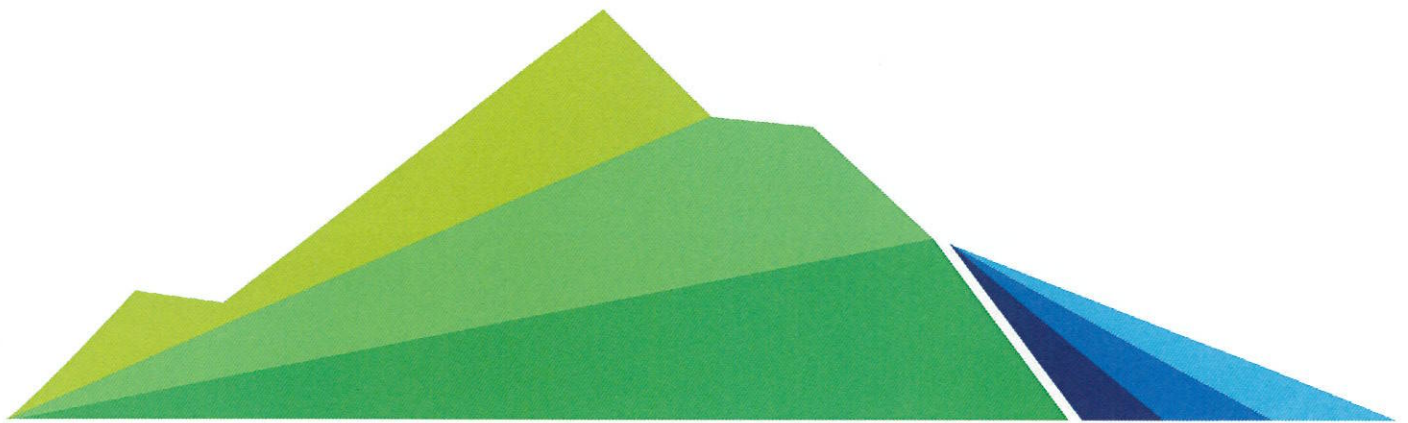


# Wicklow County Council Annual Report 2017



W I C K L O W

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E N D L E S S O P P O R T U N I T I E S



## **Mission Statement**

**“To improve the quality of life for the people and communities of County Wicklow through sustainable development, efficiently delivered effective services, democratic civic leadership, and co-ordination with other public, community and private organisations to optimise available resources.”**

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# Annual Report 2017



As Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report for the year 2017. This report outlines the very many and varied activities of Wicklow County Council across all services.

The County Development Plan 2016 – 2022 was completed in early 2017 on foot of the receipt of a Ministerial Directive. The Plan sets out the strategic spatial framework for proper planning and sustainable development of County Wicklow and focuses on the ‘big picture’ planning issues. The Rathdrum Local Area Plan was adopted in May and a review commenced on both the Bray and Arklow Local Area Plans.

Parallel to this the objectives and actions contained within the County Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) were administered. Working with our citizens and our partners a large number of the actions were implemented, the result of which will enhance the quality of life for our urban and rural communities. The first ever County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy for 2017 – 2022, which contains 61 Actions to enhance the delivery of services, was launched in May.

Recognising the great work undertaken in our communities by voluntary groups and associations, some €250,000 was distributed by Wicklow County Council to 187 clubs and groups.

A new playground was delivered in Kilcoole, representing an investment of €200,000. This playground is one of a number of such facilities the Council provided in line with the Council’s Play Policy and LECP objectives.

I am delighted and very proud that Blessington won Leinster’s most enterprising town in the Bank of Ireland National Enterprising Town awards, scooping the crown in the 3,000 to 7,000 populations category. This was a fantastic achievement for a town in West Wicklow to be acknowledged as the best and most enterprising town in the whole of Leinster. I would like to commend everyone in the community of Blessington who contributed to this success. Blessington has proven that it can compete on a national stage, and the proposed extension to the Blessington Greenway, will be an important asset for West Wicklow and will help secure Blessington’s place in Ireland’s growing tourism market.

In November, 2017 I had the privilege as Cathaoirleach to represent County Wicklow at the Hainan World Leisure Tourism Expo along with 30 other international delegations. Visitor numbers from China to Ireland are rapidly increasing and Expo afforded the delegation from County Wicklow to sell our County at the highest level as an ideal location for Visitors from China to base themselves and enjoy all that Wicklow has to offer.

A number of projects were successfully implemented across the various services of the Council such as national road maintenance improvement projects, tourism development, environmental services and recreation and amenity, many of which are described within this report.

In April, the elected Members of Wicklow County Council came together to raise substantial funds for the Wicklow Hospice

## **Annual Report 2017**

Foundation. The Wicklow County Councillors Gala Dinner and Charity Auction and Raffle, along with a contribution of €10,000 from each of the five municipal districts raised some €85,000 for this very worthwhile project which will benefit the entire of County Wicklow when it is built.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Elected Members and to thank them for their co-operation and assistance to me during the year, particularly the members of the Corporate Policy Group and each of the five Strategic Policy Groups who were instrumental in contributing to the policy and decision making forum affecting the entire Council.

I would also like to take the opportunity to extend my thanks to Bryan Doyle who retired in April of this year as Chief Executive, to Des O'Brien who Deputised and to welcome newly appointed Chief Executive, Frank Curran to Wicklow County Council. I would like also to record my thanks to the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for the manner in which they assisted me in the performance of my role as Cathaoirleach. I would especially like to commend and highlight the work carried out by the outdoor crews, the emergency services, the Fire Service and the Civil Defence, their response to flooding and severe weather incidents during 2017 was remarkable and very much appreciated.

**COUNCILLOR EDWARD TIMMINS  
CATHAOIRLEACH  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

# Annual Report 2017



As the recently appointed Chief Executive to Wicklow County Council in September this year, it gives me great pleasure to welcome the publication of the 2017 Annual Report and to highlight the achievements of the Council over the last 12 months.

In January, the Council welcomed the green light from An Bord Pleanála for the construction of the Florentine Centre Development, comprising a retail town centre, restaurant, cinema and car park development of some 24,400 sq m. When complete, the development will reinforce the role of the Town Centre as the key meeting and shopping place for the citizens of Bray and is very much welcome by all stakeholders.

The Council won an *'Excellence in Business Award'*, in recognition of the extraneous range of services offered by the County's 13 branch Libraries and also secured the purchase of the former Ulster Bank Building on Wicklow Town's main street, comprising of over 1,200 sqms over 6 floors to develop a flagship library.

In September the sod was turned on a new 20 unit social housing scheme at Avondale Heights, Rathdrum, leading on from the Council's vigorous housing programme countywide, which will see the provision of accommodation for over 185 households on the Council's social housing list over the next 2 years. Currently there are 14 housing

schemes at various stages of planning and funding of over €43.4m has been sanctioned by the Department for these schemes.

In 2017 the Council worked collaboratively to encourage economic development and job creation and continued driving the implementation of the actions set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) while rolling out the initiatives of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT). Economic Development is now recognised as a mainstream function of the Council in the same way as the provision of housing, roads, planning and environmental services. Projects successfully progressed in 2017:-

- The setting up of Town Teams in Bray, Arklow, Blessington and Greystones
- The phenomenal success of the Bray Air Festival attracting some 140,000 visitors over the two day event, sponsored by the Irish Aviation Authority
- The appointment of a broadband officer to support the roll out of the national broadband Plan in County Wicklow
- Proposals for the development of the Blessington Greenway moved forward
- The development of a new Web Portal; Wicklow.ie which will play a key role in communicating the new 'Wicklow' brand, which encapsulates all of what Wicklow has to offer across multiple dimensions; Living in Wicklow; Doing Business in Wicklow; Visiting Wicklow.
- The continuous growth of Wicklow County Campus which hosted 3 conferring ceremonies for the graduation of some 170 in November in collaboration with IT Carlow.
- The establishment of an experienced project team to progress plans for the development of a Content Creation

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Enterprise Hub providing specialised and customised, sector specific, business supports that will drive start-ups, growth and internationalisation of Irish Content Creation, at Wicklow County Campus

County Wicklow's unique attributes and proximity to Dublin Markets, excellent quality of life, human capital, tourism landscape, agriculture, marine and forestry resources makes it the best location in Ireland for Industry and Enterprise. I believe that Wicklow County Council working in collaboration with national development agencies and local business and community stakeholders can build on these assets and develop County Wicklow to reach its potential.

I would like to commend the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO), which has supported the local start-ups in the County in 2017 to the value of €548,780, for 43 projects as well as 484 individual one to one mentoring meetings including a number of special advisory clinics targeting the challenges of Brexit.

Underpinning all our activities is the Council's Corporate Plan. It provides a framework and context for the Annual Service Delivery Plan which identifies the services to be provided and the standard to which they will be delivered, monitored and measured. These Plans clearly set out the various policies and objectives of Wicklow County Council and progress on the implementation of the objectives contained therein continues to be closely monitored within each Council department. Service indicators are an important mechanism for monitoring and tracking the performance of local authorities. They provide us with important information, enabling us to identify good and poor

practice and in this regard, the Council's performance in respect of the forty two national service indicators is contained in this report.

The elected members and staff of Wicklow County Council have successfully adapted to change and continue to provide quality services to the people of County Wicklow in an efficient and effective manner. I would like to commend the elected members of Wicklow County Council, the Members of the Strategic Policy Committees, the Corporate Policy Group and the LCDC and to acknowledge all of the work that is carried out at Municipal District level and by the various other hardworking committees.

I would especially like to thank the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Edward Timmins for his commitment and co-operation in the delivery of the Council's high level Goals in 2017 and my predecessor Bryan Doyle for his vision, dedication and support. I would like to commend and thank the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for their continued hard work and contribution in the delivery of high quality service to the public in 2017.

**FRANK CURRAN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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## MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Mr Bryan Doyle**



**Chief Executive  
until 12th September 2017**

**Mr Frank Curran**



**Chief Executive  
from 13th September 2017**

**Mr Sean Quirke**



**Director of Services  
Transportation & Roads Infrastructure**

**Mr Michael Geaney**



**A/Director of Services  
Water & Environmental Services**

**Mr Des O'Brien**



**Director of Services  
Planning**

**Mr Michael Nicholson**



**Director of Services  
Community, Cultural and Social Development**

**Mr Joe Lane**



**Director of Services  
Housing and Corporate Estate**

**Mr Thomas Murphy**



**T/Director of Services  
Enterprise & Corporate Services**

**Mr David Sweetman**



**Law Agent**

**Mr Liam Fitzpatrick**



**Head of Information Systems**

**Ms. Deborah Cromie**



**A/Head of Finance  
until 3rd September 2017**

**Mr. Brian Gleeson**



**Head of Finance  
from 4th September 2017**

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## Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee

### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. John Snell

### Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Tommy Annesley

Cllr. Joe Behan

Cllr. Vincent Blake

Cllr. Mary Kavanagh

Cllr. Michael O'Connor

### Outside Agencies

### Trade Unions

Barry Nevin, ICTU

### Disadvantaged

Vicky Harris, Dublin Simon

### Business/Commercial

Vacant

### Community

Vacant

### Wicklow Traveller Group

Eamonn McCann

### Director of Services

Joe Lane

### Senior Executive Officer

Jackie Carroll

### Senior Engineers

Breege Kilkenny

Declan Marnane

- Social Housing Provision & Planning
- Housing Management
- Social Inclusion
- Building Control
- Corporate Estate

The Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee met on five occasions in 2017 and focused on a number of key areas including:

- Budget 2017 – Implications for Housing Authorities nationally in terms of future housing supply, management and investment issues
- Housing priorities for 2017 including future housing supply, management and investment issues
- Management of housing stock
- Social Housing Assessment
- Housing Assistance Payment
- New Housing Strategy – Rebuilding Ireland
- Housing Construction Programme to 2021
- Part V policies
- Traveller Accommodation
- Voluntary Housing
- Homelessness – Review of Action Plan for Homelessness

## Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

14 no. Schemes/196 units .

Approved funding €36 million

Scheme	Units	Current Status
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum	20	Commenced September 2017
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Commenced November 2017
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Commenced December 2017
Old Library, Arklow	7	To commence February 2018
Kilbride Lane, Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	Contract start March 2018

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## PPP Social Housing Project (Bundle 1)

Development Site at Convent Lands, Wicklow for 51 Social Housing units. The Department of Housing has dedicated €300 million towards delivery of housing through the public, private partnership model in the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan. Wicklow has been included as a project in Bundle 1. The Part 8 was passed by the members at the Council Meeting on 3rd July 2017. The project is expected to commence on site in September 2018.

### Part V

Wicklow County Council continues to liaise closely with Agents and Developers in respect of Part V requirements. Some Part V units are delivered through CALF in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies e.g. Viewmount in Rathdrum and some directly to the Council e.g. Castlelynn in Bray.

### Turnkey

The Council are actively seeking and encouraging the provision of social housing via the mechanism of turnkey development.

### CALF Leasing

Wicklow County Council continues to facilitate applications from Approved Housing Bodies for delivery of units through the CALF leasing scheme.

### Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)

Wicklow County Council sought expressions of interest from Approved Housing Bodies who have signed up to a voluntary regulatory code who wish to be considered for provision of social housing on Council lands in County Wicklow. It is hoped that following an assessment process, partnership arrangements may be considered on council owned lands where the Council does not

currently have resources to advance social housing projects.

### Housing Management

The total budget for housing repairs for 2017 was increased slightly from 2016. This was distributed evenly between the Municipal Districts on a pro rata basis based on the number of units in each district.

When houses become vacant they are upgraded as follows:

- Electrics checked and repaired/rewired;
- Plumbing checked;
- Replacement of kitchen units/sanitary ware where necessary;
- Upgrade of properties to enhanced energy efficiency.

### Housing Allocations

Wicklow County Council allocates houses in accordance with the Scheme of Letting Priorities adopted by Council Members and approved by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Any person in need of housing and unable to obtain it from their own resources may be included on the Council's Housing Waiting List.

A total of 3,722 housing applicants were on the housing list for County Wicklow at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. A total of 80 houses were allocated during 2017 at various locations throughout the County as per the table below:

	01/01/2017 – 31/12/2017
Casual Vacancies	60
New Houses	0
Social Leasing	1
Rural Cottages	0
Purchases	8
Refurbishments	2
AHB's	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80</b>

## Role of the Voluntary Housing Sector

Wicklow County Council continued to work closely with the voluntary housing sector in the provision of social housing supports in County Wicklow in 2017. In 2017, under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Wicklow County Council, invited submissions from Approved Housing Bodies regarding the delivery of cost effective and sustainable proposals to meet identified housing needs within Co. Wicklow. In time with Government policy, such proposals would ideally commit to meeting the accommodation needs of people experiencing homelessness, older people and people with mental health and intellectual or physical/sensory disabilities.

Wicklow County Council continued to progress, in conjunction with the Department and relevant Approved Housing body, the objectives which include:-

- The purchase of properties in conjunction with Approved Housing bodies to be used to provide more sustainable supported accommodation for people, who to date, have been resident in more short-term accommodation.

Five properties were provided by Dublin Simon Community under the Capital Assistance Scheme. Wicklow County Council retains 100% nomination rights regarding all prospective tenancies i.e. all nominations to be made from the local authority housing waiting list.

## Other Housing Options

In terms of other housing options, Wicklow County Council continued to promote a broad range of additional housing options in 2017 including:

- Mortgage Allowance Scheme

- House Purchase Loan
- Housing Grants
- Mortgage to Rent

Other housing options promoted by Wicklow County Council included RAS, HAP Long Term and Short Term Social Leasing.

## RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme)

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) caters for the accommodation needs of persons who are in receipt of rent supplement, normally for more than 18 months and who have a long-term housing need (excluding asylum seekers or non-nationals who do not have leave to remain in the state permanently, students and persons in receipt of rent supplement such as a “back to work” incentive).

The aim of RAS is to improve the quality and standard of rented accommodation and to provide greater security of tenure for the tenant.

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017 the number availing of the Rental Accommodation Scheme is 487. A total of 7 applicants transferred to the RAS scheme in 2017.

## Long Term And Short Term Social Housing Leasing

Efforts continued throughout 2017 to promote leasing as a social housing option in County Wicklow.

- This is where properties are leased from the private sector and used to accommodate households from local authority waiting lists. Leased properties will be allocated to tenants in accordance with the local authorities allocations schemes.

There has however been a limited uptake of this scheme and a total of 17 units were leased to Wicklow County Council as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

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## HAP (Housing Assistance Payment)

HAP is a new form of housing support provided by local authorities. HAP means that local authorities can now provide housing assistance for households who qualify for social housing support, including many long term rent supplement recipients. Under HAP Local Authorities will make the full rent payment, subject to rent limits, on behalf of the HAP recipient directly to the landlord. The HAP recipient will then pay a rent contribution to the local authority. The rent contribution is a differential rent – that is, a rent based on income and ability to pay.

HAP will provide a more integrated system of housing support and aims to :

- Allow all social housing supports to be accessed through one body – the local authority and
- Allow recipients to take up full –time employment and still keep their housing support

HAP commenced in Wicklow County Council on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016. 410 HAP tenancies were completed in 2017.

## Estate Development

Estate Development Grants were allocated through the Municipal Districts to Residents Associations within the districts.

## Tenant Liaison Officer

Throughout 2017, the Tenant Liaison Officer (TLO) continued to provide a support service to local authority estates in the county. As well as supporting tenants experiencing specific issues with their tenancy, the Tenant Liaison Officer played a pro-active role in addressing Anti-Social Behaviour issues as and when they arose. This work is undertaken with the support of the Gardai throughout the county.

## Housing Rents

At the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 there were 4323 tenanted units.

The total rents collected in 2017 was €12.5 million. The closing arrears stand at €988,633.68.

The rents department work diligently to reduce the rent arrears while also working closely with tenants in sustaining their tenancies and avoiding court proceedings and eventual eviction.

## Housing Grants

In 2017 the following Disabled Persons Grants were awarded:

24 Housing Adaption Grants	€ 356,700
62 Mobility Aid Grants	€ 328,643
51 Housing Aid for Older People	€ 285,138
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 970,481</b>

Of this 80% can be recouped from the Department.

## Traveller Accommodation

The members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) met regularly during 2017. Implementation of the objectives under the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2014 to 2018 continued to ensure the accommodation needs of Travellers living in Co. Wicklow are met to 2018. This includes planning for the provision of standard housing, halting sites, group housing, rural houses and temporary/emergency sites.

## Homelessness

Prevention of homelessness continued to be a key focus and the homeless team provided advice and support, (phone, counter and appointment) to persons homeless or at risk of homelessness. The

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homeless team engaged with Landlords and Agents, to sustain and progress tenancies. Emergency accommodation was provided by the Council, where necessary, following a full assessment of need.

In order to target specific cohorts of vulnerable people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, and those who need supported accommodation, Wicklow County Council has been working effectively with a number of Approved Housing Bodies to deliver accommodation to individuals with support needs. This housing led approach ensures a sustainable solution to homelessness in individuals who are initially hard to reach and ultimately have tenancy sustainment issues. The Council operates the management of these properties through either Service Level Agreements, or License Agreements and Leases. These units provide wraparound, supported accommodation for vulnerable individuals using the Housing First model. This housing led approach to combating homelessness is enshrined in Rebuilding Ireland and is a commitment in the Mid East Region Homelessness Action Plan for Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.

In partnership with the Simon Community, the Council continues to provide a supported accommodation facility at Kilmantin Hill in Wicklow Town, for people experiencing homelessness. Ten individuals are accommodated in medium support, transitional units at the facility.

The council is continuing to move away from the model of providing emergency homeless accommodation from large units, towards a best practice Housing First model. This involves a number of different approaches including the use of smaller units with visiting support for up to 3-4 clients per house.

Two four bedroom properties, which provide low to medium supported accommodation for eight individuals, under licence agreement for a period

of eighteen months, continue to operate successfully in, Bray.

Five homeless families, comprising 7 adults and 17 children, progressed to permanent tenancies in CAS funded properties in Arklow and Blessington. Visiting support was provided to assist with transition and settlement.

In 2017, Wicklow County Council completed the purchase of a facility in Greystones (Carraig Eden), and continued to work with the Approved Housing Body, Tiglin to ensure that the facility will be used to provide accommodation for homeless people who have achieved an addiction free status as per current national strategy which recommends that there should be an increase in accommodation for those exiting addiction rehabilitation.

A Cold Weather Initiative was set up to provide additional emergency accommodation during the winter months. It became operational on 27th December 2017. This was a successful collaboration between Wicklow County Council, WH Five Loaves, Dublin Simon Community and the facility provider.

Fourteen unique individuals accessed the facility during the period, nine of whom had rolling beds, which they used consistently.

## Health and Safety

The Wicklow County Council Health and Safety Policy has been established to ensure that in so far as is reasonably practicable, everyone who works for or on behalf of Wicklow County Council does so in the safest and healthiest conditions possible. The Housing Directorate has endorsed this Health and Safety Policy as being applicable to all Wicklow County Council operations within the Housing Section. The organisation's policies and procedures for health and safety are constantly reviewed in line with best practices, legislative changes and national initiatives. Appropriate resources were made available in 2017 to allow the Policy to be effectively carried out.



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Individual Ancillary Safety Statements have been written for the following areas: Housing Maintenance and Construction Section, Housing Section Office Staff and Housing & Corporate Estate County Buildings Facility

Safety audits and safety inspections of contractor and direct labour sites are carried out on a weekly basis by the Health and Safety Facilitator.

Health and Safety Induction Training is communicated to all new members of staff. Extensive training programs are provided for staff continually to ensure compliance with construction and safety regulations. The Housing Section's Safety Statements are reviewed and updated annually.



## Transportation and Roads

### Infrastructure

#### Strategic Policy Committee

Membership of the Transportation, Water and Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee consists of five County Councillors along with four members from sectoral interest groups. The Strategic Policy Committee holds regular meetings throughout the year at which both national and local issues are discussed.

#### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Pat Doran

#### Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Daire Nolan

Cllr. Mary McDonald

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald

Cllr. Derek Mitchell

#### Outside Agencies

##### Trade Unions

Christy Byrne, SIPTU

##### Environment/Conservation

Tim Morgan

##### Agriculture/Farming Community

Shane O'Loughlin

##### Development/Construction

Paddy Mordaunt

##### Director of Services

Sean Quirke

Transportation & Roads Infrastructure

Michael Geaney (A)

Water & Environmental Services

##### Senior Executive Officer

Helena Dennehy

##### Senior Engineer

Michael Flynn

##### Administrative Officer

Allyson Minion

### Objective 1

*To promote and facilitate the provision of all transport in an integrated manner and so to foster social and economic development, having regard to environmental considerations, sustainable development and social inclusion and health and safety*

#### Road Safety Promotion and Education

The Road Safety Together Committee, which includes members of the Gardaí, Fire Service, Road Safety Authority, National Roads Authority and officials of Wicklow County Council met on a quarterly basis in 2017 to review road safety in County Wicklow. The County Wicklow Road Safety Plan 2015-2020 is now available and can be accessed online on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) The main objective of the Road Safety Plan is to reduce the number of casualties on County Wicklow's roads and to provide focus on making Wicklow a safer county for both motorists and pedestrians through Education, Enforcement, Engineering and Evaluation.

### Objective 2

*To construct and maintain the national, regional and local roads networks to the highest possible standard for each road type, current and future usage and best value for money*

#### National Secondary N81

Archer Heritage Planning was appointed Contractor for the Archaeological Works Contract at Knockroe Bends on the N81. The archaeological dig commenced in 2017 with completion scheduled for May 2018.

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## Non National Road Maintenance and Improvement

Maintenance works on Non National Roads in 2017 were carried out by both direct labour units of the five Municipal Districts and by private contractors.

