



Nuachtlitr Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin
Newsletter of Wicklow County Council

Available online at www.wicklow.ie/Countywise

Earrach / Spring 2017



**Construction of 20
new houses in
Sugarloaf View,
Kilmacanogue**
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Sugarloaf View, Kilmacanogue

20 New Houses

Wicklow County Council proposes to construct 20 no. houses and all associated works at an infill site adjacent to Sugarloaf Drive, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow. The accommodation consists of the following:

6 no. 1 bed houses (single storey)

9 no. 2 bed houses (two storey)

5 no. 3 bed houses (two storey)

It is also proposed to create a new pedestrian entrance to Kilmacanogue National school at this location.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Housing Authority at Wicklow County Council, Council Buildings, Wicklow from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays and Bray Town Council, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow during opening hours from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays, for a period between Wednesday 15th March 2017 to the Wednesday 3rd May 2017.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development situated, may be made in writing to Louise Casey, Administration Officer, Housing Section of Wicklow County Council on or before Wednesday 18th May 2017. Submissions may also be made by email via the following address:

LCasey@wicklowcoco.ie Further information generally is available by contacting the Housing Directorate, Wicklow County Council, directly on 0404 20120.



Housing Assistance Payment



localocht Cúnaimh Tithíochta
Housing Assistance Payment

HAP is a new form of social housing support provided by all local authorities. HAP means that local authorities can provide housing assistance for households who qualify for social housing support including many long-term Rent Supplement recipients.

Under HAP, local authorities will make a monthly payment to a landlord, subject to terms and conditions including rent limits, on a tenant's behalf. In return, the tenant pays a weekly contribution towards the rent to the local authority. This 'rent contribution' is based on the household income. It is calculated in the same way as the rent paid by a tenant of a local authority owned property.

Why is HAP being introduced?

HAP provides a more integrated system of housing supports and aims to:

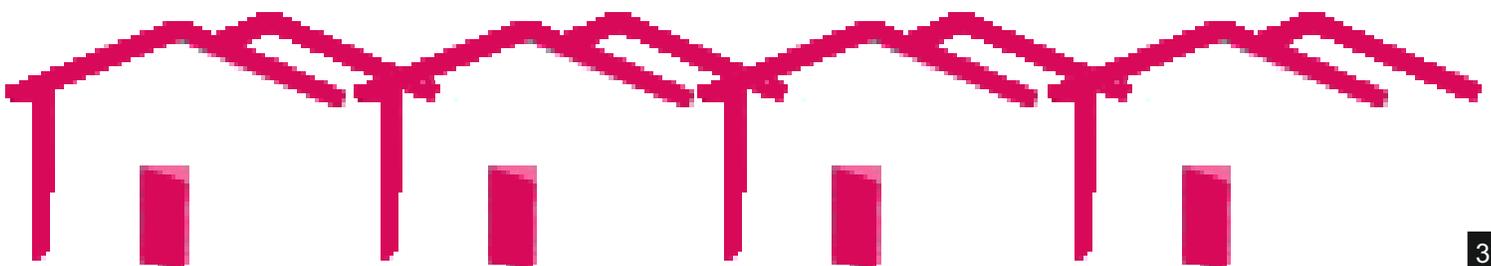
- Allow recipients to work full-time and still keep their housing support, and
- Allow all social housing supports to be accessed through one body - the local authority

Who is eligible?

- Any household that qualifies for social housing support can apply for HAP.
- Current Rent Supplement recipients who qualify for social housing support will be transferred from Rent Supplement to HAP on a phased basis.

HAP commenced in Wicklow County Council on 1st December 2016.

For further information about HAP please visit www.hap.ie or email hap@wicklowcoco.ie





April is National Spring Clean Month

Just like in your own home, the countryside needs a bit of a spring clean after the winter! Before the new growth in spring and summer, it's an ideal time to get the roadsides and open spaces looking clean and tidy. And...we'd all like an excuse to get out and about as soon as the weather gets a bit warmer and brighter.

National Spring Clean is Ireland's most popular and successful anti-litter initiative. Anyone can get involved - schools, businesses, community groups, sports clubs and individuals. Last year over 100 groups in Wicklow took part. Once again Wicklow County Council is joining forces with An Taisce and local communities to rid the county of litter!

How to get involved

Taking part in the National Spring Clean is very straightforward. Organise a clean up of your local area, to take place any time during April, and register your event online, by phone, fax or post with An Taisce. Once you have registered you will receive a FREE clean-up kit from An Taisce.

The clean up kit contains valuable tips on how to hold a successful clean-up event, health and safety information, litter facts, useful contacts, media and publicity advice, how to recycle, litter and the law, and information on An Taisce. The pack also includes plastic bags in which to collect your litter, tabards to keep your clothes clean and gloves to keep your hands safe and clean and a number of colour coded bags are provided for collection of litter that can be recycled.

When you register you become a member of National Spring Clean. This will allow you to post details of your event on www.nationalspringclean.org events section. Members who also post a report of their event when it has been completed will receive an NSC Certificate from An Taisce.

If you are an individual, now might be a good time to contact your local Tidy Towns group or get together with neighbours and friends and get organised.

Once you have a firm date for your event and you have registered with An Taisce, you should contact Wicklow County Council who will provide litter pickers and bags and work with you to recycle the waste that is useful and dispose of the waste that has to go to landfill.

National Spring Clean is a powerful community event. It gives everyone a good excuse to get out there and clean up the footpaths, hedges, roadsides, riverbanks and other beautiful areas before the summer. Let's get rid of more than the cobwebs this Spring!



For more information about National Spring Clean, please contact:
Wicklow County Council, Environmental Awareness Office,
The Murrough, Wicklow Town
Tel: 0404 64120 / 1890222276 Email: eao@wicklowcoco.ie

National Spring Clean,
5a Swift's Alley, Francis St. Dublin 8.
Tel: 01 400 2210 Fax: 01 400 2285
Email: nsc@antaisce.org Website: www.nationalspringclean.org

Litter is always caused by people



Litter is waste in the wrong place and ruins the appearance of our cities, towns, villages and countryside. Litter has many forms and many sources, from a sweet wrapper or cigarette butt thrown on the street to a dumped bag of rubbish, a fly-tipped load of demolition rubble or a dog fouled footpath or beach. Local Authorities spend tens of millions of euros every year on cleaning the streets in Ireland and trying to prevent people from dumping their waste illegally - an enormous amount of money that could be spent on better things! Evidence suggests that collecting litter is nearly ten times more expensive per tonne than collecting domestic waste.

