklow Gap Road, providing a safer experience for the recreational users. Access to these new sections have been kindly provided by Coillte, an active member of the St. Kevin's Way Partnership.





Estate Development Grants

In February, 2019 Baltinglass Municipal District and the Municipal Districts of Arklow, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow invited applications for Estate Development Funding from Residents Associations/Estate Development Committees of Wicklow County Council Social Housing Estates.

This funding is to support the upkeep of the green and common areas within their estates.

Wicklow County Council recognise Resident Associations as a positive movement which enables people to participate and play an active role in making their community a better place. This annual funding scheme is to acknowledge the work of these voluntary committees who selflessly give their time to the benefit of their community.

15 Resident Associations across Baltinglass MD received funding in recognition of their hard work and contribution to their estates. At the presentations in Blessington and Tinahely, the members of Baltinglass MD congratulated all the residents associations on their award and thanked them for their voluntary work in maintaining and improving their estates.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

You should not assume that just because your name was on the Register at the last election that is still there. In particular, if you have moved house recently or you will be 18 years of age or over on the **15th February, 2020**, your name should be on the register. **IT IS UP TO YOU TO ENSURE THAT IT IS.**

Application forms (RFA1) for inclusion on the Register of Electors are available by downloading the forms from www.wicklow.ie and these should be returned to the Franchise Section, Wicklow County Council by the **25th November, 2019**.

You can check the register online at:
www.wicklow.ie or
www.checktheregister.ie





River Dargle Defence Scheme Art Installation

Installation of the Per Cent for Art Commission arising from the River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme took place on Friday 9th August. This series of sculptures were created by artist David Beattie.



Fireworks Display

This year's fireworks display on Bray Seafront was sponsored by The Martello Hotel. The display itself was designed by Rocket Pyrotechnics Ireland and included 193 approx. fireworks producing 1728 approx. projectiles, 9 flame units and 2.5 approx. tonnes of equipment.





Seafront Exercise Equipment

New gym equipment has been installed on the Seafront, Bray.



Bray Harbour

Tenders have been invited to develop a plan to improve and develop the facilities at Bray Harbour.

The tender process invites tenders from suitably qualified consultants in the marine sector to carry out detailed surveys, report on the options available to protect the harbour from storm conditions, and 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.

Six tenders have been received and are being assessed.

The funding for this exploratory work was approved by members of Bray Municipal District Council in 2018.





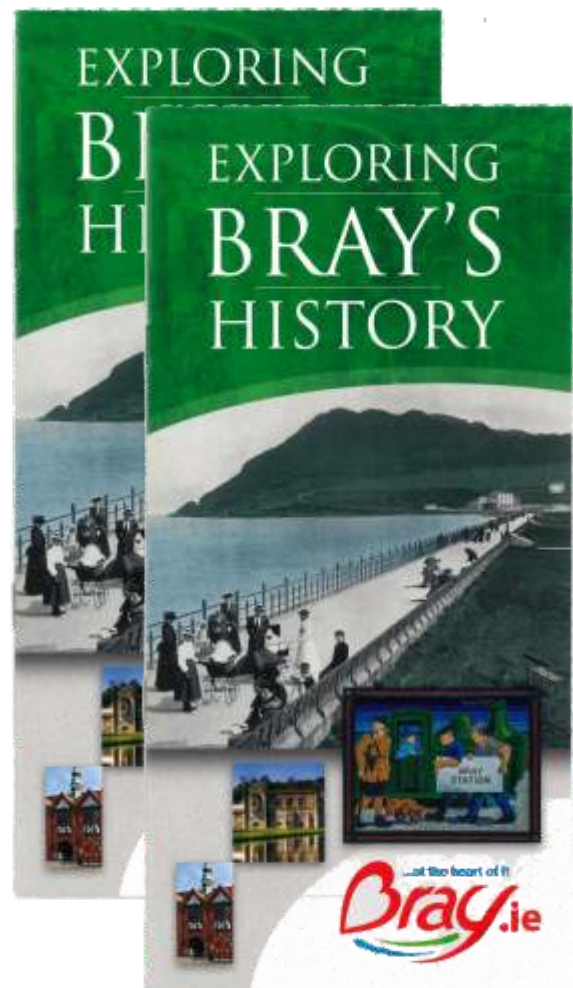
Bray Town Centre

The project is progressing well on site, with the structural steel to blocks 2 and 3 almost complete. The various stair cores and lift cores within blocks 1, 2 and 3 are almost complete. Blockwork and brickwork have also commenced on site.



Exploring Bray's History

Exploring Bray's History - brings you on a tour of various historical sites in the Bray area. Brochure is now available and can also be viewed on Bray.ie.





Public Transport Bridge

Consultants appointed to carry out the detailed design and preparation of the construction tender documents for the new public transport bridge beside Bray Pumping Station have completed the Options Report on the preferred design. The Council are now preparing the documents for the appointment of consultants for designing and preparing CPO and planning submission for completion of the transport link to the Dart Station.

Bray Town Centre Health Check

A "Health Check" is being carried out on Bray Town by consultants appointed by Wicklow County Council. The emphasis of the project will be on Bray as a place and an experience that supports a successful and engaging environment at the heart of a successful town in the region. The repositioning of Main Street in its function, experience and amenity is a potentially important theme for the creative aspects of this study. The consultants have undertaken a stakeholder engagement which included three stages:

- Online Survey
- Focus Group Workshop
- Wider Community Group Workshop

The wider community workshop took place on Wednesday, September 18th. The aim of the public consultation events was to identify:

- What are the existing assets?

- What are the priority actions for town?
- How can they be achieved?
- Who is responsible for leading the action?
- When are actions required to be completed?

A final report will issue and will include a series of recommendations on future opportunities for the town.

Bray Town Centre Your say



People's Park

New bins have been installed in the People's Park. 8 new bins installed and a water bottle refill station will soon be installed close to the Pavilion.





Greystones Beach Access Mat

A beach access mat which provides for improved universal access was installed by Greystones Municipal District at South Beach during summer 2019. The mat is 100 metres long and provides access from the promenade onto the beach via a new concrete access ramp and runs parallel to the shoreline. It provides improved access to the beach for all, including less ambulant persons such as toddlers, the elderly, wheelchair users and parents with buggies.

Mill Lane Lighting

Improvement works on Mill Lane to improve local pedestrian links were completed with the installation of public lighting.



Beaches can present challenges for visitors and accessibility can vary. In particular, those with mobility issues or visual impairment can find it difficult or impossible to access sandy surfaces. The bright blue matting provides an opportunity for those who could not previously access the beach to enjoy the wonderful amenities of Greystones Blue Flag South Beach.

The new access mat was funded through Wicklow Sports Partnership from the Healthy Ireland Fund and Greystones Municipal District members Discretionary Fund is just the first step in improving access for all to South Beach and further improvements are planned.





La Touche Legacy



The 31st Annual La Touche Legacy Seminar and 6th Festival of History were held in association with Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society in September. The annual event commemorates and honours the La Touche Family and their historic connections with the town of Greystones. The theme for this year's conference was 'Ireland through the Turbulent 30s'. Mr. George Jones, Chairman of the La Touche Legacy welcomed visiting delegates, the local community and distinguished speakers to the popular event.



Smart Waste Technology

Greystones Municipal District was delighted to be ranked in 15th place globally in the 25 most efficient Bigbelly Smart Waste System annual review.



Solar compacting bins were first introduced to the district in late 2016, as a more sustainable way to manage waste and have improved the efficiency of waste collection services, reduced the use of plastic and also carbon emissions by having collection vehicles on the roads less time, reduced operational costs and ensured overall cleaner public spaces. The bins demonstrate the Council's commitment to reduce its environmental footprint and drive efficiencies in day to day activities through the use of smart technologies.

Smart notifications have transformed day to day collection operations by optimising the use of technology, staff only empty bins once they receive notification that they are full. This is of particular benefit in more remote locations, as there is no need to include all bins on collection route until they are full, resulting in less journeys. The solar powered bins compact the waste resulting in a 76% reduction in the number of required collections, compared to previous requirements. The enclosed design of the units prevent them overflowing and significantly reduces the amount of litter in the vicinity and the need to clean it up.





2019 Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards

Ashford represented County Wicklow in the Small/Medium population (2001 to 5000) category of the 2019 Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards.

Judging took place on Monday, 30th September, with a dedicated committee who worked hard to ensure that Ashford shone among the many towns entered nationwide.

Free public Wifi rolled out in Market Square

Free public Wifi provided by Virgin Media is now available in the heart of Wicklow after the official switch on, which took place in July, and Wicklow Municipal District was instrumental in this rollout.

The unlimited WiFi service is available to residents, businesses and visitors passing through the centre of Wicklow and is located in Market Square and extends to sections of Main Street, Kilmantain Hill and Market Street. The WiFi zone can provide speeds of up to 500Mbps, and is delivered using cutting edge technology with connectivity delivered directly from Virgin Media's network infrastructure.

The judges visited Ashford for a three hour period with a tour of the area taking in the beautiful location, range of businesses and strength of community spirit. The tour was followed by a presentation to the judges and some time for them to meet local business and community representatives.

As part of the presentation Sean Treacy agreed to produce a film focussing on the many and varied positive aspects of life in Ashford. Sean is a local 14-year-old who won Ireland's Young Senior Filmmaker of the Year at the Fresh Film Festival 2019 held in Limerick. He has a huge following on his YouTube channel Stellar. Ashford is extremely lucky to have such a talent assisting them with its Enterprise Town Awards entry.

Other highlights on the day included a visit to Mount Usher Gardens, a private tour of Ashford Studios and an escape to the Ashford Park playground.





Age Friendly Benches in Wicklow Town

More than 15 benches have been installed around the town in recent weeks to replace the old metal advertising seats. These benches are eco friendly as they are made from 100% recycled plastic which otherwise would be destined for landfill. The benches are also 'Age friendly', as they provide arm support for the comfort of shoppers and visitors alike.



New playground completed in Laragh



Car parks completed in Glenealy village



Road Surfacing Works

Some of the Road Surfacing works carried out by Wicklow Municipal District in 2019

- Ashtown Lane
- Dunbur Road
- Merrymeeting Rathnew
- Merrymeeting/Seaview Heights Rathnew





Glen Beach Cliff Walk Officially Opened

The Glen Beach Cliff Walk in Wicklow was officially re-opened on Friday 26th July having been closed due to coastal erosion.

This Grade 4 way marked walk begins at the Glen Beach on the outskirts of Wicklow town and continues south to Lime-Kiln Bay and on towards the Lighthouse road before doubling back again in a loop, a total distance of 4 kilometres.

The trail encompasses one of the most spectacular stretches of the Wicklow coastline, offering a unique opportunity to experience nature and to explore local history and archaeology.

It has been the collaborative approach of Wicklow Municipal District, Wicklow County Council, "Friends of the Murrough" Committee and Wicklow Golf Club, that made the re-opening possible.

The final inspection of the Cliff Walk was carried out by Sport Ireland Trails in June 2019 allowing it to be classed as a fully accredited trail to be added to the National Sport Ireland Register.

The Walk has some climbs and runs close to exposed cliff edges where walking in single file is required. The route is appropriate for people with a moderate level of fitness and some walking experience. Specific outdoor walking footwear and clothing is recommended.

The trail traverses a landscape of rich cultural interest. The main archaeological sites occur on

the southern section of this walk where the remains of a Lime Kiln (which gives the bay its name), the ruins of a small church and a Holy Well 'Tobar Bríde'. There is also evidence of a 19th century Rifle Range on the walk.