### Bridge Rehabilitation Grant Works

Works were carried out at the following locations in 2017:

- Rathdrum,
- Fortgranite Bridge,
- Cherrymount Bridge, Avoca,
- Rosnastraw Bridge, Tinahely,
- Roddenagh Bridge, Aughrim
- Beech Road Bridge, Arklow
- White Road Bridge, Avoca
- Knockrath Bridge, Laragh
- Griffinstown Bridge
- Ballykilmurray Bridge

Funding proposals were submitted for the following projects for 2018:

• Killabeg Bridge, Coolkenna L-7525
• Rathdrum Bridge, Rathdrum R-752
• White Bridge, Avoca, L-6155
• Liffey Bridge Upper, Kippure R-759
• Beechdale Bridge, Kilcoole L-50462
• Tinnehinch Bridge, Enniskerry R-760
• Knockrath Bridge, Knockrath R-755

### Safety Improvement Works 2017:

Low cost safety improvements works were carried out in 2017 at the following locations:

- Calary Upper, Roundwood
- Junction of Church Road and Church Lane, Greystones
- Junction of Main Street and Castlepark, Arklow
- Avoca

## Proposed Low Cost Safety Improvement Works for 2018:

- Delgany Wood Avenue from its junction with the R762 Church Road to the L-1027 Convent and Chapel Roads L-1025
- Coolgreaney Road, Arklow
- Vale Road, Arklow
- Dublin Road, Arklow
- Lackereagh, Baltinglass

An application will be made for a Specific Improvement Grant to complete works in 2018 at Calary Upper Road.

### Objective 3

*To facilitate and promote walking and cycling and use of public transport as a means of reducing congestion, promoting healthier lifestyles and providing access to facilities for those who do not drive or have access to public transport.*

## National Transport Authority Funding

Each year, Wicklow County Council receives funding from the National Transport Authority's Sustainable Transport Measures Programme towards a variety of projects. These include projects that facilitate and promote walking, cycling and use of public transport. These initiatives assist in reducing congestion, promoting healthier lifestyles and providing access to facilities for those who do not drive or have their own transport.

# Annual Report 2017



## Projects which received funding from the National Transport Authority in 2017 included:

- Arklow to Shillelagh Cycle track (planning completion)
- Strand Road Cycle Route, Bray
- Bray Dart Interchange
- Fitzwilliam Square, Wicklow Town – (complete design)
- Wicklow Town Port access route to Station Pedestrian Access
- Arklow – pedestrian facility improvements – Bridge Street/ Main Street
- St. Laurence’s School Footpath provision
- N81 Baltinglass VRU improvements
- Strand Road extension to Harbour/Schools and Aquarium area, Bray
- Marine Road Cycle Route

## Projects which received funding from the National Transport Authority for 2018 include:

- Arklow to Shillelagh Cycle track
- Strand Road Cycle Route
- Bray Dart Interchange
- Wicklow Town port access route to Station Pedestrian Access
- Killarney Road – Church Road Junction and associated works on Killarney Road
- Vevay Road Cycle Scheme
- St. Laurence’s School Footpath provision
- N81 Baltinglass VRU improvements
- Permeability to Public Transport of Schools
- Dublin Road, Bray ITS Traffic Management
- Bray Bridge footbridges and tie-ins

## Maintenance and Management of Car Parking

Pay Parking is in operation in Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow Towns. Wicklow County Council Parking Bye-Laws 2017 were adopted by Wicklow County Council members at a meeting held on 12th June 2017 and came into effect on Monday 28th August 2017.

## Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws

A countywide review of speed limits that commenced in January 2016 was carried out in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport for the application of speed limits in Ireland.

The process included an extensive pre draft consultation with the TII, An Garda Síochána, adjoining local authorities and district councils. Following this process the draft bye-laws were advertised for public consultation.

Submissions received were considered and a report was presented to each of the Municipal District Councils and following those meetings the final draft of the Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws was brought before the members of Wicklow County Council at the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October where the new Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws were approved and adopted.

The County Wicklow Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws of 2017 came into force on Friday 1st December 2017.

## Liaison with Transport Providers

With the improvement of the public transport service for County Wicklow as the primary objective Wicklow County Council continued to liaise throughout 2017 with the Public Service Transport Providers.

## Disability Access

The Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Directorate will continue to keep up to date with the guidelines from the National Disability

## Annual Report 2017

Authority, ensuring that the highest standard of 'access for all' is achieved through compliant standards of design.

### Health and Safety

The Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Directorate is committed to ensuring adherence to the principles of Safety Health and Welfare at work. In this regard plans and policies have been and are continuing to be developed and updated to improve our health and safety procedures. Extensive training programmes are provided for staff continually to ensure compliance with construction and safety regulations. Safety Statements are reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The implementation of good health and safety practices has resulted in additional costs for various projects, but notwithstanding this, the Council remains committed to the health and safety of its employees.

### M11/N11 Needs Assessment

Transport Infrastructure Ireland carried out a Needs Assessment of the M11/N11 corridor in 2017. The study was initiated to assess the needs of the M11/N11 National Road corridor between Junction 4 (M50/M11) and Junction 14 (Coyne's Cross).

### Weighbridges

The former weighbridge located at Newtownmountkennedy had been out of commission for a number of years. Agreement was finalized to bring this facility back into operation in conjunction with an adjoining private development.

### Winter Weather

The Council's Severe Weather Co-ordination Group met to assess the developing weather situation during Storm Ophelia and to consider

and review the response of the relevant agencies to Storm Ophelia. Council staff responded to the clean-up and necessary immediate works related to the storm.

### Cost Cutting Measures:

#### Energy Consumption

As per Statutory Instrument 542 of 2009 and Statutory Instrument 426 of 2014, all Public Bodies are required to report annually on their energy consumption and performance. The national requirement is to reduce public sector energy consumption by 33% by 2016 or 3% per annum thereafter.

#### Energy Saving Measures 2017.

- Upgrade of all lighting in the Greystones Park & Ride completed. Estimated Energy Saving 40,000 Kwh per year.
- Procured the installation of 105 LED lanterns on the Charlesland/Farrankelly Dual Carriageway. Estimated Energy Saving 65,794 Kwh per year. It is hoped to install LED's in January/February 2018.
- Procured the installation of 84 LED lanterns on the Bray Southern Cross Road. Estimated Energy Saving 36,200 Kwh per year. It is hoped to install LED's in 2018.

#### Proposed Energy Saving Measure 2018

- 1000 LED lanterns have been procured and delivered to site. Work on replacing SOX lantern at various locations is underway and all LED lanterns should be installed by end of June 2018. Estimated Energy Saving 210,000 Kwh per year.
- Replacement of columns and Lanterns at Glenair Manor Greystones (32 units with 16 LEDs). Estimated Energy Saving

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- 9,600Kwh per year. Works to be completed by end of June 2018.
- Replacement of columns and Lanterns at Carrig Glen (4 units with 7 LEDs). Estimated Energy Saving 740Kwh per year. Subject to funding being available.
- Charlesland/Farrankelly Dual Carriageway Project (Phase 2). Estimated Energy Saving 126,750Kwh per year. Subject to funding being available.
- Baltinglass (N81) Column and Lantern Replacement. Estimated Energy Saving 14,500Kwh per year. Application has been made to Transport Infrastructure Ireland and is subject to funding being available.

1-4	3%
5-6	17%
7-8	53%
9-10	28%

## (b) Local Primary Road Rating

1-4	9%
5-6	25%
7-8	48%
9-10	18%

## 2017 Performance Indicators – Wicklow County Council

### R1: Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI)

- A. (a) 98.7% of Regional Roads have been surveyed  
 (b) 99% of Local Primary Roads have been surveyed  
 (c) 97.7% of Local Secondary Roads have been surveyed  
 (d) 68.8% of Local Tertiary Roads have been surveyed
- B. 93.8% of Regional Roads received a PSCI Rating during 2017.

## (c) Local Secondary Road Rating

1-4	10%
5-6	24%
7-8	50%
9-10	16%

## (d) Local Tertiary Road Rating

1-4	13%
5-6	18%
7-8	47%
9-10	23%

## C. (a) Regional Road Rating

## R2: Regional Road Grant Works

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A) Length of Regional Road Strengthened	14.84 km
Road Improvement Grant Amount	€1,060,565
B) Length of Regional Road Resealed	14.76 km
Road Maintenance Grant Amount	€276,605
C) Length of Local Road Strengthened	37.14 km
Road Improvement Grant Amount	€2,405,732
D) Length of Local Road Resealed	56.85 km
Road Maintenance Grant Amount	€676,218



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## Water, Waste and Environmental Services Directorate

### Objective

To provide and maintain drinking water and wastewater facilities to meet existing and future demand, adhering to the principles of sustainable development

To protect and enhance the natural environment of County Wicklow in accordance with the principles of sustainable and balanced development, in partnership with all sections of the community, having regard to national and EU policies and programmes.

### Introduction

The Water and Environmental Services Section in Wicklow County Council deals with a wide range of issues, which continue to provide significant staffing and financial challenges, these include:

C01	Operation and Maintenance Water Supply
C02	Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment
C03	Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges
C04	Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences
C05	Administration of Group and Private Installations
C06	Support to Water Capital Programme
C07	Agency and Recoupable Services
E01	Operation, Maintenance and Aftercare of Landfill
E02	Operation and Maintenance of Recovery and Recycling Facilities
E03	Operation and Maintenance of Waste to Energy Facilities
E04	Provision of Waste Collection Services
E05	Litter Management
E06	Street Cleaning
E07	Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement
E08	Waste Management Planning
E09	Maintenance of Burial Grounds
E10	Safety of Structures and Places
E11	Operation of Fire Service
E12	Fire Prevention
E13	Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution
F03	Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations

G02	Operation and maintenance of piers and harbours
G03	Costal Protection and Flood mitigation works
G04	Veterinary Services
H07	Operation of Market and Casual Trading

### Strategic Policy Committee

The Transportation, Water and Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee comprises of five County Councillors along with four members from sectoral interest groups. The Strategic Policy Committee holds regular meetings throughout the year at which various policy issues are discussed.

### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Pat Doran

### Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Daire Nolan  
Cllr. Mary McDonald  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Derek Mitchell

### Outside Agencies

#### Trade Unions

Christy Byrne, SIPTU

#### Environment/Conservation

Paul Leahy

#### Agriculture/Farming Community

Shane O'Loughlin

#### Development/Construction

Paddy Mordaunt

#### Director of Services

Sean Quirke  
Transportation & Roads Infrastructure

Michael Geaney (A)  
Water & Environmental Services

#### Senior Executive Officer

Helena Dennehy

#### Senior Engineer

Marc Devereux



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During 2017, three meetings of the Strategic Policy Committee took place.

The following policy areas were discussed including a review of the work carried out by the previous Strategic Policy Committee:

- Irish Rail – Update on revised timetables
- Burial Ground Policy Overview Update
- Water Supply Project- Eastern & Midlands Region – Submission to Irish Water
- Update on Franchise Operations – Public Car parks Brittas & Glendalough.
- National Speed Limit Review
- Water Supply Project- Eastern & Midlands Region – Submission to Irish Water
- National Transport Authority - Transport Strategy for the greater Dublin area 2016-2035 – Update
- Introduction of Pay by Weight Waste Collections
- Energy Awareness & Climate Change
- CFRAM Flood Plans
- Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)
- M11-N11 TEN-T Corridor Study
- National Transport Authority - Transport Strategy for the greater Dublin area 2016-2035
- Annual Service Delivery Plans

## Water & Wastewater Services

With effect from 1st January 2014, Irish Water assumed responsibility for the provision and maintenance of Water and Waste Water Facilities country wide. Wicklow County Council entered into a Service Level Agreement to provide services to Irish Water with respect to Water Services functions and accordingly the Agreement defines and provides a framework for the relationship and delivery of service over a 12 year period.

Irish Water has responsibility for the areas of:

- C01 Operation and Maintenance Water Supply
- C02 Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment
- C01 & C02 will now include the Water and Wastewater Quality element of Pollution Control and Enforcement
- C03 Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges
- C06 Support to Water Capital Programme
- C07 Agency and Recoupable Services

Wicklow County Council will retain responsibility for the areas of:

- C04 Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences
- C05 Administration of Group and Private Installations.

## Operation and Maintenance Water Supply

### Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment

The main duties of the Water Services operation and maintenance section is to:

- Continue to operate and maintain water supplies and wastewater facilities to the highest standards and continue to deliver high quality water and wastewater services in County Wicklow while meeting objectives and requirements of Service Level Agreement and Annual Service Plan in conjunction with Irish Water
- Ensure that public water and wastewater schemes continue to function efficiently and effectively
- Promote the value of drinking water through public awareness programmes and continue implementation of Water Conservation scheme

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## Water & Wastewater Quality – Pollution Control & Enforcement

Wicklow County Council, on behalf of Irish Water, continues to monitor and control water and wastewater pollution in accordance with legislation and EU regulations.

## Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges

The National Water Services Pricing Policy requires that all non-domestic customers be charged for water and wastewater services on the basis of metered consumption.

From 2017, Irish Water has assumed responsibility for the billing of all non-domestic water customers.

Wicklow County Council continues to read and maintain meters on behalf of Irish Water for non-domestic usage.

## Support to Water Capital Programme

### Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP)

Under Section 33 of the Water Services (2) Act, Irish Water are required to prepare a Water Services Strategic Plan outlining the objectives of Irish Water in providing water services up to 2040.

The Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) sets out the strategies we need to implement as a country in the short, medium and longer term to ensure the availability of safe drinking water, an environment that is protected from the impacts of wastewater discharges, and efficient modern systems that meet the needs of customers, contribute to economic growth and development, and provide value for money. The document addresses six key themes of customer service, clean safe drinking water, effective treatment of wastewater, a sustainable environment, supporting economic growth and investing for

the future. Further details can be found at [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)



Wicklow County Council continue to provide support to this area of activity.

## Agency & Recoupable Services

This area accounts for connections to public water and sewer network. Applications for connections will be reviewed by Irish Water at an early planning stage.

## Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences

This area includes the operation of public toilets in Enniskerry, Greystones, Roundwood, Glendalough and Blessington. Operation includes three automated facilities. Wicklow County Council retains responsibility for this.

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## FIRE SERVICE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

### Major Emergency Planning

Wicklow County Council is part of the Eastern Region for Emergency planning with the Dublin Local Authorities and Kildare. A Regional Working Group with representatives from the Local Authorities in the region, An Garda Síochána and Health Service Executive operates in the Eastern Region to co-ordinate Emergency Planning for the Region.

A Major Emergency Management Committee is in place in Wicklow County Council and comprises of Senior Personnel from all sections of Wicklow County Council and Municipal Districts. Regular meetings were held in 2017 and ongoing review of emergency planning arrangement together with the provision of appropriate training in different aspects of Major Emergency Planning is the continued focus of the committee.

In particular the Major Emergency Plan for the county was reviewed and updated during 2017.

Other areas of Fire Service activity progressed during 2017 included:

- Inspections and enforcement under Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003
- Assessing Fire Safety Certificates and Disability Access Certificates under the Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2009.
- Community Fire Safety.
- Training of Fire Personnel.

In addition to maintaining necessary areas of competence and providing new entrants with the

necessary knowledge and skills, the following areas of new training were introduced:

- “Hazardous Materials” incident response
- Flood response training
- Hydraulic Platform training for rescues from height

## Laboratory Services & Pollution Control

The laboratory services and pollution team are active in a range of areas to promote, protect and improve the quality of our environment and water resources in County Wicklow. The team plan and RMCEI (recommended minimum criteria for environmental inspections) form the basis of prioritizing the work activities such as monitoring, complaint investigation, assessment and enforcement as guided by departmental plan for water and environmental services department.

## Licensed Discharges to Waters

3 discharge applications were assessed and reported on in 2017.

242 samples of licensed discharges to water were analysed in 2017.

23 proprietors were compliant with discharge licences in 2017.

30 proprietors were non-compliant with discharge licences in 2017 and were required to undertake investigations and improvements.

## Solvents

6 certificate applications for dry cleaner installations were assessed and reported on in 2017.

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14 certificate applications for vehicle refinisher installations were assessed and reported on in 2017.

## Septic tanks

26 septic tank inspections were undertaken in 2017.

4 septic tanks were non-compliant in 2017 and were required to undertake investigations and improvements.

## Bathing Waters

60 samples were taken from identified bathing waters including 4 blue flag beaches in 2017.

46 samples were taken from other sea waters used for bathing in 2017.

3 bathing water prohibition notices were issued to protect bather's health in 2017.

## Private Water Supplies

In its role as supervisory authority for private water supply serving a commercial or public activity or population of 50 or more, 142 regulated private water supplies were monitored in 2017.

267 samples were taken for analysis in 2017.

97.4 % samples were compliant for e.coli.

97.7 % samples were compliant for enterococci.

88.6 % samples were compliant for coliform bacteria.

70.8 % samples were compliant for pH.

100 % samples were compliant for Nitrate (135 samples).

8 boil water notices were issued to private water supplies in 2017.

1 improvement direction was issued to a private water supply in 2017.

21 boil water notices were lifted from private water supplies in 2017.

19 water suppliers installed treatment/disinfection facilities to improve their private water supplies in 2017.

3 water suppliers connected to public mains to improve their water supplies in 2017.

## Water Framework Directive

The team were instrumental in the providing the scientific bases for the selection of river catchment in County Wicklow for improvement in the national river basin management plan in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency or other public bodies and stakeholders.

## National Monitoring Programme

636 samples were taken from rivers for analysis in 2017.

488 samples were taken from lakes for analysis in 2017.

## Planning and Development

137 environmental reports were provided to the planning and development department to assist them in making the decision on planning applications received.

## Waste Enforcement Team.

The Waste Enforcement Team is dedicated to enforcing Waste Management Legislation and has proven to be a great asset to the County.

The Team deal with waste, litter & burning environmental complaints. 2,497 complaints were received during 2017. Many prosecutions were secured under the Waste Management Act, 1996 and the Litter Pollution Act, 1997.

## Litter

- 262 Litter Fines were issued for various breaches of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 e.g. littering, illegal signage, dog fouling etc. 7 Litter Fine Files were sent to Court.
- 115 Warning Letters were issued to individuals who contravened the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 e.g. leaving material at the recycling centres when the centres were closed, incorrect recycling at the Recycling Centre, holding full and/or overflowing skip bags around an individuals property for a long period of time etc.

## Waste Management.

- 113 Waste Management Files were opened for various breaches of the Waste Management Act, e.g. illegal dumping, burning of waste, illegal storage of waste etc. 35 Waste Management Files were sent to Court.
- 23 Section 14 Direction Notices were issued to individuals who failed to keep their property free from waste.
- 114 Abandoned Vehicle Notices were issued.
- 91 Burning Applications were processed.

## PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments)

PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments) is an environmental project established to combat the increase of illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands and was officially launched in September, 2006. The Project has been extended up to 2019.

## Recycling Facilities.

In 2017 the 5 Recycling Centres accepted the following amounts of recycling materials:-

Arklow	959 tonnes
Avoca	436 tonnes
Bray	1,590 tonnes
Wicklow	567 tonnes
Rampere	340 tonnes

In addition, we have 43 bottle bank locations throughout the County that collect Glass, Drink Cans and Food Cans. During 2017 the total weight of materials collected at the bottle banks amounted to 1,807 tonnes.

In total the Recycling Centres and Bottle Banks recovered 5,699 tonnes of materials during 2017.

## Veterinary Services

### Food Safety

Wicklow County Council as an official agent of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) makes provision for food control services for low-throughput abattoirs, meat premises, cold stores and meat delivery vehicles. Inspections are carried out by the Council's Veterinary Inspectors on a risk-based frequency. A new Service Level Agreement commenced mid-2016 for a period of 3 years.

### Dog Control

The ISPCA provides a dog control service on behalf of Wicklow County Council. Two Dog Wardens and a Kennel Assistant are employed to operate this service, which is based in the dog pound located in Rathdrum. A subsidised neutering scheme is available for dogs re-homed by the pound and for problem breeders in the

# Annual Report 2017

community in an effort to reduce the production of unwanted puppies. Re-homed dogs are microchipped at the dog pound to aid in their future identification.

## Civil Defence

For over fifty years Civil Defence through the local authority and its emergency services has been providing support throughout the county. This support has been provided at both operational and community levels for the benefit of the people within County Wicklow.

### Areas Civil Defence progressed in 2017

- Basic training for volunteers.
- Training of new instructors.
- Up skilling of Current Instructors.
- Community events/operations.
- Upgrade of vehicles and equipment.
- Expanding flood response equipment
- Recruitment programme.
- Induction Training of new members.
- Response to flooding and severe weather.
- Search and recovery of missing persons.



## Community Events / Operations

Co. Wicklow Civil Defence had a very active year. Training continued throughout the County and Civil Defence personnel took part in Operational Activities and Training exercises. These activities were in line with the overall Mission Statement of the Local Authority "To improve the quality of life for the people and communities of Co. Wicklow".

## Recruitment & Induction Training.

After a successful Recruitment programme in early 2017, four new members were recruited to the Baltinglass unit .During this Ten week intense training, volunteers completed courses in Manual Handling, Cardiac First Response and Basic Radio Skills. These volunteers will enhance the membership throughout the county.

## Upgrade of Equipment and Vehicles

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A search response vehicle was added to the fleet during 2017.

This vehicle along with new search equipment will enhance Civil Defence capacity to respond to searches for missing person incidents across County Wicklow. A new boat with specific suitability for flooding was also added to the equipment.

## Regional / National Competitions.

A team from Wicklow Civil Defence participated in a multi discipline competition in Naas, Co. Kildare in March 2017 with Teams from Dublin, Meath, & Westmeath.

The areas of training that were tested included Footdrill, First Aid, Evacuation, Search, Radio Communications, Map Reading and Team Building.

A very high standard of marks were achieved by all competitors.

## Wicklow Port

The Port's commercial activity continues to grow. During the year 2017 there were 123 commercial vessels entering the Port with various types of cargo including scrap metal, timber and glass cullet.

Under the Fishery Harbours and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2017, three projects were grant aided for improvement and remedial works to the walls on North and South Quays. These works consisted of

- East Pier strengthening and improvement works,
- Strengthening and improvement works on North and South Quay
- Proving and drainage works on North Quay.



There are various clubs based in and around the Port. These include the Wicklow Sea Swimmers, Wicklow Sailing Club, Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club, Wicklow Water Safety, Wicklow Sub-aqua Club, Wicklow Rowing Club, Wicklow Scouts, Wicklow Sea Scouts and Wicklow Triathlon. A number of successful and well attended events occurred around the Harbour, including Harbourman Triathlon, Wicklow Seafood Festival and Wicklow Regatta.

The Wicklow RNLI has a Tyne class all weather lifeboat and an inshore D class lifeboat stationed in Harbour. In 2017 the Wicklow Lifeboat had 23 service calls and 30 people were rescued from the Wicklow coastline.



## Arklow Harbour

In June 2017 Arklow Harbour had three successful projects grant funded under the Fisheries Local Area Action Group Programme 2016-2023. The following harbour projects are proposed –

- Storage facilities for Fishermen,
- Fishermen Hoist up grade and associated training
- the restoration of the lightship “SKUA” lantern.

Over a three year timeframe, an investment totalling in the sum of €253,750 will be provided for these projects, with Wicklow County Council contributing a sum of €86,125. The grant aid consists of equal co-funding between EU and the exchequer amounting to a total of €177,625.

## Burial Grounds

There are thirty two burial grounds currently in use, which are controlled by the Council, part-time registrars are employed by the Council to sell grave spaces and maintain burial registers.

The Council for its part through the District engineers carries out the heavier type of maintenance where machinery etc. is required to be used.

Monitoring of all graveyards is ongoing.

## Bathing Waters

There are six designated bathing waters in county Wicklow. The monitoring of these and many other commonly used bathing areas continued in 2017. The bathing water monitoring is displayed at the beaches and on the Splash website through the bathing water season, 1<sup>st</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> September each year. Overall the bathing water quality at the six identified bathing waters was at good to excellent status in 2017.

## Blue Flags

Bray Beach was awarded a Blue Flag in 2017.

Wicklow County Council retained its other Blue Flags in 2017 at Brittas Bay South, Brittas Bay North and Greystones South Beach.