Litter such as broken bottles and cans left lying around public areas can easily result in an injury, while food litter can attract rats and flies, which spread disease. Litter is also lethal to wildlife, from discarded fishing lines that can maim and kill water birds, to plastic bags mistaken for food and ingested by animals such as cows, sheep, horses and some marine animals.

Research on the littering of minor roads in Ireland indicated that the number of litter items deposited on these roads was an average of 3,500 items per kilometre of road per year. One site surveyed had levels of littering of over 10,000 items per kilometre per year!! Almost 60% of identifiable litter items were beverage containers and packaging. Furthermore, this study indicated that the roadside litter eventually ends up in watercourses and on agricultural land where it causes animal injury and death, crop contamination and machinery damage.

Litter & Climate Change

It is common knowledge that there is accelerated warming of the earth due to rising concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere which are caused by human activities. Most products we buy and use cause greenhouse gas emissions in some way, e.g. during production and distribution. They also contribute towards exhausting our natural resources. Packaging takes energy to produce, therefore, by cutting down on packaging production, and also through recycling, we can reduce the amount of energy used and limit the release of further greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Your contribution during the National Spring Clean, however big or small, will have real and measurable benefits for our environment.

For example:

For every aluminium can collected and recycled, enough energy is saved to run your television for three hours!

For 1kg of recycled plastics collected, 1.5kg of carbon dioxide is prevented from being released to the atmosphere (the same amount of carbon dioxide released by toasting 30 slices of bread!)

By recycling 1kg of paper instead of landfilling, enough energy is saved to run an energy-saving bulb non-stop for two days! For 1kg of recycled glass, the saving is 300g of carbon dioxide

Further benefits to our environment from reduced waste and litter include a reduction of pollutants in our natural ecosystems, and improved visual amenity in our landscapes.

In future you might consider:

Choosing products with minimal or no packaging

Re-using plastic bags

Buying re-fills where possible.

Illegal Waste Collection

Wicklow County Council
County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town
Phone: 0404-20100
Fax: 0404-67792



Sonraí Teagmhála:
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Aras an Chontae, Na Geataí Bána, Cill Mhantáin

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

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

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



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

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

Recent Sheep Kills

An alarming number of attacks on livestock have occurred on farms throughout the county over recent months. Marauding dogs have carried out these attacks. In practically all attacks these dogs are domestic pets that have just strayed out from towns.

The attacks have resulted in the death and worrying of sheep. When dogs worry pregnant ewes it can cause the miscarriage of their lambs. During the lambing season ewes are obviously more vulnerable to this.



It is the dog owners' responsibility to ensure their dog is under control and does not attack sheep or livestock or indeed humans or other animals. You may not be aware of the serious consequences if your dog attacks or worries livestock.

As the Owner:

- You will be convicted of an offence and liable to a fine and/or a prison sentence
- You will have to compensate the farmer for all costs and losses he has suffered
- Your dog could be shot by a farmer if he considers it involved in worrying or attacking livestock

Loose or stray dogs should be notified to Dog Warden and local Gardai.

So, dog owners, please keep control of your pets at all times and do not allow them to stray. It will keep the dog alive, livestock safe and it could save you a whole lot of money in compensation, fines and legal costs.

New Coolboy Footbridge opened in Arklow

A new footbridge for use by pedestrians and cyclists across a stream at Beech Road in Arklow was officially opened on Tuesday February 28th.

The Coolboy Bridge marks the completion of an uninterrupted branch of the Arklow Town footpath network.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, thanked the National Transport Authority for funding the footbridge which was the last link in the 2.5 km footpath.

He also thanked the owners of the lands needed to build the scheme and the consultants, EirEng, who were responsible for the design of the bridge along with Arklow Geraldines for hosting refreshments at the event.

Mr Bryan Doyle, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said the completion of the 50m section of footpath had made it much more enticing for people to walk as it had substantially improved the safety of the route.

Previously, pedestrians were forced to walk on the road carriageway in order to get to the footpaths on either side of the old bridge. The inhabitants along this road and people going for leisure walks will now be more enticed to walk along this road up to the Kilbride Wood, one of the two Peoples Millennium forests in the county.

The footbridge, which was officially opened by the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, was blessed by Fr. Martin Cosgrove and Revd. Nigel Sherwood.



Arklow Municipal District News



Olympic Gold Medal winner Ronnie Delany was honoured by his hometown when Arklow Municipal District hosted a Civic Reception in his honour on 14th December 2016, to mark the 60th anniversary of his Melbourne victory.



Arklow Town Team held their first meeting on Tuesday 17th January 2017



Recognition of a Lifetime Award to Jimmy Olan. Rathdrum Development Association on Wednesday 8th February 2017.



History was made on Wednesday 8th March 2017 when the Members of Arklow Municipal District for the first time ever, held their monthly meeting in Allen Park, Aughrim.



Presentation of Estate Development Grants on Wednesday 8th February 2017



A Civic Reception was held in the Arklow Municipal District offices on Wednesday 8th February 2017 to acknowledge the Ladies Junior and Minor teams from Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney GAA who won their respective county championships.

Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project



Irish Water is working in partnership with Wicklow County Council to deliver the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Currently, untreated wastewater is discharged into the Avoca River which flows through Arklow Town. Irish Water is working to address this unacceptable situation by progressing this project.

The foreshore licence from the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government for the marine site investigation works has now been granted. The marine site investigation works include archaeological surveys, ecological surveys and geotechnical surveys and will be carried out in Arklow Bay and the estuary of the Avoca River. The works will enable the preliminary design of the proposed marine outfall pipe in the bay and the intake pipe crossing the Avoca River.