Grey seal have been recorded in increasing numbers at Lime Kiln Bay in recent years. They breed here annually and require undisturbed areas from September to December. During this period they are particularly vulnerable to disturbance by people and dogs and are best observed from a distance.

The rocky outcrops overlooking Lime Kiln bay provide ideal viewing sites for birds and seals, however you are advised to keep your profile low to avoid drawing attention to your presence and keep dogs on a lead and never allow them to approach seals.



**Congratulations to the 30 towns in County
Wicklow who entered this
year's National Tidy Towns Awards.**




Wicklow Town took the overall County award for the first time with 336 marks, closely followed by Arklow on 335 and Aughrim on 334.

Both Wicklow and Arklow achieved Gold medals and Aughrim won a silver medal.

Lacken won the Endeavour award achieving the biggest increase in marks of any town in the county.

Jason Mulhall of Blessington Tidy Towns was recognised for his contribution with the overall national Community Hero Award.

Arklow Tidy Towns won a waste prevention award sponsored by the Clean Technology Centre in Cork.



€150

On The Spot Fine If You Don't Bin It



leave
only
pawprints...

Bin the Poo Bin the Poo Bag



Comhairle, Pobal agus Riannas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government



Wicklow County Council



eastern-midlands
waste region

Green Light For Ireland's Greenest Greenway In Blessington



Wicklow County Council, in conjunction with major stakeholders, Blessington Community Group and the ESB, secured funding of €5m under the National and Regional Greenway fund for the Blessington E-Greenway Project in June 2019.

The Blessington E-Greenway will cover 42.4kms of walking and cycling trails mostly through the forest and woodlands taking in some spectacular scenery adjacent to the shoreline of the Blessington lakes.

The project will see significant job creation in the area as it is estimated that for every €1m of tourism revenue supports 27 jobs in the locality. In addition, it will cater for the growing tourist market for outdoor activities for both local residents and tourists alike.

It is envisaged that the project will take around two years to complete. The Greenway development is an exciting and

distinctive project for County Wicklow and the region and will become Ireland's first "E" destination.

The E-Greenway encircles the Poulaphouca Reservoir - a major sustainable source of electricity generation. It will offer E Bikes as a major attraction with charging points along the route and forms part of a wider countywide project to promote E Cycling.

The Council will now engage consultants to provide consultancy services for the delivery of this 42.4 km Greenway Project. It is anticipated that the construction of this project will commence next summer 2020, with a completion date scheduled for December 2021.





Bike Week 22nd – 30th June 2019

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership received funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, for Bike Week. Applications were invited to apply for grants to those hosting a bike event. 19 schools participated and benefited from Bike Week funding which promoted cycle safety, skills and maintenance along with 7 community events. These events were also supported by Wicklow LSP.

1. Wicklow Mountain Bike Club

Over 70 people took part in this mountain bike event to launch a new MTB club in Wicklow. Participants ranged in ages from 7 to 71 with leaders taking the bikers out on the trails of varying skills and levels.



2. Biking.ie, Ballinastoe

This was a free community mountain biking taster session held on Thursday 27th June in Ballinastoe Mountain Bike Trails, Co. Wicklow. This event was fully booked with 20 participants in each session.

3. Dunlavin District Forum

Dunlavin & District Forum participated in Bike Week 2019 for the first time with both younger and older members getting involved throughout the week. There was a poster competition for the younger children and a photography competition for the older children with prizes for both competitions. Wicklow Local Sports Partnership ran a Balance Bike Workshop and the obstacle course was the big attraction on the day of the event. Reservoir Cogs cycling club also joined and gave a very informative talk on the benefits of cycling for all ages.



4. Maintenance workshops

Two fully booked evenings of free workshops were held in Wicklow Town during bike week. These were aimed at helping cyclists learn how to manage and fix small repairs on the bikes such as puncture repairs, how to change tubes, take wheels on and off quickly as well as tips on how to keep a bike running smoothly.

5. AAA Family Fun Day, Greystones

Wicklow LSP designed a learn to cycle programme for the members of 'Triple A' Wicklow as part of their 2nd Family Fun Day. Triple A Alliance was founded in 2002 and supports families, provides information, training and appropriate activities for children and adults living with Autism, Asperger Syndrome and A.D.H.D. Over 80 members participated in the cycle track laid out on the grass with a range of bikes used including balance bikes, bikes with stabilizers and pedal bikes.



6. South East Road Club Grass Cycling Event, Arklow

20 children attended the launch of this event that took place on Coral Leisure's Arklow pitch. South East Road Club demonstrated some bike handling skills, group riding skills and safety on the bike.

7. Get Back on your Bike' hosted by The Sports Room, Wicklow Town

This event consisted of a leisurely spin out to Tinakilly for some tea and scones and then back to the Sports Room Wicklow Town. Along with this cycle the Sports Room offered a free bike check to ensure your bike was roadworthy before the event.



Colour Run

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership and Wicklow County Council hosted a colour run in aid of the Wicklow Hospice on Sunday 21st July in Wicklow Town. A large crowd gathered for a fun filled morning with €2000 raised by the event.



Civic Reception

Wicklow County Council held a Civic Reception on Monday 2nd September for the County Wicklow Special Olympic Athletes who competed in the Special Olympic World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi this year. Aisling Beacom competed in swimming and won Gold in the 800m Freestyle, Bronze in the 1500m Open Water Swimming and 4th in the freestyle relay. Rukki took part in Basketball and placed 4th overall. Padraig took part in Bowling and placed 8th in the Singles, 6th in the Doubles and 4th in the team competition.





ipb pride of place 2019

Wicklow Communities on show for Pride of Place Competition 2019

The judging of this all-Ireland competition took place on 17th July 2019.

Blessington Town and Tinahely Resources Centre were this year's nominations for the County of Wicklow.

The visit by the two judges commenced on the morning of the 17th of July in the palatial setting of Russborough House. It was here that the judges got their first sense of the community spirit of Blessington Town. The Cathaoireach of Baltinglass MD, Cllr. Gerry O'Neill welcomed the judges to the County and to Blessington. Over the next couple of hours the visit continued through Blessington Town visiting the Men's Shed, the Credit Union roundabout, the Main Square in Blessington Town and phase one of the Blessington Greenway. Along the way a number of community and business stakeholders made themselves available to meet the judges and this community involvement showed the strong partnership approach of the Blessington community.

In the afternoon, the judges were treated to a visit of the newly build St.Vincent De Paul's Fairgreen Resource Centre, Tinahely. This project was developed by the St. Kevin's Conference's Visitation Committee.

Following seven and half years of funding raising, mainly through the St. Vincent De Paul's charity shop in Tinahely, the committee raised sufficient funds to build the new resource centre. The construction started in September 2017 and this incredible new building was completed in spring 2018, by local contractor, RTJ Construction. Also the local community and the committee members assist with this development by donations of furniture and

internal fittings, gardening and painting. This resource centre will be act as a community hub with a range of social, education and support activities, music and drama, with a focus on the elderly who experience isolation in this local community.

A number of the Visitation Committee members and some of the local volunteers were on hand to meet the judges on their arrival. The visit commenced by an informative presentation by Eileen Flanagan, President of the St.Kevin's Conference. It was apparent on the day that the wide community of Tinahely are supportive and will continue to support this resource centre project into the future.



Conservation Action Planned at Brittas Bay

As well as being one of Wicklow's most popular beaches, Brittas Bay is also one of the jewels in the crown of county Wicklow's biodiversity, being an area that is rich in plant, insect and birdlife. Brittas Bay Dunes is part of a complex of coastal habitats that includes Buckronev Dunes, which are designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

The biodiversity of the site suffers from amenity pressures and Wicklow County Council is looking at addressing these through a programme of conservation works. One of the actions identified in Wicklow's Biodiversity Action Plan includes facilitating targeted management or study projects for important species, habitats and ecosystems in Wicklow with priority on coastal biodiversity, species, habitats and ecosystems most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

In 2018 the Heritage Office co-ordinated the preparation of conservation and management

prescriptions for the Wicklow County Council owned site, having regard to the sites' conservation objectives, and in consultation with NPWS. This years funding has been received through the National Biodiversity Action Plan fund once more to commence initial works which will focus on trialling mowing plots to inform appropriate grazing regime, and mapping the invasive sea buckthorn.

The council is keen to engage with local stakeholders and to communicate more about this project, with a public workshop planned for October. Keep an eye on www.wicklow.ie and local media for further details or contact Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer dburns@wicklowcoco.ie T: 0404 20100.



NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK IN WICKLOW 2019

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



A big thank you from the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council to all the individuals, volunteers and other organisations that made Heritage Week 2019 in County Wicklow such a success. Pastimes & Past Times was the theme for this year's National Heritage Week which took place from 17th – 26th August. Over the nine days, 60 different events took place at more than 15 different locations in Wicklow. The majority of events were organised by volunteers, and were family friendly and free of charge. The lively programme included nature workshops, woodland walks, historical tours, talks, archaeological excavations, open days, hikes, exhibitions; candle lit musical performances, fairy trails, poetry, kids art, drama, bat walks, bug hotels and whale watching.





Protecting Wicklow's Grey Seals

– How You Can Help

Wicklow is fortunate to be home to the Grey Seal, one of two seal species in Ireland. At this time of year the animals are most visible as they congregate in social groups on land, returning to their favourite haul out sites along the Wicklow coast to breed, rest, moult and engage in social activity. Mothers (cows) give birth to a single pup in Autumn, which is born with a white coat and does not swim. Cows will stay close to their pup for a number of weeks until it is weaned, loses its fur and is ready to take to the water. This is a very vulnerable time for both adults and pups as during their time on land they are easily disturbed and stressed by encounters with people and dogs.

Wicklow County Council has teamed up with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Seal Rescue Ireland (SRI) to raise public awareness of the risks posed by humans and dogs at this time of year and to encourage responsible behaviour by all.