# Annual Report 2017



## Planning and Development Strategic Policy Committee

### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Sylvester Bourke (2.5 years)  
Cllr. Vincent Blake (2.5 years)

### Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Pat Vance  
Cllr. Edward Timmins  
Cllr. Christopher Fox  
Cllr. Tommy Cullen  
Cllr. Steven Matthews  
Cllr. Gerry O'Neill

### Outside Agencies

### Development/Construction

Tony Lawlor

### Agriculture/Farming Community

Michael Byrne

### Environment/Conservation

Joan Campbell

### Business/Commercial

Trevor Wood

### Director of Services

Des O'Brien

### Senior Planner

Sorcha Walsh

### Senior Engineer

Fergal Keogh

## Functions Include:

- Preparation of County Development Plan and Local Area Plans.
- Monitoring of the effectiveness of policies of Development Plan.
- Development Management.
- Enforcement.
- Heritage

## Goal:

*"To provide for proper and effective planning balancing the need for sustainable development, the rights of individuals, the protection of the environment and the social and economic needs of each area".*

## Development Management

Development Management is the general term used to describe the functions relating to the processing of planning applications, up to and including any appeals to An Bord Pleanala. During 2017, we continued to see an increase in applications being received.

Year	No. of Applications
2003	1889
2004	2118
2005	2326
2006	2560
2007	2799
2008	2146
2009	1359
2010	1147
2011	976
2012	939
2013	987
2014	1285
2015	1361
2016	1465
2017	1544

Other projects dealt with in this area are pre-planning, third party submissions, compliance, appeals, collection of development contributions, section 5 referrals and taking in charge of estates.

## COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CC&SD)

### Strategic Policy Committee

**Cathaoirleach**  
Cllr. Jim Ruttle

**Wicklow County Council**  
Cllr. Gráinne McLoughlin  
Cllr. Nicola Lawless  
Cllr. Shay Cullen  
Cllr. Brendan Thornhill  
Cllr. Miriam Murphy  
Cllr. Pat Kennedy

**Outside Agencies**  
**Business/Commercial**  
Irene Sweeney, Chamber of Commerce

**Public Participation Network**  
Gertie Salley, PPN Social Inclusion

**Public Participation Network**  
John Mullen, PPN Community and Voluntary

**Public Participation Network**  
Ann Halpin, PPN Community and Voluntary

**Director of Services**  
Michael Nicholson

## Local Community Development Committees (LCDC)

Section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees. The LCDC in Wicklow was set up in May 2014 following the passing of a resolution by the Local Authority. The purpose of these committees is to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

### 1.1 The functions of the LCDC

- a) To prepare and adopt the community elements of a 6 year economic and community plan.
- b) To implement, or to arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the Plan.
- c) To undertake a review of the community elements of the Plan at least one within the 6 year period.
- d) To monitor and review on an ongoing basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan, including performance against any benchmarks or indicators of performance.
- e) To seek to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between the local and community development programmes.
- f) To pursue the co-ordination generally of all local and community development programmes within the functional area of the



Committee, so as to optimise resources for the benefit of local communities in that area and improve the efficiency with which publicly-funded local and community development resources are used.

- g) To consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements of a draft of the Plan prepared by the Local Authority.
- h) The Committee may enter into an agreement in writing with a public authority, local development or community development body, or other person for the carrying out of those functions by such an authority, body or person, as the case may be, which the Committee considers appropriate to be carried out.

## 1.2 The Committee, in performing its functions, shall have regard to –

- The resources, wherever originating from, that are available or likely to become available to it for the purpose of such performance and the need to secure the most beneficial, effective and efficient use of such resources.
- The need for co-operation with, and the co-ordination of its activities.
- The need for consultation with public authorities and publicly funded bodies in appropriate cases.
- The need for consistency with the policies and objectives of the Government or any Minister of the Government or other public authority in so far as they may affect

or relate to the Committee's functions.

- The need to integrate sustainable development considerations into policy development and implementation
- The need to promote social inclusion

## 1.3 Co-Operation with Local Community Development Committees.

It is the duty of a relevant body, including the local authority, in so far as it is consistent with the performance of its functions to co-operate with the LCDC in the performance of its functions. The LCDC continues to engage with partner agencies to deliver the objectives of the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP).

## 2. County Wicklow LCDC

### 2.1 Membership of the LCDC

Nominating Body	Nominee
Wicklow County Council	Cllr Grainne McLoughlin (Chair)
Wicklow County Council	Cllr Pat Kennedy
Wicklow County Council	Cllr Mary McDonald
Wicklow County Council	Sheelagh Daly (LEO)
Wicklow County Council	Frank Curran (CE)
Public Participation	Mai Quaid (Vice Chair)



Network	
Public Participation Network	Niamh Wogan
Public Participation Network	Liam O'Loughlin
Public Participation Network	Martina Cronin
Public Participation Network	Richard Webb
Health Service Executive	Siobhan Fitzpatrick
Kildare Wicklow Education & Training Board	Ray Tedders
Dept. Social Protection	Stephen Fitzgerald
Bray Area Partnership	Peter Brennan
County Wicklow Partnership	Brian Carty
Business Pillar	Pat Ó'Suilleabháin
Farming Pillar	Chris Hill
Unemployment Pillar	Lorraine Hennessy
Third Level Institute	Lindsay Malone

The LCDC members wish to thank Bryan Doyle, Tom Gregan, Rory Benville, Mary Kavanagh and Catherine Byrne for their contribution to the work of the LCDC in 2017.

## 2.2. Meetings

6 meetings of the LCDC have been held in 2017, and 2 were convened but postponed as a quorum was not achieved.

## 3. Progress of the LCDC in 2017

The LCDC work plan consisted of three key areas in 2017. Progress in these areas is outlined below.

### 3.1 LECP

The LECP is a 6 year plan prepared by the LCDC and the Local Authority. The Community element is to be implemented by the LCDC. The Economic element is to be implemented by the Local Authority, specifically the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise. The LECP is the framework for many operational and other plans in the County. The plan:

- Agreed priorities for the area
- Agreed agency roles in addressing these
- Places onus on parent bodies of agencies at local level to enable them to respond to plan

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The combined Goals of the LECP are:

High Level Goals
Community Capacity and Urban regeneration and Rural Development
Active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making
Targeted and integrated supports for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
Support local communities in innovation, entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise and social innovation
Training, education and lifelong learning based in analysis of employment trends and the skill needs of employers
Infrastructure and measures that are positive and supportive to investment, enterprise, innovation and knowledge creation
Sustain existing enterprise and develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the county, with possibilities for reversing commuting patterns
Capitalise on Wicklow's unique attributes: proximity to the Dublin market; excellent quality of life; human capital; tourism; landscape; marine; agricultural and forestry resources
Low carbon and climate resilient economic activity, reducing energy dependence, and the sustainable use of resource, and leading in the smart economy
Harness efficiently the full resources of the county and promote interagency collaboration

(The Goals highlighted in blue are mainly the Community Goals)

### 3.1.2. Implementation

A number of programmes contribute to the achievement of each goal. The LEADER and SICAP Programmes are central to this – see separate reports on both. In addition, a number of new development programmes were announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development in 2016/2017 (see Appendix 1 for detailed report). The LCDC is the conduit through which these schemes are delivered and are the main tools for implementation of Goal 1 of the LECP.



<p><b>Goal 1:</b></p> <p>Develop Community Capacity in Disadvantaged Communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development</p> <p>-Build capacity and social capital across all communities</p> <p>-Maximise opportunities for urban regeneration and rural development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversight of LEADER and SICAP input to this (see separate reports)</li> <li>• Supported towns and villages to develop and implement their projects for their areas for Town &amp; Village; CLAR; Outdoor Recreation; Community Facilities Scheme and RAPID (see Appendix 1)</li> <li>• Received a total of €1,197,989 in urban and rural regeneration funding schemes</li> <li>• Community Grants Scheme to support groups and build capacity</li> <li>• Focus on Arklow and Wicklow towns with health check projects and the REDZ project in Arklow</li> <li>• Worked with the economic elements of the LECP on integrated actions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Goal 2:</b></p> <p>Promote active citizenship underpinned by good governance and participation in decision making</p> <p>-Develop strong representative fora in the county</p>	<p>Ongoing support for fora:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Participation Network (PPN)</li> <li>• Comhairle na nÓg</li> </ul>
		<p><b>Goal 3:</b></p> <p>Develop high quality integrated services available to all communities, in particular disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups</p> <p>-The LCDC will provide the strategic direction for the integration of existing services</p> <p>-The LCDC will provide representation for additional services and resources where gaps are identified or where new issues arise</p>	<p>The LCDC continues to work with other agencies to ensure alignment with the LECP and the strategies, plans and policies of the other agencies. Focus in 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SICAP &amp; LEADER</li> <li>• HSE – Healthy Ireland programme is underway</li> <li>• Connecting for Life (Suicide Prevention) plans developed</li> <li>• Age Friendly Strategy being implemented</li> <li>• Rural Transport - consultations were held to input into a new plan for rural transport in Wicklow</li> <li>• Children &amp; Young Peoples Plan is being implemented by</li> </ul>



	<p>Children &amp; Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC)</p> <p>Following the review of the LCDC in 2017 and with the upcoming review of the LECP, further development of this goal is anticipated</p>
<p><b>Goal 4:</b></p> <p>A vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector</p> <p>-Establish a strong social &amp; community enterprise sector in the county</p>	<p>Work has begun to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map social enterprise in the county</li> <li>• Outline steps to develop the sector</li> <li>• Identify supports needed for start-ups and up scaling stages</li> </ul>

## Healthy Ireland – Local Implementation Plan LCDC

Funding of up to €100,000 has been made available to LCDC's to implement the goals of Healthy Ireland, specifically in the areas of physical health and activity, obesity, smoking cessation and sexual health. It is likely that the funding will continue for the next few years and the LCDC/WCC has employed a co-ordinator and is developing a strategy for implementation.

### 3.1.3 Monitoring the LECP

The Advisory Committee was originally set up to develop the LECP and ensure integration of both elements of the plan. The Advisory Committee has agreed to continue in place, to monitor the implementation of the plan. The members of the Advisory Committee come from both the LCDC and the Local Authority. They were:

Cllr. Grainne McLoughlin	Chair LCDC
Cllr. Gerry Walsh	Chair Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
Michael Nicholson	Chief Officer LCDC
Thomas Murphy	Director of Services, Economic Development & Enterprise
Sheelagh Daly	Local Enterprise Office
Sorcha Walsh	Senior Planner
Lorraine Gallagher	SEO Economic Development and Enterprise
Christine Flood	SEO Economic Development and Enterprise
Deirdre Whitfield	Community Culture and Social Development



In addition the LCDC receives reports at each meeting on the progress of the actions in the LECP.

### 3.1.4 Integrated Actions

There are many shared objectives between the community and the economic elements of the LECP and for the most part community and economic development are interlinked. In recognition of that, and of the fact that the plan is not static but dynamic and adaptable to new developments, the integrated element of the LECP is achieved through continuous dialogue and co-ordination. This is achieved through regular meetings of the Advisory Committee. Through the planning and reporting process at these meetings, information is shared and linkages between actions are drawn leading to co-ordination and integration where possible and where appropriate and on an on-going basis.

### 3.1.5 Regional

The Regional Assemblies' role in the LECP process is set out under Section 66c of the Local Government Act 2001, in particular Section 66c 2(c) and 3(c) which states that the consideration of an LECP by the Regional Assembly shall relate to its consistency with (i) the core strategy and the objectives of the development plan of the local authority concerned, (ii) any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy or, as appropriate, Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) that may apply, and (iii) between the economic and community elements of the Plan. County Wicklow LCDC anticipates the development of the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy and will review the LCDC to ensure alignment.

### Appendix 1

Area	Project	Funding
Kilcoole	Enhancement Works and Health Check	€44,200
Carnew	Playground Equipment	€72,550
Shillelagh	Shillelagh Stick Project	€17,000
Wicklow Town	Enhancement Works & Health Check	€26,000
Dunlavin	Looped Walk	€72,250
Rathdrum	Enhancement Works	€100,000
Rathdangan	Playground Equipment	€48,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>€380,000</b>

### T&V 2017 Scheme

Area	Project	Funding
Baltinglass	Digital hub, co-working space and heritage centre	€110,000
Blessington	Upgrading of amenities in preparation for Greenway	€70,000
Ballinaclash	Upgrading of car park and community centre for social enterprise	€26,423



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Rathnew	Community centre works for community enterprise	€100,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>€306,423</b>

## Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund 2017

Measure 1	Description	Funding
Greystones MD	Kilcoole to Kilquade Mass Path and Ballydonerea Loop Walk enhancement	€10,000
Rathdrum Playground Committee	Rathdrum Famine Graveyard Loop Walk enhancement	€8,000
Wicklow County Tourism	Wicklow Way enhancement	€7,266

Measure 2	Description	Funding
Wicklow	Wicklow Cliff Walk	€76,000
Roundwood	Vartry River Walk	€75,000
Wicklow County Tourism	Wicklow Way enhancement	€7,266
<b>Total</b>		<b>€176,266</b>

## Other Schemes

Scheme	Project	Funding
Healthy Ireland	Number of projects promoting health and well being	€100,000
CLAR 2016	Pedestrian Crossing in Knockananna	€20,000
	Safety signs	€5,000
	Knockananna MUGA	€48,000
CLAR 2017	Knockananna – provision of public lighting	€27,000
	Rathcoyle – purchase and replacement of flashing amber safety lights	€6,300
Community Facilities Fund	Small capital grants for community projects	€64,500
RAPID	Fund aimed at disadvantaged areas	€64,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>€335,300</b>

<b>Overall Total</b>		<b>€1,197,989</b>
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## EU Rural Development Programme (LEADER)

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The **LEADER** element of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 will provide €6.3m (circa €1m per year) to address poverty reduction, social inclusion and economic development of rural areas in County Wicklow. The programme is a community led approach to the delivery of rural development interventions that will be supported by a Local Development Strategy and implemented by interested groups at a local level.

The LCDC and County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) continue to work closely together on the implementation of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the LEADER Programme 2014 - 2020. The priorities of the LEADER programme are social inclusion, the green economy and economic and community development. The LDS strongly reflects some of the relevant goals and objectives of the LECP.

The themes of the LEADER Programme are:

Theme	Sub theme
Theme 1: Economic Development, Enterprise and Job Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Tourism</li> <li>• Enterprise Development</li> <li>• Rural Towns</li> <li>• Broadband</li> </ul>
Theme 2: Social Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Youth</li> <li>• Basic Services</li> </ul>
Theme 3: Rural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity</li> <li>• Protection and sustainable use of Water Resources</li> <li>• Renewable Energy</li> </ul>

The LAG met six times in 2017. Two further meetings were deferred due to lack of quorum. Two training sessions on LEADER

were held for LAG members, County Councillors and County Council staff in September 2017. The evaluation committee met three times in 2017. Overall the decision making process is working well. The Chairperson and Chief Officer have addressed the challenge of achieving a quorum by providing the training sessions referred to above, and directly appealing to members to attend all meetings, stressing the importance of prompt and timely decision making for the approval of financial reports, projects and relevant circulars.

A number of changes were made to the LEADER programme in 2017 to allow it to be more accessible to applicants. At the LAG meeting of June 2017 it was decided that changes should be made to the LDS action plan to allow for the plan to reflect these changes.

These changes include the following:

- Reallocation of all animation funding to training projects
- Lifting of dates associated with targeted calls and for the setting of targeted calls to be decided by the LCDC
- Expansion of Local Objective 3 to allow for inclusion of villages under the Rural Towns strategic actions
- Expansion of Local objective 3 to be allowed to support all towns and villages in Co. Wicklow and not just the four mentioned in the LDS

In order to publicise these changes a series of public meetings were held around the county in community settings.



Applications were called as part of a targeted call in April 2017 under Rural Tourism, Enterprise and Rural towns. Three public information events were held in the Brockagh Centre in Laragh to promote this. Information on Basic Services and Biodiversity projects were advertised in meetings in Glenealy, Carnew and Hollywood on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> of June and the 5<sup>th</sup> of July. Additional public meetings to inform interested people about the lifting of targeted calls and the opening of applications to all interested promoters were held in Tinahely, Hollywood and Kilcoole on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. These public meetings were widely promoted on local media and social media of the LCDC, CWP and other local partner organisations.

Large numbers turned out to local meetings with an average of 60 people at the meetings in November 2017. CWP Development officers have been working with promoters from these meetings and outside of this also to help them prepare LEADER applications. We anticipate an increase in applications being evaluated in 2018 as a result of this animation activity.

The programme is operating fully now in County Wicklow. The evaluation committee is working well and the LCDC is embedding itself. Internal projects are driving strategic actions including A&D projects on social enterprise and trails inspection as well as a training project on social media.

- (a) The targeted call system was a challenge as in order to allow the promoter's sufficient time to prepare a compliant LEADER application was a deterrent to other 'quicker' applicants. There is a very small conversion from EOI to application which is a

consistent challenge. Once promoters are made aware of the requirements of the programme, they are inclined to seek support elsewhere before considering preparing a LEADER application.

- (b) The targeted call mechanism is no longer required for all projects and this is being overcome. Converting EOIs to applications will continue to be a challenge due to the paperwork requirements of the programme and the availability of other funds from town & village scheme & the rural recreation scheme.

The changes to the operating rules have assisted some of the issues also most especially, changes to procurement guidelines.

The LAG sub group is reporting to the LAG on options for strategic targeted calls going forward. The options being discussed include i) tourism in west Wicklow; ii) community based renewable energy projects; iii) social enterprise; iv) flagship festivals. Once the target areas have been identified, a targeted animation campaign will drive interest in these areas. This will be supported by one-to-one from LEADER development officers to support interested projects to complete a LEADER application

Discussions are ongoing with neighbouring LAGs and IPs relating to potential co-operation projects.

## Social Inclusion Unit

The Social Inclusion Unit (SIU) continued to support anti-poverty and social inclusion initiatives throughout 2017. Over that period it:



- Represented social inclusion issues on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- Monitored implementation of the Department of Rural and Community Development's Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in County Wicklow
- Supported the ongoing development and operation of the Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)
- Represented social inclusion issues on the Community, Cultural and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
- Participated on regional and national committees, networks and structures

## Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Throughout 2017 this national programme funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development continued to be successfully delivered in Co. Wicklow by Bray Area Partnership for the Bray and Greystones Municipal District Areas (Lot 15-1) and Co. Wicklow Partnership for the Arklow, Wicklow and Baltinglass Municipal District Areas (Lot 15-2). These two Programme Implementers remained focused on empowering and enabling the county's most disadvantaged communities and individuals to improve their life opportunities, outcomes and local environment.

They also continued to successfully achieve on the programme's three key goals of;

- Community development- Resource disadvantaged communities to engage

with relevant local stakeholders in addressing social exclusion

- Education/training- Engage individuals to participate fully and achieve progression through life-long learning opportunities
- Employment- Support the long-term unemployed, including unemployed young people, to improve work readiness and access employment/self-employment /social entrepreneurship

The Programme's key performance indicators and headline indicators were achieved by both Programme Implementers and all actions contained within their Annual Plans fully implemented. As an example of the impact of the Programme in 2017 almost 1,500 disadvantaged individuals and over 60 community groups were engaged with on a one-to-one basis throughout the county.

As part of this work 835 people received support in relation to progressing their educational and training qualifications and over 70 people progressed to full-time or part-time employment. A new SICAP initiative in 2017 resulted in 1,679 children and young people receiving educational or development supports, including 235 young people at risk of early school leaving.

Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), in conjunction with Wicklow County Council, continued to oversee, monitor and manage the performance of the Programme Implementers in delivering this programme. The LCDC were greatly assisted in this task by its SICAP Sub-group.

## County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network continued in its role of facilitating public engagement and participation throughout the county, and acting as the conduit



through which Wicklow County Council connects with community, social inclusion and environmental groups. PPN representatives participated on all Strategic Policy Committees and many other countywide structures and committees. Throughout 2017 the PPN participated in a wide variety of public consultations and policy submissions at local, regional and national level. The PPN also established linkage groups on housing; children/young people; and community development, and supported thematic networks on disability and the environment. Wicklow PPN successfully applied at national level to be one of the country's four pilot programmes for the development of a "Well-being Vision Toolkit," a significant mark of achievement and distinction. The work involved will be undertaken in 2018.

## Activity Performance Indicator 2017

Y2: Groups associated with the Public Participation Network (PPN)

A Number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2017 = 177

B Number of organisations that registered for the first time in 2017 = 28

C Number of organizations (registered in 2017) that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN = 6

## Recast Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment and Development (RAPID Programme)

A capital grant scheme under the Recast RAPID Programme was made available from the Department of Rural and Community Development towards end 2017. The aim of this scheme is to assist in the revitalisation of the country's most marginalised areas through capital grants.

A total of €64,500 was awarded to Co. Wicklow. Bray Family Resource & Development Project's application to provide a new roof for Little Bray Community Centre was awarded €55,250. Ballywaltrim Community Centre's application to install new energy efficient LED lights in their community centre was awarded €9,250.

## Age Friendly Programme

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme is part of an international effort, co-ordinated by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The results are positive ageing, better cities and counties, and more relevant and effective local government, service delivery and business opportunities.

Ireland's National Age-Friendly Cities and Counties Programmes is part of this worldwide initiative which aims to make sure that as we age, we can all:

- Have a real say in what happens in our own lives and what happens in the areas in which we live.
- Enjoy good health, good services, and live in a safe environment
- Participate fully in everything that is going on in our communities, cities and counties

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme provides a structure so that Local Authorities can take a lead on changing thinking about ageing and how services are planned and delivered. Through this model, Local Authorities bring together older people, service providers and businesses in an Alliance that really works and which:

- Enables older people to live active and healthy lives, remaining in their own homes for as long as possible.
- Enhances service delivery without increasing expenditure.
- Brings about valued improvements in the quality of life for everybody in the community.



The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme offers a proven way of bringing diverse organisations, groups, services and businesses together to streamline their work, with the needs and interests of older people at their heart.

The first County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy for 2017 -2022 was launched by Minister Simon Harris in May of 2017. The strategy contains 61 action items and all were agreed on following intense consultation with the older people of Wicklow.

## Leisure Facilities Operations

### Charlesland Sport and Recreation Park and Skate Park

Charlesland, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.  
Operated by Shoreline Leisure Tel. 01 - 2016145.

### Greystones Swimming Pool, Gymnasium and Community Sports Centre.

This state-of-the-art, six-lane 25m swimming pool, gymnasium and double community/sports hall (with retractable seating for c.500) is located at Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

This complex is operated by Shoreline Leisure **Tel. 01 – 2878180.**

### Bray Swimming Pool and Gymnasium,

Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

This complex is operated by Shoreline Leisure **Tel. 01 – 2765660.**

### Wicklow Historic Gaol,

Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow Town.

**Tel. 0404 – 61599.**

E-mail [wicklowgaol@gmail.com](mailto:wicklowgaol@gmail.com)

Web: [www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com](http://www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com)

Wicklow Historic Gaol is operated by W.E.P. Gaol Ltd.

## Library Service

Wicklow County Council won an award for the county's library service in the 2017 Irish Library Services Award presented by Public Sector Magazine in its annual Excellence in Business Awards. The prestigious award was in recognition of the extraneous range of services offered by the county's 13 branch libraries which have become vital components of the educational, cultural and socio-economic development of communities and individuals in every part of the county. The library service is at the forefront of organising commemorative events, providing space and materials for reflection. The ideals of 1916 - equal rights and opportunities, cherishing everyone equally - continue to inform the public library service in County Wicklow. County Wicklow's library service is built on values which are shared with library users, values which are fundamental to an equitable society: Social and Cultural inclusion and access in all its aspects; support for healthy and vibrant local communities, which are sustainable socially, culturally and economically. The library service in the county is much more than the sum of its parts. County Wicklow's libraries are at the heart of communities, urban and rural, providing free public spaces for all. They foster reading and literacy and an appreciation of books from cradle to grave. The libraries also support learning, formal and informal, and deliver information in many and varied formats, to meet the many and varied needs of users.

Wicklow County Council Library Service operates 13 branch libraries throughout the county and serves 35 locations in the county via its mobile library. A library service is



also provided to Shelton Abbey Open Prison. In addition, a monthly service is provided to approximately twenty nursing homes in the county, including Carnew Community Care, Cheshire Home Shillelagh and Rathdrum Hospital.

Working within the framework of Wicklow County Council Library Services Development Plan 2016 – 2020, projects continued to be progressed in 2017.