Recently, a series of investigative surveys along the quays in Arklow were completed. The information gathered from these surveys will be used in the design of the wastewater treatment plant, the interceptor sewers and the planning application which will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in 2017.

The new Wastewater Treatment Plant will benefit residents, businesses and Arklow's tourist industry in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all.



Bray Municipal District News

Wicklow Big Winners at National Awards Events



Wicklow took four major awards for tourism and community involvement at two different national awards in March.

Bray was the big winner securing two awards. One for the Bray.ie project and the other for the Bray Air Display.



At the same time, County Wicklow picked up two more awards: one for the Best Adventure Experience, Vagabond Tours in Newtownmountkennedy, and the other for Best Accommodation, River Valley Holiday Park, Redcross.

In the Community and Council Awards - presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA (the Local Authority Member's Association) - Bray.ie was crowned the "Best Connected Community".

Bray.ie was launched in 2011 as part of the Bray Town's Economy Think Tank outputs. Since launching the new look website back in 2015 it has had over 300,000 visits and close to 1m page views. Bray.ie's total social engagement reach was over 1.53m for the full year of 2016.

The Community and Council Awards recognise and celebrate community and councils working together.

The Bray Air Display was named as winner in the Best Festival/Event Experience in the Irish Tourism Industry Awards beating off such formidable competition as Dublin's St Patrick's Festival and Waterford's Winterval.



Also winners in the Irish Tourism Industry Awards were Vagabond Tours of Newtownmountkennedy who won the Best Adventure Experience award, and River Valley Holiday Park, Redcross, who took the Best Accommodation award.





Our Town Our River

www.bray.ie

Latest News about the River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme

As planned, the flood protection works were substantially completed in September 2016.

Due to the works carried out to widen and deepen the river channel and the construction of walls and embankments along a 3.3km stretch from Silverbridge at the N11 to the Harbour Bridge at Bray Harbour, all properties in the area are now protected from a 1 in 100 fluvial event and a 1 in 200 tidal event.

The likelihood of potential loss of lives in such an event has been mitigated.

What works have been completed to date

The flood defence works are completed at the following locations:

- Coburg
- Seapoint Court
- Killarney Glen
- Riversdale
- La Vallee

A full version of this issue can be viewed on www.bray.ie



An artist's impression of the River Dargle from the Fran O'Toole Bridge.



The current view of the River Dargle from the Fran O'Toole Bridge.

Bray Municipal District News

Florentine Centre Gets Planning Go-Ahead

Planning permission has been granted to Wicklow County Council by An Bord Pleanala for a 13000m2 retail and cinema development at the heart of Bray's Main Street. The development is estimated to cost €24M.

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, welcomed the decision and looked forward to the realisation of this scheme which has been foremost on the agenda of local councillors for 20 years and which will have a hugely beneficial impact on Bray as a town.

The Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr. Steven Matthews, expressed his satisfaction with the decision.

This site has been the subject of three previous planning applications by Ballymore Properties. After a number of false starts, the site reverted to use as a car park five years ago. Bray Town Council acquired the site in late 2013 and the Wicklow County Council appointed team, led by Des O'Brien, Bray Municipal District Manager, has brought it to the planning stage and is now in the process of engaging with potential development partners.

The development will be built around a new pedestrianised street which will open up from the Main Street and end in a public space. The new street will comprise of two anchor stores of 3,000 and 1,000 square metres respectively, 8 retail units totalling 3,449 square metres and 3 restaurants totalling 545 square metres, a 5 screen multiplex cinema and undercroft parking.

The final design configuration will be determined by the retail mix and the requirements of the occupiers. The principal aim of the scheme is to complement the existing retail offering and to reinvigorate the shopping experience in Bray. The presence of the cinema and restaurants will add vibrancy to the town's evening economy, which is of significance to Bray as a Purple Flag town.

Wicklow County Council, Chief Executive, Mr Bryan Doyle, stated that this development will reinforce the role of the Town Centre as the key meeting and shopping place for the citizens of Bray and should be completed in 2019.



@BrayTCouncil

www.bray.ie

Japanese Knotweed

Do Not Cut! - Avoid and Report



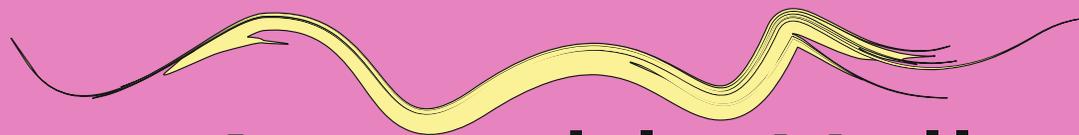
Important Note:

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.



Wicklow Municipal District News



Assembly Hall

A venue for the local community

Bachelors Walk Wicklow Town



Wicklow Assembly Hall was built in 1890 by Dublin man Henry Sharpe at a cost of £1,100. The Assembly Hall has been used for many purposes over the century including political meetings, Irish dancing and fundraising. The Hall, was in disrepair in the latter half of the twentieth century. The hall was jointly owned by the local churches. Wicklow Town Council purchased the hall and carried out a substantial refurbishment program and the work was completed and the Hall reopened in June 2012. The Hall is centrally located on Bachelor's Walk and there is ample parking available nearby.

This local facility is used by many local groups and societies on a weekly basis and also for several one off events throughout the year.

The Hall can be rented by the hour, day or week and some availability remains. To rent the hall or enquire about rates or availability please contact Gerry Dornan at Wicklow Municipal District on 0404-20173 ext 2312 or email: wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Greystones Municipal District News



New fences erected at Beechwood Park and Beachdale, Kilcoole. Members of Greystones Municipal District allocated funding for both projects from their discretionary budget for public realm projects.

Bollards installed along the on-road cycle lanes of the Blacklion Bypass to improve road safety in the vicinity of Templecarrig School, Greystones Educate Together School and Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath.



11 smart waste compactors and sensor bins recently installed in Greystones.



The new solar powered bins compact the waste resulting in a 76% reduction in the number of required collections compared to previous collection requirements. As well as the reduced collections there is a marked reduction in the level of litter on the street surrounding the bins. The enclosed design of the bins prevents the units overflowing and significantly reduces the amount of litter in the vicinity also.