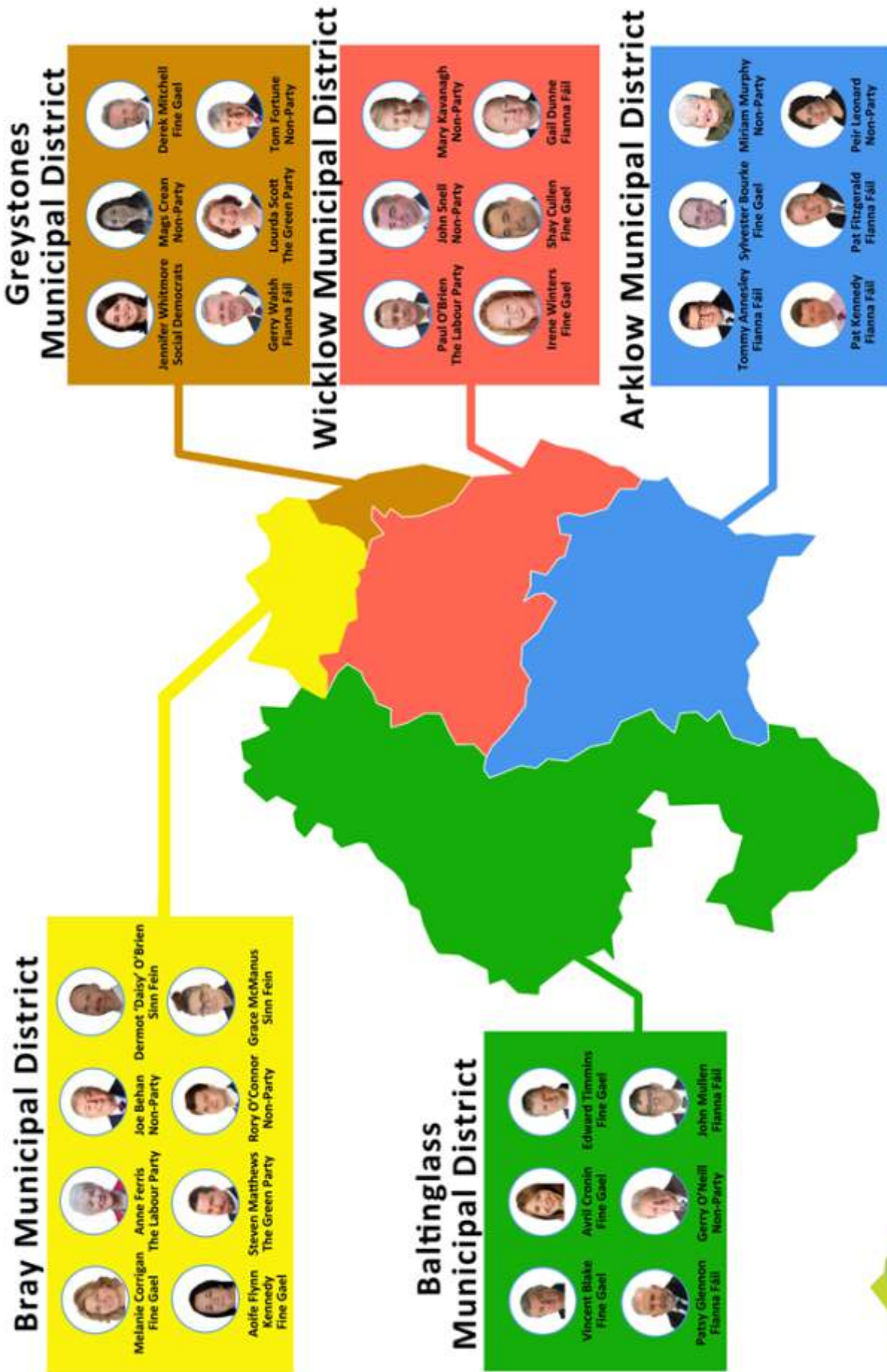
Visitors to coastal areas can play their part by observing these animals from a distance only. People should never approach seals or allow dogs to approach or bark at them as this will stress the animals and could cause a stampede possibly leading to injury, drowning or death to small pups in particular. It should be noted that just because a seal pup is observed alone on the beach does not necessarily mean the pup has been orphaned. Very often mothers leave pups on a beach for extended periods while they hunt but in normal circumstances they will return unless they are otherwise disturbed. Mothers who are spooked by human contact may however abandon their pups and not return for them. Orphaned pups have a very slim chance of survival.

Recently signs have been erected in known sites along the coast, alerting visitors to the possible presence of seals. At Brides Head, south of Wicklow Town, access to the beach has been roped off until December in an effort to protect the long established seal colony here. Members of the public can still walk the very popular cliff walk but are being asked to observe signage and watch these fascinating animals at a safe distance, making every effort not to be seen!

Seals are legally protected under the Wildlife Act and it is illegal and dangerous to approach them or to allow dogs to do so. Contact NPWS on T: 076 1002667, Seal Rescue Hotline T: 087 1955393 or the relevant Municipal District office of Wicklow County for queries.



Your Elected Members



Committees of Wicklow County Council: Role And Membership

Wicklow County Council is made up of 32 County Councillors who are elected from six Local Electoral Areas for a term of five years from June, 2019. There are five Municipal Districts in the County and councillors are members of these districts.

Elected Members are also appointed as public representatives to other public bodies, for example, the Educational Training Boards, Health Forums and Regional Assemblies and are also appointed to other local committees and boards to represent the local interest.

In many areas of local government activity more in-depth discussion can take place at committee level rather than at meetings for example. Membership to the committees is determined at the Annual Meeting of the local authority following the local elections.

Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's)

The SPCs assist the council in the formulation, development and review of policy. The Council is and remains the decision making authority and it is the task of the SPCs, as committees of the Council, to advise and assist the council in its work. The SPC system is intended to give elected members and relevant sectoral interests an opportunity for full involvement in the policy making process of the Council from the early stages. Sectoral representation is drawn from business, farming interests, environmental/conservation groups, trade unions and community and voluntary members through the PPN.

Following the annual meeting and in an election year a new SPC scheme is prepared for adoption by the elected members.

There are 6 Strategic Policy Committees operational in Wicklow County Council.

1. **Economic Development and Enterprise Support**
2. **Housing and Corporate Estate**
3. **Community Cultural and Social Development**
4. **Planning and Environment**
5. **Transportation, Water and Emergency Services**
6. **Climate and Biodiversity Action**

Economic Development and Enterprise Support

6 Elected Members:

Councillor Gerry Walsh - Chair
Councillor Tom Fortune
Councillor Irene Winters
Councillor Avril Cronin
Councillor Mary Kavanagh
Councillor Pat Kennedy

Membership from External Sectors:

1. Environment/Conservation
2. Agriculture/Farming Community
3. Development/Construction
4. Business/Commercial (Chambers)
5. Trade Union
6. Business - West Wicklow

Housing and Corporate Estate

6 Elected Members:

Councillor John Snell - Chair
Councillor Paul O'Brien
Councillor Tommy Annesley
Councillor Mags Crean
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy
Councillor Grace McManus

Membership from External Sectors:

1. Trade Union
2. Homeless Sector (Simon Community)
3. Social Inclusion
4. Business/Commercial(Chambers)
5. Community/Voluntary
6. Environment/Conservation



Committees of Wicklow County Council: Role And Membership

Community, Cultural and Social Development

6 Elected Members:

Councillor Gail Dunne - Chair
Councillor Vincent Blake
Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor John Mullen
Councillor Melanie Corrigan
Councillor Miriam Murphy

Membership from External Sectors:

1. Business/Commercial (Chambers)
2. Community/Voluntary
3. Community/Voluntary
4. Social Inclusion
5. Environment/Conservation

Planning and Environment

6 Elected Members:

Councillor Sylvester Bourke - Chair
Councillor Edward Timmins
Councillor Gerry O'Neill
Councillor Steven Matthews
Councillor Shay Cullen
Councillor Patsy Glennon

Membership from External Sectors:

1. Development/Construction (CIF)
2. Agriculture/Farming Community
3. Environment/Conservation
4. Business/Commercial(Chambers)

Transportation, Water and Emergency Services

5 Elected Members:

Councillor Derek Mitchell - Chair
Councillor Pat Fitzgerald
Councillor Joe Behan
Councillor Irene Winters
Councillor Vincent Blake

Membership from External Sectors:

1. Environment/Conservation
2. Agriculture/Farming Community
3. Development/Construction (CIF)
4. Trade Union
5. Business/Commercial (Chambers)

Climate and Biodiversity Action

5 Elected Members:

Councillor Jennifer Whitmore - Chair
Councillor Lourda Scott
Councillor Rory O'Connor
Councillor Peir Leonard
Councillor Dermot O'Brien

Membership from External Sectors:

1. Environment/Conservation (East Wicklow)
2. Environment/Conservation (West Wicklow)
3. Farming Community
4. Business/Commercial(Chambers)
5. Development/Construction
6. An Comhairle na nÓg
7. Fisheries and Forestry



Committees of Wicklow County Council: Role And Membership

Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) comprises the Cathaoirleach of the Council as its Chair, together with the chairs of each of the SPCs and in the case of a municipal district without an SPC chair, a representative of the municipal district concerned.

The CPG links the work of the different SPCs, acts as a sort of cabinet and provides a forum where policy positions affecting the whole council can be agreed for submission to the full Council. It is supported by the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team.

Members

Councillor Irene Winters
Councillor Gerry O'Neill
Councillor Steven Matthews
Councillor Gerry Walsh
Councillor Gail Dunne
Councillor John Snell
Councillor Derek Mitchell
Councillor Sylvester Bourke
Councillor Jennifer Whitmore

Local Community Development Committees (LCDC)

The role of the LCDC is to enhance the strategic planning and coordination of local and community development activity. Local Community Development Committees comprises public and private sector members, including Local Authority members and officials, State agencies and private sector local and community development representatives.

Members

Wicklow County Council	Frank Curran (CE)
Wicklow County Council	Pat Kennedy (Chair)

Wicklow County Council	Dermot O'Brien
Wicklow County Council	Peir Leonard
Wicklow County Council	Melanie Corrigan
Local Enterprise Office	Vibeke Delahunt
PPN - Community & Voluntary	Mai Quaid
PPN - Community & Voluntary	Vacant
PPN- Social Inclusion	Niamh Wogan
PPN- Social Inclusion	Martina Cronin
PPN- Social Inclusion	Richard Webb
Health Service Executive	Siobhan Fitzpatrick
Bray Area Partnership	Peter Brennan
County Wicklow Partnership	Brian Carty
Business Pillar	Pat O'Suilleabhain
Farming Interests	Chris Hill
INOUE - Business Pillar	Lorraine Hennessy
Carlow I.T.	Clare Power
Dept. Social Protection	Stephen Fitzgerald

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee has an independent role in advising the council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters, as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the council.

Members

Mr. Tom Gregan
Ms. Mary Savage
Mr. Noel Geraghty
Councillor Edward Timmins
Councillor Gerry Walsh
Councillor Joe Behan
Councillor Pat Fitzgerald
Councillor Mary Kavanagh



Committees of Wicklow County Council: Role And Membership

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

The Joint Policing Committee (JPC) serves as a forum for consultation, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area'. JPCs represent a collaborative approach between local authorities, An Garda Síochána and the community and voluntary sector in supporting policing and enhancing community safety.

JPC Members

Councillor Joe Behan
Councillor Dermot O'Brien
Councillor Steven Matthews
Councillor Tom Fortune
Councillor Mags Crean
Councillor Gerry Walsh
Councillor Irene Winters
Councillor Paul O'Brien
Councillor Shay Cullen
Councillor Vincent Blake
Councillor Avril Cronin
Councillor Sylvester Bourke
Councillor Tommy Annesley
Councillor Peir Leonard
Councillor Gerry O'Neill

Minister Simon Harris
Minister Andrew Doyle
Deputy Stephen Donnelly
Deputy Pat Casey
Deputy John Brady

Chief Executive
Chief Executive's nominee
Chief Superintendent
Chief Superintendent's nominee

Community Representatives (7)

Stephen Kearon – Community and Voluntary
College Seat
Conor O'Leary – Groups with County Wide
remit Seat
Liz Ferris - Bray Municipal District

Ann Halpin - Baltinglass Municipal District
Charlotte Byrne - Greystones Municipal District
Brendan Gilroy - Arklow Municipal District
Godfrey O'Byrne - Wicklow MD

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)

The LTACC is comprised of Elected Councillors, Members of the Travelling community and representatives from community organisation. The role of the committee is to advise in the management of accommodation for Travellers and to provide a liaison between Travellers and officials of the County council. There are five elected members on the LTACC, representing one from each municipal district.

Members

Councillor Joe Behan
Councillor Lourda Scott
Councillor Irene Winters
Councillor Gerry O'Neill
Councillor Peir Leonard

KWETB – Kildare and Wicklow Education Training Board

Kildare and Wicklow Education Training Board (KWETB) provides a comprehensive range of education services throughout Kildare and Wicklow.