### New Wicklow Library & Archives

Wicklow County Council has secured the purchase of the former Ulster Bank building, on Wicklow's Main Street. Comprising over 1,200 square metres, over six floors, the building will be adapted to become a flagship library. The building will also provide a new home for Wicklow County Council Archives, which will ensure greater accessibility to this rich resource. Following a tender process, an architect led team has been appointed to the project. Following complete renovation, it is anticipated that the new library and archives will open to the public in autumn 2019.

### Outreach & Social Inclusion

In 2017 Wicklow County Council Library Service has both initiated and been involved in outreach and promotional activities aimed at raising awareness of the library's services to targeted groups

Under the guidance of the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)

the "Work Matters" programme commenced in Arklow library. This initiative promotes the public library as an avenue for research and education, regarding business initiatives. Vision Net software provides a database of national and international businesses to research. Business and employment books, journals, newspaper reports and wirefeeds are available. In addition to public access computers, or personal laptop / wifi usage, there is a community room space for meetings. People can learn about support available for jobseekers, develop new skills to boost CV or job application, or research funding sources for small businesses. It is planned to roll this service out to other libraries in the county.

Almost 3,000 children took part in the "Summer Stars" reading initiative, across all libraries in the county (including the Mobile library), making 2017 the most successful year to date, of this event. This national initiative encourages children to enjoy the fun of reading, throughout their long summer holidays. All participants received certificates, in addition to items, such as, wrist bands, book marks, bags and activity sheets. Events took part across all libraries in county Wicklow, including regular story time sessions both for pre-schoolers and older children, arts and crafts events, teddy bears' picnic, origami workshops, magic shows, family film time events, marine workshops, animal handling workshops and author visits.



## “Poetry Day” (April 27) 2017.

The newly formed poetry group based in Blessington Library, PoulaPoetry, began in early 2017 to work on poems about people in the community. For poetry day in April, they held a public reading in Blessington library at which they shared some of those poems with the gathered audience – including some of the people featured in the poems.

## “Culture Night” (September 22) 2017

was celebrated across the county. In Arklow library, Anthony Cannon performed a reading from his novel “Boom Town”, dealing with the Kynoch factory. Also, East Meets West provided an exploration of songs from South Korea and China, in addition to western culture music.

Blessington library hosted a film night of Jane Austen’s “Persuasion”. Bray library hosted a night of storytelling presented by Café Writers Wicklow. Writers including Grace Wynne-Jones and Frances Brunner recounted tales of Wicklow life. The county’s film making tradition was acknowledged and there was great feedback from the audience. Greystones library honoured the life and works of William Trevor. The talk was presented by Dolores MacKenna, author of Trevor’s biography

“William Trevor: The Writer and his Work”. In total, 500+ attended these events, with Culture Night’s popularity continuing to grow.

Libraries throughout the county continued to provide and expand on its **in-house activities** available to all - book clubs, regular art & craft workshops for children, a pre-school reading club, story- telling, and many more aimed at different target groups in the community. Children’s services continue to facilitate scheduled visits by school groups as well as guided library tours for special interest groups.

## Heritage

In 2017 Wicklow County Council Library Service acquired the original “Articles of Agreement” for the provision of public gas lighting for Wicklow town on “*Third day of November in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Six*”. This unique document has the signatories and seals of the then Wicklow Town Commissioners. The original document has been reproduced and is now on display in the foyer of County Buildings.

## Online Resources

Wicklow County Council Library Service is now part of a national library network. All counties now have access to the same catalogue of books + e-books, e-magazines and newspapers, e-languages and downloadable audio books. For example, in 2017, almost 1,000 online language courses were accessed by Wicklow library members, the most popular being French, German, Spanish, Irish, Polish and Italian. Almost 6,500 ebooks were downloaded and 10,000+ e-audio books were accessed. The



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online education programme “Universal Class” had 4,500 users in 2017. In addition to business programmes, such as Excel and accountancy, yoga, wellness, assertiveness training, nutrition and psychology, were among the educational programmes that proved particularly popular.

All of these are available free of charge through your library membership. Just ask any library staff member for a PIN and quick introduction.

### Inter Library Requests

Books and items can be requested online and are delivered, twice weekly, from libraries throughout Ireland. This service became available in 2016 and continued to grow apace. 1.2 million items were delivered to and from all of the 330 Irish public libraries in 2017. Of these, approximately 55,000 items were from Wicklow libraries, being 4.5% of the total. Outside of the 4 Dublin local authorities, Wicklow County Council Library Service is one of the biggest net contributors to this service.

Wicklow County Council received €120,000+ in grant aid in 2017, to tag all library stock and ensure its compatibility with all library software, across the country.

## Performance Indicators

### Population of County Wicklow 2016

**142,332**

Library Performance Indicators 2017	Results	Actual Data
L1: Library Visits and issues		
A: Number of visits per head of population	3.98	567,107
B: Number of items issued to library borrowers per head	4.04	574,657 +41,712 online resources
L2: Cost of operating Wicklow County Council Library Service per 2016 per head	€18.68	€2,658,652

Note:

L1.A Library visits show an increase of 12.2% on 2016, (505,360)

L1.B Items Issued show a 20.8% increase on those of 2016 (475,686)



## County Archives and Genealogy Service

Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy service is currently located at County Buildings, providing ongoing access to the Council's archival collections, as well as advice and guidance on historical, genealogical and other research projects. Plans are underway to relocate to the new Wicklow Town Library Building in 2019.

Wicklow County Council Archives hold a unique collection of Wicklow records relating to the Administration of the County and the people's interaction with its administration. They offer a rich research resource, not only for the family historian and the local historian, but also for academic and other researchers of wide and varying interests, who wish to learn about the shape and development of communities and the authorities who served them.

Among the jewels of the collection are the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century Wicklow Borough records. These early minute books offer a snapshot of life in Wicklow from the mid -1600's. The County archives also hold the records of the Grand Jury, which was the precursor of the County Council, as well as the Boards of Guardians of the Poor Law Unions, Boards of Health, Rural and District, Town and County Councils. The Wicklow Genealogy Service was established in 1987 by Wicklow County Council and FÁS. It has computerised County Wicklow's parish registers, assembled a rich collection of Wicklow genealogical resources and offers a professional research service for enquirers from around the world with Wicklow roots.

## Online Research Service - [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie)

The subscription site *Rootsireland.ie* currently holds over 20 million Irish records from 30 counties, both North and South. The Wicklow Genealogy Service continues to feature on this unique site, which offers the most complete collection of Irish parish records worldwide.

## Promotions:

- Promotion of the service, through articles submitted to various genealogy magazines and online publications, continues throughout the year.
- The Wicklow Heritage Forum promotes the service through the Heritage Plan
- The service is Member of the Irish Family History Foundation, creators of [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie) which promotes Irish county genealogy services worldwide

## Projects:

- The Genealogy Service continues to produce research for those with Wicklow roots, and corresponds with Wicklow descendants around the world - promoting the County as a destination to those on the "roots trail".
- Continuing the County Archives digitisation programme, the county's Workhouse Registers commenced digitisation in 2017 and will be available online in 2018. Digitised collections already online include Grand Jury Records; Wicklow County Council Minute Books; Arklow Urban District Council Minutes. Further



- digitisation will be carried out in 2018
- The archives service in partnership with Trinity College, the National Library and the Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely is creating a *records hub* for the Fitzwilliam Estate, Coolattin, County Wicklow. Hundreds of thousands of Canadians and Americans descend from the tenants who left this part of the county during the Famine. The website which will launch in 2018 will feature 19<sup>th</sup> century tenant records, as well as parish, county and workhouse records from the County Archives collections.
- Wicklow-Cumberland Miners project – working in collaboration with the Cumberland Miners Group to track Wicklow migrants in the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century mining communities of Cumberland.
- The *County Wicklow Heritage Website* is part of a network of websites created by the National Museum of Ireland. The site features a Genealogy Section with articles offering a guide to Wicklow research.
- Creative Ireland 2017-2022 – the County Archives is a member of the Wicklow Culture Team coordinating Creative Ireland projects in Wicklow.

### Records Management:

The Wicklow County Council Records Management Group oversees a records management programme for Wicklow County Council, with reference to the ***National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records*** published by the LGMSB. The archivist and other group members will

attend GDPR training at Clermont Campus in 2018 while working with the I.T. section to become GDPR ready.

Community activity engaged in by Wicklow County Council throughout 2017:

### *Comhairle na nÓg*

Wicklow County Council, in partnership with Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) continued to develop Wicklow's Comhairle na nÓg structures. There are some twenty one local schools and youth groups involved in the Local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme.

There is one regional youth council in each of the five Local Electoral Areas of County Wicklow.

- Wicklow
- Bray
- Greystones
- Arklow
- Baltinglass

The five Regional Youth Councils/Fora meet regularly and link to their Local Authority and other decision-making Bodies. They have elected representatives to the county based Comhairle na nÓg, which will link with Wicklow County Council, Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board, Wicklow Local Sports Partnership, Health Service Executive and other decision making Bodies in the County. This structure will also elect delegates to the national Dáil na nÓg.



## Activity Performance Indicators 2017

Youth and Community (Y1 and Y2)

Y1 : Participation in Comhairle na nÓg scheme

**(A)** Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme  
= **65.22%**

Compiled as follows:-

Number of second level schools in the Local Authority Area at 31/12/2017 = **23**

Number of second level schools in the Local Authority Area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2017 = **15**

## Community Awards 2017

The Community Award Grants for 2017 had an overall fund of €250,000 (€200,000 in Community Grant/Merit Awards and a further €50,000 in Community Social Innovation Awards).

187 Community Groups/Clubs/Voluntary Organisations benefitted under the Wicklow County Council Community Grants Award Scheme in 2017.

Merit Awards totalling €31,000.00 were presented to 5 organisations in 2017

## Pride of Place Awards 2017 - Co-operation Ireland 'All - Island'

Wicklow County Council is participated again in the 2017 Annual IPB Co-operation Ireland All-Island Pride of Place Competition.

This is an annual prestigious competition, whose purpose is to acknowledge the fantastic work being done by communities all over Ireland, both North and South, and gives Local Authorities an opportunity to participate in the heart of their communities.

The initiative is sponsored by Co-Operation Ireland and Irish Public Bodies (IPB) Insurances.

Wicklow County Council nominated 4 Projects under the following Categories for 2017.



## Category Community Based Youth Initiative

### East Wicklow Youth Service

**The VAULT – Arklow Youth Centre** is a community initiative for young people aged 10-24 years. The service provides supports and opportunities for young people using the following methodologies.

**Drop In service** – Open 6 days per week offering a safe place for young people to hangout and build positive relationships with professional youth workers

**Outreach** – Staff go out to meet with young people who otherwise may not engage with the service

**Advocacy** – on issues such as early school leaving, housing, rights and entitlements, youth justice

**Group work** – includes LGBTI support, leadership, Music, Art, Youth Employment initiative and many more.

Drug Prevention and Education supports

Summer Programmes

Themed Events

The VAULT prioritises work with those most in need of our support.

It is the mission of The VAULT to provide a safe space for young people which is inclusive, welcoming and respectful. It will promote a sense of belonging and participation and enhance the contribution young people make to the wider community

## Category Urban Neighbourhoods

### *Bray Family Resource and Development Project*

Cheile Community Choir is based in Fassaroe, Little Bray Co. Wicklow, was set up in March 2016 with a mission to include everyone regardless of age, qualification or background. There were no auditions or strict rules, the only requirement for joining was a willingness to participate in a weekly activity with enthusiasm and openness to sing with other people of all abilities, ages and backgrounds. The choir now has a membership of 48. The motivation behind the project is to promote community involvement and cohesion including an increased awareness of positive actions within the community and the communities own power in determining what is best for them. The idea of the choir developed because people in the community demonstrated a need to step into celebration mode and lift the hearts of their community. Ongoing development of the choir aims to build an inclusive choir, promote wellbeing through song and social inclusion, and embrace the community by including younger member of the community.

## Category Creative Place Initiative

### **Signal Arts Centre Bray**

Signal Arts Centre was set up in July 1990 to address the lack of a focal point for the visual arts in Bray and North Wicklow and at the same time create a practical facility where artists could both develop their own work & make the arts readily accessible to the local community. The centre has made a significant impact in Bray in the arts and educational fields but also as an addition to



the town's tourism infrastructure. Among the core objectives of the Signal Arts Centre are to develop as a centre of excellence for the visual arts which can act as a resource for artists and the general community, to raise the profile of artists and the arts generally, to provide a range of services facilities training and education for arts practitioners, to assist them in the development of their career, to provide artists with the opportunity to exhibit, to operate the outreach programme of community art projects

## Category – Communities Reaching Out Initiative

### Street Feast

Street Feast is a national day of street parties celebrating community through simple act of sharing a meal with neighbours. It is an Irish initiative to bring back life onto our streets, the idea is a simple one to get as many people as possible across Ireland to sit down to a lunch with their neighbours in their local communities. It's a not for profit, all for fun, do it yourself celebration. A street feast can be anything from a few neighbours getting together in a front garden to a full blown community street party. It can be held anywhere, on the pavement, in a lane way or a local park. Everyone is invited to bring something to contribute be it food, chairs or a musical instrument. Street Feast involves all people from all walks of life of all ages, abilities, beliefs and culture sitting down to a meal together.

## Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations

This includes the operation, maintenance and improvement of the following outdoor leisure facilities.

Playgrounds provided by Wicklow County Council throughout County Wicklow.

- Arklow : Seaview Avenue, Arklow.
- Arklow : St. Peter's Place, Arklow.
- Arklow : South Green, Arklow.
- Bray : Ballywaltrim, Bray.
- Bray : Fassaroe, Bray
- Bray : Giltspur Heights, Southern Cross Road, Bray.
- Bray : Peoples Park, Dargle Road, Bray.
- Bray : Sidmonton Park, Bray.
- Bray : Seafront, Promenade
- Wicklow Town : Ballynerrin.
- Wicklow Town : Hill View.
- Wicklow Town : The Murrough.
- Rathnew Children's Playground and Teen Area with a Skate and BMX Park
- Baltinglass Recreation Park and Playground.
- Blessington Playground, Business Park, Blessington.
- Enniskerry Playground, Monastery Grove, Enniskerry.
- Greystones Playground, Mill Road, Greystones.
- Kilmacanogue Playground, Rockfield Park.
- Newcastle Playground, Wicklow Coast Road, Newcastle.
- Newtownmountkennedy Children's Playground (Opened in 2016)

# Annual Report 2017



## Baltinglass Community Park

### Proposed:

- Greystones (Upgrade/Replacement) – 2018
- Carnew – 2018
- Rathdangan – 2018
- Newtownmountkennedy (Playground and Scouts Den) – 2018
- Roundwood – 2018
- Laragh 2018

### Skate Parks: -

- Arklow Skate Park, and MUGA at Seaview Avenue.
- Wicklow Town Skate Park and BMX Circuit and MUGA at Seafront, The Murrough.
- Blessington Skate Park, at Business Park, Blessington
- Charlesland Sport, Recreation and Skate Park, and Athletics Track at Charlesland Greystones.

### Proposed:

- Baltinglass Skate Park – 2018

### Playgrounds facilitated by Wicklow County Council in partnership: -

- Aghrim Playground.
- Arklow Skate Park and MUGA at Seaview Avenue.
- Ashford Community Park Playground
- Charlesland Sport, Recreation and Skate Park, Charlesland, Greystones.
- Dunlavin Playground.
- Eden Gate Playground, Charlesland, Greystones.
- Grangecon, Playground.
- Knockananna Playground.
- Rathdrum Playground.
- Shillelagh Playground
- Tinahely Playground and MUGA

Baltinglass Community Park is an impressive recreational facility, developed jointly by Wicklow County Council and the Baltinglass Park Committee.

The Park has many fine features including a playground, accessible boardwalk along the river Slaney, picnic areas, pitches, and a series of walkways throughout the park. This Park is a very good example of partnership in action between the Local Authority and the Local Community.

### Community Development and Sport and Recreational Development

#### In Partnership at:-

- Ashford Community Park; Inbhear Mor Scouts and Youth Facility, Arklow; Ashford Development Association; Rathnew Community Centre; Rathnew Active Forum, Walking/Jogging Track; Aghrim Community Sports and Leisure; Glenealy Village Hall; Blessington and District Forum Trails; Wicklow Skate Park and Outdoor Gym; Kilcoole Community Centre; Wicklow Community Resource Centre (Former Parochial Hall)
- Tourism/Wicklow Outdoor Recreational Strategy/Recreational Trails.
- Wicklow Way Partnership.
- Blessington Greenway Walk Partnership.
- Kildare/Wicklow Fáilte Ireland.
- Wicklow Local Sports Partnership Strategy.
- Wicklow County Council's own Bray to Greystones Scenic Sea Cliff Walk and Tourist Trail

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## County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy

The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee was established in July 2009 to implement the strategies as outlined in the County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy.

This strategy is the outcome of an extensive consultation process managed by County Wicklow Partnership in partnership with Coillte, Fáilte Ireland, Irish Sports Council (now Sport Ireland), the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wicklow County Council, Wicklow IFA and Wicklow Uplands Council. Out of this consultation process an overall vision was agreed for Outdoor Recreation in County Wicklow.

Five strategic objectives were identified, that collectively, will help to achieve the agreed vision. These objectives are:

- Integrated outdoor recreation management.
- Improving opportunities and facilities for sustainable outdoor recreation.
- Supporting conservation through outdoor recreation.
- Promotion, education and raising awareness of outdoor recreation.
- Stimulating outdoor recreation tourism and entrepreneurship.

## WICKLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (LSP)

### Overview

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership was established in 2008, supported by the then Irish Sports Council Local Sports Partnership initiative. Representatives from a variety of Agencies, Organisations and Community Groups involved in sport, physical activity, outdoor recreation and community development make up the Board of the Wicklow Local Sports Partnership.

The main functions of Wicklow Local Sports Partnership include: -

### Information provision

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership is involved in the co-ordination of local sports information, initiating research, compiling a sports directory and database, identifying needs and resources to form the basis of local planning and establishing a consultative sports forum.

### Education & Training

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership provides opportunities for education and training at a local level, including generic training courses in areas such as Code of Ethics, First Aid and Active Leadership, while also supporting the delivery of sports specific courses in conjunction with National Governing Bodies of Sport.

### Implementation

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership implements a range of national programmes to encourage participation e.g. Buntús, Women in Sport, Go for Life. Programmes are delivered in areas such as Sports Development, Community Sport and Physical Activity, Schools Sport, Youth Sport and Sport Inclusion. Wicklow Local Sports Partnership will also implement sports programmes in the context of the local strategic plan for sport and physical activity and in line with Sport Ireland priorities.

### Actions undertaken in 2017

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership assisted in the delivery of a wide range of initiatives aimed at promoting participation in sports and physical activity;



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- **Safeguarding courses** run in 2017: 24 courses delivered with 291 participants.
- **1 Sports First Aid** course with 13 participants
- **Parkrun:** Russborough Parkrun began on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 with 80 participants. This is a free timed 5km run that takes place every Saturday morning at 9:30am.
- **Older Adults:** Wicklow LSP sent a team to the G 4 Life games for Older Adults in June 2017
- **Older Adults:** Active Aging classes running in Greystones.
- **Schools:** One Million Step Challenge was completed in 25 schools.
- **Schools:** Secondary school girls weightlifting programme piloted in Loreto Bray.
- **Schools:** Tug of War programme completed in 8 schools with 5 schools bringing 38 teams and 200 children to Shoreline for our Blitz day.
- **Schools:** Introductory 4 week Dance programme in 8 schools in Wicklow (4 West & 4 East). Children aged 5-8years old took part and focused on developing basic motor skills through dance.
- **Bike Week:** Mini Bike fest 17<sup>th</sup> June Bray Seafront, over 100 Children & Adults took part
- **Bike Week:** €250 was given to 4 schools, €1,000 in total, to run cycling related activities during Bike Week 2017, these were Bray, Stratford, Wicklow & Newtown Mount Kennedy
- **Operation Transformation 2017** - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017, walks were held in Blessington, Bray & Wicklow Town
- **Community Grants:** 22 Sports Clubs were awarded Community Grants in 2017, the total amount awarded to sports clubs was €20,675
- **Sports Capital Grants:** Wicklow clubs received almost €1.8 million in 2017. 71 applications were submitted in total from Wicklow for Sports Capital grants in 2017. 8 Applications were deemed invalid with 60 applications successful.
- **Dormant Accounts Allocation:** €16,000 allocated to run an intervention programme for teenage girls in

conjunction with the Ladies Gaelic Football Association. €13,000 allocated to run a 2018 community coaching activation programme.

- 2017 saw Wicklow Sports Partnership allocated funding under **Healthy Ireland** to run a number of programmes through the LCDC. These programmes will be run over 2018

## Planned actions for 2018

- Parkrun in Avondale, Tiglin & Baltinglass
- Older Adults exercise classes throughout the county
- Provision of Safeguarding, First Aid and disability inclusion training
- Facilitate a Disability Inclusion activity camp
- Roll out of an outdoor recreation campaign
- Distribution of Sports Grants
- Promotion and co-ordination of Active School Week, Bike Week and other National initiatives
- Develop partnerships with other bodies for the strategic and targeted provision of physical activity throughout County Wicklow
- Support target groups to become more physically active
- Continue to educate the population on the importance of physical activity in daily life
- Increase awareness of Wicklow Local Sports Partnership and the opportunities it provides to stakeholders and target groups.
- Continue to roll out the various Programmes undertaken in 2017.

The Wicklow Local Sports Partnership is on Facebook and Twitter. Web: [www.wicklowlsp.ie](http://www.wicklowlsp.ie)

## Wicklow County Arts Office

County Wicklow has a rich artistic and cultural tradition with a range of vibrant activities taking place in the visual arts, music, theatre, literature, sculpture, youth arts, community arts and festivals. Wicklow County Council's Arts Programme is to nurture and develop this rich tradition and to ensure that the Arts are made accessible to all in the county.

### Arts Act Grants

The Artist Support Award Scheme, Arts Groups and Organisation Award Scheme and the Arts Festival Award Scheme target artistic practice in all disciplines by people and groups from or based in Wicklow. The Arts Grants are offered each year to develop and deliver festivals and arts programmes of high quality and impact and to enhance and complement the strategic development of the arts in the County.

#### **(1) Artist Support Award Scheme**

The objective of this Support Scheme is to assist artists develop their practice and to make a significant contribution to the professional life of artists from, or living in, County Wicklow. In total 25 applications were received within the closing date and awards were made to nine artists.

#### **(2) Arts Festival Award Scheme**

Applications were received in respect of high quality programmes by local, national and international artists presented within the applicants' Festivals. The predominant art form presented within the Festivals was music. Other events included literary events, visual arts and opportunities for arts participation. There were six applications under this scheme with all receiving funding.

#### **(3) Arts Group and Organisations Award Scheme**

The objective of this award scheme was to support arts groups/organisations in the realisation of an arts project or programme to support their artistic development. It was the intention of this award to fund in total or in part a project/programme to result in realising/showcasing of new work.

Applications were accepted for a research and development phase of a new initiative or for the production/ implementation of a new arts project or programme. There were eleven applications under this scheme with six receiving funding.

### Strategic Projects – Awards

These awards were to support the development of new work in Wicklow by both residents of Wicklow and those from outside Wicklow. The Arts Office completed the application process for Strategic Project Awards, which will support the collaborative development and delivery of new high quality projects during 2018. Three awards were selected in 2017:

### Public Art – Bray Commissions

The Per Cent for Art Scheme is a government funded programme whereby an additional fund of up to 1% of the cost of publicly-funded infrastructure of building, can be applied for by the client (typically a local authority, school, hospital, the National Roads Authority, the OPW) to commission original, site and context specific works of art. The 1% is subject to a cap of €64,000. The fund is available across all government departments and supports the commissioning of artists and artworks across all contemporary art forms.

A series of four exciting site specific public art commissions are currently in process in Bray. These are being curated by Sitled Aesthetics, a public art partnership involving Jennie Guy and Eilís Lavelle.