Wicklow Tourism News

DESTINATION SOUTH WICKLOW: AGHOWLE, RATHGALL, RATHWOOD
A mix of Bronze Age, Early Christians, Chocolate & Family Fun!



This is probably the most remote location in the County! Beyond the villages of Aughrim, Tinahely and Shillelagh, on the border with Carlow. Find there an amazing Bronze Age Ring Fort, an early Christian Settlement, a year round shopping destination, and Ireland's most exciting Chocolate Factory.

More info at: <http://visitwicklow.ie/southwicklow-rathgall-aghowle-rathwood>

#MyWicklow

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Bray Jazz Festival (April 28th to 30th)



Bray Jazz Festival is back for the 17th year! This year, organisers have lined up acts from Ireland, Sweden, Ivory Coast USA, Scotland, Norway, Mexico and France! Over the years, Bray Jazz Festival has become Ireland's leading contemporary jazz and improvised music festival.

More info at: <http://www.brayjazz.com/>

NEW EVENT: West Wicklow Music Festival (May 19th-21st)



Born and bred as a farmer around the Blessington Lakes, Pianist Fiachra Garvey has gained international recognition after completing his Masters degree at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Fiachra is bringing his fame and friends to Russborough for a fantastic musical weekend.

More info at: <http://westwicklowfestival.com>

Mountain Bike Enduro World Series (May 26th to 28th)



The best bike riders in the world are back to Carrick Mountain! Several thousand spectators and dozens of international journalists, photographers and film crews will descend on County Wicklow, to witness the most spectacular biking event in Ireland!

More Info at: <http://www.emeraldenduro.com/>

Browse the full calendar of events at visitwicklow.ie/calendar/

#MyWicklow
visitwicklow.ie

Katie Taylor

Third Level Bursary

2017

Sports Scholarship

€1,500 per year

Now Accepting Applications

For more details see www.wicklowlsp.ie
or contact us wicklowlsp@wicklowcoco.ie



Wicklow County Council
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin



Wicklow
Local Sports Partnership
Comhpháirtíocht Áitiúil Spóirt Chill Mhantáin



Wicklow
Local Sports Partnership

Comhpháirtíocht Áitiúil Spóirt Chill Mhantáin

#GetOutInWicklow



Wicklow Councillors Host Gala Ball



Wicklow Hospice is ready to start building but needs another €1m in order to place the building contract. To date, €3.5m has been raised by the Foundation through the generosity of many people in Wicklow and beyond. All of the money raised will go towards the building fund for the Wicklow Hospice, plans for which are well underway and which has benefitted from generous support by the people of County Wicklow.

Wicklow County Councillors are holding a major fund-raising event for the Wicklow Hospice on Friday the 7th of April, to raise much needed funds for this worthy project. There is an urgent need for a Hospice in County Wicklow and although great work has already been done by all involved, the Councillors felt they could help with a major contribution. The Councillors have pledged €10,000 from each of their five respective Municipal District funds of Bray, Arklow, Greystones, Wicklow and Baltinglass. The Gala fund raising event will take place in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy and will include a charity auction, raffle and guest entertainment. A committee representing all 32 Councillors as well as the Hospice Foundation has been established to oversee the event.

Supporting the Gala event, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, stated this is an excellent cause for the elected members to be involved in, a project that will benefit the entire of County Wicklow. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the five Municipal Districts who have pledged €10,000 from their discretionary fund and to congratulated the committee for the work so far.

Mr Sean Dorgan, Chairman, Wicklow Hospice Foundation, stated that he was indebted to the elected representatives of Wicklow County Council for this major initiative which will raise significant funds for the long-awaited Hospice facility.

Wicklow

...Let's talk business

Start your own business in Wicklow

Many of us have often dreamt about being our own boss, having total control of our own destiny - but what is involved in starting your own business ? And where do you start ?

Every start up business was once an idea. In order to ensure that the investment of both human and financial resources required to build a successful business is worthwhile, it is essential that the idea is critically assessed. A key step in the process is market research. This will help identify a target market. It will also help identify competitors in the market and clarify how to compete effectively against them. Market Research will also effectively assess the demand and thereby establish the real potential of the business.

The Business Plan is the next stage in the process - documenting the requirements of the business with regard to structure, location, labour and finance and how sales will be generated and grown. A marketing strategy will be used to engage with the target audience to determine the most appropriate distribution channel and promotional activity. After the plan is documented and refined, It's time for LAUNCH!

The Local Enterprise Office Wicklow (LEO) runs the very successful investigating your Business Idea and Start your own Business Course training programmes which will help you turn your idea into a business. Bookings are now being taken for the aforementioned courses commencing in May.

Further Details of the current training program as well as a booking facility are available on the LEO website <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow>

4th May
"Start Your Own Business"
Brockagh Community Centre,
Laragh
10 weeks,
1 evening per week!
7pm – 10pm,
Only €80



11th May
"Investigating Your Business Idea"
Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew
9.30am – 5.00pm only €20

For further details or to book any of our training courses , please phone 0404 30800 or log onto www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow

Wicklow

...Let's talk business

Local Enterprise Office Photo Journal Spring 2017



Sheelagh Daly, LEO Wicklow, Niall Glynn, Susan Hayes Culleton, Kevin Kelleher and Grainne De Lacey who were on the discussion panel Preparing a Roadmap for Growth

Over 300 local business people engaged in activities organised by the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow over the course of the Local Enterprise Week, many of whom will continue to get follow up advice/training and support for their businesses over the course of the coming weeks. If you would like to meet with a business advisor to get advice on any aspect of your business, you can avail of one to one meeting with a Business Advisor by phoning the Local Enterprise Office on 0404 30800 to make an appointment.