Members

Councillor Patsy Glennon
Councillor Tom Fortune
Councillor Paul O'Brien
Councillor Lourda Scott
Councillor Anne Ferris



Committees of Wicklow County Council: Role And Membership

Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly

Wicklow County Council is part of the Eastern Regional Assembly along with DLR, Fingal, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, South Dublin, Westmeath and Dublin City Councils.

The aim of the regional assemblies is to co-ordinate, promote or support strategic planning and sustainable development and promote effectiveness in local government and public services. Their main function is to draw up regional spatial and economic strategies replacing the previous regional planning guidelines.

Members

Councillor Gerry Walsh
Councillor Steven Matthews
Councillor Avril Cronin

Regional Health Forum – Dublin Mid Leinster

The functional area of the Regional Health Forum – Dublin Mid-Leinster covers Dublin City Council, south of the River Liffey and the County Councils of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Offaly, South Dublin, Westmeath and Wicklow. The Forum makes representations to the HSE on the range and operation of health and personal social services in their area, and the HSE in turn provides administrative services to the Forum. Wicklow County Council nominates 4 members to the Regional Health Forum – Dublin Mid-Leinster.

Members

Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy
Councillor Gerry O'Neill
Councillor Patsy Glennon
Councillor Joe Behan

County Wicklow Partnership

County Wicklow Partnership CLG is a local development company which delivers a wide range of services supporting individuals and communities in County Wicklow. Its programme comprises: Community and voluntary, employment and enterprise, family support, health and wellbeing, SICAP, and training. CWP works closely with Wicklow County Council through the LCDS in the delivery of LEADER and SICAP. Wicklow County council nominates 4 elected members to the Board.

Members

Councillor Avril Cronin
Councillor Paul O'Brien
Councillor John Mullen
Councillor Miriam Murphy

Bray Area Partnership

Bray Area Partnership (BAP) is a local development company working in the greater Bray and Greystones areas to tackle disadvantage and social exclusion, increase equality to access information, basic services, education, training and employment for marginalized individuals and groups; and to empower local people and communities to have a say on issues that affect them identify their own needs and make positive changes in their lives.

Members

Councillor Grace McManus
Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor Lourda Scott



Committees of Wicklow County Council: Role And Membership

Wicklow Enterprise Park

Wicklow Enterprise Park is a CLG, which engages in the promotion and development of enterprise by providing a comprehensive range of services and facilities to local business and entrepreneurs, as well secretarial services, access to networking opportunities, business mentoring, meeting and training rooms. The centre is run by a full time Manager overseen by the board of Directors. The board meets on a monthly basis. WEP currently has the franchise for the running of Wicklow Gaol.

Members

Councillor Gail Dunne
Councillor Mary Kavanagh

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership aims to increase physical activity participation among the Wicklow population. The sports partnership assists clubs and groups with Sports capital funding applications and development initiatives. Wicklow County Council nominates 2 elected members to the Local Sports Partnership.

Members

Councillor Paul O'Brien
Councillor Gerry Walsh

Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre

Mermaid Arts Centre was established in 2002. It is a leading space where ideas, creativity, imagination and artistic expression find a natural home. Mermaid is a creative hub and artistic resource for County Wicklow, creating opportunities for

Wicklow audiences to enjoy high quality national and international art spanning all art forms and supporting Wicklow based professional and amateur artists and companies. Membership of the company consists of person who shall have knowledge of the arts, business, finance or other appropriate skills from the following sectors: Local authority membership, Council nominees, Bray Chamber of Commerce, Arts Officer and the arts.

Members

Councillor Mags Crean
Councillor Melanie Corrigan
Councillor Steven Matthews

Wicklow County Tourism

Wicklow Tourism works to promote County Wicklow with local and national stakeholders to make County Wicklow a first class all year round tourist destination. The board comprises representatives from the tourism business sector, chamber of commerce, local public representatives and Council officials. Its offices is based in the recently reopened Town Hall, Wicklow Town. Elected membership to the Company comprise one elected member from each municipal district.

Members

Councillor Melanie Corrigan
Councillor Gerry Walsh
Councillor Paul O'Brien
Councillor Miriam Murphy
Councillor Patsy Glennon



Committees of Wicklow County Council: Role And Membership

Local Committee to oversee the Rural Water Programme

The Committee comprises 3 Elected representatives, representative of the County Group Water Schemes, Representative of the National Federation of Group Water Schemes, Rural Water Liaison Officer, Wicklow County Council Technical nominee (Chemist), and representative of regulated private supplies. The committee meets twice a year (or as needs be depending on specific issues) to discuss issues on compliance with the EU Drinking Water Regulations with the various stakeholders.

Members

Councillor John Mullen
Councillor Peir Leonard
Councillor Edward Timmins

County Wicklow Heritage Forum

The Wicklow Heritage Forum is a group set up to oversee the implementation of actions of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan. This is a partnership plan, co-ordinated by Wicklow County Council through the Heritage Officer and supported by The Heritage Council.

Members

Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy
Councillor John Mullen
Councillor John Snell
Councillor Peir Leonard
Councillor Tom Fortune

Ballynagran Landfill Community Liaison Committee

The Ballynagran landfill Community Liaison Committee was established to oversee the provision of financial assistance to

both community based clubs/ voluntary organisations and local residents on foot of a contribution required under condition No 21 attaching to An Bord Pléanala planning permission reference PL 01/5285 and subsequent amendments

The membership comprises of equal representation of personnel from the Planning authority, the Ballynagran facility, local residents and elected members of Wicklow County Council. The overall assistance available will vary from year to year depending on the tonnage of waste deposited annually in the landfill facility. Funding for qualifying projects will be recommended by the Ballynagran Landfill Community Liaison Committee.

Members

Councillor Gail Dunne
Councillor John Snell

Maritime Business Development Group

The aims of the Marine Business Development Group are to develop a Maritime Strategy for County Wicklow and to progress proposals for the major development of port facilities in the County. Members of the MBDG are invited to provide specific advice and expertise as required to advance the strategy.

The Group meet once per month but meetings may be held more, or less frequently as required.

Members

Councillor Peir Leonard
Councillor Derek Mitchell
Councillor Gail Dunne
Councillor Steven Matthews



Council Meetings

Wicklow County Council hold their Ordinary monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month. These meetings are held in the Council Chamber in County Buildings and are open to the public. The meeting is administered by the Meetings Administrator and chaired by the Cathaoirleach of the Council. The meeting agendas and minutes are published on the Council's website <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Council-Meetings/Minutes-Agendas>. On occasions it is necessary to call a Special Meeting. Notification of all meetings will appear on www.wicklow.ie.

Wicklow County Council was the first County Council in Ireland to make their monthly meetings accessible to hard of hearing and visually impaired viewers via a live texting service streamed to the website during the business of the meeting.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Council-Meetings/Live-Streaming>

Schedule of Meetings

November

1. Ordinary meeting Monday 4th
2. Budget meeting Monday 25th

December

Ordinary meeting Monday 2nd

January

Ordinary meeting Monday 13th

February

Ordinary meeting Monday 3rd

March

Ordinary meeting Monday 2nd

April

Ordinary meeting Monday 6th

May

Ordinary meeting Monday 11th

June

1. Ordinary meeting Monday 8th
2. Annual meeting Monday 15th

Municipal Districts

Each Municipal District also holds a monthly meeting to discuss matters pertaining to the municipal district. Meeting agendas and minutes are published on <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Municipal-Districts>

Arklow Municipal District

Second Wednesday of the month at 3.30pm, held in Arklow Municipal District Offices.

Baltinglass Municipal District

Fourth Monday of the month at 10.30am, held in Blessington Civic Offices.

Bray Municipal District

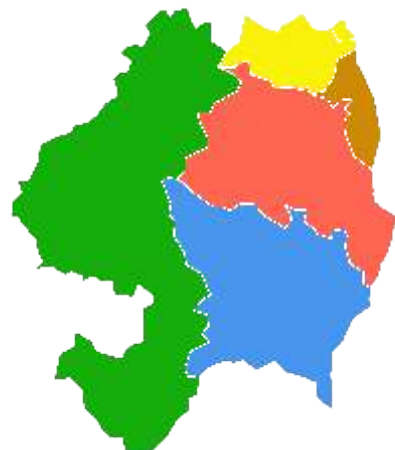
First Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm, held in Bray Town Hall.

Greystones Municipal District

Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm, held in Greystones Municipal District Offices.

Wicklow Municipal District

Fourth Monday of the month at 3.00pm, held in Wicklow Town Hall.



Roads and Transportation News

Contract Signed for N81 Knockroe Bends Realignment Scheme

A contract for the N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment Scheme was signed with Clonmel Enterprises by Wicklow County Council in September.

The Realignment Scheme involves the upgrade of the N81 National Secondary Road at Knockroe Bend over approximately 1 kilometre.

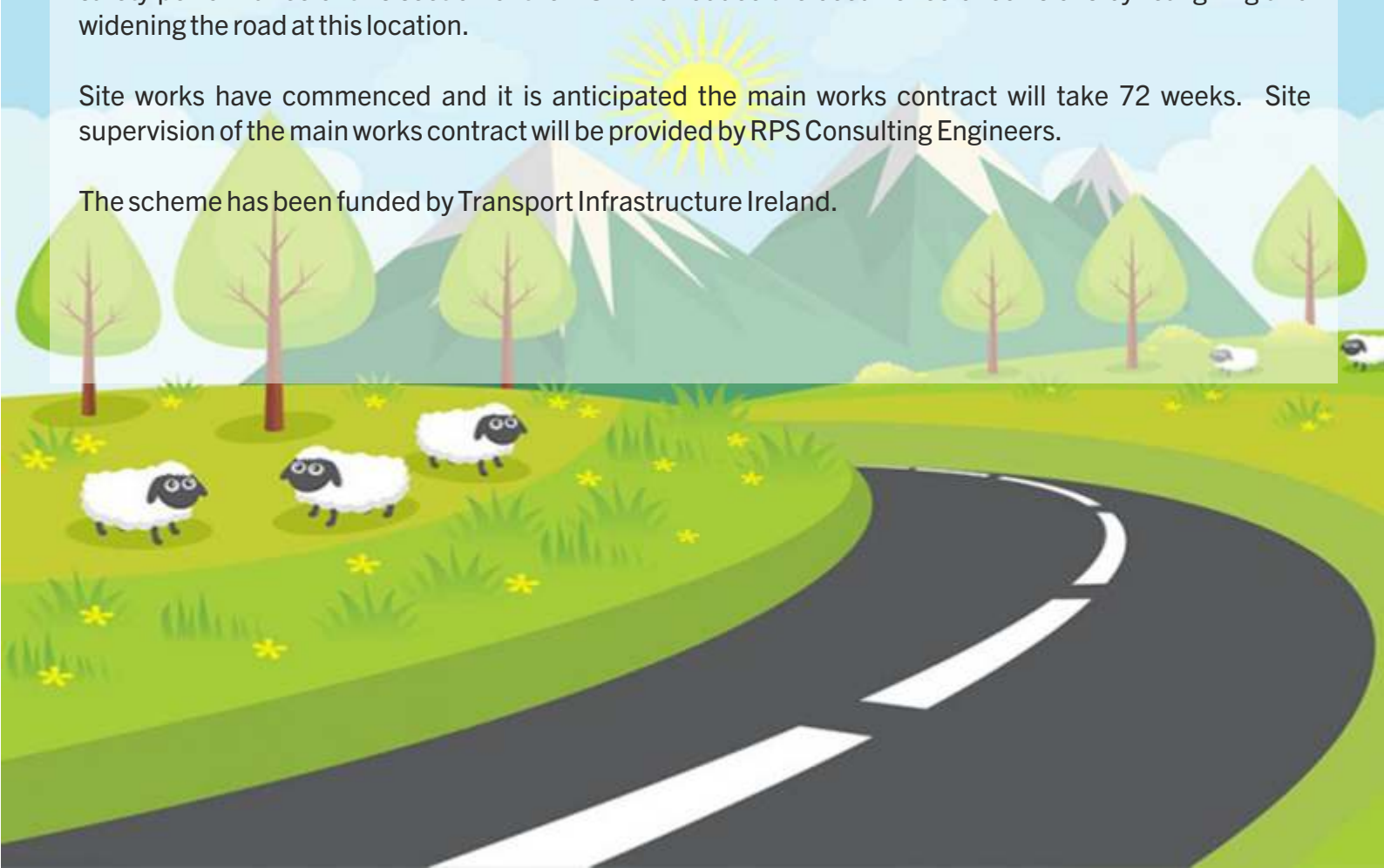
This bend is situated on the N81 approximately 800m south of Hollywood Cross (Junction of N81 and R756) and approximately 11km south of Blessington between two sections of relatively good alignment and has been the scene of numerous collisions.



