



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**







# 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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## Cathaoirleach's message

As Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report for the

year 2015. This report outlines the very many and varied activities of Wicklow County Council across all services.

During 2015, the Draft County Development Plan, 2016 – 2022 was adopted by the elected members and moved to public display. The Plan which sets out the strategic spatial framework for proper planning and sustainable development of County Wicklow mainly focuses on the 'big picture' planning issues and set the framework within which developments should be undertaken over the 6 year period.

2015 was an extremely productive year seeing the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Action Plan launched in early January. The Plan identifies five strategic objectives, supported by a practical set of actions which are grouped together under the five headings; Brand, The Big Idea, Marketing and Communications, Film, Retail and Recreation and Industry and Infrastructure. The CWETT Action Plan feeds into the Local Economic Plan and the Local Economic Community Plan process for which got underway in 2015.

The Council's commitment to the film industry in County Wicklow and Wicklow's position as the 'Hollywood of Ireland' was given a major boost in 2015 as a result of the Council reducing the development contributions for film studio infrastructure by 100% a move which will no doubt encourage the further development of film making facilities in County Wicklow.

I am very pleased that the Council reinforced its commitment to the development and enhancement of tourism opportunities by allocating a tourism promotion fund of €100,000 shared between five projects in each municipal district. 180 Community groups/clubs and voluntary organizations also benefitted from the €260,000 Community Awards Grants provided by the elected members in 2015.

Wicklow County Council proudly participated in the Co-operation Ireland 'All Island Pride of Place awards 2015'. I would like to acknowledge the fantastic work being carried out within communities of County Wicklow and to congratulate Carnew Community Care on winning the top prize in the Age Friendly Community Initiative Category and Tiglin Rehabilitation Centre on the runner-up position in the

Community Health Initiative category.

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. A new state of the art training centre and headquarters for the County Wicklow Civil Defence was officially opened in March. I would like to pay tribute to all of the Civil Defence volunteers who serve the local community in assisting in severe weather conditions and missing persons searches. Their dedication and commitment to serving the public is exceptional. The N11/M11 Rathnew to Arklow Motorway was officially opened ahead of schedule in July, 2015. This 16.5km dual carriageway carries in excess of 20,000 vehicles per day and makes a huge difference to daily commuters and general road users particularly in terms of safety.

The library service plays an important role in contributing to recreation and amenity and the Council's policy of 'free library membership' ensures that the public library service remains accessible to everyone and membership remained constant at over 30,000. The library service operates thirteen branch libraries throughout the County and the mobile library serves a further 34 locations. The new Arklow Library and Arklow Municipal District offices covering 1,400 sq metres over three floors was fitted out, stocked and completed towards the end of this year.

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 Mr. Eddie Sheehy, former Chief Executive who retired early in 2015 and to Mr. Bryan Doyle, Chief Executive and all the staff of Wicklow County Council for the manner in which they assisted me in the performance of my role as Cathaoirleach.

**Councillor John Ryan**  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**  
**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**



## Chief Executive's Foreword



I am delighted to welcome the publication of the 2015 Annual Report.

Notwithstanding the

challenges of budgetary constraints across all Directorates, there have been many achievements and completion of worthwhile projects throughout the County such as the provision of new playgrounds for Rathnew and Newtown as well as a Skate and BMX park in Blessington. Key capital investment projects were pushed forward such as the €40m River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme undertaken by Wicklow County Council and the Office of public works.

In 2015 the Council ramped up its efforts to encourage economic development and job creation in the County and reached implementation stage of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank Plan. Economic Activity is now recognised as a mainstream function of the Council in the same way as the provision of housing, roads, planning and environmental services. The Council plays a major role in economic development through its service delivery, facilitation and regulatory roles and is a major purchaser of goods and services in the County. I would like to commend the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO), which has supported the local start-ups in County Wicklow through the toughest of economic times and the Council's Economic Development Team who working together will continue to support new business into the future.

Reform of Local Government 'Putting People First' represented a significant change in government policy in relation to how we deliver services at local level. The Local Community Development Committee along with the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC jointly commenced preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The LECP represents a major collaboration 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. I look forward to its completion and implementation in 2016.

We were delighted to host a number of business events at Wicklow County Campus this year, where IT Carlow is a key stakeholder with Wicklow County Council providing lifelong learning education and training course to some 300 students for the 2015 academic year. The 'Grow your Business' Open day, organised by the LEO saw a hive of activity at the Campus with some 180 owner-managers of County Wicklow based SMEs visiting throughout the day to get support on growing their business.

The announcement by the DoEC&LG in 2015 that funding is being provided to the Council to provide 74 new homes was

warmly welcomed. Demand for social housing is high throughout the County and the Council strengthened its housing construction design team to work towards meeting this requirement.