The Panel of Accountants who held financial Advice Clinics during the LEO Open Day

Half day Workshop
Accessing finance for your Business

Learn about the types of finance available, how loans are accessed by financial institutions and how to write a credible and convincing business plan



Select a date that suits you
28th March, 25th April, 30th May

For further details or to book a place on this workshop, please phone 0404 30800 or log onto

www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow



Cathal O' Sullivan GameX and Shane Bonner Newmarket Kitchen Regional Winners of the Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur with Carol Murphy LEO Wicklow

Wicklow County Council Welcome New Disability Officer



Wicklow County Council has linked in with the Disability Federation Ireland to provide a Community Development Worker (Laura English) for two days per week for a period of one year. Laura's role will support the Council to respond to the needs of people with disabilities in County Wicklow and help them to proactively engage with implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at local level.

Laura's role in Wicklow focuses on engaging key people across all sectors of the community to tackle issues affecting people with disabilities, develop strategies and identify key local structures through which outcomes can be achieved.

While physical access to the built environment will be a key concern to be addressed in partnership with Wicklow's Access Officer, Helen Purcell, there is an acknowledgement that people with disabilities experience a range of barriers to full and equal participation. As such, the role will extend to building the capacity of people with disabilities to represent themselves and others through advocacy groups, the Public Participation Network and other structures within the County.

The role will also involve encouraging people with disabilities to engage with existing local services for support, including the County Partnerships, Education and Training Boards and other local groups. Consideration will be given to linking Laura's work to achieving the goals outlined in the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) for the area and other Local Authority policy documents including the Disability Implementation Plan and the Age Friendly Strategy.

Laura will be attending each of the County's 5 Municipal District Meetings to inform local Councillors of her work and explain how they can support it. She will also be delivering disability awareness training to all frontline council and public services staff throughout the month.

If you would like to get involved in the work that Laura is doing or find out more about her role you can contact her on lauraenglish@disability-federation.ie or 086 8206736.



Disability Federation of Ireland



Free Family Cultural Events on Easter Monday through Creative Ireland



Wicklow County Council's first Creative Ireland event will be a series of free performances and workshops for communities on Easter Monday the 17th April. The events are across the arts and heritage fields. There is a family day in Russborough house featuring a family concert by KILA, readings by Bisto Award winning Children's Author Julian Gough for children aged 6-9 years. There will also be performances of The Creatures of Whistleberry Forrest a music performance for young children aged 3-6 years as well as face painting, balloon making and some surprise pop up performers. In Killruddery House, children's author

Marie Louise Fitzpatrick and illustrator Michael Emberley will read, play and entertain. There will be performances of WOOFLE by Replay Theatre Company and later on Cormac Begley and Eithne Ni Cathain will be in performance. During the evening the Booka Brass Band will also work their magic. Bray Jazz will host a performance in the Well in Bray on the night, while Calary Music Festival will feature young gifted performers. In addition, Shekina Sculpture Garden will be open in Glenmalure and a walk and heritage activities for families, led by experts, will take place in Avondale.



For further information and free tickets see www.wicklow.ie. Brochures are available online and from the venues. Join in its all for free!

Building Creative Communities - Wicklow County Council welcomes major creativity initiative

Creative Ireland is the Government's legacy programme for Ireland 2016. It is a five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. It is built around five strategic pillars: Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child; Enabling Creativity in Every Community; Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure; In the larger context of the Creative Industries, making Ireland a Centre of Excellence in Media Production; Unifying our Global Reputation. Full details of the Creative Ireland Programme are available at creativeireland.ie or on Facebook (CreativeIreland) and Twitter (@creativirl).

Enabling creativity in every community is a core pillar of the Creative Ireland Programme, which will place our strongest assets - our culture and creative communities - at the centre of public policy. In 2016, Wicklow County Council demonstrated their unique capacity to activate and support community engagement and participation in marking the Centenary year through a wide range of arts, culture and heritage initiatives.

Creative Ireland aims to build on the success of the 2016 Celebrations by supporting Wicklow County Council to develop a dedicated Culture and Creativity plan for Wicklow, based on the premise that participation in cultural activity drives personal and collective creativity, with significant implications for individual and societal wellbeing. 2017 will see a special focus on children and young people with the specific objective of fast-tracking the Charter for Arts in Education, which will significantly increase access and participation for children in high quality arts and culture experiences.

Additional funding to support the initiative will be made available through the Creative Ireland Programme in 2017 with the potential for further investment over the next four years. Jenny Sherwin, County Arts Officer has been appointed Creative Ireland co-ordinator for Wicklow County Council.



The County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2016 - 2022 has been adopted and is due to be launched in May of 2017.

The Strategy is a comprehensive document which aims to make Wicklow a great place in which to grown old. It is a Strategy which has been prepared by older people for both the older people of today and the future. An Age Friendly place is a place which anticipates and responds to the needs and preferences of older people, respects their decisions, protects the most vulnerable and promotes inclusion.

Wicklow's International Partner Cities and Towns

Twinning helps to develop a better understanding of other nationalities and cultures. In addition to educational, cultural and sporting exchanges, partnerships with international communities have led to lifelong friendships, and to business exchanges and commercial opportunities.

County Wicklow and its towns have partnerships with towns and cities in France, Germany, United States, and Wales. County Wicklow has also taken the first steps towards forming a "Friendship Agreement" with Hainan Province in China. Through its partnerships and international friendships, the council have developed a fantastic network of Wicklow Ambassadors around the globe.

Over the course of St Patrick's Weekend, there were visitors from a number of groups representing our partner towns and cities; The Mayor of Eichenzell, (twinned with Wicklow Town), and a marching band from Eichenzell took part in the Greystones and Wicklow parades. While representatives from Würzburg (twinned with Bray and County Wicklow), came on a private visit.

Bray's Sister City, Dublin, California, is very proud of its Irish connections and dedicates an entire weekend to celebrating our national saint. Similarly, Würzburg's German Irish Society marked the occasion by turning some of its buildings green and by hosting an Irish night.

Over the next few issues of Countywise, our partner towns and cities will be featured and details will be provide details of how you can join the various groups.

National Heritage Week is on the way!



Heritage Week 2017 will take place from 19-27 August and this year people are being asked to make 2017 the year we help more people learn about and enjoy Ireland's nature. While Heritage Week 2017 will see a greater focus than before on Ireland's natural heritage, for all you archaeologists, artists and building enthusiasts, it is not just about wildlife. Our human nature and its historic output leave plenty of space for creative interpretation!