The scheme has been prepared to improve road standards, to implement an improvement in the road safety performance of this section of the N81 and reduce the occurrence of collisions by realigning and widening the road at this location.

Site works have commenced and it is anticipated the main works contract will take 72 weeks. Site supervision of the main works contract will be provided by RPS Consulting Engineers.

The scheme has been funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.



Seasonal Reminder to Landowners

Hedge cutting Season - 1st September till 29th February

In the interests of road safety, landowners are reminded to ensure that trees, hedges or other vegetation are maintained in such condition that they are not a hazard to road users and that they do not interfere with the maintenance of the public road or footpath.

In particular, branches which jut out onto the road (including the footpath) should be cut back. Dead and unsafe trees should be removed, and hedges should be cut and trimmed. It is recommended that professional advice on the condition of roadside trees should be obtained from time to time. When landowners are maintaining hedges or trees, all reasonable care should be taken to ensure the safety of road users while this work is being carried out.

All necessary work should be carried out between 1st September, 2019 and 29th February 2020, in order to comply with the Wildlife Acts.

Maintenance of roadside vegetation by landowners is a requirement of the Roads Act and Wicklow County Council will be taking a proactive approach in enforcing this legislation.

Important Note:

Those engaged in road-side hedge-cutting may be guilty of an offence if they allow or cause the dispersal or spread of Japanese knotweed in the course of their work. In order to avoid potential liability you should:

- **Avoid it!** Japanese knotweed plants and an area of seven meters offset from visible infestations should not be disturbed in any way. Do not cut or trim Japanese knotweed! Cutting or trimming can generate thousands of small fragments, each of which can regenerate into a new plant.
- **Report it!** The location and extent of the infestation should be reported to the relevant Area Engineer of your local authority.





The Carnegie Library in Enniskerry has been honored by a special stamp from An Post.

The stamp is one of a series launched by An Post to celebrate four libraries around the country founded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie.

The four stamps feature line drawings of the four Irish Carnegie Libraries by Irish artist Dorothy Smith and photographed by Gillian Buckley. The other libraries are in Kilkenny, Dublin and Limerick.

Enniskerry's Carnegie Library on Church Road was opened in 1911. There are two other Carnegie Libraries in County Wicklow, one in Bray and one in Greystones.

Born in Scotland, Carnegie emigrated with his family to the US in search of a better life. At 12 he began working in the cotton industry and through his natural ability and application became one of the world's richest men.

In the last decades of his life he devoted himself to philanthropy and his contribution to Ireland were the libraries now celebrated in the new stamp set.

Between 1897 and 1913, Carnegie promised over €179,000 to pay for the building of some 80 libraries in Ireland, 60 of which still survive.

The stamps and a beautiful First Day Cover envelope are available from main post offices, from the stamp counters at Dublin's GPO or online at irishstamps.ie. The illustrations and stamps will be on display at Pearse Street Library in Dublin City Centre.

Wicklow Library Service





Age Friendly Business Programme

In July, Dragons Den star Gavin Duffy launched the Age Friendly Business Programme in Arklow.

41 business have signed up to being age friendly and have committed to three actions each. Actions range from providing reading glasses, adjust music in stores, to providing seating. Look out for the Age Friendly logo in store windows around Arklow.



County Wicklow Digital Strategy 2019-2022

Wicklow County Council are set to launch County Wicklow's first Digital Strategy in Autumn 2019. The strategy is based on consultation and engagement with key stakeholders, community and business groups, and findings from both a Digital Readiness Assessment and a public survey.

The strategy will outline four main theme's each with a vision, key objectives and actions as part of the strategies Implementation Plan.

Theme 1: Broadband & Digital Infrastructure
Theme 2: Citizen Smart
Theme 3: Digital Economy
Theme 4: Digital Council

An oversight and monitoring committee will be established for the implementation plan, in order to continually track progress, identify areas of opportunity or delays and to identify lessons learned for future benefit.

Some of the key results of the digital survey are shown in the pages to follow.



94.3%



Home broadband
internet connections

Broadband Speeds

2/3

Indicated less than 30Mbps
download speeds



Source Wicklow Digital Survey for Citizen's



48%

Unhappy with their
Broadband internet
service



Online Services

56.5%

More public training provision
from Council and Government



Smartphone

Most often used digital device

Working Remotely

56%

**Could work remotely
at least 1 day a week**



95%



78.1%



Need for more promotion of Council and Government online services

Use digital devices for communications daily or more



55%

Rarely use Council or Government online services

90.2%



Communications Technologies

Critical for social and economic development of communities



County Wicklow PPN Training Fair for Community Groups

Last year, Co. Wicklow PPN held its first training fair and its biggest community event to date. It was so beneficial to community groups and volunteers that they asked if Co. Wicklow PPN would make it an annual event. This year's fair took place on Saturday 21st September in the Brockagh Centre and was supported by Pauline and her amazing team. Within a short time of advertising the event, workshops were fully booked and waiting lists were filling up. St Kevin's National School in Laragh generously provided extra space enabling the PPN to replicate the most popular workshops.

Workshops this year included: Funding your group; Getting the most out of Social Media; Charitable Status & the Governance Code facilitated by the Charities Regulators office; Running effective meetings; Mental health & wellbeing in the community; GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation); Good governance – where to start; Health & Safety for your group; and Attracting Volunteers. The spotlight on a PPN member group showcased Laragh/Glendalough Tidy Towns and their work as a committee, setting up a sustainable energy community and



establishing a community garden. A visit to the community garden was also included.

There were lots of information stands from organisations that support community groups and volunteers including community group insurers, community group funders, Co Wicklow Volunteer Centre, Co Wicklow Citizen's Information Centre and more. Local community cafés provided some of the food for the lunch.

This was a great day for learning, networking and peer support all under the one roof and freely provided by hard-working voluntary groups.



www.facebook.com/CWPPN

If your group would like to know more
about Co. Wicklow PPN
contact Helen Howes
Email: countywicklowppn@gmail.com
Tel: 087 189 5145



Food Waste Recycling

European Union (Household Food Waste and Biowaste) Regulations 2015 require proper recycling of food waste



eastern-midlands
waste region



WICKLOW
ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



Frequently asked questions

I already compost food waste at home, can I still do this?

Yes you can. Your home composting bin can still be used for uncooked vegetables and fruit peelings. However you cannot place raw meat/cooked meats into your home composter.

You can use your brown bin for all types of food waste, **INCLUDING RAW/COOKED FOODS OR MEATS.**

But remember, you cannot place food waste into your general waste bin.

Why should you use the brown bin?

- **It saves money** because you become more aware of the food you waste and is cheaper to use than your waste bin.
- **Recycling food waste is the Law.**
- **It's better for the environment** because you are avoiding sending food waste to a landfill where it produces harmful greenhouse gases.
- **It produces a high quality compost.**

Can I use plastic bin bags in my brown bin?

No. Plastic bags are made from petrochemical plastics that do not break down during composting and contaminate the process. Please remember that if plastic is found in your brown bin, your bin will not be emptied and a contamination tag will be placed on your bin to inform you of this. You may also be liable to an on the spot fine from your local authority.

Will the brown bin cost me more money?

The new brown bin system should not cost more money providing correct segregation of waste is taking place. Under By-laws and National Waste Policy, your waste collector must encourage recycling by offering a lesser charge for collecting your brown bin than your general waste bin.

The most expensive waste stream of all is general waste (landfill waste). There is a Government levy on waste going to landfill, therefore by putting food waste instead into your brown bin, you are avoiding this levy and saving money.

Can I put my food waste into my general waste bin?

You are no longer allowed by Irish law to put food waste into your general waste bin.

If you have any queries contact your waste collector or visit the national information website for more details:

mywaste.ie

Details of Wicklow County Council's Waste Bye-laws can be found here:

www.wicklow.ie/Living/WasteByeLaws

Our Wicklow Women - Stories from the County Archive



Early image of Teresa Dargan nee Johnson (Courtesy of the Dargan family)

Teresa Dargan 1842-1929: Poor Law Guardian, Rathdrum Councillor

This year marks the 120th anniversary of County Councils in Ireland. In 1899, Teresa Dargan was one of 31 women in Ireland who were elected Local Councils. Under the 1898 Act, women over 30 years, who were householders or who rented a portion of a house, valued at a minimum of £10 per year could vote in local elections and could stand for election. It was not until 1918 that women could vote in national elections.

In the early years, some of the women elected to local authorities were members of Cumann na mBan and were passionate campaigners. Indeed, the minute books in the County Archives reveal Teresa to be an intelligent and diplomatic woman with firm principles, concern for the poor and well respected by her peers.

You all know something of Mrs Dargan and her family, a family that has been in public life I may say for the last century. From the time that her ancestors, the Messrs Murray, were agents for Lord Wicklow, they have been before the public, and that is a long time ago. You know what they did then—how they got a house and farm for the parish priest at Ballinacor, or as it is classically known, Metz (laughter). The parish priest of Orocra was formerly Bishop of Metz, but he dwelt outside the town walls (laughter). The present cottages would be Metz urban, and the parish priest dwelt in what they would call Metz rural, under the new law. It was the Murray people who got that place the first piece of land, and a respectable house that a parish priest ever had in this parish. And from that day since they have a record in this parish and throughout Ireland. You have all heard of Archbishop Murray, a most cultured, learned and pious prelate, whose father and mother are buried here in Templarainy. Then there was a Bishop Murray, a member of the branch of the family over in Barndarrig. The Dargans in their own way were scarcely less illustrious, and now that the ladies of that family are coming forward, they will be an honour to the public life not only of this county, but to Ireland. I am sure that Mrs Dargan will be a model district councillor. She has been a model in a private capacity as ready as a charitable Catholic lady, and this position will give her an opportunity of doing much more for the poor than she could possibly do as a private individual (hear, hear). So I think the poor and the labourers of this parish ought to be delighted, they ought to congratulate themselves on having such a lady as Mrs Dargan going forward. Another of

Extract from parish priest's speech in the run-up to Teresa's election as Rathdrum councillor - Wicklow People newspaper, 11th February 1899. (Wicklow County Archives).