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The four locations where the work will take place are:

- Fran O'Toole Bridge – the curators developed the brief for the Fran O'Toole Bridge in collaboration with the Arts Officer and Engineers from Wicklow County Council – process ongoing.
- Albert Avenue Underpass – three artists were selected and awarded €1,000 to develop detailed proposals for the site – process ongoing.
- Coláiste Ráithín, Ravenswell – the selection panel met and assessed the proposals from a shortlist of six artists. The commission was awarded to Alice Rekab.
- St. Philomena's NS, Ravenswell - site visits have been taking place and discussions are ongoing between the curators and teachers in the school.

## Music Generation Wicklow

Members of Music Generation Wicklow met with staff and Board members from the national office for a tour of schools in the county. The group met with tutors, teachers and children in Donard National School, Tinahely National School and St. Patrick's National School Greystones and discussed the artistic, social and interpersonal benefits of the programme for children in the county. Ann Nolan reported that 4,000 children and young people in Wicklow were engaged in regular music performance education with 31 musician tutors employed on a weekly basis.

## Culture Night

A fantastic programme of 33 arts and cultural events took place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, as part of Culture Night. The public were invited to participate in free music, theatre, literature, dance, visual arts, storytelling, and film activities and events as well as talks and tours for all of the family. Events took place in eleven areas around the county including: Arklow, Ashford, Aughrim,

Avoca, Blessington, Bray, Donard, Greystones, Hollywood, Redcross, and Wicklow Town.

## Creative Ireland

The Creative Ireland Programme is guided by a vision that every person in Ireland will have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential. It is a five year all-of- Government initiative, from 2017 to 2022, to place creativity at the centre of public policy. For more information see <https://creativeireland.ie/en> This strategy aims to support further opportunities for public engagement with culture and creativity among communities and individuals all across County Wicklow over the next five years and beyond.

Project that happened in 2017: - Cruinniú na Cásca (Easter 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017)

A free public event that took place in Russborough House and Kiltruderry House to celebrate culture and creativity through a rich variety of family workshops, including music, readings, surprises and more.

## OTHER PROGRAMMES

### REDZ 2016 (Rural Economic Development Zones)

Following on the success of the REDZ 2015 Scheme, REDZ 2016 was launched in October 2016. Similar to the 2015 Scheme, REDZ 2016 is aimed at providing additional support to existing REDZ initiatives and to develop the concept further in additional areas.

REDZ 2016 provides funding for Regional 'Flagship' Projects and County Projects.

An architect had been appointed for the Arklow Pottery Museum in Arklow to design the building and prepare the planning application for submission in 2018.

## WALKS PROJECTS

### Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk

The committee was re-established in 2016 and commissioned a walk condition survey report.

The report listed a number of areas that required attention and work is currently underway to address these areas.

### Wicklow Cliff Walk

Following a condition survey report in late 2016 and a proposal to re-route part of this cliff walk, it is hoped to carry out a number of improvements in 2017.

### Mapping of Walks in County Wicklow

An exercise is currently underway to map all the walks in the County, to identify gaps and to explore the possibility of linking all the walks continued in 2017 and a new of routes have been identified.

### Ireland-Wales – Celtic Routes INTERREG Project

County Wicklow is to benefit from a €2m Wales/Ireland INTERREG project aimed at encouraging visitors to explore lesser known areas of both regions. Called “The Celtic Routes” project and backed by €1.6m of EU funds and overall investment of €2m in the six participating counties, it aims to encourage visitors to explore new areas of Wales and South-East Ireland on route to their final tourist destination. The project will operate across Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion in Wales, and Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford in South-East Ireland.

The main aim of the project is to transform less well known areas from transit zones to new touring sites, increasing the time tourists spend in these regions and capitalising on the opportunities to boost local economies. The project will be developed through customer research, trade events and workshops as well as cross border visits by businesses in Ireland and Wales to bring together expertise and ideas. One of the aims of the project is to develop new trails under seven themes, including Local culture, Natural environment, film tourism, Pilgrim routes, Wildlife, Folklore and Traditions.

The project is supported by the Ireland/Wales 2014-2020 Co-operation Programme, which is helping to strengthen collaboration between Ireland and Wales, to address common economic and social challenges.

### South East Coastal Blueway

The three County Councils of Wicklow, Waterford and Wexford are working together to develop a South East Coastal Blueway extending from Bray in County Wicklow to Youghal Bridge in County Waterford and a 10 km zone inland.

A Blueway is a recreational water activity trail that is developed for use by non-motorised water activity enthusiasts. They can be developed on canals, rivers, lakes or along the coast, and can incorporate other associated land based trails adjacent to the water trail. The coastline of Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford has a combined length of 415km. It is accessible to the public with numerous beaches and water-based activities currently operating along the route. The land corridor has a strong heritage culture, craft and food offering with potential for further development.

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Under the current LEADER programme, a separate fund of €10m has been ring-fenced under the LEADER Co-Operation heading and the three counties intend to apply for funding under the heading to develop the Blueway.

The three Local Action Groups (LAGs) have approved of the project and the tender for the provision of a feasibility study into the development requirements and economic potential of a South East Coastal Blueway was awarded to Irish Leisure Consultants (ILC), Carrowcashel, Ramelton, Co. Donegal. The project builds on the Audit of Coastal facilities in the South East (Wicklow, Wexford & Waterford counties) carried out by Waterford LEADER partnership, Wexford Local Development and County Wicklow Partnership, Wexford Local Development and County Wicklow Partnership in August 2015.



# Annual Report 2017



## Enterprise and Corporate Services

- Ms. Mary Savage
- Cllr. Edward Timmins
- Cllr. Gerry Walsh

**GOAL:** “Provision and retention of sufficient *professionally developed staff to meet the needs of the organisation*”

### ACCESS

In accordance with the National Disability Act 2005, the Access Officer for Wicklow County Council ensures that their services are accessible for people with disabilities by providing integrated access to mainstream services where practicable and appropriate. The Disability Act 2005 places a specific obligation on public bodies to make public buildings and services accessible to people with disabilities by 2005.

### Wicklow Local Authorities Access Group (WLAAG)

WLAAG continued to support and advise Wicklow County Council on access issues throughout 2016. This group, which consists of people with disabilities and representation of disability organisations resources the Local Authority with experts in the area of disability and access. The Access Office is in regular contact with both local and national groups and organisations dealing with access to ensure that Wicklow County Council are meeting their obligations.

## Audit Committee

The Wicklow County Council Audit Committee was initially established in 2007 under Section V of the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2005. Following the May 2014 local elections, the Audit Committee was re-established. The membership of the committee now comprises:

- Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman
- Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman

The functions of the Audit Committee are prescribed in Section 59 of the Local Government Act 2014 and include:

- To review the financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the Local Authority
- To foster the development of best practice in the performance by the Local Authority of its internal audit function
- To review any audited financial statement, Auditor’s Report or Auditor’s Special Report in relation to the Local Authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its Chief Executive in response to such a statement or report and report its findings to the Authority
- To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the Local Authorities performance of its functions
- To review systems that are operated by the Local Authority for the management of risks
- To review the findings and recommendations of the National Oversight & Audit Committee (NOAC) and the response of the Chief Executive to these and take further action as appropriate.

As part of the reporting process, the Audit Committee presented its Annual Report for 2016 to the Wicklow County Council in February 2017.

In the report, the Committee welcomed the receipt of reports on the following assignments during the year:

- Compliance with the Financial Procedures Manual

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- Review of Fixed Assets
- Review of Debtors
- Bank Reconciliation
- Review of VAT Compliance
- Review of Gateway Labour Activation Scheme

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial Procedures & Audit) Regulations 2014 the Local Government Auditor was invited to address the Committee. This annual meeting is a constructive opportunity for the Committee to exchange views with the Local Government Auditor on a wide range of issues and for the Local Government Auditor to discuss his statutory audit report on the Council's Annual Financial Statement.

Conference/Training	Date	No. of Attendees
AILG Training, Carlingford	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	1
AILG Training, Athlone	15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	12
Agri for Valour	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	1
AILG Training, Ennis	6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	7
AILG Training, Arklow	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	3
LAMA Training, Gormanstown	27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	7
Blue Flag Awards	2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2017	1
AILG Training, Crown Plaza	9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	3
AILG Training, Westport	12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	1
AILG Training, Dundalk	9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	3
Listowel Tourism	5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	7
LAMA Training, Clonmel	28 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	8
	19 <sup>th</sup>	2

AILG Training, Tullamore	October 2017	
AILG Training, Gorey	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	1
AILG Training, Carrickmacross	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017	1
Celtic Conference, Clonakilty	24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	1
Local Regional Assemblies	15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	3

## Enterprise and Development

County Wicklow has great business potential and has undergone significant expansion and development in recent years. County Wicklow is one of the most rapidly growing Counties in Ireland. Less than one hour from Dublin, with easy access to the M50 and national motorways the County has many benefits to offer by way of strategic location, infrastructural development, proximity to Universities and Institutes of Technology.

The Enterprise Unit of the Council is responsible for the promotion and marketing of County Wicklow and its towns as a location for enterprise and job creation. It promotes and assists in the development of enterprise centres and acquires land to facilitate industrial and commercial development. The unit plays a pivotal role in the economic development of the County and is committed to growing a third level education base in conjunction with IT Carlow at Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College, Rathnew.

The Council works closely with other development agencies such as the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and maintains and broadens links with potential industrial/commercial developers/promoters to achieve job creation

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and economic growth. It promotes County Wicklow as a premier film location through the County Wicklow Film Commission.

The staff of the Enterprise Unit are available to guide and assist potential business developers who may be considering Wicklow as a business location and a number of initiatives to promote the County as a place to locate were undertaken during 2016

## Development of Enterprise Centres

The Council in partnership with national and local development agencies and in conjunction with local chambers of commerce works closely with existing enterprise centres in County Wicklow.

The Wicklow Enterprise Centre/Business Park, comprises 74,000 sq ft of enterprise space providing a complete turnkey facility to existing and new developing businesses. It comprises workspace units, research & development, manufacturing and distribution and food production training in sizes from 180sq ft up to 5,000 sq ft along with hi-spec office accommodation, training facilities and conference room. Recently completed refurbishment work on the building has taken place and 11 specially designed new office units as well as 2 state of the art training rooms have been provided.

The Arklow Business and Enterprise Centre is a community initiative set up to provide workspace for new embryo and small expanding businesses together with a range of support facilities. The centre offers approx 30,000 sq ft of workspace consisting of 14 small/medium sized production units and 14 offices and facilitates 34 businesses.

## Sites for Enterprise/Employment uses

Wicklow County Council has invested some €1.3m on the construction of Avondale Business Park, Rathdrum. The park is divided by four roads, linked by a main roundabout. The bulk of the work has been carried out to Road no. 1 and 2

and also to the new roundabout with most of the utility providers' ducts and pipes laid on Road no. 1 and 2. High quality fencing has been erected to the front perimeter of the site as well as construction of entrance pillars and gateway etc. A very positive step for Avondale Business Park is the construction and operation of the first commercial premises. The Enterprise Unit is engaging with businesses that have expressed an interest in locating to the Business Park, and the Council will continue to push forward with its plans for the development of the site into the future.

Discussions are ongoing with a number of business in County Wicklow for a similar type development at Dunlavin. In addition to these sites, the Council has some varying size landbanks at a number of locations throughout the County including Baltinglass, Arklow, Blessington and Ashford.

## Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

In accordance with the guidelines for the establishment and operation of the SPCs, the Economic Development Enterprise Support SPC has been established and has been operational since December, 2014. The main function of the SPC is to assist the Council in the formation, development and review of policy in this area. The SPC comprises seven elected members and six external members drawn from the various pillars, such as: Environment/Conservation, Agriculture/Farming Community, Trade Union, Development/Construction/Business commercial and Business (West Wicklow). In 2017 the SPC along with the Local Community Development Committee concentrated its work on the overseeing the goals and objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)



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which actions to support economic development and local community development.

## Networking and Collaboration with Other Agencies

During 2017 the Enterprise Unit met with representatives of EI and the IDA, Failte Ireland and other agencies engaged in economic development. Formal and informal networking continues with the Local businesses, the Chambers of Commerce and the County Wicklow Chamber to promote and develop business in County Wicklow and develop job opportunities in County Wicklow

Wicklow County Council and LEO Wicklow supported the Network Ireland annual conference which was held in Druid's Glen during the presidency of Rebecca Harrison, Managing Director of Fishers of Newtownmountkennedy .

## County Wicklow Economic Think Tank

County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) is a collaborative initiative between Wicklow County Council, LEO Wicklow and local businesses. The purpose of the CWETT was to determine how Wicklow can attract and nurture business and promote sustainable economic development that creates jobs in the County.

Wicklow County Council is now engaged in implementing the actions identified by CWETT under the following headings;

- Brand
- Film
- Marketing and Communication
- Recreation and Retail
- Industry and Infrastructure

### Actions delivered in 2017:

- Appointment of Inventise Consultants to develop the new web portal Wicklow.ie

- Development of the Statement of Tourism Strategy 2017 to 2022 and appointment of Blue Sail consultants to develop the Tourism Strategy for County Wicklow.
- Support of Town Teams in Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow
- Arranging a presentation by Simon Wall, Westport Town Architect in conjunction with Wicklow Town Team
- Supporting a retail business event in Arklow addressed by David Fitzsimons of Retail Excellence Ireland and other guest speakers.
- Carrying out Town Centre Health Checks in Wicklow and Arklow.
- Procurement of a preferred bidder for the development of the Florentine Site.
- The importance of Ireland's marine resources as a key asset to contribute to the expansion of the national economy has been recognised in Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth (HOOW) – An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland. HOOW sets an overarching target to double the value of Ireland's Ocean Economy to 2.4% of GDP by 2030 and to increase the annual turnover to exceed €6.4bn by 2020. In addition, individual sectoral targets were proposed, namely a €1bn target for Seafood, €2.6bn for Maritime Commerce and Ship Leasing, €1.5bn for Marine and Coastal Tourism and a €1.2bn target for Ports and Maritime Transport Services, Maritime Manufacturing, Engineering, and other marine industries.
- In County Wicklow in addition to leisure and tourism activities such as development of aquaculture, coastal trails and blue-ways, and traditional port uses, there are opportunities for the development of the ports in the county to service windfarms, and for use in "near porting" (as an alternative to moving goods by road
- Brexit offers threats and opportunities to the maritime industry.
- During the course of 2017 The Maritime Business Development Group received a number of presentations on subjects such as marine engineering and dredging, and offshore renewable energy and maritime

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spatial planning. An aquaculture sub group was formed.

The actions proposed by CWETT are now embedded in the Local Economic and Community Plan.

## Local Economic and Community Plan

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided for an enhanced role in local community and economic development for local authorities. From an economic development perspective, measures include the integration of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) functions within the County Council, as well as the establishment of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC. The Economic element of the plan seeks to build on the strengths of the County to develop additional employment opportunities and economic activity in the County. The plan also supports linkages between businesses and business networks, education and training bodies and promotes development of infrastructure and collaborations aimed at facilitating increased economic development

The Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2022 represents a major collaborative initiative between local community development and local economic development in the County and reflects the strengthened role of the local authority in both areas of activity.

The LECP contains 10 high level goals, 21 local objectives and more than 100 local actions. A key element of the LECP is the Implementation Plan which is led by the LECP Advisory Steering Group which has representation from Community Cultural and Social Development the Enterprise Unit and includes the Chairs of the LCDC and the Economic Development and Enterprise Support

SPC. The Advisory Steering Group oversees the general implementation of the LECP and monitors progress on the actions and against specific objectives, measurable targets, outcomes and timeframes.

### Economic Goals

- Develop infrastructure and measures that are positive and supportive to investment, enterprise, innovation and knowledge creation in strategic locations
- Sustain existing enterprise and develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the County, with possibilities for reversing commuting patterns
- Capitalise on Wicklow's unique attributes and proximity to the Dublin market, excellent quality of life, human capital, tourism, landscape, marine, agricultural and forestry resources
- Support a shift towards low carbon and climate change resilient economic activity, reducing energy dependence, promoting the sustainable use of resources and leading in the Smart Green Economy

### Action Plan for Jobs for the Mid East Region 2016 – 2017

The Action Plan covers the counties of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow. The Plan has been developed on the basis of a series of consultations with stakeholders in the region, identifying particular strengths and opportunities in the region. The APJ sets out a series of commitments on the part of public bodies, complemented by some actions from the private sector, which will support enterprise growth and job creation.

## Key Themes

- Increasing innovation capability in the region through enhancing engagement between Institutes of Technologies in the region and industry
- Increasing the numbers of new start ups
- Increasing the flow of critical skills to the region
- Attracting and embedding FDI
- Increasing employment in the existing base of companies by strengthening their capacity to scale up their business and win new markets.
- Developing solutions to revive and reinvigorate retailing at a local and regional level
- Strengthening business networks in the region to support deeper business to business collaboration and create supply chain opportunities

## Key Actions

- Collaboration on tourism initiatives
- Increase critical skills through a regional skills forum
- Promote enterprise led training and management development programmes
- Build on the region's strengths as a hub for film production
- Develop propositions for global business services and high value manufacturing
- Build on the region's food innovation for research and start up incubation capacities.

## Partnerships

### Hainan Province China

2017 was a busy and fruitful year in continuing to develop the partnership between County Wicklow and the Hainan province of China.

In April 2017 His Excellency Dr. Yue Xiaoyong, Chinese Ambassador to Ireland visited County Wicklow with a delegation from the Embassy. Noting previous official Chinese visits to Wicklow

he said it was a privilege for him to continue to extend the hand of friendship and noted the enormous potential and promising prospects ahead for Ireland and China.

In July 2017 His Excellency Mr. Mao Chaofeng, Vice Governor of Hainan Province in China visited Wicklow to sign an official Partnership Agreement between County Wicklow and Hainan. The Agreement commits both partners to promoting friendship, economic and trade interflow between Wicklow and Hainan and was signed in the presence of representatives from the Chinese Embassy and community in Ireland, Wicklow County Council, County Wicklow Tourism, the Chambers of Commerce and Local Enterprise.

In November 2017 an Irish delegation visited China at the invitation of the Hainan Government to attend the 2017 Hainan International Tourism Island Carnival Exhibition and World Leisure Tourism Expo. Wicklow was one of only 30 international delegations to be provided with an exhibition stand at the Expo where 1,000 exhibitors represented the travel trade. The delegation also visited Shanghai where they attended a number of meetings with Tourism Ireland and Government Officials.

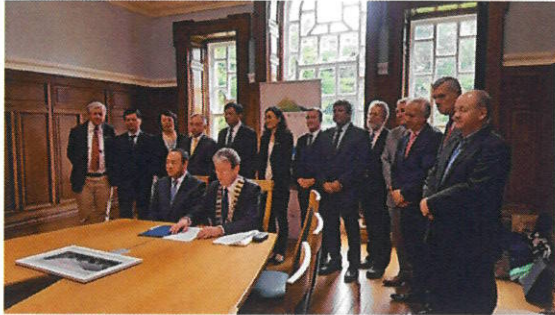
In December 2017 the relationship between Hainan and Wicklow was further strengthened when a delegation from Hainan University visited the county led by University President, Professor Wu Yaoting. Hainan University is an International Education Partner of the DIT School of Hospitality Management and Tourism in Dublin and the joint interests of both regions in educating and empowering their young people was celebrated during the visit.

As the number of Chinese visitors to Ireland increases rapidly and in the advent of direct flights from China to Dublin in 2018 these opportunities to sell Wicklow have been very

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well timed and it is intended to further develop this relationship going forwards.



## Wurzburg

In May 2017 Mathias Fleckenstein, Chairman of the German Irish Association of Wurzburg visited Wicklow to participate in the Celebration of Synge event hosted by Ashford Heritage Centre. Mathias gave a talk on Synge and his time in Wurzburg.

In July of 2017 a delegation led by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Edward Timmins visited Wuerzburg for the St. Kilian's Festival.

## Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee continued to meet quarterly in 2017. Section 36(2)(c) of the Garda Síochána Act provides that the function of a joint policing committee is, inter alia, to 'arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area.' The Wicklow County Council JPC held two public meetings in 2017 in Dunlavin and in Bray.

In July, 2017 the Joint Policing Committee approved the application from the Arklow Town Team for the provision of a CCTV system. The key objectives of the scheme are to enhance existing policing provision within the community, to assist in the prevention and reduction of local crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and to

increase community involvement in the provision of legitimate, integrated responses to prevent and reduce crime in local areas.

Working groups have been set up to implement the objectives of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing 6 year Plan under the 4 key areas identified:

- (1) Policing Communities
- (2) Tackling Crime in Rural Areas;
- (3) Drug Prevention
- (4) Communications.

These groups meet approximately 3 to 4 times are year. Each committee has a Chair and the administrative support is provided by an official of Wicklow County Council. The committee is supported by representatives from An Garda Síochána and are comprise representatives from the elected members and community groups. The committees are open to contributions from local stake holders outside of the JPC such as Muintir na Tire, The uplands Council and the Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.



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## Health and Safety

Wicklow County Council subscribes to a dynamic and interactive Health and Safety process. Accordingly the Health and Safety Office avails of every opportunity to reflect these principles in terms of consultation, training and the development of a comprehensive Health and Safety Management System.

Training is provided throughout the year on a proactive basis. Training provided includes: Safe Pass, Safety Awareness, City & Guilds Chainsaw, Confined Spaces Entry, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling, Construction Skills Certification Scheme (C.S.C.S.), First Aid, and Safe System of Work Plans amongst others.

Policies and procedures in Wicklow County Council are constantly being reviewed in line with new best practices, legislative changes and national initiatives. Staff participation in the process is encouraged and the input of the Safety Representatives is valued.

## Higher Education Grants

Wicklow County Council acts on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills in administering the Higher Education Scheme. In 2011, the Higher Education Grant Scheme was further reinforced by the introduction of the Student Support Act, 2011 and the Student Support Regulations, 2011. These may be amended by the Department of Education and Skills each year to take account of any changes. The new legislative changes allowed for a single unified Higher Education Grant Scheme for all awarding authorities.

All monies paid in respect of maintenance and fees are recoupable with the exception of a fixed contribution of €6,019.83, which the Council is obliged to pay under the 1968 Act.

## Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act, 2014 came into effect on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2014. This Act abolished the requirement to pay a fee when making a request.

The Freedom of Information Acts assert the right of members of the public to obtain access to official information to the greatest extent possible consistent with the public interest and the right to privacy of individuals.

The Act established three new statutory rights:

- A legal right for each person to access information held by public bodies;
- A legal right for each person to have official information relating to himself or herself amended when it is incomplete, incorrect or misleading; and
- A legal right to obtain reasons for decision affecting oneself.

Wicklow County Council received a total of 141 requests during 2017. A disclosure log detailing all non personal freedom of information requests can be viewed on the Council's website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie).

## Register of Electors

Under the Electoral Acts, Wicklow County Council is charged with preparing and publishing the Register of Electors for the County every year. The total local government electorate on the 2017/2018 register was 96,063. Progressively smaller electorates apply in the case of Elections to the European Parliament, the Dáil and the office of Uachtarán na hEireann where citizenship requirements exist.

The Council strives to provide a comprehensive and accurate Register of Electors to facilitate the democratic process at election time. Through extensive local advertising and initiatives, both web based and traditional, coupled with the efforts of a well trained and resourced team of 38 field workers covering the county, a Register is produced which is tested at each election. Every

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opportunity is provided to any qualified person to be included in the Register.

The team of fieldworkers are employed to visit every household in the County during the months of July/August/September each year. If there is no reply at the door, a personalised calling card is left along with a FREEPOST voter registration form for the householder to return to the Franchise section of the Council.

Existing electors who have not been met at the door by the fieldworker or who have not replied via the registration form left at their residence, will be contacted in writing during the last 10 days of October informing them they will be removed from the final register unless they contact the Franchise section of the County Council before 25<sup>th</sup> November.

The Budget provision includes for payroll and travel expenses for the field-staff and office staff along with local advertising, postage and printing.

## Training and Development

Wicklow County Council recognises that training and development assists staff and elected members to realise their full potential and can lead to greater organisational performance and job satisfaction and therefore is committed to ensuring that every member of staff has the opportunity and support available to them.

Staff members also regularly attend seminars and conferences directly related to their area of work and expertise.

The Council also encourages and assists staff to undertake relevant further education at all stages of their career.