I look forward to next year's 1916 centenary celebrations and pay tribute to the local groups throughout the county who are helping to make next year's commemorations meaningful. I would like mention the hard working and dedicated local committees involved in County Wicklow Tidy towns and particularly like to congratulate Aughtrim on winning a gold medal in the competition and Arklow and Wicklow Towns who both won bronze medals. The Council is delighted to offer its financial support to assist local committees improving their districts. The success of towns in initiatives such as the Local Pure Mile and REDZ projects are examples of local committees working in harmony with the Council to make Wicklow the best County to live in, work in and visit.

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 and the Corporate Policy Group, and all of the other hardworking committees for their continued hard work and contribution in the delivery of services to the public in 2015. I would especially like to thank the Cathaoirleach, Councillor John Ryan, our former Chief Executive Eddie Sheehy as well as the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for their ongoing support and assistance during the year.

**Bryan Doyle**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

## Wicklow County Councillors from 1st June 2015

| Arklow Electoral Area      |                          |  |             |             |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| FF                         | <b>Pat Fitzgerald</b>    | 32 Oaklands, Arklow, Co. Wicklow                               | 0402 39563  | 087 2049013 | pfitzgerald@wicklowcoco.ie     |
| FF                         | <b>Pat Kennedy</b>       | Kirikee, Greenane, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow                       |             | 087 4198022 | patkennedy1@outlook.com        |
| FF                         | <b>Tommy Annesley</b>    | 'Clydebank', Dublin Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow                  | 0402 31705  | 087 2508205 | tomannesley@yahoo.co.uk        |
| FG                         | <b>Sylvester Bourke</b>  | Three Oaks House, Killiniskyduff, Arklow, Co. Wicklow          | 0402 24415  | 087 2501734 | sylvesterbourke@hotmail.com    |
| IND                        | <b>Miriam Murphy</b>     | 4 Avondale Crescent, Arklow, Co. Wicklow                       | 0402 33245  | 086 2410065 | murphyinmotion@gmail.com       |
| SF                         | <b>Mary McDonald</b>     | 2 Willow Grove, Arklow, Co. Wicklow                            |             | 085 2251980 | marymcdonaldsinnfein@gmail.com |
| Baltinglass Electoral Area |                          |  |             |             |                                |
| IND                        | <b>Thomas Cullen</b>     | Deerpark, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow                             | 059 6481786 | 087 1934300 | tommy@tommycullen.ie           |
| SF                         | <b>Gerry O'Neill</b>     | Butterhill Lane, Blessington, Co. Wicklow                      |             | 087 2629129 | cllr.gerryoneill@gmail.com     |
| IND                        | <b>James Ruttle</b>      | Lisheen, Manor Kilbride, Blessington, Co. Wicklow              | 01 4582234  |             | jruttle@wicklowcoco.ie         |
| FG                         | <b>Edward Timmins</b>    | Grangecon, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow                               |             | 087 2357914 | etimmins@wicklowcoco.ie        |
| FG                         | <b>Vincent Blake</b>     | Coolruss, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow                                | 0402 38256  | 087 2322521 | vblake@wicklowcoco.ie          |
| FF                         | <b>Pat Doran</b>         | Tomacork, Carnew, Co. Wicklow                                  | 05394 26249 | 087 2770349 | pdoran@wicklowcoco.ie          |
| Bray Electoral Area        |                          |  |             |             |                                |
| SF                         | <b>John Brady</b>        | 63 Kilbride Grove, Bray, Co. Wicklow                           |             | 087 0666780 | johnbradysf@gmail.com          |
| IND                        | <b>Joe Behan</b>         | 55 Richmond Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow                            | 01 2868125  | 086 8375602 | joebehan@outlook.ie            |
| IND                        | <b>Christopher Fox</b>   | Calary Lower, Kilmacanogue, Bray, Co. Wicklow                  |             | 086 8374765 | crfox@wicklowcoco.ie           |
| SF                         | <b>Oliver O'Brien</b>    | 'The Bungalow', Killough, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow            |             | 087 1420586 | olobriain@gmail.com            |
| IND                        | <b>Brendan Thornhill</b> | 19 Glendale Drive, Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow               |             | 086 0663144 | jcbthornhill@gmail.com         |
| GP                         | <b>Steven Matthews</b>   | 'Saoirse', 12 Sydenham Mews, Sidmonton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow |             | 086 6086420 | stevensgreenbray@gmail.com     |
| FG                         | <b>John Ryan</b>         | 'Huntingdon', 13 Ardmore Lawn, Bray, Co. Wicklow               | 01 2761439  | 087 2585738 | jrryan@wicklowcoco.ie          |
| FF                         | <b>Pat Vance</b>         | 'Beachmount', Putland Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow                  | 01 2868169  | 086 8391871 | pvance@wicklowcoco.ie          |