Born at Millmount House, Avoca

Born in 1842 to Richard and Mary Johnson of Millmount House, Avoca, Teresa Elizabeth Dargan nee Johnson was the grand niece of Archbishop Daniel Murray of Sheepwalk, Arklow - her family previously owned the mines at Tigroney and Cronebane, Avoca. Teresa married civil engineer James Dargan at St. Patrick's Church Avoca in 1866 - James was the nephew of the famous engineer/contractor William Dargan, a name synonymous with the history of the Irish railway.

No. of Marriages celebrated at the Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Patrick's Avoca in the Diocese of Dublin in the County of Wicklow							
No.	When Married.	Names and Surnames.	Age.	Qualities.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Rank or Profession of Father.
1866	Jan 8th	James Dargan & Teresa Johnson	24	Single	Engineer	Avoca	Avoca
Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Patrick's Avoca according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me.							
This Marriage was celebrated between us		James Dargan		Teresa Johnson		In the Presence of us	
		James Dargan		Teresa Johnson		James Dargan	

Marriage of Teresa Johnson and James Dargan at Avoca Parish, 8th January 1866. (Courtesy of www.irishgenealogy.ie)

Arrest of a Priest

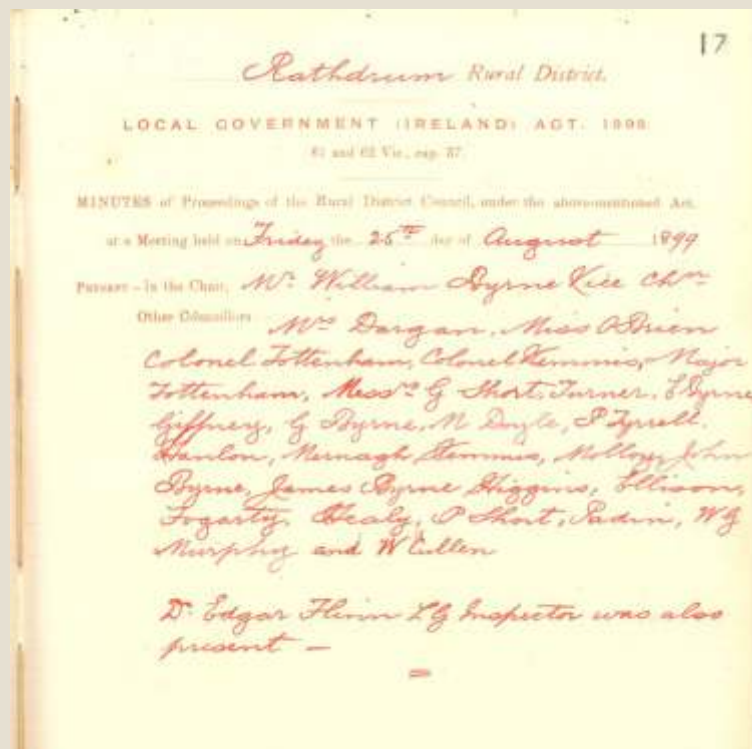
In 1889, reports in the local and national press describe how Teresa tried to prevent the arrest of a priest staying at her home in Millmount House, Avoca. The RIC reportedly had to force entry and arrested the priest for making speeches against a recent eviction.

We admired and rejoiced as we read, week after week, the collapse of the "Thunderer's" witnesses under the scathing cross-examination of that grandest of legal Celts, Sir Charles Russell. Even this mail has brought us tidings of great joy in the story of Mrs. Dargan and her heroic defence of Father Clarke against the ruffianly conduct of Balfour's Dublin Castle Janissaries. We are not surprised at Mrs. Dargan's heroism. Full well we know that many a Mrs. Dargan, not alone in the historic glens of the O'Dwyers and the O'Byrnes, but right through green "Erin of the streams," would protect their own *soggarth* at the expense of their lives.

Extract from nationalist newspaper Dublin Weekly Nation, 4th May 1889. (Courtesy of www.findmypast.ie)

Ahead of her time

A woman ahead of her time, Teresa Dargan was one of the first female poor law guardians (Rathdrum Poor Law Union), and one of the first female rural district councillors – elected to Rathdrum Rural District Council in 1899.



Extract of minutes of first meeting of Rathdrum Rural District Council, 25th August 1899. (Wicklow County Archives)

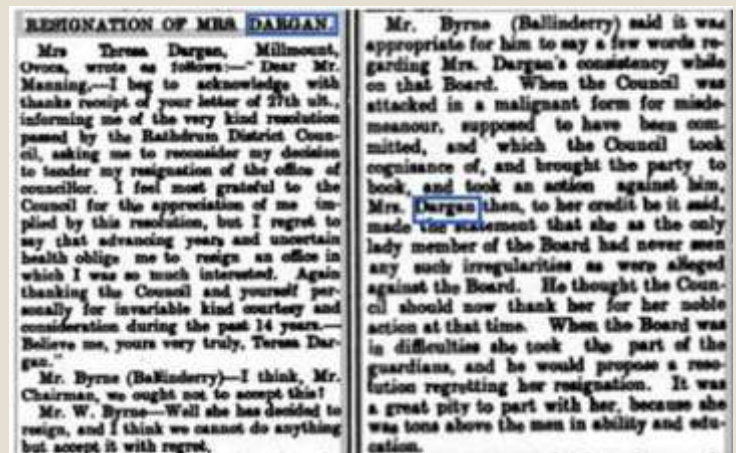
Hair Cutting incident

In 1902 two women who went to the dispensary claimed they had their hair cut off by force and threatened to sue the Rathdrum Guardians. Mrs. Dargan appears to side with the women:



Extract from Wicklow People newspaper 5th July 1902. (Wicklow County Archives)

Teresa resigned from her position as Rathdrum Rural District Councillor in 1911 citing advancing years and uncertain health:



Extract from Wicklow People newspaper 18th November 1911 reporting the resignation of Teresa Dargan as Rathdrum Councillor (Courtesy of www.findmypast.ie)

This eminent lady passed away at her home in Millmount House, Avoca in 1929 at the age of 86 years.

(With thanks to the Dargan family and the "Youwho?" volunteer project recording the Grand Houses of South County Dublin - see <https://www.yowho.ie/dargan.html> Teresa's story is one of several featured in the series Our Wicklow Women see Wicklow County Council's online community archive www.countywicklowheritage.org)

Housing News

Wicklow County Council Building New Homes - 46 houses at Merrymeeting, Rathnew



Farrankelly Way

Progress on the construction of 24 houses in Greystones is good, with 8 of the houses being externally painted and the remaining houses are being internally & externally plastered. Windows and doors are installed in 21 of the houses. Rock breaking is ongoing to the front of the site to install the attenuation tank. The development is programmed to be completed in March 2020.



Kilbride Lane

The construction of 42 houses in Bray is progressing. External blockwork is finished to all the front units, windows and doors are to be installed on these units in the coming days. External plaster is to start on the 1 bedroom units on the Cloverhill side early next week and then proceed to the units facing the Kilbride lane road. The final 2 house foundations on site are currently being excavated at present, these foundations were delayed due to the site having tight access. The development is programmed to be completed in March 2020.



Jameson Heights

The construction of 20 houses in Kilmacanogue is progressing well. 14 of the houses are being built on pile and beam foundations. Piling has finished on the site and the beam installation will be finished next week, which will release all house bases to start floor construction. 5 of the 6 houses that are being built with strip foundations, have the floors poured and the superstructure has started. The development is programmed to be completed in June 2020.



Wicklow

...Let's talk business

Prepare for Brexit

The Local Enterprise Office Wicklow is committed to supporting its clients in preparing for the risks and opportunities that Brexit poses. Despite the uncertainty, Wicklow companies can and should be taking action to mitigate the potential risks and position themselves to take advantage of the opportunities. There are a number of Brexit supports available through LEO Wicklow and a number of Brexit courses available:

- Brexit Essentials Seminar 25/10/2019 - This half day seminar will highlight how your business could be impacted by Brexit and will provide you with a practical checklist of the essential actions that your firm needs to take to mitigate against the risks and enable you to continue to trade with the UK post Brexit.
- One to one Post Brexit Mentoring on the 11/11/2019 – These Brexit consultancy clinics provide you with the opportunity to meet with a Consultant to discuss how you can mitigate against the risks that Brexit may pose to your business.
- Prepare Your Business for Customs Workshop on the 11/09/2019 – Aim is to enable companies to understand both Revenue rules in Ireland and HMRC rules in the UK.
- All of these Brexit training courses are FREE.

There are a range of online supports available on [localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Financial-Supports/Brexit/](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Financial-Supports/Brexit/)

These include worldwide support networks, scorecards, checklists and many more.



Trading Online Voucher



Irish consumers are increasingly shopping online with 70% of the €850,000 they spend going overseas, with this SME's in Wicklow have a great opportunity to grow and access wider markets.

The Trading Online Voucher aims to encourage small businesses to develop their online presence through a website or digital marketing strategy by availing of a Trading Online Voucher of a max. €2,500 or 50% of their eligible expenditure.

To be eligible for this grant you have to attend the Trading Online Voucher Seminar which covers:

- Why your business needs to be online
- Targeting customers
- Search Engine Optimisation
- Being Found
- Social Media Marketing
- Information on Trading Online Voucher Seminar
- Top tips on how to fill out the application

Other eligibility criteria apply such as less than 10 employees; turnover less than €2million; be registered in County Wicklow and trading for minimum of 6 months.

Next Seminar is on the 16th October 2019 - <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Financial-Supports/Trading-Online-Vouchers/>

Wicklow

...Let's talk business

Training Courses

The Local Enterprise Office Wicklow has a vast range of training courses available for budding entrepreneurs or for established business owners who want to upskill. Courses include business training courses:

- Accessing Finance – 27/11/2019
- Bookkeeping for Small Businesses – 14th/11/2019
- Public Procurement for SME's: Introduction to Tendering – 06/11/2019
- Effective and Practical Human resource Management – 15/10/2019

Courses also include computer training courses and clinics:

- Design your own Social Media Campaign: Beginners – 12/11/2019
- Design your own Social Media Campaign: Intermediate – 22/11/2019
- Increasing Traffic to your website: SEO for beginners – 21/10/2019
- Bookkeeping using Excel – 28/11/2019
- Digital Marketing and Website Advice Clinic - 03/12/2019

All booking is done on the www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow

These training courses are great places to learn new skills and to network.

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
Cill Mhantáin - Wicklow



Business Advice

Many of us have at some stage thought about being our own boss or had a great idea for a business but have had no idea where to start? The Local Enterprise Office Wicklow is here to help!

Whether you are currently running a business, or are at the start-up stage you can meet with advisors from Local Enterprise Office Wicklow to discuss your business. Business Advisors can advise you with regard to structure, location, labour, finance, marketing, etc. These meetings are one-to-one and free of charge. Business Advice Clinics are available weekly on Monday in the Glenview Hotel, and Tuesday and Thursday here in the Local Enterprise Office in Rathnew.

Appointments can be made over the phone on 0404 30800



Lifeguard Patrols 2019

During the 2019 season, the lifeguards from Bray (2 Stations); Greystones, Wicklow Harbour, Brittas Bay (2 stations) & Arklow South provided the following services.



ADVICE

Advice Given - 4,392



Lost Children - 144



First Aid - 96



Rescues - 11



Drowning - 0

Bathers are advised to adhere to signage placed in bathing areas. There have been a number of incidents in County Wicklow this summer where bathers have ignored NO SWIMMING signs. This not only risks the lives of the swimmers but also the lives of the lifeguards.