## Members Expenses

Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€30,000
Leas- Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€6,000
SPC Annual Allowance	€30,000
Annual Representational Allowance	€517,656.25
Councillors Annual Allowance	€197,752.51
Internal Conferences and Training	€25,778.74
Foreign Conferences	€2,109.34

## Ombudsman

Any person who feels that he/she has been unfairly treated or is not satisfied with a decision on a complaint by the local authority may contact the Office of the Ombudsman. By law the Ombudsman can investigate complaints about any of the local authority's administrative actions or procedures as well as delays or inaction in your dealings with the local authority. The Ombudsman provides a free, impartial and independent dispute resolution service.

The Ombudsman referred 11 complaints to Wicklow County Council in 2017.

## County Wicklow Film Commission

The County Wicklow Film Commission is the longest established film commission in Ireland, committed to attracting audio-visual production into the county.

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Funded by Wicklow County Council, the film commission is based in Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus, but represents the whole county.

The main objective of the County Wicklow Film Commission is to market and promote the county as a film location for any kind of audio-visual or content creation production ranging from feature film to commercial, short film, television production, gaming, animation or music promo.

The film office assists any project regardless of the size of the budget with the aim of bringing economical benefits into the area.

As a secondary objective the County Wicklow Film Commission is committed to maximise the tourism spin off of film activity. Film tourism is a growing market as many holidaymakers decide their destination based on films and television series they have seen. Films such as 'PS I love You' and television series such as 'Vikings' are used to attract visitors here by featuring them on our website and through the County Wicklow Movie Map, which was reprinted in 2012. Copies of the movie map are distributed to all tourist offices and major tourist attractions in County Wicklow.

The Wicklow Film Commission also assists Tourism Ireland with media and familiarisation trips along the Wicklow film trails.

In 2017 County Wicklow once again experienced high levels of production activity. Over 400 shooting days were recorded containing a mixture of all types of audio-visual production. The financial benefit from audiovisual productions tends to be higher from feature films than from television. However high end television productions such as 'Vikings' and 'Into the Badlands' employ staff for longer and offer more sustainable employment.

Services on offer to any of these productions include location scouting, advice, assistance and location suggestions through personalised web

brochures, liaison with Local Authorities personnel and local communities.

One of the many projects shot in County Wicklow in 2017 was the fifth and sixth series of 'Vikings' in the film studios at Ballyhenry, Ashford. It is estimated that the €30m production has employed on average per week around 700 Irish cast and crew and invested a hefty €20m in the county, from everything to set designs, studio facilities, and employing thousands of extras.

The most high profile project that was filmed in County Wicklow during 2017 is The Rhythm Section starring Blake Lively and Jude Law. This production shared the beautiful locations in Luggala Estate in the Wicklow Mountains together with 'Vikings' and 'Into the Badlands' during the autumn of 2017.

RTE series 'Striking Out' which stars Amy Huberman, filmed in Wicklow County Campus for a number of days, turning the impressive boardroom into a courtroom.

With the production offices once again based in the former 'Kiltarnan Hotel', the third series of 'Into the Badlands' was shot all around North Wicklow including Powercourt Waterfall and Bray Head.

The WFC also assisted location managers working on projects that didn't end up shooting in County Wicklow as alternative locations where found elsewhere.

The Action plan that came out of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank identified the film industry as of great importance to the local industry. Objective 4 of the Action Plan is to capitalise on the Immediate Economic Opportunity in the Film Industry through a number of actions: To develop a Film Industry Cluster in County Wicklow (a hub for film making and ancillary industries

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Establishing the appropriate infrastructure and supports to attract and sustain the film making industry in Wicklow requires a collaborative approach, facilitated and supported by Wicklow County Council. Such an approach will enable the County to realise the potential value from film making directly plus film tourism, accommodation services and other support services.

Consultation with the studios in the County confirms that international film production companies are actively interested in working in County Wicklow. For example Disney has indicated their desire to work in Wicklow on 10 productions, however the required facilities are not currently in place.

Suggested actions:

## 1. Establish a Film Industry Business Development Group

The Business Development Group would be responsible for devising a plan to develop a Film Industry Cluster in the county in collaboration with local and National state bodies.

The Group would be responsible for ensuring that both local and national government is aware of the scale of the opportunity and adequately supports the development of the film industry in Ireland.

This Business Development Group could also include representatives from other sectors that would benefit from the spillover effects of a thriving Film Industry e.g. Tourism

## 2. Promote a Film Industry Cluster: Put in Place Practical Supports to Develop Leading Edge Film Studio Capacity

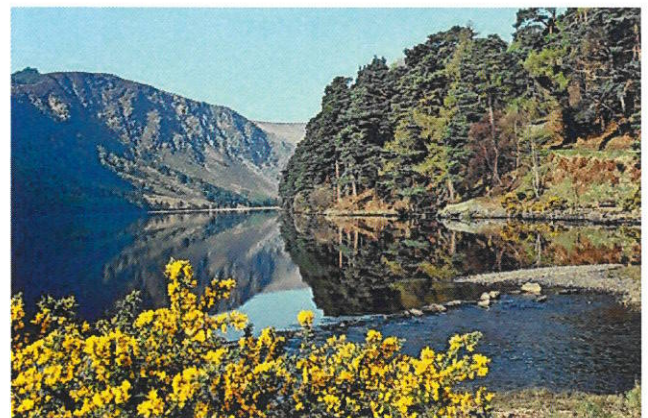
The reduction of the development levies on film studio related activities has been adopted by the

elected members of Wicklow County Council. The expected Impact of this action is that the Film Industry opportunity is recognised as of strategic importance and required planning supports are put in place to facilitate development and growth of the sector.

## 3. Further Develop and Market Film tourism in Wicklow

Wicklow has untapped potential for Film Tourism in the county. Supports are required to facilitate the Film industry in Wicklow to cater for Film Tourism. Film tourism is a not a new but rather an under-developed source of tourism in the county that has the potential to attract international visitors not traditionally looking at Wicklow as a potential destination.

Film tourism is one of the many ancillary benefits that could be leveraged by the County from a strategic investment in film making capacity.





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## Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.

Wicklow County Campus in Rathnew is an exceptional development and is being developed by Wicklow County Council to be a Centre of Excellence in Enterprise, Education and Innovation in County Wicklow and to act as a catalyst for Economic Development in the County. The Clermont Campus is an impressive 55 acre facility. The buildings comprise offices, meeting rooms, a conference and exhibition venue, lecture rooms, I.T. rooms, a college library. Clermont House accommodates the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow and Teagasc.

A strong partnership is in place with the national and local development agencies such as the IDA, EI, the Local Enterprise Office, County Wicklow Partnership and the Chambers of Commerce to achieve the vision and to create a high quality environment for a thriving business quarter on the campus.

### Strategic Plan 2016-2020

In 2008 a Strategic Plan for Wicklow County Campus was adopted by the elected members for 2008-2013, which included our mission statement and goals and objectives under the headings of;

1. Academic Portfolio and Learner Population
2. Enterprise and Economic Development
3. Management and Organisation
4. Physical Infrastructure
5. Financial Planning

During 2016 a review of this strategy was continued and The Wicklow County Campus Strategy Document 2016-2022 was adopted in 2017.

## Wicklow County Campus and IT Carlow

Wicklow County Council in conjunction with IT Carlow is providing a range of part-time Lifelong Learning Education and Training Courses. In 2017 there were over 420 students attending Wicklow County Campus for part-time evening courses and this figure is expected to grow considerably over the lifetime of the plan for the campus with the introduction of new academic programmes. Some 3000 students have graduated from the College with various degrees since 2006 and over 170 students graduated over the course of three ceremonies in November 2017.

Courses on offer include:

### Postgraduates

Master of Arts in Child Youth and Family Studies

H Dip. In Early Childhood Education and Care

H Dip in Applied Social Studies

H Dip in Business Management

H.Dip in Business

H.Dip in Fund Accounting and Risk Analysis

H.Dip in Arts (Digital Media Design)

### Business and Accounting

BA of Business (Honours) in Management

Higher Cert in Business

Cert in Project Management

Cert in Digital media

Cert in Web Design

Cert in Online Marketing

### Humanities

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BA of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education & Care

BA of Arts (Honours) in Applied Social Studies

Certs in various Law topics

## Engineering

BA of Science in Energy Management

Computing and Science

Cert in Health, Safety and Environmental Management

## Some of the major events held in 2017 in Wicklow County Campus include:

- The Local Enterprise Office Student Enterprise Awards.
- Wicklow County Council student debating event held in the main hall.
- The Local Enterprise Office Best Young Entrepreneur County Wicklow finals.
- Three Conferring Ceremonies of Awards and Prizes – Institute of Technology Carlow. Over 170 graduates were conferred at these ceremonies.
- Four large business seminars on online trading were held in room 203 by LEO Wicklow.
- The rooms in Clermont House and College are rented out for numerous training courses (i.e. CPC/Health and Safety / ECDL) and meetings by various businesses and agencies on a day to day basis.
- The filming of 'Striking Out' starring Amy Huberman took place over the course of two days on Wicklow County Campus.
- The wood lands on the campus host the Wicklow Educate Together National School Forest School programme once a week during the academic year.

All of the above events and meetings continue to promote Clermont as a unique and exceptional

venue for a range of uses as well as highlighting the Life Long Learning and higher education and training programmes run by the Institute of Technology Carlow. The main objectives of hosting these events are to promote the overall concept of Wicklow County Campus and to bring the Campus to the notice of the general public

## Overview of Energy Usage in 2017

The main energy used is to heat all the campus buildings.

LPG gas is used for heating. Total LPG consumption for 2017: 28,185 Litres

Total Electricity consumption for 2017: 204,841KWH

No use of natural gas or gasoil in Clermont.

450 Litres of petrol were used for grass cutting and strimming as well as hedge cutting and pruning.

## Actions Undertaken in 2017

In 2017 Wicklow County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

Change all exterior lighting to LED where possible.

Put draught excluders around the college part of the building.

## Actions Planned for 2017

In 2018 Wicklow County Council in Clermont House intends to further improve our energy performance by undertaking the following initiatives:

- To refurbish the second floor in the college part of the building. It's not known how much energy will be saved annually but improved insulation should produce an energy saving once complete.

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- Reduce the use of additional plug in heaters as much as possible and weather permitting.
- To request a follow up energy audit by the SEAI, following on from the report carried out in 2007.
- Install sensors to switch lights on/off in all corridors / toilets / canteens throughout the building (awaiting quotes).

Jenny Byrne  
Julie Kenny  
Pauline Canavan  
Orlagh Hall

## ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### District Members

#### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Tommy Annesley (FF)

#### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Miriam Murphy (IND)

### Council Members

Councillor Pat Fitzgerald (FF)

Councillor Sylvester Bourke (FG)

Councillor Mary McDonald (SF)

Councillor Pat Kennedy (FF)

### Municipal District Staff

#### A/District Manager

Michael Geaney

#### District Administrator

Linda McDonald

#### District Engineer

Jack Kelly

#### Executive Engineer

Robert Mulhall

#### Technician

Sean Dunne

#### Assistant Staff Officer

Sinead Boddy

#### Clerical Officers

### Contact Details

Arklow Municipal District Offices,  
Castle Park, Arklow, Co Wicklow.

Telephone: 0402 42700

Email: [arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

Area: 48,380 hectares

Population of District: 24,450

Arklow Municipal District (AMD) covers 26% of roads in County Wicklow (598 KM) being the second highest District in the County. The number of local authority houses within the AMD is 920.

The offices are open to the public from 9.00 – to 4.00 pm each day and queries are dealt with in relation to housing applications, housing repairs, roads etc. Cash receipting also takes place in AMD for housing rent, rates, parking fines, leases etc. During 2017 a total of **5950** counter receipts were issued.

### District Meetings

The Members of Arklow Municipal District hold their District Meetings in “The McElheron Chamber” on the second Wednesday of each month at 3.30pm, with the exception of August when there is no meeting.

### Community Sector

- Number of Press Releases issued 2017 = **20**
- Number of Civic Receptions held during 2017 = **7**

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- Awarding of Estate Development Grants to **11 Resident Associations**
- Awarding of Festival Funding to **10 Festival Committees**
- Number of Roundabouts in Sponsorship Agreements = **4**
- The Members of AMD held 2 of their monthly meetings in Rathdrum and Aughrim.
- Introduction of the first ever Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition Award for AMD
- Secured sponsorship from 7 local businesses and community groups towards the Ronnie Delany Sculpture.
- Flower basket Scheme – 170 baskets purchased by businesses in Arklow Town
- Application submitted to the Dept of Justice for CCTV funding
- Towns Matter Consultants were engaged to carry out a Health Check of Arklow Town
- 8 Expression of Interest applications submitted for LEADER funding
- Business Information evening held in October 2017 with speakers from Retail Excellence Ireland, Local Enterprise Officer, Age Friendly Initiative and WCC Rates Section
- Decision taken to implement a Painting Grant Scheme for Arklow Town
- Road to Arklow's future has been included in the LAP
- Cleaning of the Outdoor Gym Equipment at the Leisure Centre took place.

## Retail / Business Sector

### Pay Parking

New Parking Byelaws for County Wicklow came in to effect on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and the main benefits for Arklow Town include:-

- Free parking between 9.00am and 10.00 am each morning.
- 15 minutes official grace period at any time of the day.
- Arklow Town continues to offer free parking throughout the town on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Paying for parking in Arklow is faster and easier with Parking Tag. The cashless parking solution allows motorists to park by phone in the town and extend their parking without returning to their vehicle.
- Free parking was provided in specific areas of Arklow town for one month during the Christmas period.
- 2 free annual parking permits for businesses whose rates are up to date.

### Town Team Initiatives

- Town Team established January 2017
- 10 meetings held during 2017

### Meetings

Arklow Municipal District continue to work and meet with local traders, Chamber of Commerce and Tidy Towns Committee on a regular basis for the betterment of the town.

### Tidy Towns

Arklow Municipal District acknowledges that the effort by teams of volunteers around the District who work hand in hand with Council staff, is crucial to the success of villages and towns in leagues/competitions such as the IBAL and Tidy Towns.

### Events & Awards

- AMD organised the first Halloween Festival for Arklow Town
- Facilitated the Arklow Christmas Festival
- Participated in the Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town Day
- AMD was shortlisted to the last 3 for the Chambers Ireland Awards for the "George Campbell" event under the category Heritage & Built Environment

# Annual Report 2017



- AMD was shortlisted for the Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town Awards
- AMD participated in the opening of the Skekina Exhibition, Glenmalure by Michael D Higgins President of Ireland.

## Infrastructure Projects for 2017

### Roads & Footpaths

- 7 km of road was reconstructed along with the Main Street in Arklow
- 3 km of Regional Roads were surfaced dressed
- 10 km of Local Roads were surfaced dressed
- 3.3 km of footpaths were newly constructed or reinstated
- 10 km of road resurfaced between Ballycumber and Woodenbridge with asphaltic concrete at no cost to AMD. These works were completed as part of the road opening licence agreement.

### Traffic Calming Measures

- Woodlands, Arklow
- Ballinaclash
- Aughrim

### Installation of Pelican Crossings

- Aughrim
- Castle Park, Arklow

### Other Infrastructure Projects within AMD

- Rathdrum Civic Square
- Purchase of new Christmas Lights for Arklow Town
- Lighting up of the 19 Arches Bridge
- New lighting on Arklow Courthouse
- Secured funding for Arklow Courthouse to carry out repairs to the roof and electrical
- Renovation of South Green Playground

### Twinning

Arklow Town has an active Twinning Committee who aim

- to develop and maintain permanent ties between the towns,
- to encourage exchanges in all domains between the inhabitants of the towns,
- to combine the effort of the towns in order to better resolve the problems of our respective communities, including in economic, social, religious, cultural, environmental and educational fields,
- to place within the supportive framework of twinning, the implementation of Community programmes, whose effectiveness can be increased.

Arklow Town is twinned with Chateaudun in France and Aberystwyth in Wales.



# Annual Report 2017



## BALTINGLASS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### District Members

#### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Edward Timmins (FG) 2016-2017

Councillor Vincent Blake (FG) 2017-2018

#### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Vincent Blake (FG) 2016-2017

Councillor Thomas Cullen (NP) 2017-2018

#### Members:

Councillor James Ruttle (NP)

Councillor Gerry O'Neill (NP)

Councillor Pat Doran (FF)

Councillor Edward Timmins (FG)

Councillor Vincent Blake (FG)

Councillor Thomas Cullen (NP)

### Municipal District Staff

#### District Manager:

Sean Quirke

#### District Engineer:

Declan Geraghty

#### Tinahely Area Engineer:

Dermot Graham

#### District Administrator:

Máire Halvey (Jan-March);

Susan Nichols (April-Nov);

Dionne Dixon (November – to date)

#### Technician:

Roger Morrison

#### Assistant Staff Officers:

Sharon Mulhall (Blessington Area Office)

Geraldine Jordan (Tinahely Area Office)

#### Clerical Officers:

Ann Marie Butler (Tinahely Area Office)

Andrea Connolly (Blessington Area Office)

Lisa Moore (Blessington Area Office)

#### District Offices:

##### Blessington Area Office:

Address: Civic Offices,  
Blessington  
Business Park,  
Blessington, Co.  
Wicklow W91  
RTV0.

Telephone No: 045 - 891222

Fax No: 045 - 865813

E-mail: [baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie);

Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

##### Tinahely Area Office:

# Annual Report 2017



Address: Council Offices,  
Coolruss, Tinahely,  
Co. Wicklow Y14  
AY19.

Telephone No: 0402 - 38174

Fax No: 0402 - 38423

E-mail: [baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie);

Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

## General

Baltinglass Municipal District includes the towns of Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew and the villages of Dunlavin, Donard, Knockananna, Tinahely, Manor Kilbride and Shillelagh. The population of the Municipal District is 25,267 (18%). Baltinglass Municipal District covers 45% (352 square miles) of the area of Wicklow and 40% (943 km) of the county's roads. The number of social housing units within the district is 700.

Monthly Meetings are held at 10.30 a.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (third Monday if the fourth Monday is a public holiday) at 10.30 a.m. – no meeting in August.

Meetings are usually held in Civic Offices in Blessington but to raise awareness of the Municipal District structures set up in 2014, September's Municipal District Meeting was held in Carnew.

The monthly meetings of the Municipal District provided lively debate on a variety of issues. Members received deputations from the Parents Association of Dunlavin National School as well as presentations from Disability Federation Ireland; County Wicklow Public Participation Network; South Wicklow Drama Festival and O'Neill County Nebraska/Blessington Twinning Committee.

Baltinglass Municipal District is represented by its elected representatives on the following Strategic Policy Committees:

- Community Cultural and Social Development – Councillor Jim Ruttle
- Transportation Water and Environmental Services – Councillor Pat Doran
- Planning and Development – Councillor Vincent Blake, Councillor Tommy Cullen, Councillor Gerry O'Neill and Councillor Edward Timmins

Baltinglass Municipal District has two Area Offices in Blessington and Tinahely – Public Counters are open to the Public from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Motor Tax Office is open in Blessington Civic Offices on Tuesdays from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. and provides a valuable service to the local area.

The regular functions that the District provides includes local authority housing maintenance and repair, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, outdoor maintenance and grass cutting, drain clearing, maintenance of burial grounds, school traffic warden services, public convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.

Members and staff continued to work with Tidy Towns groups in the District. The efforts of the many volunteers whose hard work and dedication is reflected in the continued success of local villages and towns in the IBAL and Tidy Towns competitions. Furthermore, the Estate Development Grants were awarded to 12 successful Residents Associations to help in the upkeep of the green areas of the various Wicklow County Council Social Housing Estates throughout the District.

The Elected Members of Baltinglass Municipal District provided Discretionary Funding in the sum of €168,750 which included a €10,000 donation towards the Wicklow Hospice Project with the remaining balance divided out equally amongst the Elected Members. Various projects benefited from the Discretionary Funding including the maintenance and improvements of



# Annual Report 2017



roads in various parts of the District, public lighting projects, traffic calming in Shillelagh, paving in Shruhan Housing Estate, Baltinglass, together with the provision of footpaths in Shillelagh, Carrig Glen Housing Estate, Blessington, Knockananna and a Playground in Carnew. Not all projects were completed in 2017 and it is hoped that the remaining 2017 Projects will get underway in 2018.

The Members also gave sponsorship to the South Wicklow Drama Festival towards the hosting of the All Ireland Drama Festival in April 2018 in Carnew and also provided a contribution towards the funding of Christmas Lights to various towns and villages throughout the District.

The District in conjunction with the Community Cultural and Social Affairs Department was successful in securing CLÁR funding in 2016 for pedestrian improvements at the school in Knockananna, road safety signage at Ballymanus G.A.A. grounds and the MUGA in Knockananna. These works together with works on Baltinglass Skatepark and Rathdangan Playground were also completed by the District during 2017.

The District was successful in securing CLÁR funding in 2017 for street lighting in Knockananna between the village and the sports ground and School safety lights at Rathcoyle National School.

## Enterprising Town Awards – Blessington

Blessington was crowned the Most Enterprising Town in Leinster in the 3,000 to 7,000 population category in the Bank of Ireland Enterprising Town Awards in November 2017.

Bank of Ireland's National Enterprising Town Awards aims to assist in the promotion of enterprise across the country by bringing

business and community groups together to showcase to a panel of judges, the spirit of enterprise in their local area.

This exciting achievement for Blessington was a culmination of a huge amount of hard work by the local Enterprising Town Committee with strong support from Blessington Forum, the local business community and the Baltinglass Municipal District working collaboratively to ensure that when the judging took place, Blessington's vibrant community spirit, it's business potential and fantastic local amenities were showcased to their fullest potential. Following on from the success of the Award the formation of a Town Team for Blessington is planned.



# Annual Report 2017



## BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### District Members

#### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Christopher Fox

#### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Pat Vance

#### Members:

Councillor Joe Behan

Councillor Steven Matthews

Councillor Oliver O'Brien

Councillor Michael O'Connor

Councillor John Ryan

Councillor Brendan Thornhill

#### Municipal District Staff:

##### Director of Services:

Desmond O'Brien

##### District Engineer:

Liam Bourke

##### Executive Engineer

Stephen Fox

##### District Administrator:

David Forde

##### Technician:

Dominic Gillian

#### Contact Details:

**Address:** Main Street,  
Civic Centre,  
Co Wicklow,

**Telephone No:** 01 2744900

**Fax No:** 01 2860930

**E-mail:** [braymd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:braymd@wicklowcoco.ie)

**Population:** 35600

Bray Municipal District covers 180km of roads in County Wicklow. The number of social house within the district is 1360.

The offices of the Municipal District are situated on Bray Main Street, Civic Centre.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, except August.

### Roads Programme 2017

Road	Works Type	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Church Hill, Enniskerry	Road reconstruction	1610
Ballyorney Road	Surface restoration	1200
Vevay Road	Surface restoration	2700
Calary Upper	Road reconstruction	3200
Glencree Road South, Crone	Surface restoration	3600
Glencree Road	Surface restoration	4950
Rocky Valley Drive	Road reconstruction	255
Monastery Grove, Enniskerry	Surface restoration	3757
Herbert Road, Kilbride	Surface restoration	1392
Herbert Road, Ardmore	Surface restoration	1875
Ballyorney-Enniskerry	Surface dressing	14700

# Annual Report 2017



Road		
Glenree Road South	Surface dressing	3760
Kilgarron Park	Surface dressing	3600
Kilgarron Park Footpaths		700
Bray Footpaths		416
Military Road	Surface dressing	33000
Bray Road, Enniskerry	Surface Dressing	4800
Ballybrew	Surface Dressing	12500
Herbert Road, Bray	Surface Restoration	2400

Road sections not completed last year at Vevay Road, Herbert Road and Bray Road, Enniskerry were included. Surface dressing on the Military Road, which was not identified in the three year programme was added.

A budget of €120,000 was allocated for footpaths from capital and was used for new footpaths only and not footpath repairs. New footpath developments that were considered from the €120,000 capital footpath budget were at Herbert Road north of Rectory Slopes, Ballywaltrim Sports Grounds Eastern Boundary and Ballorney Road Footpath Extension.