## Wicklow County Councillors from 1st June 2015

| Greystones Electoral Area |                           |  |            |             |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| IND                       | <b>Jennifer Whitmore</b>  | 4 Dromont, Delgany, Co. Wicklow                                    |            | 086 6634747 | whitmore.jennifer@gmail.com     |
| IND                       | <b>Tom Fortune</b>        | 'DeLacey', Sea Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow                         | 01 2876135 | 086 2488195 | tfortune@wicklowcoco.ie         |
| FG                        | <b>Derek Mitchell</b>     | 'Kiltoorish', Manor Avenue, Greystones, Co. Wicklow                | 01 2874115 |             | mitchelld@eircom.net            |
| FG                        | <b>Grainne McLoughlin</b> | 'Wilfield', Leabeg Middle, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow                  | 01 2018912 | 086 8329686 | cllrgrainnemcloughlin@gmail.com |
| FF                        | <b>Gerry Walsh</b>        | 33 Burnaby Heights, Greystones, Co. Wicklow                        |            | 085 8639848 | gerrywalshoo@gmail.com          |
| SF                        | <b>Nicola Lawless</b>     | 25 Rivendell Grove, Greystones, Co. Wicklow                        |            | 086 1607686 | nicola.lawless.sf@gmail.com     |
| Wicklow Electoral Area    |                           |  |            |             |                                 |
| SF                        | <b>John Snell</b>         | 81 Seaview Heights, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow                           |            | 087 2210222 | jsnell@wicklowcoco.ie           |
| IND                       | <b>Daire Nolan</b>        | Main Street, Newtownmountkennedy, Greystones, Co. Wicklow A63 D938 |            | 085 1374099 | daire.nolan.1988@gmail.com      |
| FF                        | <b>Pat Casey</b>          | Glendalough Hotel, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow                        | 0404 45686 | 086 2649483 | pcasey@wicklowcoco.ie           |
| FG                        | <b>Shay Cullen</b>        | 'The Crosses', Ballinahinch, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow      |            | 086 7275000 | shaycullen2014@gmail.com        |
| FG                        | <b>Irene Winters</b>      | 23 Wicklow Heights Court, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow                     |            | 087 2443610 | irenewinters@eircom.net         |
| IND                       | <b>Pat Kavanagh</b>       | 14 Dunbur Glen, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow                               |            | 086 2771871 | 1patkavanagh@gmail.com          |



# Wicklow County Council Management Team



**Mr Eddie Sheehy**  
Chief Executive until April 2015



**Mr Michael Nicholson**  
Director of Services  
Housing & Corporate Estate



**Mr Bryan Doyle**  
Chief Executive from April 2015  
Director of Services  
Water & Environmental  
Services



**Mr Joe Lane**  
Director of Services  
Community, Cultural & Social  
Development



**Mr Sean Quirke**  
Director of Services  
Transportation & Roads  
Infrastructure



**Mr Thomas Murphy**  
T/Director of Services  
Enterprise & Corporate  
Services



**Mr Michael Geaney**  
A/Director of Services  
Water & Environmental  
Services



**Mr David Sweetman**  
Law Agent



**Mr Des O'Brien**  
Director of Services  
Planning



**Mr Liam Fitzpatrick**  
Head of Information Systems



**Ms. Loraine Lynch**  
Head of Finance



# Housing & Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee

## Wicklow County Council

Councillor John Snell  
Councillor Joe Behan  
Councillor Tommy Annesley  
Councillor Michael O'Connor  
Councillor Pat Kavanagh

## OUTSIDE AGENCIES

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Trade Unions            | ICTU (vacant)          |
| Disadvantaged           | Vicky Harris (Simon)   |
| Business/Commercial     | Nicole Vance (Chamber) |
| Community               | Ann Halpin             |
| Wicklow Traveller Group | Eamonn McCann          |

## Director of Services:

Joe Lane

## A/Senior Executive Officer:

Margaret Malone

## Senior Engineer:

Breege Kilkenny

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

The Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee met on four occasions in 2015 and focussed on a number of key areas including:

- Budget 2015 - Implications for Housing Authorities nationally in terms of future housing supply, management and investment issues
- Housing Priorities for 2015 including future housing supply, management and investment issues
- Implications for Housing Authorities in terms of Municipal Reorganisation
- Management of Housing Stock
- Housing Assistance Payment – rollout nationally
- New Housing Strategy
- Construction Programme
- Traveller Accommodation
- Voluntary Housing
- Homelessness
- Control of Horses

## Social Housing Provision and Planning

Wicklow County Council continued to work throughout the year to meet the needs of those requiring accommodation through the Council's housing construction programme, and by providing both social rented and leasing housing options

The Council was approved a capital allocation of €22.9m by the Department of the Environment under the Social Housing Investment Programme 2015, to fund its social housing construction programme.

Funding included in the €4,108 million was received in respect of the following schemes

- Capital Assistance Scheme (Voluntary Housing) - €7,305,500
- Private House Grants - €869,052

## Energy Efficiency upgrades to Social Housing Stock in County Wicklow

An amount of €768,233 was claimed by Wicklow County Council from the Department of the Environment for Energy Efficiency works in 2015.