Finally, lifeguarding by its nature has a constant turn around in staff. Lifeguard courses are commencing this autumn in Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and for the first time in many years Arklow. If you know of any young person that may be interested in beginning on the pathway to becoming a lifeguard, please contact me or see the Water Safety Ireland - Wicklow Area Facebook Page.

Safe Boating

14 Steps to Safe & Enjoyable Boating



- 1 Check condition of boat and equipment, hull, engine, fuel, tools, torch.



2 Check the weather forecast for the area.



3 Check locally concerning dangerous currents & strong tides.



4 Do not drink alcohol while setting out or during your trip.



5 Carry on alternative means of propulsion e.g. sails and oars or motor and oars.



6 Carry a first aid kit on board and distress signals (at least two parachute distress rockets and two red hand flares).



7 Carry a fire extinguisher and hand bailer or bucket with lanyard and an anchor with rope attached.



8 Carry marine radio or some means of communication with shore.



9 Do not overload the boat - this will make it unstable.



10 Do not set out unless accompanied by an experienced person.



11 Leave details of your planned trip with someone ashore - including departure and arrival times, description of boat, names of persons on board.



12 Wear a Personal Flotation Device at all times.



13 Keep an eye on the weather - seek shelter in good time.

MARINE EMERGENCIES

**Call 999 or 112
and ask for
Marine Rescue**

999

OF

112

14

REMEMBER THESE RULES - ENJOY YOURSELF - COME HOME SAFELY



Irish Water Safety
Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

and Water Safety at the statutory & voluntary bath established to promote a safety in bathing.

To inform the public on the importance of the safety of the bathing, the following information is provided:

LO CALL 1890 420 202
WWW.IWS.IE
INFO@IWS.IE

Irish Water Safety is supported by

Allianz 
Direct 1850 48 48 48

Providers of Pleasure Craft Insurance
www.safesuredirect.ca

Works Commence on new Wicklow Town Library and County Archive

Wicklow town's new state-of-the-art Library and Archive moved a step closer this week when two Government Ministers visited the building to mark the commencement of work at the former Ulster Bank on The Mall.

The project will cost around €6m in total (including €1m for the purchase of the building) and is to be completed by Autumn 2020.

The site and design drawings were inspected by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr Eoghan Murphy TD, and Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris TD.

Speaking at the event, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Irene Winters said: "The coming 12 months will see the construction of a state-of-the-art library and archive for Wicklow Town and County over six floors. The fact that only two of the six floors are dedicated to book borrowing, demonstrates how libraries have evolved from crammed rooms, containing nothing but shelves full of books, to bright spaces with a range of services. The top two floors will be particularly attractive, being dedicated to study spaces, IT areas, a community room and an art gallery."

In addition to the great services which the new library would fulfil, Cllr Winters said she was particularly pleased that Wicklow County Council had the vision to provide a purpose-built Archive. This, combined with the relocation of the central local studies collection to the County Town, would ensure the new building was a centre of excellence in every regard.

The former Ulster Bank building was purchased by Wicklow County Council for €1m and a further €5m will be spent on converting it into a library and archive. The Council received €1m in funding from the Department of Rural & Community Development and €3m from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government's Urban Development grants fund.



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

CLAR Scheme Delivers €100,000 To County Wicklow



Department of Rural and
Community Development



*An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail*

Two townlands in County Wicklow are to benefit from funding of €100,000 under the CLAR (Ceantair Laga Ard-Riachtanais) scheme.

CLAR is a targeted investment programme which provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas which have suffered the greatest levels of population decline.

There are seven qualifying townlands in the county and two of these are to receive funding of €50,000 each.

In Knockananna an allocation of €50,000 has been made to facilitate the upgrading of footpaths in the vicinity of Scoil Naomh Brid which will make the area safer for the school's 80 pupils.

In Rathcoyle a similar allocation of €50,000 will facilitate the provision of a MUGA (Multi –use games area) adjacent to the national school and its 57 pupils.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Irene Winters, together with Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran, welcomed the announcement of the CLAR funding for 2019.

They stated that the active engagement and participation of the Council, in conjunction with rural communities, has been and will continue to be critical to the success of initiatives like CLAR which support the social and economic development of rural areas in a sustainable way.



MATTRESS AMNESTY



During the summer months Wicklow County Council held free mattress disposal days at 4 of their recycling centres. Each household could bring a maximum of 3 mattresses.

This was not open to commercial operators.

Approximately 2,500 mattresses were collected over the 4 days.



Wicklow adopts a Climate Adaptation Strategy

Wicklow County Council adopted a Climate Adaptation Strategy on the 2nd of September. Wicklow County Council became the first local authority in Ireland to declare a Climate and Biodiversity emergency in April. A strong call for action from the youth of County Wicklow was a key influence. Addressing Climate Change will require three strands of action. One will be continuing to implement measures that help to mitigate or prevent Climate Change, the second is tackling the issue of biodiversity loss, and the third is taking action to protect ourselves from the impacts of Climate Change through adaptation. Going forward all three will increasingly influence the operation of Wicklow County Council and how all of us live our lives. Wicklow County Council has created a new Special Policy Committee on Climate and Biodiversity which will have representatives including elected members and from the public to help shape policy and guide its implementation.

The Climate Adaptation Strategy sets out how Wicklow County Council will prepare for the impacts of Climate Change which we are already starting to feel. It will ensure that we are well prepared for future weather events, able to respond better and taking steps to prevent disruption and damage. The strategy will allow us to plan across all services of Wicklow County Council ensuring their continuity going forward. The strategy will strengthen our capacity to support and assist communities. There are six core themes in the plan. The first theme addresses the governance and operations of the organisation ensuring services remain strong. It will look at how we deliver those services. It will ensure that Climate Change becomes a key consideration in all policies and plans. The second theme looks at protecting the built environment and infrastructure. We will need to build and maintain resilient infrastructure and buildings in the future. Theme Three looks at land use and development. It will ensure that more consideration is given to Climate Change in planning for the development of County Wicklow through the County Development Plan and key documents such as transportation plans and



local area plans. Theme Four addresses drainage and flood risk. It will build on work to identify and map areas prone to flooding so that we can better manage the risk and implement measures that will help to reduce water runoff. Theme 5 will address how we protect our natural and cultural heritage from the impacts of a changing climate, including a review of the Biodiversity Plan and how we deal with growing threats such as invasive species. The final theme is Community Health and Well Being, one that is vital for ensuring we can work more closely with communities throughout County Wicklow helping them to prepare for the impacts of Climate Change. This theme looks at the supports we can give to communities, the resources and assistance they will need. It will have a focus on assisting communities to protect their local environment, protect services at community level and ensure that we continue to develop local economies in a more sustainable way.

The new Climate Adaptation Strategy, our commitment to lead by example in reducing our own carbon emissions across our services and our commitment to protecting our natural environment working to prevent biodiversity loss is a three pronged approach to Climate Action. Wicklow County Council has taken key steps and decisions in 2019 that will put Climate Action at the heart of our activities and how we work with communities throughout the county. We hope that everyone will join us in taking up the challenge to address Climate Change and build a more secure future for younger generations.





ARE YOU WASTE **COMPLIANT?**

**ALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE ADOPTING SIMILAR
BYE-LAWS ENSURING A CONSISTENT APPROACH
TO MANAGING WASTE ACROSS IRELAND.**

In order to comply with the new Bye-Laws:

- You need to demonstrate that you are disposing of your waste in a responsible and legal manner;
- You must segregate your waste correctly.

YOU MUST USE ONE OF THESE OPTIONS



KERBSIDE COLLECTION

OR



AUTHORISED WASTE FACILITY

Find out more at
www.mywaste.ie



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



**Currently inspecting properties
in your area**





Wicklow County Council was delighted to partner with local organisations, artists and Culture Night for a fantastic night of creative fun. The September 20th programme was a great success on a number of levels. Wicklow residents were invited to come out and enjoy a host of free arts and cultural events on their doorstep, and this year 2,252 people of all ages took up that invitation across nine locations in the county.

Local artists and groups organised 22 events from talks, workshops, exhibitions, readings, music, theatre and dance performances. There was something for everyone and all of it was free.

Artists and communities are getting increasingly involved in the Wicklow programme each year, and this year we found it to be strategic to cluster events and activities in key locations. This optimised the opportunities available to individuals and families who ventured out to experiment, enjoy, and actively participate in different artforms and cultural activities.





Artist Connect

On September 7th the Arts Office held an 'Artist Connect' day at Mermaid Arts Centre. Twenty six artists from a range of different artform backgrounds came together on the day for a lively discussion about sustaining their practice.

Working as an artist in rural and smaller urban towns is difficult. No matter your energy or positivity it's too easy to feel disconnected and isolated. The Arts Office wished to bring a range of artists, from a variety of disciplines, interests and backgrounds together to talk, present and discuss their work and themes of interest. It was facilitated by Susan Coughlan and Jenny Sherwin Arts Officer with a panel of Wicklow Artists presenting on their work to kick start the conversations. The artist panel was comprised of Anna Newell - Maker of Theatre Adventures for Children, Fiachra Garvey - International Pianist, Joanna Kidney - Visual Artist and Phillip St John - Writer of Fiction and Drama. The artists felt the day was extremely relevant to them and a key initiative towards establishing a more connected arts community in the county.

We are in discussions about possible follow up events. If you are an artist who might be interested in participating in future initiatives please email wao@wicklowcoco.ie.



Come and Sing The Mouthful Way...

Date 19th October 2019
Time 13.00 - 17.00
Venue Clermont Wicklow County Campus,
 Rathnew, Co Wicklow
Booking <https://www.eventbrite.ie>

Join Sharon Durant and Katherine Zeserson for a dynamic, enjoyable and creative singing workshop.

Sharon and Katherine are two of the founding members of Mouthful, an innovative UK-based acappella quartet (www.mouthfulway.co.uk). Mouthful have been leading participatory singing projects in the UK for over 15 years, working with people of all ages on creating, learning and performing all kinds of vocal music in vibrant, inclusive community celebrations.

There are no wrong turnings on The Mouthful Way... we are all born to sing, and each of us has a unique singing voice to share. Mouthful are committed to the inclusive joy of singing first and foremost.

In this workshop, Sharon and Katherine will teach a variety of harmony songs, rounds and short pieces through which participants will be able to explore breathing, range and other aspects of vocal technique, have fun trying out some movement with singing and extend their choral ensemble skills.

The workshop is open to singers of all levels - from absolute beginners to highly experienced choristers.



Facilitated by Wicklow Arts Office



1969 Tragedy Remembered

A Plaque was unveiled by Wicklow County Council on the 3rd August, 2019 to mark and honour the 50th Anniversary of a tragic accident which claimed the lives of three people. Both families who lived in Dublin were spending the weekend in the Silver Strand to mark the 12th Birthday of the twins Brenda & Rosemary.

James Mulvaney, Michael Wilson and Mary Wilson all lost their lives following the accident on August 3rd 1969, after the car they were travelling in entered the water at the Packet Pier, Wicklow.

Bernadette Mulvaney, the only survivor was present for the official unveiling and blessing of a commemorative plaque.

Other relatives and extended family of the Wilson & Mulvaney Families were also present including twins Brenda and Rosemary Wilson, the daughters of Michael & Mary Wilson.

Councillor Paul O'Brien officiated at the proceedings and thanked the very large gathering and Wicklow Lifeboat for attending.

Pat Brennan recited a poem he had written entitled "Six Knots towards Wicklow". Flowers and wreaths were placed by the relatives and the ceremony concluded with local Clergy blessing the plaque which overlooked the Packet Pier, Wicklow Town.