County Wicklow with its rich history and prehistory layered upon a landscape of mountains, sea, woodlands and countryside offers the natural backdrop for so many events. Whether its talks, walks, musical performances, drama, exhibitions, re-enactments, garden tours, archaeological excavations, art workshops or wildlife watching, National Heritage Week is the time to tell your stories and cast a light on your local heritage. Events focussing on families and children and the great outdoors are always particularly welcomed. Time to put your thinking hats on. Registration for all events will be open from 1st May on www.heritageweek.ie and will stay open until mid August. This website also offers lots of useful information for event organisers. Those wishing to appear in the National Heritage Week printed guide must register their event by 31st May, while those wishing to be included in the printed County Wicklow Heritage Week guide produced by Wicklow County Council should register before end of June. National Heritage Week is coordinated by The Heritage Council as part of the European Heritage Days initiative. There are typically up to 100 events organised by interested and enthusiastic individuals and groups in county Wicklow, the majority free of charge. To seek advice or discuss plans that you may have for Heritage Week in county Wicklow contact Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer dburns@wicklowcoco.ie T: 0404 20100.

Promoting Community Archaeology in Wicklow



An ongoing aim of the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council is to work via the County Heritage Plan programme on actions to increase awareness and appreciation of natural and cultural heritage in Wicklow. A key part of this involves supporting the work of existing local community based heritage initiatives and encouraging new ones. An upcoming Community Archaeology event and workshop happening on Sat 27th May plans to specifically explore the theme of the role of communities in archaeology. The event will be an opportunity to showcase via a series of short presentations, examples of existing community based archaeology/ heritage initiatives happening in Wicklow. There will also be opportunities through a workshop session for groups to share experiences and explore potential supports and resources to address issues. The event includes presentations and participation

from The Heritage Council and Wicklow Heritage Forum along with the Glendalough Heritage Forum, the Medieval Bray Project, The West Wicklow Photogrammetry project and the Glenmalure Adopt A Monument Group. The Wicklow Community Archaeology Open Day is taking place on Sat 27th May in the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh 10.00am to 4.00 pm. Admission is free but pre registration is required as there is a limited capacity. For all queries, and to reserve a place e mail: dburns@wicklowcoco.ie. Keep a look out on www.wicklow.ie and www.countywicklowheritage.org for more details on the programme. This event is supported by Wicklow County Council and The Heritage Council as an action of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan.





Blessington Library's Early Literacy Initiative

"Catch them early" is the motto of staff in Blessington Library and this is the thinking behind our early literacy events which include a Baby Booktime for babies 0-18 months, Toddlertime for 18-36 months and our Family Story time for older children.



Baby Booktime

This event is pitched at the youngest people in our community and their parents. For an hour on Friday mornings at 10.00 a.m. parents or carers and their babies join us for a fun filled session where parents and librarians entertain babies with songs, rhymes, stories and fun. Unknown to themselves, while all this fun is being experienced, those baby brains are soaking up all kinds of information; they are picking up new words, enjoying socialising with other babies (little babies are intrigued by other babies) and also learning valuable skills in terms of recognising how books work, what words look like as well as being stimulated in a myriad of other ways.



Toddlertime

Toddlertime is at 11.00 on Friday mornings and is all about getting parents/minders and their 18-36 month olds to participate in a range of activities which include nursery rhymes, singing, dancing, storytelling and simple crafts. Plenty of exposure to reading and books are crucial to the development of language skills in young children and these events are invaluable in that they stimulate and encourage early childhood development while also entertaining toddlers in a social setting.



Family Storytime

Blessington Library has been mobbed on Saturday mornings for many years now. Our ever popular Family Storytime at 11.30 has something for a range of ages from the smallest to the oldest - Parents, Carers and children alike all get a kick out of this Saturday morning event which comprises of stories followed by a simple craft. There's an expectation that the adults will get involved in both activities - joining in the storytime and helping their little ones get the best out of the craft; usually by cutting out extra components and occasionally by giving a hand with the tidy up!

Branch Library Opening Hours Spring 2017

Arklow Phone: 0402 39977
 Claire Fullam
 Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat 10.00am - 5.00pm
 Tues/Thurs 10.00am - 8.30pm

Aughrim Phone: 0402 36036
 Conor Agnew
 Tues 3.00pm - 5.00pm
 Wed 3.00pm - 5.00pm
 6.30pm - 8.30pm
 Fri 11.00am - 1.00pm
 3.00pm - 5.00pm
 Sat 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Ballywaltrim Phone: 01 2723205
 Mark Sayers
 Tues/Thurs/Sat 10.00am - 1.00pm
 2.00pm - 5.00pm
 Wed 1.00pm - 5.00pm
 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Baltinglass Phone: 059 6482300
 Catherine Walsh / Teresa Kenny
 Tues/Fri 11.00am - 1.30pm
 3.00pm - 5.00pm
 6.30pm - 8.30pm
 Wed 11.00am - 1.30pm
 2.00pm - 5.00pm
 Sat 2.00pm - 5.00pm

Blessington Phone: 045 891740
 Margaret Birchall
 Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat 10.00am - 5.00pm
 Tues/Thurs 10.00am - 8.30pm

Bray Phone: 01 2862600
 Ciara O'Brien
 Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat 10.00am - 5.00pm
 Tues/Thurs 10.00am - 8.30pm

Carnew Phone: 053 9426088
 Marie Hennessy
 Mon/Fri 2.00pm - 4.30pm
 6.30pm - 8.30pm
 Tues/Thurs 11.00am - 1.00pm
 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Dunlavin Phone: 045 401000
 Maura Greene
 Tues 6.30pm - 8.30pm
 Wed 3.00pm - 5.00pm
 6.30pm - 8.30pm
 Fri 10.30am - 1.00pm
 3.00pm - 5.00pm
 Sat 11.00am - 1.00pm

Enniskerry Phone: 01 2864339
 Gerlanda Maniglia
 Tues 2.00pm - 5.00pm
 6.30pm - 8.30pm
 Wed 2.00pm - 5.00pm
 6.30pm - 8.30pm
 Fri 11.00am - 1.00pm
 2.00pm - 5.00pm
 Sat 3.00pm - 5.00pm