# Maintenance of Council Housing Stock

## Housing Management

A lack of funding at national level and a significant drop in the number of Tenant Purchases, resulting in a shortfall in the Internal Capital Receipts fund, resulted in a reduced maintenance programme in 2015. Every effort was made, however, to deal with emergency situations as they arose and to address cases of specific need. In addition, in terms of re-lets and repairs, the Council ensured that all such houses received the following in 2015:

- Electrics check and repair/rewire;
- Plumbing check;
- Replacement of kitchen units/sanitary ware where necessary;
- Upgrade of properties to enhanced energy efficiency.

## 2015 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 3,771 housing applicants were on the housing list for County Wicklow at 31st December 2015. A total of 59 houses were allocated during 2015 at various locations throughout the County as per the table below:

| 01/01/2015 – 31/12/15 |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| CASUAL VACANCIES      | 59 |
| NEW HOUSES            |    |
| SOCIAL LEASING        |    |
| RURAL COTTAGES        |    |
| PURCHASES             | 9  |
| REFURBISHMENTS        | 2  |
| TOTAL                 | 70 |

## 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 2015. In 2015, under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Programme 2014 – 2016 Wicklow County Council, invited submissions from Approved Housing Bodies regarding the delivery of cost effective and sustainable proposals to meet identified housing needs within County Wicklow. In line 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's highest priority was the purchase of a thirty two unit development at Newtownmountkennedy during 2015. This scheme involved Tuath Housing Association purchasing the units and managing them with Wicklow Council maintaining full nominating rights. In addition Wicklow County Council continued to progress, in conjunction with the Department and relevant Approved Housing Body, the objectives of the other priorities which include -

- Ark Housing Association to purchase a property to convert into four by one bed units for people experiencing homelessness. Ark Housing is a sister organisation of W.H. Five Loaves Ltd, a voluntary body specialising in care and support for people experiencing homelessness in the Bray area. Funding of €305,626 was approved for this project.
- The purchase of properties in conjunction with Simon Community to be used to provide more sustainable supported accommodation for people ,who to date, have been resident in more short-term accommodation in Bray.
- Dublin Simon to renovate an existing two-storey building comprising 5 units in total – four one bed units and one three bed unit. The buildings, located in Wicklow town have been derelict since circa 2007 due to significant structural/subsidence issues. Funding of €622,206 was approved for this project.

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.

# Housing and Corporate Estate

## Other Housing Options

In terms of other housing options, Wicklow County Council continued to promote a broad range of additional housing options in 2015 including:

- Mortgage Allowance Scheme
- House Purchase Loan
- Housing Grants
- Mortgage to Rent

Other Housing options promoted by Wicklow County Council in 2015 included RAS and 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 31st December 2015, the following statistics applied to the RAS scheme in County Wicklow:

A total of 56 applicants transferred to the RAS scheme in 2015.

| Total as at 31st December, 2015       |      |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Voluntary Agency Transfers            | 31   |
| Number of Tenant Interviews           | 1508 |
| Number of Property Inspections        | 1302 |
| Tenancy Agreements / Contracts Signed | 679  |

## Long Term & Short Term Social Housing Leasing

Efforts continued throughout 2015 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 11 units were leased to Wicklow County Council as of 31st December 2015.

## Estate Development

Currently, the Housing Section is not in a position to provide an Estate Development service due to lack of staff.

## Tenant Liaison Officer

Throughout 2015, 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

As a result of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the administrative authorities in Bray, Wicklow and Arklow, formerly known as Town Councils were incorporated into Wicklow County Council and accordingly, Wicklow County Council now have responsibility for administering a standardised Rent Scheme throughout County Wicklow. Therefore a full Differential Rent Review is being sought from the 11th November 2015 to be completed and applied in 2016.

As of the 31st December 2015 Wicklow County Council had a total of 4878 rented dwellings. This includes 501 RAS properties and 13 Long and Short Term Leased properties. The average rent was €48.20 per week with a minimum rent of €23.00 and a maximum rent of €258.50. The income generated from rental property in 2015 was €10.9 million with a debit balance of €674,200.

## Housing Grants

Wicklow County Council was awarded €869,052 for grants in 2015.

- 40 Housing Adaptation Grants
- 84 Mobility Aid Grants
- 71 Housing Aid for Older People

Remaining applications will be carried over into 2016 funding and will be assessed depending on the 2016 funding allocation from the Department of the Environment.



# Maintenance of Council Housing Stock

## Traveller Accommodation

The members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) met regularly during 2015. Implementation of the objectives under the new Traveller Accommodation Plan 2014 to 2018 continued to ensure the accommodation needs of Travellers living in County 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

Emergency accommodation continued to be provided locally by Wicklow County Council for people experiencing homelessness in the county throughout 2015. As a result of increased demand for homeless services, Wicklow County Council continued to work with the Simon Community to develop a supported accommodation facility in Wicklow town for people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the Simon Community expanded its services in the county, by providing an increased team of support workers based in County Wicklow, with one based in the Housing Section of Wicklow County Council. This welcome addition of the In-house Simon Support Worker has facilitated the on-going support for individuals presenting to County Buildings.