Wicklow County Council the standard bearer for Playground Construction



Wicklow County Council's latest playground project at South Beach Greystones has been hailed as a model for all future playgrounds and is now a template for how similar facilities throughout the country can cater for children with disabilities.

The Greystones playground was opened in 2018, replacing an older facility which had served the Greystones community for many years.

In developing the new facility, the Council worked in partnership with the local playground committee who also raised a portion of the project costs, through a fund-raising campaign.

The Greystones playground has proven itself to be extremely popular since its opening, attracting many families from adjoining communities, due to its inclusive design.

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Mr Frank Curran, together with the Cathaoirleach Cllr Irene Winters, expressed congratulations to everyone involved in developing the Greystones playground and stated that it was a feather in the Council's hat to have the playground cited as an example to follow in the Disability Bill 2019 which is currently making its way through the Seanad.



What's Scary about Halloween?

Halloween is about dressing up and having fun with your family and friends. Nobody wants to end their night with a trip to the hospital. Fireworks and bonfires are dangerous and illegal and should never be played with, so this Halloween - Be Safe Stay Safe.

Traditionally bonfires were lit using wood and straw; however, with changing times many bonfires are now used as a means of disposing of waste. Waste materials such as plastic and tyres, mattresses and furniture contain chemicals which, when burned, produce toxic fumes. They are emitted into the air we breathe and are some of the most dangerous pollutants to health. They contaminate the land around the fire and the back-gardens over which the smoke passes. Once released, these toxins will persist for a long time in our environment. They cause problems to people who have respiratory diseases and some of the effects on health may be long-term.

Bonfires and fireworks are also a significant safety risk and can lead to serious injury. In addition the costs associated with damage to private and public property as a result of bonfires can run to thousands of Euro.

Wicklow County Council are asking everyone to help by following a few sensible rules:

- Do not leave material lying around that may be taken for a bonfire; many garage or garden shed items such as petrol, white spirits, diesel, aerosols, batteries, tins of paint, bottles and tyres are extremely dangerous if set on fire
- Parents, business and householders should not provide any materials for bonfires.
- Do not facilitate illegal bonfires or firework displays on or near your home or property
- Explain the dangers of illegal fireworks and bonfires to children and teenagers
- Stay a safe distance from bonfires and fireworks – wind can carry sparks long distances and can cause permanent injuries and scars
- Stay with your children and escort them on "trick or treat" visits, parties and events
- Do not buy, use or supply fireworks
- Respect the work of the Emergency Services, Council Staff and the Gardaí
- Keep pets indoors on Halloween night
- **Above All – Be Safe and Stay Safe**
- Contact the Fire Brigade by calling 999 or 112 if you see a bonfire being lit close to buildings, trees, overhead cables, underground services or car parking areas.
- You may report illegal dumping of waste to Wicklow County Council 24 hours a day to 1890 548837/ 1950 365 121 or email litter@wicklowcoco.ie.

Wicklow County Council wish to remind householders and individuals who hand over their waste for bonfire purposes at Halloween that they will be liable for prosecution under the Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009. (Waste includes household domestic rubbish, beds & mattresses, tyres, tables & chairs, carpets, washing machines, prams, garden waste, aerosol cans, televisions etc.) More information is available on www.wicklow.ie.

Please note: Wicklow County Council will not carry out clean ups before or after bonfires and will not be responsible for the cost of any clean ups after bonfires.

There's nothing innocent about a bonfire!



Tips for an Environmentally Friendly Halloween

Encourage the children in your family to dress up - it's a fun way for them to express themselves. Get them to make their own costumes, encourage them to be imaginative - steer clear of the "black bag cloak" - choose an environmentally friendly alternative like painting an old sheet or shirt with wacky designs and colours! And don't buy a new costume! Have a look around the local charity shops...they often have used costumes and will certainly have things that can be turned into good dress-up items! These might include belts, beads, sheets, old shirts and coats, dresses or capes.

When you are buying your pumpkins, monkey nuts and sweets, choose the ones with the least packaging.


Bonfires are not just dangerous but illegal. Providing any household waste material for burning in a Halloween bonfire is committing a criminal offence. Uncontrolled burning of waste releases deadly toxins and other chemicals into the air which is then breathed in by children and others standing by. These are deadly chemicals!

Don't forget to keep pets in a safe place away from fireworks and bonfires!

Send the kids "Trick or Treating" with your reusable shopping bag...that way they'll fit more sweets in!

Why not have traditional Irish Halloween Games on the night? Bobbing for apples, telling ghost stories, making pumpkin lanterns, etc. (lots of ideas on the Internet).

Above all - have a fun,
safe Halloween!



Forward Planning Update



A new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) has been adopted for the Eastern and Midlands Region, of which Wicklow forms part. The RSES is a strategic plan which identifies regional assets, opportunities and pressures and provides appropriate policy responses in the form of Regional Policy Objectives. At this strategic level it provides a framework for investment to better manage spatial planning and economic development to sustainably grow the Region to 2031 and beyond.

The RSES provides a:

- Spatial Strategy – to manage future growth and ensure the creation of healthy and attractive places to live, work, study, visit and invest in.
- Economic Strategy – that builds on our strengths to sustain a strong economy and support the creation of quality jobs that ensure a good living standard for all.
- Metropolitan Plan – to ensure a supply of strategic development areas for the sustainable growth and continued success and competitiveness of the Dublin Metropolitan Area.
- Investment Framework – to prioritise the delivery of key enabling infrastructure and services by government and state agencies.
- Climate Action Strategy – to accelerate climate action, ensure a clean and healthy environment and to promote sustainable transport and strategic green infrastructure.

In light of this new regional plan, the Wicklow County Development Plan will need to be reviewed and updated to ensure that it is consistent with the NPF and the new RSES. By law, this review must start by January 2020.

The first stage of this review will involve a period of consultation with the public and interested bodies. If you interested in being part of this process and making your views on the future development of the County known, please keep an eye on the Council website, Facebook and twitter pages and on local press for the start of this consultation period, which will most likely commence in November / December 2019.



Glendalough Graveyard awarded a Green Flag

Wicklow County Council achieved a Green Flag for the first time in County Wicklow for Glendalough Graveyard.

Glendalough Graveyard is also the first Graveyard in the Republic of Ireland to be awarded this distinguished Green Flag.

This is the only site in County Wicklow to be awarded and it will be of great benefit for the people of Wicklow as well as a great benefit for Tourism in the county.

The Green Flag Award for Parks Scheme is an international standard for well managed public parks and green spaces. This year a record 60 Irish Parks and Gardens from across the Republic of Ireland are receiving 2019 Green Flags. The Green Flag Award is operated within the Republic of Ireland by An Taisce Environmental Education Unit.

This is the benchmark standard for parks and green spaces. Displaying the plaque is a sign that the area you are visiting is managed to high standards, based on criteria including a welcoming place, healthy safe and secure, sustainability, conservation and heritage, community involvement, marketing and management. Awards which are independently verified by An Taisce and are given on an annual basis. Winners must apply each year to renew their status.

In 2015, the Green Flag Award Scheme was introduced in Ireland. Each site is judged on its own merits and suitability to the community it serves. Green Flag Award applications are judged against eight key criteria

1. A welcoming place
2. Healthy, safe and secure
3. Clean and well maintained
4. Sustainability
5. Conservation and heritage
6. Community involvement
7. Marketing
8. Management



NO SEATBELT NO EXCUSE

The most recent Road Safety Authority observational study of seat belt wearing rates indicates that while compliance is 94% for drivers and front seat passengers, only 89% of rear seat passengers were observed wearing a seat belt.

The impact of non-wearing of seat belts was shown in analysis conducted by the RSA of all rear seat passengers involved in fatal collisions that occurred over the period 2008-2012*. Of the rear passengers not wearing a seat belt 45% were killed, and 55% survived, while of the rear passengers who were wearing a seat belt, 22% were killed, and 78% survived.

Failing to wear a seat belt doesn't just increase the likelihood that you will be killed in the event of a collision but also may make you into a killer. Not being restrained in the rear seat of a car means that in the event of a collision, you will be thrown around the vehicle at extremely high force, doing serious injury both to yourself and potentially also to others in the car. So not wearing a seat belt isn't just dangerous but selfish too.

Drivers you are urged to insist that your passengers, both in the front and rear seats, wear their seat belt. As the driver of the car, you have the power and authority to tell anyone traveling with you to belt up.

The simple act of asking will fix this with the majority of under 35s saying they would put on a seat belt if their friend asked them to do so.



Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority



GET IT ON!

NO SEATBELT NO EXCUSE

GET IT ON!



Fómhar in Éirinn

Word: Autumn

Irish: Fomhar

Pronunciation: foh-ahr

Word: Colours

Irish: dathanna

Pronunciation: dhah-ah-nah

Word: Tree (s)

Irish: Crann (crainte)

Pronunciation: krahnn (krahnn-tcheh)

Word: Foliage/Leaves

Irish: duilleogaí

Pronunciation: dhill-oh-g (hard g) ee

Word: Apple (s)

Irish: úll (úill)

Pronunciation: ool (oo-ill)

Word: Season

Irish: séisiúr

Pronunciation: say-shoor

Phrase: Autumn leaves

Irish: duilleogaí Fomhair

Pronunciation: dhill-oh-g (hard g) ee foh-ahr

Phrase: Falling Leaves

Irish: duilleogaí ar chasadh

Pronunciation: dhill-oh-g (hard g) ee err khahsah

Phrase: First frost of the season

Irish: céad shíonn an tséisúir

Pronunciation: kaydh sheen on thay-soo-ir

Phrase: Toffee Apples

Irish: Úill Tafaí

Pronunciation: oo-ll tah-fee

Phrase: There's a chill in the air.

Irish: Tá fuair beagáinín géar san aer.

Pronunciation: thaw foo-ir bee-awgn-een gayr sahn air

Phrase: Winter is coming.

Irish: Tá teacht ar an Gheimridh

Pronunciation: thaw tshockt err on gheev-ree

Phrase: Apple Pie/Apple Tart

Irish: ciste (cake) úlla

Pronunciation: kish-theh ool-ah

Phrase: It's time to put the clocks back.

Irish: Tá sé in am na cloigeanna a chur siar.

Pronunciation: thaw shay in om nah klig- ahn-nah ah khur sheer

Phrase: The children love playing in the piles of leaves.

Irish: Is breá leis na páistí bheith ag gliondar sna duilleogaí.

Pronunciation: iss brah lesh nah pawsh-thee veh egg glundahr snah dhill-oh-g (hard g) ee

Phrase: The days are getting shorter.

Irish: Tá na laethanta ag dul ar siar.

Pronunciation: thaw nah lay-han-tha egg dhull err sheer

Phrase: It gets dark much earlier now.

Irish: Tá an ghrian ag dull faoi níos luaithe anois.

Pronunciation: thaw on ghreen egg dhull fwee nees loo-yeh ah-nish

Phrase: Autumn is my favourite season.

Irish: Is fearr go mór liom séisiún an fhomhar.

Pronunciation: iss fahr guh mohr li-um say-shoon on oh-war



Contact Wicklow County Council...

	Telephone	Fax	Email
General enquiries	0404 20100	0404 67792	
Arklow Municipal District	0402 42700		ArklowMD@wicklowcoco.ie
Baltinglass Municipal District			BaltinglassMD@wicklowcoco.ie
- Blessington	045 891222	045 865813	
- 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	mrichardson@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 2744900	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.