Greystones Phone: 01 2873548
 Fiona Scannell
 Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat 10.00am - 5.00pm
 Tues/Thurs 10.00am - 8.30pm

Rathdrum Phone: 0404 43232
 Margaret Byrne
 Tues 2.00pm - 4.30pm
 Wed 11.00am - 1.00pm
 2.00pm - 4.00pm
 6.30pm - 8.30pm
 Thurs/Sat 10.00am - 8.30pm

Tinahely Phone: 0402 38080
 Mary Carty
 Tues/Wed 1.30pm - 5.00pm
 6.30pm - 8.30pm
 Thurs 11.00am - 1.30pm
 2.30pm - 5.00pm
 Sat 11.00am - 1.30pm

Wicklow Phone: 0404 67025
 Emer O'Byrne
 Mon/Tues/Fri/Sat 10.00am - 1.00pm
 Wed 10.00am - 1.00pm
 2.00pm - 5.00pm
 6.00pm - 8.30pm
 Thurs 10.00am - 5.00pm
 6.00pm - 8.30pm



County Wicklow Public Participation Network

County Wicklow PPN began 2017 by encouraging members to get involved in two separate consultation opportunities:

- The first was in relation to informing the next phase of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2018-2020 (SICAP). SICAP was set up by the Government in 2015 to support communities and individuals to identify and address social exclusion and poverty; access and participate in further education and training; access employment and self-employment. In Wicklow it is implemented by Co. Wicklow Partnership (South and West), and Bray Area Partnership (North). For more information on SICAP and how it could help you and your community please contact Co. Wicklow Partnership: info@countywicklowpartnership.ie or Bray Partnership: info@brayareapartnership.ie
- Co. Wicklow PPN also made a submission to the new National Women's Strategy 2017-2020. In devising this submission the PPN posed the following questions to women's groups, disability groups, Traveller groups and young people- What are the important issues for women and girls in Ireland? What outcomes should government aim to achieve? What actions should be taken to support those outcomes? The general consensus was that while equality continues to progress, there is still a lot of discrimination against women which leads to stress, illness and in some cases serious mental health issues particularly among young women.

Both of these submissions are available to download from the Co. Wicklow PPN Website.

Wicklow PPN is teaming up again this year with the Co. Wicklow Volunteer Centre to run modules across the county on Mind Your Mental Health; and sessions on Garda Vetting & Managing Your Volunteers. Check out the PPN Facebook Page for dates and venues, or ring Helen below or Fiona on 086 325 8803.

For more information about Co Wicklow PPN contact Helen on 087 189 5145 or E: countywicklowppn@gmail.com W: www.countywicklowppn.ie



RSA

Campaign Warns - Don't "Get This Season's Killer Look"

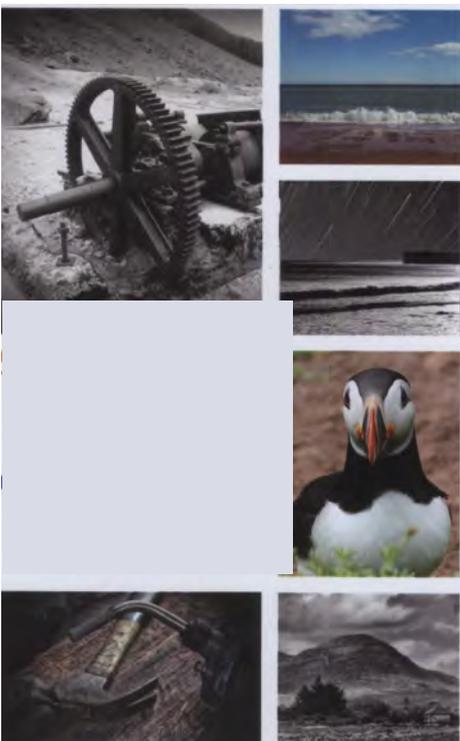
In a recent Survey conducted by the Road Safety Authority it has been revealed that over 1 in 4 women Misuse their Seatbelt. Their current campaign is aimed at discouraging women from wearing their seatbelts under their arm, which can cause horrific injuries in the event of a collision.

A study of 300 women aged 17 to 34, undertaken in 2016, on behalf of the RSA found that:

- 28% admitted to misusing a seatbelt by wearing it under the arm, rising to 35% among younger women.
- 53% of those interviewed said that their friends wore the seatbelt under the arm
- The main reasons cited for wearing the seatbelt under the arm were to relieve neck tension (49%) and for general comfort (47%).
- 9% said it was to protect their tan, or 7% to protect clothing.
- While seatbelt compliance is consistently very strong among young females, it is not universal: e.g. 23% do not always wear a seat belt as a rear passenger.

The public are urged to wear seatbelts correctly. The belt should be worn diagonally across the wearer's chest on their shoulder and never under the arm. If it feels uncomfortable, adjust the height of the belt on the anchor point on the door frame or adjust the seat position and height. Most importantly of all avoid getting "This Season's Killer Look" because you didn't wear your seatbelt properly."

Arklow Camera Club Exhibition at Arklow Library



Arklow Camera Club are currently holding their annual member's exhibition in the Arklow Library Gallery.

Arklow Camera Club is Arklow's oldest photographic association. With the emphasis placed firmly on fun and learning and not quite so much on competition, club members spend as much time as possible actually shooting pictures and encouraging one another. It is also the perfect forum in which to learn the basics and advancing from there to learn more advanced techniques. Experienced members are only too willing to help novice practitioners. The club meets at Marshlands Leisure Centre just off the Dublin Road at least once per month, with most of the other meetings being out in the field.

Details of the club activities can be seen at:

www.arklowcameraclub.ie

or on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/arklowcameraclub



Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg

Young Voices. Local Issues.

Over 100 young people from across the County gathered in Newtownmountkennedy for the Co. Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg AGM.

The day was very much focussed on youth issues as well as giving those present a sense of how Comhairle works and what is involved for those who might be interested in joining. Some positive affirmation and a recognition of the important role of the youth council provided a great start to the day from the current Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Pat Fitzgerald. There were workshops on the day and discussions with some presentations. The major outcomes from the day were the support and recommendation for Comhairle to work on two major issues on behalf of and with young people in Co. Wicklow. These issues were, Youth Homelessness and Cyber Bullying.