Demand for homeless services placed severe strain on the resources of the Housing Section in 2015. Rising rents and lack of private rented accommodation options throughout the county saw an increasing number of people seeking support from the Council's homeless services.

## Building Control

The Housing Directorate has a responsibility to encourage best practice and innovation in building design and construction standards in County Wicklow as well as providing a healthy and safe working environment. This includes ensuring compliance with the Building Control Act, 2007 and Building Regulations.

Under the Building Control Act, 1990 the Housing Directorate is obliged to carry out inspections in respect of all new developments. The Housing Directorate carries out inspections on a random basis.

In addition to Building Control, the expertise and knowledge of the Building Control Team is being used in inspection of rental properties under the Private Residential Tenancies Board registration scheme. Funding is allocated to the Council for this purpose from the proceeds of registration fees collected by the Private Rented Tenancy Board (PRTB).

## 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.

Appropriate resources were made available in 2015 to allow the Policy to be effectively carried out.

## Corporate Estate

The Housing Directorate continued to meet its responsibilities throughout 2015 to manage, protect and develop the headquarters of Wicklow County Council (County Buildings, Wicklow).

Additionally, work continued in 2015 to maintain and update the Property Asset Register of Wicklow County Council resulting in a joint project with the Information Systems department to digitize the Council's land data.







# Transportation & 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:** Councillor Derek Mitchell

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL:** Councillor Daire Nolan  
Councillor Mary McDonald  
Councillor Pat Fitzgerald  
Councillor Pat Doran

### OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

#### TRADE UNION/SIPTU:

Mr. Christy Byrne

#### ENVIRONMENT/CONSERVATION:

Mr. Paul Leahy replaced by Mr. Tim Morgan

#### AGRICULTURE/FARMING COMMUNITY:

Mr Shane O'Loughlin

#### DEVELOPMENT/CONSTRUCTION:

Mr Paddy Mordaunt

### EXECUTIVE:

#### DIRECTOR OF SERVICES:

Sean Quirke/ Bryan Doyle

#### A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Theresa O'Brien/ Helena Dennehy

#### A/SENIOR ENGINEER:

Declan Marnane/Michael Geaney

During 2015, four 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 – Proposed service changes to Rail timetables
- Burial Grounds – Policy Overview
- Irish Water
- Water Supply Project – Eastern & Midlands Region – Submission to Irish Water
- Franchise Operations – Carparks at Brittas Bay & Glendalough
- National Speed Limit Review
- National Transport Strategy Review
- Public Consultations – OPW Flooding, Water Framework Directive, Water Management Issues Ireland
- Interchange – LUAS / DART
- Environmental & Community Funding
- Animal Welfare Committee
- Annual Service Delivery Plans



# Transportation & Roads Infrastructure

## 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, met on a quarterly basis in 2015. Membership of this group is drawn from the Gardaí, Fire Service, Road Safety Authority, National Roads Authority and officials of Wicklow County Council. The purpose of the committee is to review road safety in County Wicklow. In 2015 a new County Wicklow Road Safety Plan was prepared with a focus on reducing the number of serious injuries on County Wicklow 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**

### N11/M11 Rathnew to Arklow Road Improvement Scheme – PPP Contract

The N11/M11 Rathnew to Arklow Motorway was officially opened by Mr. Paschal Donohoe T.D. Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport on 13th July 2015. The 16.5 km dual-carriageway had been the number one priority of Wicklow County Council since the opening of the Rathnew/Ashford By-pass in 2004. This road carries in excess of 20,000 vehicles per day. The overall value of this PPP contract was €282 million, including a planned service area north of Gorey on the N11 as well as the upgrading of the N7 at Newlands Cross in Dublin.

Improvement works undertaken on N11/M11 road in 2015 included:

- Verge maintenance along N11 between Arklow and Rathnew with particular emphasis on junctions.
- Improvement works at Ballymoyle Lane / Johnstown Lane Link Road.
- Minor Drainage improvements along N11, including installation of new pipelines and drains.

- Management of vegetation between Beehive and Arklow By-Pass.
- Cleaning of gullies and channels between the Beehive and Arklow Bypass.
- Repairs to failing N11 Pavement between Arklow and Rathnew .
- Renewed line markings where necessary.
- Installation of new footpath beside N11 linking the Tap junction and Tap Cottages.

### National Secondary N81

Works Undertaken in 2015 included:

Surface dressing at Ballinacrow and surface works at following locations:

- Tinode
- Nolans Bend
- Merginstown
- Castleruddery Junction
- Eldon Bridge

Surface works including patching and repairs as well as kerbing and drainage works were carried out at the following location under Maintenance Funding:

- N81 North of Burgage More Roundabout, Blessington.
- N81 Knockroe Bends Realignment Scheme.

The Part V111 process for N81 Knockroe Bends Realignment Scheme was approved by the Members of Wicklow County Council at the November 2015 Ordinary meeting.

At the end of 2015, a decision was awaited from the Strategic Planning Unit of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) regarding the submission of the C.P.O. for this scheme to An Bord Pleanála.