## Roads Capital Works

The NTA have confirmed their funding programme for 2017. Funding for completion of the Strand Road cycle scheme at the Aquarium has been included.

## LCSI

### R755 Calary Upper Realignment

Further funding of €200,000 was confirmed for continuation of his project in 2017. Work resumed following the engagement of the services of an archaeologist for the next phase. Funding of €25,000 was allocated for Adelaide Road/Florence Road junction safety improvement works. As this location is included in the Bray Transport Interchange Study, consultation with the NTA will take place on the preliminary design for this scheme before works commence.

### Footpath repairs €100,000 Public Realm

Bray Southern Cross various locations both sides  
 Church Hill Enniskerry  
 Arbutus Grove bus stop  
 Vevay Road west side Putland Road to O'Briens  
 Strand Road at Pizza Platform  
 Novara Ave, Main Street to Carlton Clinic various locations  
 Florence Wyndham junction  
 Galtrim Park various locations  
 Greenpark Road various locations  
 34,38 Herbert Park  
 152 Ardmore Park  
 Eglinton Road at Stable Lane  
 Richmond Hill, Fassaroe Estate  
 Old Connaught Grove/Sycamore Drive  
 Old Connaught View various locations  
 James Connolly Square  
 Seapoint Road various locations

### Pedestrian Signal Upgrades €56,000

Putland Road Junction  
 Fassaroe Pedestrian Signals  
 James Everett Pk. Pedestrian Signals  
 (Castle Street Peds. To be completed on 2016 Public realm funding)

### Traffic Ramp Repairs €30,000

Parnell Road near junction with Herbert Road  
 Davitt Road near junction with Parnell Road  
 Greenpark Road at junction with Fairgreen Road  
 Greenpark Road at junction with Ardee Street  
 Greenpark Road at junction with Sutton Road (delay until completion of drainage works)  
 Lower Dargle Road at junction with Sutton Road  
 Lower Dargle Road at junction with Maitland Street  
 Boghall Road at community Centre  
 Minor patching and relining various other ramps and speed tables.

### Bin Replacement

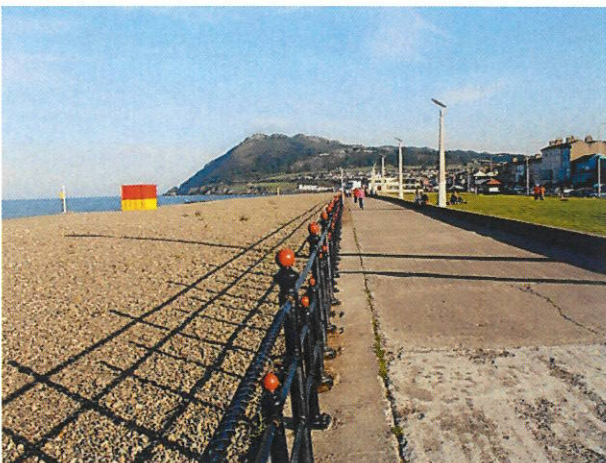
There were a number of new smart and compactor solar powered bins installed throughout the District. All of these bins operate on smart technology and indicate when reaching capacity.

# Annual Report 2017



## Events

Bray Municipal District continue to support events in the District such as Bray Air Display, Bray Jazz, Christmas in Bray and St Patrick's Festival



# Annual Report 2017



## GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### District Members

#### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Gerry Walsh (FF)

#### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Derek Mitchell (FG)

#### Members:

Councillor Grainne McLoughlin (FG)

Councillor Nicola Lawless (SF)

Councillor Tom Fortune (NP)

Councillor Jennifer Whitmore (SD)

#### Municipal District Staff:

##### Director of Services:

Michael Nicholson

##### District Engineer:

Ruairi O' Hanlon

##### Executive Engineer

Eoghan Forristal

##### District Administrator:

Myra Porter

##### Technician:

Vincent Byrne

##### Assistant Staff Officer:

Orlagh Greene

#### Clerical Officers:

Kay Coughlan

Lily Davis

Andrea Egan

#### Contact Details:

**Address:** Mill Road, Greystones,

Co. Wicklow.

**Telephone No:** 01 – 2876694.

**Fax No:** 01 – 2877173.

**E-mail:** [greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

**Population:** 24,846

Greystones Municipal District includes the villages of Delgany, Kilcoole, Newcastle and a small part of Newtownmounkennedy. Greystones Municipal District covers 6.5% of roads in county Wicklow (64,840 KM). The number of social houses within the district is 575.

The offices of the Municipal District are situated on Mill Road, Greystones.

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, except August.

#### General

A number of road improvement projects were completed during the year funded by the Department of Transport. This included road works on Main Street, Kilcoole, Kindlestown Lower, Templecarrig Road, Bellevue Hill, Hillside Road, Rathdown Road, Kindlestown Park, Greystones and Seamount Drive in Newcastle.

Safety improvement works were also carried out at the junction of Church Road and Church Lane in Greystones, where the junction was narrowed

# Annual Report 2017



and the footpath widened to slow down traffic exiting Church Road and to reduce the width of the road for crossing pedestrians.

Footpath improvements were completed at a number of locations throughout the district, including Victoria Road, Applewood Heights, Church Lane in Greystones, Creowen Road and Hazelwood Crescent in Kilcoole, Dromont in Delgany and on the R761 in Killincarrig. A new footpath was constructed at Racefield, Newcastle.

Improvements were carried out to the Marine Road cycle way by adding a coloured textured surface to the pedestrian and cyclist sections. This gives clearer legibility to users where pedestrians and cyclists should be segregated and also indicates the sections where pedestrians have priority and cyclists should take care.

The members of Greystones Municipal District funded the following projects from their discretionary budgets

- Mill Lane resurfacing.
- Improvements to Bow Lane.
- Seamount Drive footpath improvements.
- Pedestrian refuge islands at Coláiste Craobh Abhann, Kilcoole.
- Funding for tree maintenance.

There were a large number of nominations for The People of the Year Awards. The gala presentation night was held in Greystones Golf Club in May. The awards honour people in the town who have contributed to and promoted sport, culture, community and economic activity in the town.

South Beach was again awarded Blue Flag status as a result of compliance with a set of stringent criteria from bathing water quality to environmental management and education, as well as safety and services.

The monthly meetings of the Municipal District provided lively debate on a variety of issues and members received representatives from The Disability Federation of Ireland, County Wicklow Public Participation Network, Irish Rail, Bridgedale Ltd in relation to developments in Greystones harbour, Newcastle Residents Association, Greystones 2020 and Greystones Outdoors, a social enterprise project to develop land and sea based activities at the harbour. Representatives of GoCar attended the May meeting to launch their car sharing scheme in Greystones, which reduces car dependency by providing on demand cars for rent.

The members of Greystones Municipal District made presentations to Sister Kathleen Lyng and Catherine Coveney to mark their retirements as Principals of St Brigid's and St Laurence's national schools.

The Community Affairs Committee were active as usual promoting and organising annual events. The large crowds that turned out to view the annual St Patrick's Day parade were entertained by a wide variety of entries, including an entry from Greystones twinned town of Holyhead in Wales and marching bands from Rochdale, England and Eichenzell in Germany.

Members and staff continued to work with Tidy Towns groups in the District and acknowledge the efforts of the many volunteers whose work is crucial to the success of local villages and towns in the IBAL and Tidy Towns competitions.

Work continued at Greystones harbour, including the construction of the residential development following the completion of the community facilities. The project is a public private partnership between Sisk and Wicklow County Council. It has provided major benefits to the community and significant additional amenities including a new public square, harbour & coastal protection works, clubhouses and facilities for the sailing club, the ridge angling club, scouts, sub

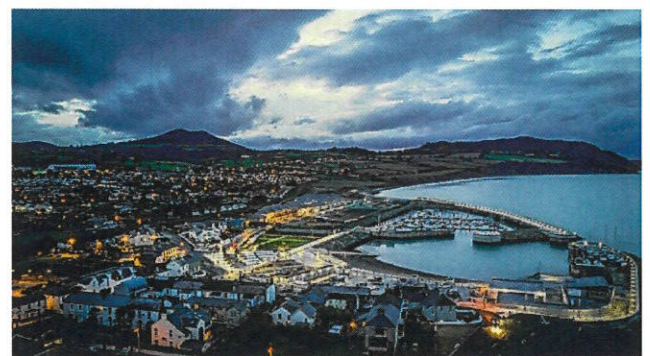
# Annual Report 2017



aqua club and the rowing club. When completed the development will also include a public park, a boardwalk and improved access to the cliff walk. Also included will be retail facilities including shops, restaurants and residential units.

The 29th Annual La Touche Legacy Seminar and 4<sup>th</sup> Festival of History was held in association with Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society in September. This event is held each year to commemorate and honour the La Touche Family and their historic connections with the town of Greystones. The theme for the conference was Creating a New State. There were a number of distinguished speakers and the conference was attended by many delegates, generating a much needed boost to the local economy and showcasing the town's many excellent facilities.

Christmas lights were provided in association with the local business community, which included an afternoon of family entertainment in Burnaby Park, to light up Christmas. There was a large crowd of families in attendance and Santa took time out of his busy schedule to meet with all of the children. Greystones Municipal District continued to support the retail and business sector by allowing free parking on Saturdays in the run up to Christmas.



# Annual Report 2017



## WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Shay Cullen (FG)

Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Daire Nolan (IND)

### Members

Councillor Gail Dunne (FF)

Councillor Mary Kavanagh (IND)

Councillor Irene Winters (FG)

Councillor John Snell (IND)

### Municipal District Staff:

#### District Manager

Joe Lane/Brian Gleeson

District Engineer

Paul Byrne

District Administrator

Joan Sinnott

Executive Engineer

Alan Martin

Technician

Aidan Doyle

Assistant Staff Officer

Liam Cullen

Clerical Officers

Sinead Turner

Gerard Dornan

Julia Nugent

### Contact Details

Address: Wicklow Municipal District  
Town Hall

Wicklow

Co. Wicklow

Telephone: 0404-20173

Email: [wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

Wicklow Municipal District area stretches from Brittas Bay to Newtownmountkennedy, Glendalough and up to part of the Wicklow Gap and Sally Gap. The area also includes Ashford, Glenealy, Laragh, Newtownmountkennedy, Roundwood and Wicklow Town. Wicklow Municipal District has responsibility for the maintenance and repair of 423 kilometres of road and 952 local authority houses in it's area. The population of the Municipal District is 28,170. Wicklow Municipal District Technical staff provides technical support and supervision of all works with the support of the administrative staff.

The offices are based in County Buildings and are open to the public from 9:00 – 1:00 and 2:00 – 5:00 each day.

The Members of Wicklow Municipal District hold their meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 3:00 p.m. with the exception of August when there is no meeting held.

### Roads and Infrastructure Projects

The elected members of the Wicklow Municipal District funded the following projects from their 2017 discretionary budgets.

#### Footpath Works:

- Laragh village to Green Road pathway
- Roundwood village to Roundwood soccer pitch
- Resurfacing of car park Rathnew.



# Annual Report 2017



- Refurbishment of footpath Greenhill Court housing estate Wicklow Town.

## Public Lighting Projects:

- Belard Manor, Glenealy
- Bosuns Rest, Wicklow
- Skate Park, The Murrough
- Merrymeeting Hill

Additional works undertaken in 2017 using central government funding in Wicklow Municipal District included the following:

## Road Recycling and Overlay Projects:

- A section of the Laragh to Sally Gap road
- Knockaphrumpa Lane
- Two sections of the Laragh to Ballard road
- Ballymaghroe to Devils Glen road
- Tomriland to Annamoe
- Season Park Estate Road
- Ballinalea Estate Road
- Ballinteskin

## Surface Dressing Projects:

- Ballinastoe
- Powers Avenue
- Brittas Bay

## Local Improvement Schemes:

- Ballard Lane
- Kilmullen Lane
- Knockraheen Lane
- Drummin Lane

## Line Marking Works:

- Wicklow Gap Road
- Rathnew
- Ashford
- Annamoe
- Newtownmountkennedy
- Wicklow Town

## Development Contributions:

- Construction of footpath from Moneycarroll to Newtownmountkennedy GAA club

## Promotion of Interests of Local Community

### Christmas Lights

The Wicklow Municipal District supports the Town and District Chamber of Commerce in promoting the Christmas activities and events in Wicklow Town and provides an annual contribution of €20,000 towards the Christmas Lights.

### Tidy Towns

The Members also allocated funding of €11,000 to Tidy Towns groups in Wicklow, Roundwood, Ashford, Newtownmountkennedy, Laragh, Glendalough, and Rathnew. The Wicklow Municipal District Members are fully supportive of the great work and effort the Tidy Town Committees put into enhancing the appearance of the towns and villages in their district.

The members also supported other groups throughout the District such as Wicklow Hospice, Local Residents Associations, Wicklow Volunteer Groups, festivals and community events including The Regatta, Sailfest, Taste of Wicklow and the St. Patricks Day Parade.

## Retail/Business

### Twinning

Wicklow Town is twinned with Eichenzell, Montigny and Portmadock and the members contributed €3,500 to the Twinning Committee to assist with twinning activities between the towns.

# Annual Report 2017



## Parking

The District helps to support the commercial and retail sector by providing 3 hours free parking prior to Christmas and 2 hours free parking on Saturdays.

## Town Team

The Members have prioritised the promotion of the District as a key objective and fully support the Town Team. They will continue to support and work closely with them and the entire community.

## General

The regular functions that the District provides include local authority house maintenance, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, outdoor maintenance and grass cutting, operation & maintenance of Brittas Bay North & South Beaches, drain clearing, maintenance of burial grounds, school warden service, public convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.



## Financial Statement

The Income and Expenditure Statement summarises all revenue related receipts and expenditure. It shows the surplus/deficit for the year.

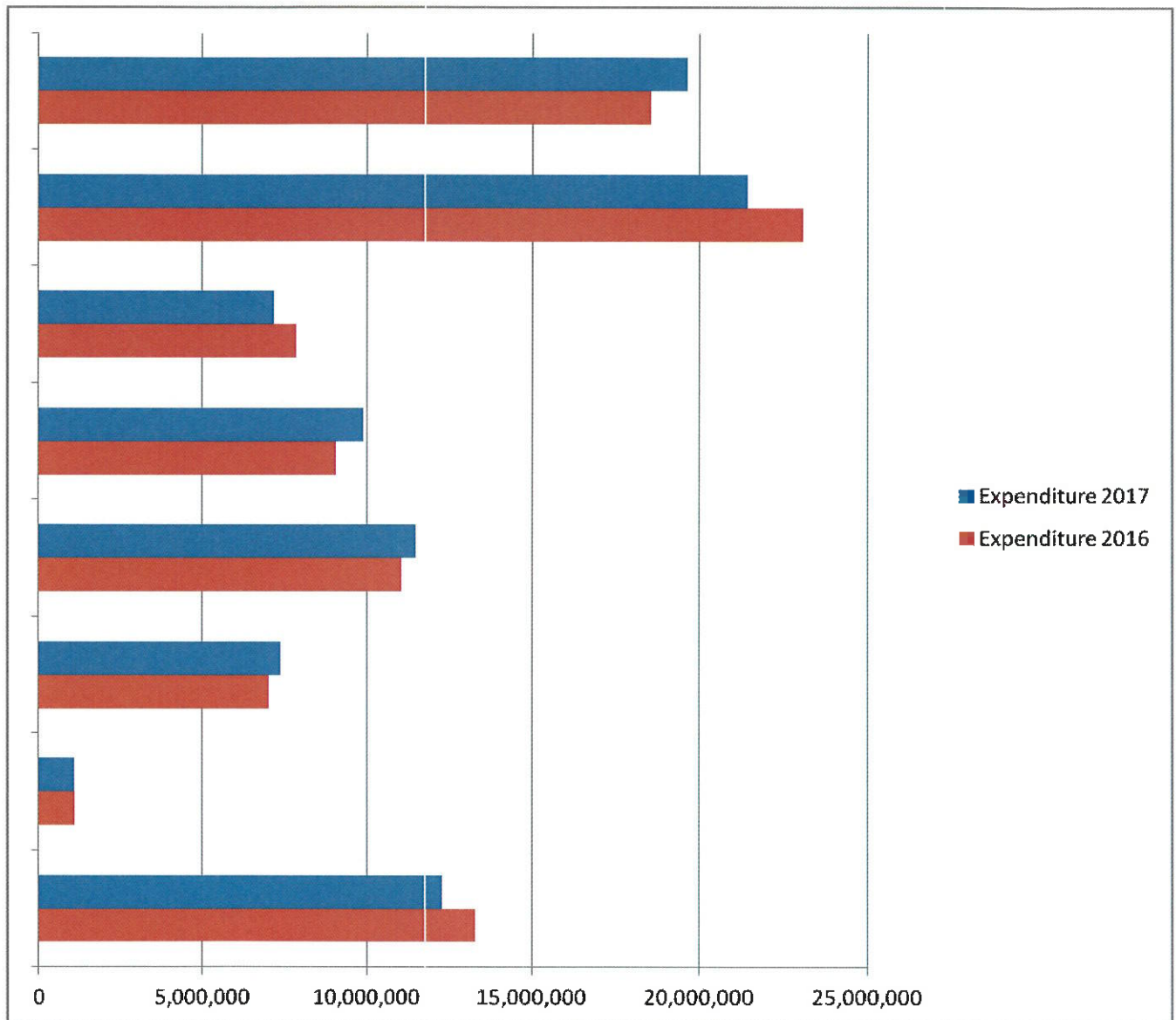
### Income And Expenditure Account Statement For The Year Ended 31st December 2017

Expenditure By Programme Group	Gross Expenditure 2017	Income 2017	Net Expenditure 2017	Net Expenditure 2016
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	19,635,220	22,660,108	(3,024,887 )	(3,538,671 )
Road Transportation & Safety	21,415,207	11,349,387	10,065,820	10,374,323
Water Services	7,162,966	6,758,337	404,628	566,563
Development Incentives & Control	9,888,928	4,599,923	5,289,004	5,017,670
Environmental Protection	11,485,370	2,012,126	9,473,244	9,062,755
Recreation & Amenity	7,365,385	822,085	6,543,299	6,422,369
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,084,608	738,808	345,799	492,178
Miscellaneous	12,303,677	6,586,382	5,717,295	5,624,073
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>90,341,360</b>	<b>55,527,158</b>		
<b>Net Cost Of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund</b>			<b>34,814,202</b>	<b>34,021,260</b>
Rates			27,745,901	27,804,886
Local Property Tax			11,958,513	10,170,438
Pension Related Deduction				1,153,391
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year before Transfers</b>			<b>4,890,212</b>	<b>5,107,455</b>
<b>Transfers From/(To) Reserves</b>			<b>(4,601,931 )</b>	<b>(4,650,063 )</b>
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>288,281</b>	<b>457,392</b>
<b>General Reserve @ 1st January</b>			<b>(2,975,226 )</b>	<b>(3,432,617 )</b>
<b>General Reserve @ 31st December</b>			<b>(2,686,945 )</b>	<b>(2,975,226 )</b>

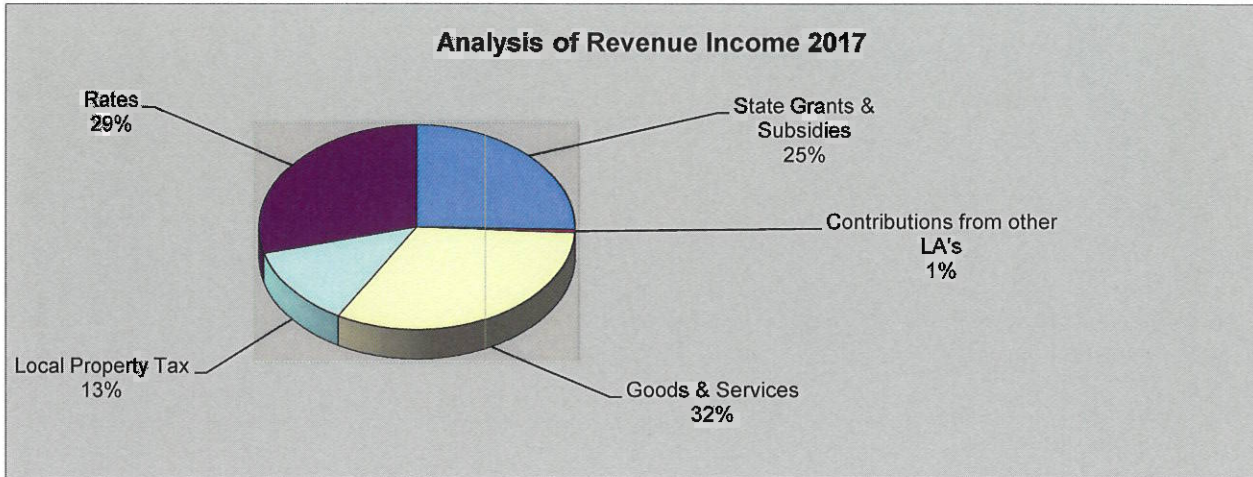
### Capital Account Statement of Balances

	2017	2016
	€	€
Housing & Building	(19,982,975 )	(15,538,901 )
Road Transportation & Safety	32,722,106	33,175,607
Water Services	8,338,872	7,079,808
Development Incentives & Control	8,835,423	8,973,752
Environmental Protection	(1,744,994 )	(877,533 )
Recreation & Amenity	(549,701 )	(2,162,143 )
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,042,916	483,714
Miscellaneous	12,936,991	11,596,917
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,598,637</b>	<b>42,731,221</b>

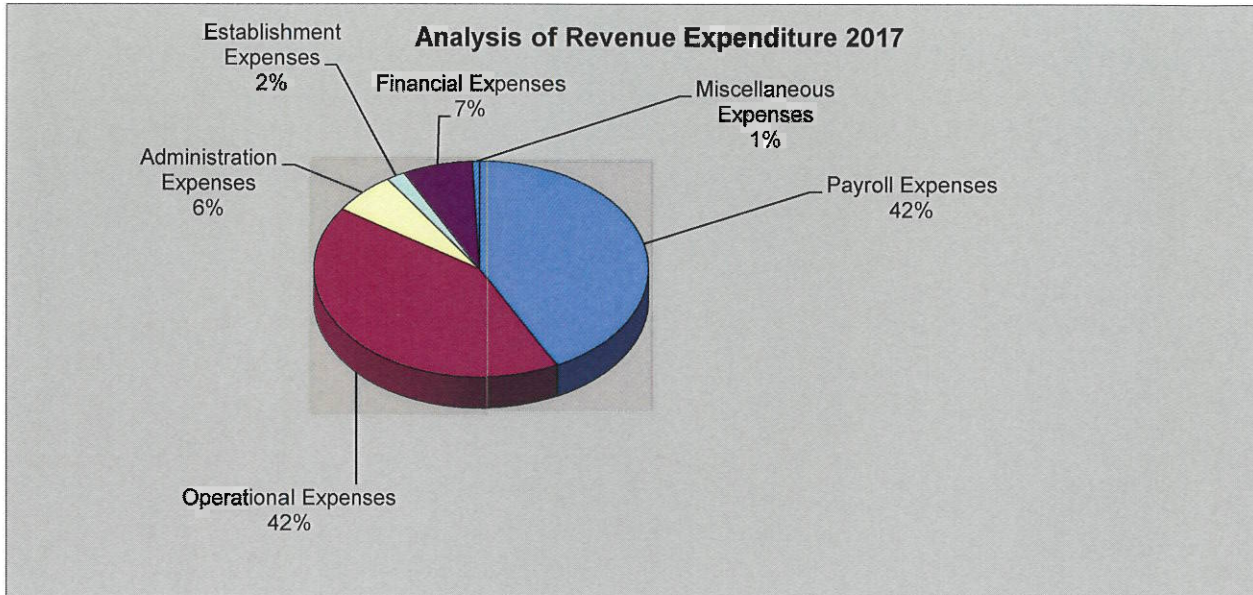
Balance Sheet For The Year Ended 31st December 2017		
	2017	2016
	€	€
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	1,090,622,107	1,088,924,791
Infrastructural	1,553,312,252	1,562,710,425
Community	18,619,315	18,440,344
Non-Operational	470,000	470,000
	<b>2,663,023,674</b>	<b>2,670,545,560</b>
Work In Progress And Preliminary Expenses	27,481,249	25,412,270
Long Term Debtors	22,265,495	20,710,202
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock	258,317	259,844
Trade Debtors And Prepayments	25,601,485	20,878,770
Bank Investments	45,491,524	46,524,151
Cash at Bank	652,769	4,753,490
Cash in Transit	912,674	453,878
	<b>72,916,768</b>	<b>72,870,134</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	18,735,206	19,164,252
Finance Leases	-	-
	<b>18,735,206</b>	<b>19,164,252</b>
<b>Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	<b>54,181,562</b>	<b>53,705,881</b>
<b>Creditors ( Amounts greater than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	77,257,844	79,865,547
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable Deposits	16,692,193	15,246,018
Other	2,363,878	970,756
	<b>96,313,915</b>	<b>96,082,321</b>
<b>Net Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>2,670,638,064</b>	<b>2,674,291,593</b>
<b>Financed By</b>		
Capitalisation	2,663,023,674	2,670,545,560
Income WIP	16,286,179	14,446,206
Specific Revenue Reserve		
General Revenue Reserve	(2,686,945)	(2,975,226)
Other Balances	(5,984,844)	(7,724,947)
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>2,670,638,064</b>	<b>2,674,291,593</b>