While some serious contributions were made and some sensitive issues discussed there was still a good atmosphere throughout the day and some positive mixing of students and young people from the different parts of Wicklow.



Tara Trevaskis Hoskin was voted as Chair of Comhairle na nÓg for the coming year and at the first meeting of 2017 a number of decisions were made. It is the intention of the Youth Council to produce a Cyber Bullying Charter for Co. Wicklow over the coming months to be presented to the County Council for adoption. A meeting was held with Winifred Kelly from the Simon Community in February which has inspired the Comhairle members to prepare a plan for how a collaborative public awareness raising campaign about young people who are homeless or vulnerable and at risk of homelessness. The insights and information from Winnie showed how important it is for young people to have opportunities to learn about the issue and to explore how they might contribute to a sustainable and positive solution to the challenges facing other young people in Co. Wicklow. There is also a plan for Comhairle to host youth forum meetings in each Municipal District which would give young people in each area an opportunity to gather in the council chamber and discuss issues that Comhairle are working on and to raise other local issues that they feel are important. These meetings will happen on the same evening as the adult meetings which will allow some scope for potential crossover between the two councils, where appropriate.



Keep an eye out for the new Co. Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg promo video and check us out on Facebook and Twitter for updates.



Communities Facilities Grant Scheme 2017



Wicklow Local Community Development Committee invites applications from community and voluntary groups and not-for-profit organisations for small scale capital projects with a clearly defined community and social cohesion focus. These grants are funded by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

The aim of the scheme is to build strong communities through local projects.

Eligible Facilities include:

- Development/renovation of community centres
- Community amenities
- Youth Clubs
- Sports/recreation facilities
- Improvements to town parks and common areas and spaces
- Creative Ireland Programme 2017 - 2022 projects

The scheme will offer grants up to a maximum of €1,000 per project.

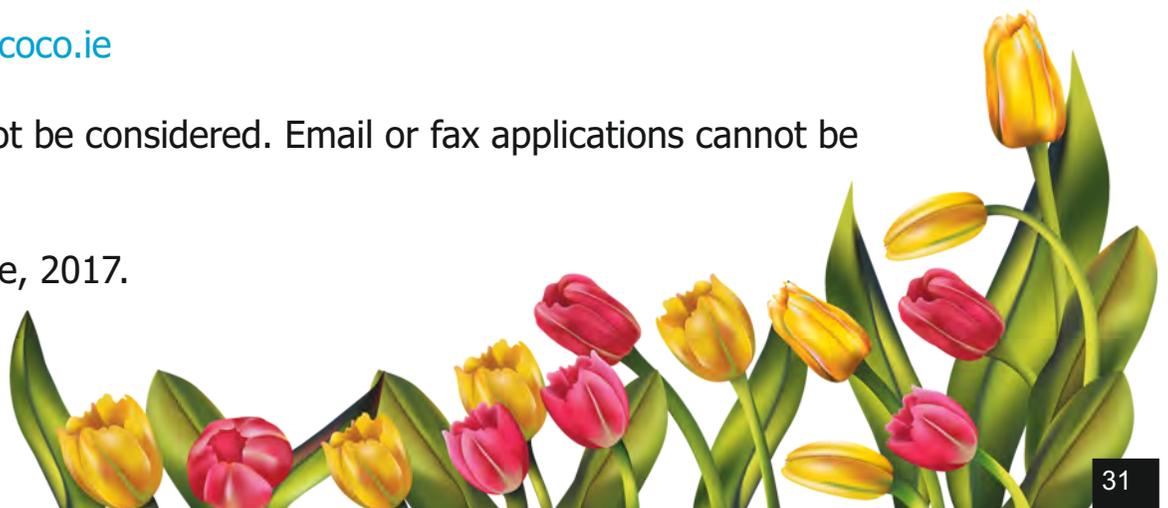
Application forms and guidelines are available from:-

The Council's website www.wicklow.ie

The Office of Community, Cultural & Social Development
Wicklow County Council,
County Buildings,
Wicklow.
Tel: 0404 20208;
Email: mtuite@wicklowcoco.ie

Late applications will not be considered. Email or fax applications cannot be accepted.

Closing date: 30th June, 2017.

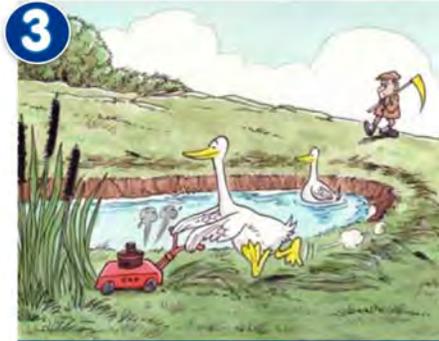




Water Safety on the Farm



1 Ponds on farms are often out of view of the house so always have an adult with you when you are feeding ducks or playing.



3 Reeds and grass often obscure the edge of the pond



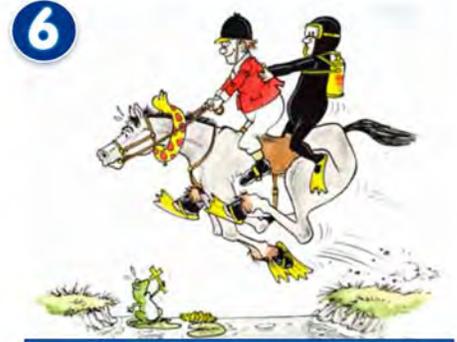
5 Holes or drains left exposed after farm building work should be closed.



2 Slurry pits are not solid enough to stand on. Keep well away as you would quickly sink.



4 The banks of a pond may be weak and could give way under your weight.



6 Be cautious riding horses near and into water.

Be water-wise on the farm by learning these simple safety steps



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



7 You cannot tell the depth of a hole if it is full of water.



9 Do not retrieve model boats by wading in.



8 Do not play near the edge of a riverbank as it might crumble away suddenly.



10 Never walk on ice-covered waterways.



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