# Transportation & Roads Infrastructure

## Non National Road Maintenance and Improvement

Maintenance works on Non National Roads in 2015 was carried out by direct labour units of the five Municipal Districts and also on occasion by private contractors. Maintenance can be broken down into two categories:

### Planned Maintenance

Consists of the works programme for the year that is prepared following consultation with the Municipal District staff and can be subdivided into carriageway and footpath, reconstruction or resurfacing and winter maintenance.

### Reactive Maintenance

Includes everything other than planned maintenance and mainly consists of pothole repairs and works to surface water drainage systems and can also arise from Members' questions and or correspondence and complaints from members of the public.

### Specific Improvement Grant works 2015

Works were carried out at the following locations in 2015:

- Glencree Bridge (emergency repair)
- Redcross Bridge
- Ballanagh Bridge, Avoca
- White Bridge Special Inspection
- Aldborough Bridge, Holdenstown
- Liffey Bridge Lower, Sally Gap (incomplete to date)

Funding proposals were submitted for the following projects for 2016:

- Grennhall Bridge Ballyraheen
- White Bridge Avoca
- Rathdrum Bridge
- Fortgranite Bridge
- Bay Bridge Shillelagh

### Low Cost Safety Improvement Works 2015:

Low cost safety improvements works were carried out at the following locations in 2015:

- SlaughterHill Newtownmountkennedy
- Rathdrum (Traffic Calming)
- Arklow (Dublin Road)
- Cronyhorn, Carnew

## Proposed Low Cost Safety Improvement Works for 2016:

Calary Upper  
Tinoranhill South  
Hanging Rock Ballyduff Upper  
Manor Kilbride  
Farrankelly Dual Carriageway  
Annamoe Village  
Newcastle Road, Kilcoole  
Woodstock Rd. Kilcoole  
Cooldross Lane Junction

### Objective 3

**To facilitate and promote walking and cycling and use 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.**

### NTA Traffic Management Funding

The National Transport Authority funded the following projects in 2015:

#### Construction and Design

Bray Dart Interchange  
Arklow – Cycle Scheme  
Fitzwilliam Square Wicklow  
Footpath to GAA grounds Kilcoole  
Baltinglass Traffic Management  
R761 Three Trout's footpath  
Glendalough Traffic Control Measures  
Boghall Road Cycling QOS upgrade  
Arklow Junctions  
Strand Road Cycle Scheme  
Cycle Route from the Port Access road to Wicklow Town  
Killincarrig Double Roundabouts  
Beech Road Footbridge Arklow  
Enniskerry Traffic Plan  
Ashford School Improvement  
Killarney Road Cycle Route  
Vevay Road Cycle Route  
N11 Bus Lane Extension

# Transportation & Roads Infrastructure

## Projects submitted for funding to the National Transport Authority in 2016 include:

- Strand Road Cycle Track Bray
- Strand Road - Public Realm Scheme at the Aquarium area, Bray.
- Boghall Road - completion of upgrades
- Bray - Killarney Road/Vevay Road Cycle Route
- Enniskerry traffic calming and car parking
- Bray to Greystones Cycleway
- R761 Rathdown Road; Lidl to Kindlestown Upper Road Cycle Route, Greystones
- Charlesland Roundabout to Kicoole Footpath
- Delgany Accessibility Scheme
- Footpath Improvements along Convent road , Delgany
- Fitzwilliam Square Wicklow Town - enhance accessibility
- Arklow Main Street Junctions – Main Street / Vale road/ Wexford Road
- Glendalough Traffic Control Measures/Glendalough Junction
- Baltinglass Traffic Management - design to improve parking and pedestrian movement around the town
- Baltinglass N81 Junction Improvement
- Arklow to Shillelagh Cycle track

## Maintenance and Management of Car Parking

Pay Parking is in operation in Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow Towns. A review of paid parking for the County commenced in 2015 with a county wide survey on issues relating to paid parking. It is envisaged that the review will be completed in 2016.

## 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 and work closely throughout 2015 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 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 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.





# Water, Wastewater & 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:

- Co1 Operation and Maintenance Water Supply
- Co2 Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment
- Co3 Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges
- Co4 Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences
- Co5 Administration of Group and Private Installations
- Co6 Support to Water Capital Programme
- Co7 Agency and Recoupable Services
- Eo1 Operation, Maintenance and Aftercare of Landfill
- Eo2 Operation and Maintenance of Recovery and Recycling Facilities
- Eo3 Operation and Maintenance of Waste to Energy Facilities
- Eo4 Provision of Waste Collection Services
- Eo5 Litter Management
- Eo6 Street Cleaning
- Eo7 Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement
- Eo8 Waste Management Planning
- Eo9 Maintenance of Burial Grounds
- E10 Safety of Structures and Places
- E11 Operation of Fire Service
- E12 Fire Prevention
- E 13 Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution
- Fo3 Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations
- Go2 Operation and Maintenance of Piers and Harbours
- Go3 Coastal Protection and Flood Mitigation works
- Go4 Veterinary Services
- Ho7 Operation of Market and Casual Trading

## 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:

- Co1 Operation and Maintenance Water Supply
- Co2 Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment
- Co1 & Co2 will now include the Water & Wastewater Quality element of Pollution Control and Enforcement
- Co3 Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges
- Co6 Support to Water Capital Programme
- Co7 Agency and Recoupable Services

Wicklow County Council will retain responsibility for the areas of:

- Co4 Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences
- Co5 Administration of Group and Private Installations

## Operation and Maintenance Water Supply

### Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment

The main duties of the Water Services operations 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.