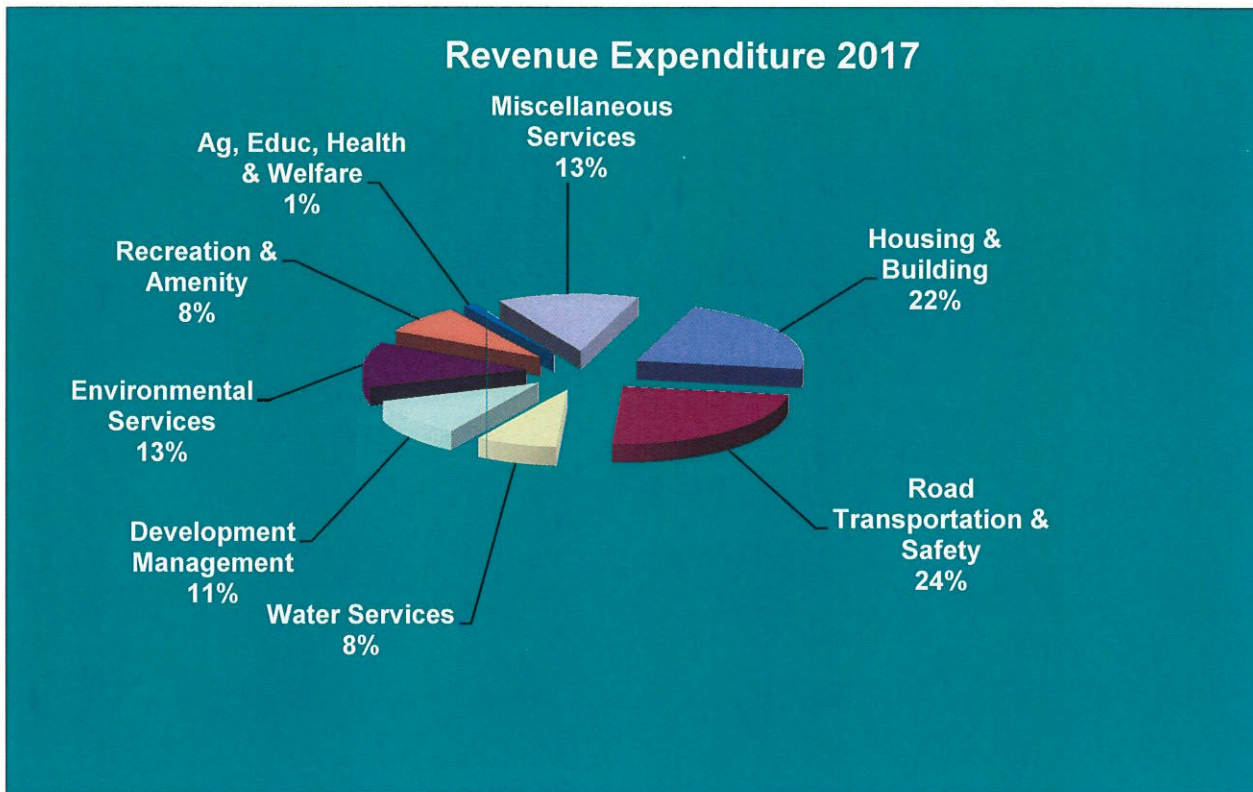
	Expenditure 2017	Expenditure 2016
Housing & Building	19,635,220	18,542,082
Road Transportation & Safety	21,415,207	23,057,717
Water Services	7,162,966	7,820,374
Development Management	9,888,928	9,046,470
Environmental Services	11,485,370	11,039,319
Recreation & Amenity	7,365,385	7,000,463
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,084,608	1,082,725
Miscellaneous Services	12,303,677	13,308,254
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>90,341,362</b>	<b>90,897,404</b>



Revenue Income	2017
<b>Analysis of Revenue Income</b>	<b>€</b>
State Grants & Subsidies	24,090,943
Contributions from other LA's	497,120
Goods & Services	30,939,095
Local Property Tax	11,958,513
Rates	27,745,901
<b>Total Revenue Income</b>	<b>95,231,573</b>

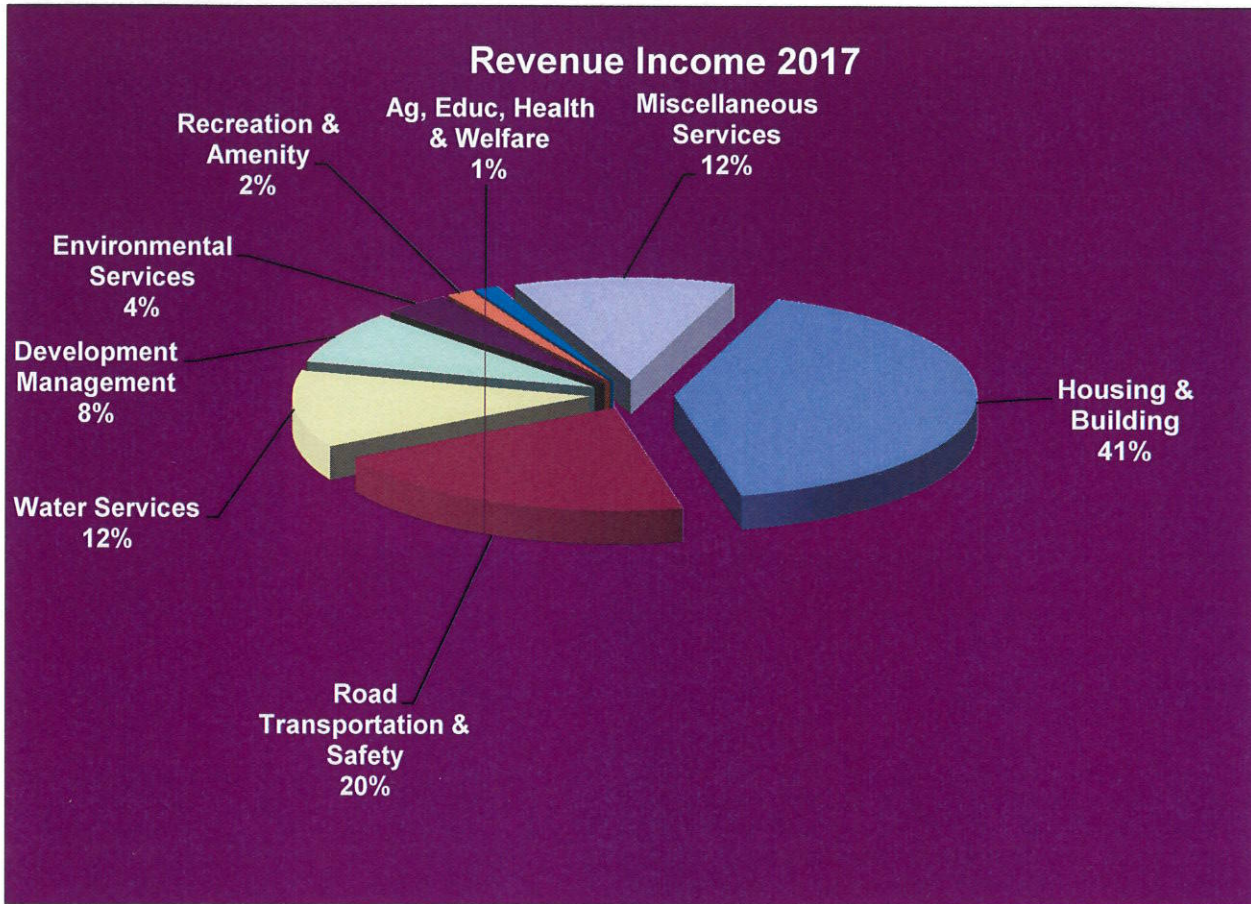


Revenue Expenditure	2017
<b>Analysis of Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>€</b>
Payroll Expenses	38,290,632
Operational Expenses	37,925,800
Administration Expenses	5,664,849
Establishment Expenses	1,640,015
Financial Expenses	6,190,261
Miscellaneous Expenses	629,802
<b>Total Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>90,341,359</b>



Revenue Expenditure	€
<b>Housing &amp; Building</b>	19,635,220
<b>Road Transportation &amp; Safety</b>	21,415,207
<b>Water Services</b>	7,162,966
<b>Development Management</b>	9,888,928
<b>Environmental Services</b>	11,485,370
<b>Recreation &amp; Amenity</b>	7,365,385
<b>Ag, Educ, Health &amp; Welfare</b>	1,084,608
<b>Miscellaneous Services</b>	12,303,677





Revenue Income	€
<b>Housing &amp; Building</b>	22,660,108
<b>Road Transportation &amp; Safety</b>	11,349,387
<b>Water Services</b>	6,758,337
<b>Development Management</b>	4,599,923
<b>Environmental Services</b>	2,012,126
<b>Recreation &amp; Amenity</b>	822,085
<b>Ag, Educ, Health &amp; Welfare</b>	738,808
<b>Miscellaneous Services</b>	6,586,382

# **Annual Report 2017**

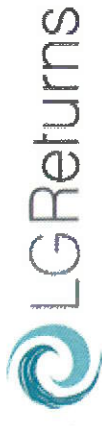


## **Wicklow County Council**

### **Service Level Indicators**

#### **January – December 2017**

# Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

## Performance Indicators

01/01/2017 - 31/12/2017 (Annual)

Wicklow County Council

Status: Locked

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 1/1/2017		4377 NAMA purchases were not included in 2016 return. Rented units are now included. (4369 + 8 = 4377) 14 Unsold Affordables at 31 December 2017 - none are part of a lease agreement or SLA with an AHB
	B. No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2017 (whether constructed or acquired)		14 All purchased
	C. No. of LA owned dwellings sold in 2017	23	
	D. No. of LA owned dwellings demolished in 2017	0	
	E. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 31/12/2017	4368	
	F. No. of LA owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	0	
	A. The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2017	1.01 %	
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2017		44 In addition to 44 vacant units 36 units were used for decanting. Total 80
	A. Expenditure during 2017 on the repair and maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA compiled on a continuous basis from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, divided by the no. of directly provided dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2017	€1257.12	

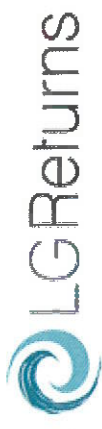
# Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock compiled on a continuous basis from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, including planned maintenance expenditure but excluding expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes	€5491092.56	
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	<p>A. The Time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2017 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2017</p> <p>B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2017 ready for re-letting, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2017</p> <p>The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2017 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)</p> <p>The number of weeks from when the previous tenant vacated the dwelling up to the date of the new tenant's first rent debit totalled for all dwellings re-tenanted in 2017</p> <p>Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings</p>	<p>18.52 wk</p> <p>€22576.89</p> <p>112</p> <p>2074.24 wk</p> <p>€2528611.48</p>	
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2017	6904	
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2017	502	
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2017 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	9.16 %	
	D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2017	5	
	The number of dwellings inspected in 2017 that were found not to be compliant with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations	46	

# Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H6 Approved	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2017	52.08 %	
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2017 as recorded on the PASS system	48	
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2017, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	25	
	The % of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2017	97 %	
	The % of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2017	98 %	
	The % of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2017	95 %	
	The % of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2017	69 %	
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2017	3 %	
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2017	16 %	
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2017	52 %	
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2017	28 %	
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2017	9 %	
The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2017	25 %		

This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2017		48 %
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2017		18 %
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2017		10 %
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2017		23 %
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2017		50 %
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2017		14 %
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2017		8 %
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2017		12 %
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2017		32 %
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2017		16 %
	A1. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2017	14.1 km	
	A2. The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2017	€1007193.00	
	B1. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2017	16.8 km	
	B2. The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2017	€286825.00	
	C1. Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2017	37.4 km	
	C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2017	€2464168.00	
	D1. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2017	34.5 km	

# Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Roads: R1 &amp; R2 Approved</b>	D2. The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2017	€665998.00	
<b>Motor Tax: R3 Approved</b>	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2017	76.02 %	
<b>Water: W1 Approved</b>	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2017	1.00 %	
<b>Waste: E1 Approved</b>	A. The number of households, based on the 2016 Census, who are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2017 B. The % of households within the local authority (also as per the 2016 Census) that the number at A represents	13947 28.46 %	
<b>Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved</b>	A1. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2017 A2. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017 A3. Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2017	2497 2214 283	WCC based on number of complaints rather than number of cases WCC based on number of complaints rather than number of cases WCC based on number of complaints rather than number of cases
<b>Litter Pollution: E3 Approved</b>	A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was unpolluted or litter free A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was slightly polluted	1 % 1 %	

This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Litter Pollution: E3 Approved	A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was moderately polluted	1 %	
	A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was significantly polluted	1 %	
	A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was grossly polluted	1 %	
Planning: P1 Approved	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	22.22 %	
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017 by a builder or developer on the local authority	180	
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2017 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2017 undertaken by the local authority	40	
	A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2017	78	
	B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the LA	75.64 %	
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision (either with or without variation)	59	78 applications appealed represents 8% of 1027 decisions. Of the appeals 59 were upheld indicating strong consistency of decision making.
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017 that were investigated	174	
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2017	255	



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Planning: P2 &amp; P3 Approved</b>	C. % of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	20.78 %	
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	7.06 %	
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	72.16 %	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2017	738	Pre 2017 cases which were closed and subsequently reopened were not properly recorded and lead to an anomaly in cases outstanding at Dec 2017. These have now been identified and end of year position is correct.
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	53	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	18	
<b>Planning: P4 &amp; P5 Approved</b>	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	184	
	A. The 2017 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€24.09	
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2017	€3430529	
	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	41.07 %	

This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Planning: P4 &amp; P5 Approved</b>	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant  The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were not withdrawn by the applicant  The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application  The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	<b>38.39 %</b>	112 A further 11 applications submitted in 2016 were processed in 2017  46 A further 11 applications submitted in 2016 were processed in 2017. Of these 9 were decided within two months  43 A further 11 applications submitted in 2016 were processed in 2017. Of these 2 were decided within an agreed extended time period two months
<b>Fire Service: F1 Approved</b>	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2017 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports  AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2017	<b>€36.16</b>	
<b>Fire Service: F2 &amp; F3 Approved</b>	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire  B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire  C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents  D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	<b>€5122713</b>  0 min 5.09 min 0 min 5.11 min	No full time station  No full time station

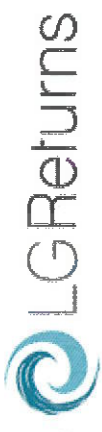
# Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes		41.22 %
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes		47.34 %
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes		11.44 %
	D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes		33.19 %
	E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes		59.05 %
	F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes		7.76 %
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017		752
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes		310
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes		356
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes		86
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017		232
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes		77
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes		137
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes		18

# Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Library Service: L1 Approved	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2016 Census	3.98	
	B. Number of items issued to borrowers in the year	606828	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017	567107	
Library Service: L2 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2017 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€18.67	
	AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2017	€2658652	
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	65.22 %	
	Total number of second level schools in the LA area at 31/12/2017	23	
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2017	15	
	A. Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	27.12	
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area as at 31/12/2017	177	
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2017	29	
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	48	

# Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Corporate: C1 & C2 & C4 Approved	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2017	685.85	
	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2017	2.90 %	
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2017	0.27 %	
	Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2017	5662 day	
	Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2017	437 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2017	11 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2017	1143 day	
	If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	46 (FTE of 45) were on long term sick leave during 2017. Some of these would have been unpaid.	
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017, divided by the WTE no.	€3622.85	
	Total revenue expenditure on Account Elements	€2484730.04	

Corporate: C3 Approved	A. Total page views of the local authority's websites in 2017	919415	Relates solely to <a href="http://www.wicklow.ie">www.wicklow.ie</a> and compares directly to 2016 return of 852,712. Site was relaunched as a County Portal in March 2018 and traffic from Wicklow Tourism, Municipal Districts, Wicklow Film Commission, Wicklow Family History etc. should generate increase in total page views.
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# Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Corporate: C3 Approved	B. Total number of followers at end 2017 of the LA's social media accounts		26161. Relates solely to Wicklow CoCo accounts and compares directly to 2016 return of 17,062. Other accounts such as Wicklow Tourism are not included.
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority		23 To be verified
Finance: M1 & M2 Approved	A. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-4084330	
	B. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-3783860	
	C. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-3432617	
	D. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-2975226	
	E. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-2686945	
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2017 as a percentage of Total Income from the AFS statement	-2.82 %	
	G. Revenue Expenditure per capita in 2017	€634.31	
	The 2017 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€95231572	
	The 2017 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€90341360	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	64.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	69.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	76.0 %	

This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment	
Finance: M1 & M2 Approved	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	79.0 %		
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	81 %		
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	93.0 %		
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	92.0 %		
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	93.0 %		
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	90.0 %		
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	90 %		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	74.0 %		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	73.0 %		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	76.0 %		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	76.0 %		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	75 %		
	Economic Development: J1 to J4 Approved	A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017	80.0	
		A. The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2017	67	
	B. The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2017	27		

# Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Economic Development: J1 to J4 Approved	A. The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017	488	
	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes	Statement of Tourism Strategy and Work Programme is in place. Updated strategy is being finalised and will be adopted during 2018.
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes	Wicklow County Tourism Ltd is supported by Wicklow CoCo and has a designated tourism executive for the County. WCC has three senior staff with a tourism brief.



## Data Supplied by External Organisations



Shows the data that has been submitted by suppliers.

### Performance Indicators

Wicklow County Council

Dataset	Date Collected and Available	Measure Name	Measure Value
<b>2013 Revised - Revenue Account Balances &amp; Collection Levels</b>	16/05/2017	Revenue Account Balance	-4084330
		Collection Levels for Rates	64.0
		Collection Levels for Rents and Annuities	93.0
		Collection Levels for Housing Loans	74.0
<b>2014 - Revenue Account Balances &amp; Collection Levels</b>	18/11/2016	Revenue Account Balance	-3783860
		Collection Levels for Rates	69.0
		Collection Levels for Rents and Annuities	92.0
		Collection Levels for Housing Loans	73.0
<b>2015 - Revenue Account Balances &amp; Collection Levels Final</b>	25/09/2017	Revenue Account Balance	-3432617
		Collection Levels for Rates	76.0
		Collection Levels for Rents and Annuities	93.0
		Collection Levels for Housing Loans	76.0
<b>2016 - Revenue Account Balances &amp; Collection Levels</b>	06/04/2018	Revenue Account Balance	-2975226
		Collection Levels for Rates	79.0
		Collection Levels for Rents and Annuities	90.0
		Collection Levels for Housing Loans	76.0
<b>2017 - 3 Bin Service</b>	19/04/2018	No. households in area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service	13947
		Percentage of Households in the LA area that are served by 3 bin service	28.46
<b>2017 - Drinking Water Private Schemes Compliance</b>	03/04/2018	Percentage of Private Drinking Water Schemes in Compliance	1.00
<b>2017 - Jobs Creation</b>	05/04/2018	No. of Jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office	80.0
<b>2017 - Litter Pollution</b>	03/04/2018	Percentage of area unpolluted or litter free	1
		Percentage of area slightly polluted	1
		Percentage of area moderately polluted	1

## Data Supplied by External Organisations



Shows the data that has been submitted by suppliers.

Dataset	Date Collected and Available	Measure Name	Measure Value
2017 - Litter Pollution	03/04/2018	Percentage of area significantly polluted	1
		Percentage of area grossly polluted	1
2017 - Mentoring Recipients	05/04/2018	The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017	488
2017 - Online Motor Taxation Transactions	23/03/2018	Percentage of Motor Tax Transactions performed Online	76.02
2017 - PSCI	25/04/2018	% of total Regional road km that received a PSCI rating between 1/1/2016 and 31/12/2017	97
		% of total Local Primary Road km that received a PSCI rating between 1/1/2016 and 31/12/2017	98
		% of total Local Secondary Road km that received a PSCI rating between 1/1/2016 to 31/12/2017	95
		% of total Local Tertiary Road km that received a PSCI rating between 1/1/2013 and 31/12/2017	69
		% of total Regional road km with PSCI rating of 1 to 4 at 31/12/2017	3
		% of total Regional road km with PSCI rating of 5 to 6 at 31/12/2017	16
		% of total Regional road km with PSCI rating of 7 to 8 at 31/12/2017	52
		% of total Regional road km with PSCI rating of 9 to 10 at 31/12/2017	28
		% of total Local Primary road km with PSCI rating of 1 to 4 at 31/12/2017	9
		% of total Local Primary road km with PSCI rating of 5 to 6 at 31/12/2017	25
		% of total Local Primary road km with PSCI rating of 7 to 8 at 31/12/2017	48
		% of total Local Primary road km with PSCI rating of 9 to 10 at 31/12/2017	18
		% of total Local Secondary road km with PSCI rating of 1 to 4 at 31/12/2017	10
		% of total Local Secondary road km with PSCI rating of 5 to 6 at 31/12/2017	23
		% of total Local Secondary road km with PSCI rating of 7 to 8 at 31/12/2017	50
		% of total Local Secondary road km with PSCI rating of 9 to 10 at 31/12/2017	14
		% of total Local Tertiary road km with PSCI rating of 1 to 4 at 31/12/2017	8
% of total Local Tertiary road km with PSCI rating of 5 to 6 at 31/12/2017	12		

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Dataset	Date Collected and Available	Measure Name	Measure Value
2017 - PSCI	25/04/2018	% of total Local Tertiary road km with PSCI rating of 7 to 8 at 31/12/2017	32
		% of total Local Tertiary road km with PSCI rating of 9 to 10 at 31/12/2017	16
2017 - Regional & Local Road Works Final	09/05/2018	Number of kilometres of regional road strengthened	14.1
		Number of kilometres of regional road resealed	16.8
		Amount expended on regional road strengthening works	1007193.00
		Amount expended on regional road resealing works	286825.00
		Number of kilometres of local road strengthened	37.4
		Number of kilometres of local road resealed	34.5
		Amount expended on local road strengthening works	2464168.00
		Amount expended on local road resealing works	665998.00
2017 - Registered Tenancies	23/03/2018	Number of registered tenancies	6904
2017 - Trading Online Vouchers	05/04/2018	The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2017	67
		The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2017	27
2017 - Whole Time Equivalent Staffing Number	22/03/2018	Total No. WTE Staff	685.85
Census 2016 - Population served by Fire Services	04/08/2017	Total Population	141655
		Population per capita	0.00
Census 2016 (Final) - Population & Households	25/05/2017	Total Population	142425
		Population Per 1000	142.4250
		Population Per 5000	28.4850
		Total No. of Households	49005
		Average No. Persons Per Household	2.9063
Census 2016 (Final) - Population served by Library Services	25/05/2017	Total Population	142425
		Population Per 1000	142.4250
		Population Per 5000	28.4850
		Total No. of Households	49005
		Average No. Persons Per Household	2.9063

## Data Supplied by External Organisations



Shows the data that has been submitted by suppliers.

Dataset	Date Collected and Available	Measure Name	Measure Value
Census 2016 (Final) - Populatio			