### 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.

## Water, Wastewater & Environmental Services Directorate

### 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. Wicklow County Council continued to bill all non-domestic users on behalf of Irish Water during 2015. It is anticipated the migration of Non Domestic metering and billing will transfer to Irish Water in full during 2016

### Support to Water Capital Programme

#### Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP)

Under S.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 [WATER.ie](http://www.water.ie). In October 2015 Irish Water launched its Business Plan <http://www.water.ie/docs/Irish-Water-Business-Plan.pdf>, which outlines the planned transformation of the water industry.

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

#### Agency & Recoupable Services

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

### Administration of Group and Private Installations

Wicklow Local Authorities retain responsibility for this area of operation that includes:

- Administration of water supply to private houses through Well Grant system.
- Progression of group water schemes by seeking funding under the national Rural Water Programme and to advance such schemes in a prioritised manner.

### Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems serving Single Houses

The main reasons for the implementation of the registration and inspection regime for septic tanks are to enhance and protect public health and the environment to ensure compliance with the European Court of Justice ruling against Ireland in October 2009 in relation to the treatment of waste waters from septic tanks and other on-site wastewater treatment systems.

Domestic Wastewater Treatment System, registration for private dwellings commenced in 2012 and inspections commenced in 2013. There are over 10,000 properties registered in the county.

### Environmental Service

#### Complaints Procedure

The total number of complaints received in 2015 by Water and Environmental Services was 1406 and cover areas of Waste, Litter, Water Pollution, Noise, Air, Waste Water and Miscellaneous.

#### Waste Management

In 2012, an evaluation of the 2007 Waste Management Plan recommended that a new Plan was required. It was decided in 2013 that County Wicklow would join a new Eastern and Midlands Region for the purposes of Waste Management. A new Waste Management Plan for the Eastern Midlands Region was published in 2015. Wicklow County Council staff members sit on the Regional Waste Management Plan Steering Group.

Since 2012, the management of all Waste Collection Permits has been carried out by Offaly County Council. This has assisted with Waste Enforcement as all vehicles authorised to collect waste in County Wicklow are saved on a central database.

## Water, Wastewater & Environmental Services Directorate

In 2015 an Regional Waste Enforcement Office was set up in Dublin City Council. This will set targets for enforcement and provide a consistency of approach between Local Authorities in the Region when dealing with illegal dumping.

The exemption that allows farmers to burn green waste for agricultural benefits has been continued until 2018.

### 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 dealt with 1929 environmental complaints during 2015 which is an increase from previous years. Fifteen prosecutions were secured under the Waste Management Acts 1996 with individuals fined up to €3000 plus €1500 in costs. 177 Litter Fines were issued in 2015.

### Recycling Facilities

From 2007 to 2013 the tonnage of recyclables collected by Wicklow County Council had fallen by 25%. In 2014 the levels of recyclables collected levelled out for the first time halting the decline, further improvements were recorded in 2015.

Wicklow recorded the highest per head levels of Waste Electric and Electronic recycling in the country in 2015.

Increased opening hours introduced in 2014 have provided the public greater opportunities. There was continued investment, providing new signage to assist the public in correctly depositing their materials. Information and general recycling is continually updated through both traditional and social media.

Household hazardous waste collections were held at Bray, Wicklow, Avoca and Blessington during 2015. Bray and Arklow recycling centres provide permanent outlets for the disposal of paints.

Wicklow County Council recycles from all its corporate locations. In 2015 Wicklow County Council was also involved in the collection of recyclables from over 40 bottle bank locations through the county.

Wicklow County Council maintains continued support for the Tinahely Community Recycling Centre.

### PURE (Protecting Uplands and 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.

#### Initiatives

##### PURE Mile

The PURE Mile is an environmental initiative that aims to foster greater appreciation and awareness of our country roadscapes by rewarding and acknowledging local community efforts. Local community groups come together to keep a mile stretch of road and the immediate environment litter and rubbish free, while simultaneously considering the preservation and careful maintenance of the flora and fauna, ditches, hedge-rows, and any other natural or man-made features of the area. 11 locations took part in the 2015 PURE Mile competition and The Drumgoff, Ballyboy & Ballinafunshogue Pure Mile was the overall winner.

##### PURE Awareness

In 2015 PURE held a multimedia environmental exhibition that featured the projects 16 award winning short environmental animations, 7 environmental music videos, a short film on the community/environmental initiative, The PURE Mile, the short documentary, PURE WISDOM, and short films on illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. The exhibition was visited by over 600 people over a three-week period.

##### Environmental Awareness and Education

The focus is of environmental awareness and Education is on sustainable living with the key themes of waste, litter, energy and water conservation.

It is a core objective to encourage the population to get involved at a local level and take more responsibility for environmental management. The Environmental Awareness Office works with community groups such as tidy towns, residents associations, youth groups and clubs, offering talks, an advisory service and partnership programmes targeting local issues. The Environmental Awareness Office supported local environmental projects through the Local Agenda 21 grant scheme and through the annual Environmental Awards. The Environmental Awards recognised contributions made by local groups in the areas of tidy main street, tidy estates, coast care, waste minimisation, sustainable tourism and wildlife and natural amenities.



Areas of Environmental Awareness and education covered and progressed during 2015 include:

- Green Schools/Green Flag Programme
- Tidy Towns Advice and Training
- Community Education
- Composting Workshops
- Community Gardening
- Children's Summer/Blue Flag Beach Activities
- Environmental Competitions
- Waste Prevention and Reuse programme
- School Book Exchange
- Seasonal, commercial and schools recycling
- National Sustainable Living and Green Communities Programmes
- In House recycling and energy management in County Buildings
- National Gum Taskforce
- Green Dog Walkers
- Waste Prevention Demonstration Programme

### **Energy Management**

SI 542 of 2009 and SI 426 of 2014 require all public bodies to report annually on energy usage. The target is to improve energy efficiency by 33% by 2020. The target is based on kilowatt per hour (KWH) savings as opposed to saving in monetary terms. Wicklow County Council is currently at 8% of its target.

### **Pollution Control**

Wicklow County Council is committed to ensuring that Pollution Control legislation is strictly enforced. The increase in pollution control legislation is placing a heavy burden on the existing resources, of both finance and personnel, in Wicklow County Council. A RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspection) Plan forms the basis of controlling environmental pollution.

The Council continues to implement the Farm Survey Programme. The programme rates farms' compliance in a number of areas such as use of fertilizers, animal and farm waste production, slurry and soiled water tank and open yards. Serious breaches are reported to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and may result in penalties in the form of reduction in the single farm payment.

Action Plans for sub-catchments within the River Basin Districts have been developed and implemented on a prioritised basis. The measures to improve and protect water bodies were operational throughout 2015.

The Council utilises the Groundwater Protection Scheme in its environmental assessment of developments in Co. Wicklow.

The Council processes applications for certificates to control the emission of Volatile Organic Compounds from installations such as Dry Cleaners and Vehicle Refinishers under new regulations introduced in 2012. Inspections were carried out by Wicklow County Council to enforce the European Union (Installations and Activities using Organic Solvents) Regulations 2012 and the European Union (Paints, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities) Regulations 2012.

### **All other areas of Pollution Control continue to be progressed and include:**

- Surface Water Abstraction Regulations 1989
- European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations (No.122) 2014
- Nitrates Directive 1991 and Good Agricultural Practice Regulations 2011
- Urban Wastewater Regulations 1998 and 2001
- Freshwater Fish Directive and Salmonid Waters Regulations 1988
- Water Framework Directive 2000
- Environmental Quality Objectives for Surface Water Regulations 2009
- Environmental Quality Objectives for Ground Water Regulations 2010
- Ground Water Protection Scheme
- Air Pollution Act 1987, European Union (Installations and Activities using Organic Solvents) and European Union (Paints, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities) Regulations 2012
- European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protections of Waters) Regulations 2014
- European Union Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008

### Drinking Water

Revised drinking water regulations were introduced under the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014. The Council, under its remit as supervisory authority, monitors private water supplies and requires remedial action where deficient quality is found. In 2015 Wicklow County Council concentrated efforts on private water supplies and worked with the owners of the water supplies to improve standards. This resulted in the lifting of a number of boil water notices.

### Bathing Waters

There are six designated bathing waters in county Wicklow. The monitoring of these and many other commonly used bathing areas continued in 2015. The bathing water monitoring is displayed at the beaches and on the Splash website through the bathing water season, 1st June to 15th September each year. Overall the bathing water quality at the six identified bathing waters was at good to excellent status in 2015.

### Blue Flags

Wicklow County Council unfortunately lost one of its Blue Flags at Brittas Bay North Beach during 2015. This was as a result of cumulative 4 year sampling programme. Wicklow County Council retained its other Blue Flags in 2015 at Brittas Bay South and Greystones South Beach.

### Arklow Harbour

Wicklow County Council assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of Arklow Harbour from 1st January 2012.

In 2015 Wicklow County Council received approval and funding of Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine for the following projects.

Arklow Harbour, mooring at sheltered dock area – “Fendering System for Fishing Boats – the amount of grant allocated was €62,114.87.

North side of Avoca River – “Slipway for Sailing Dinghies” – the amount of grant allocated was €41,250.00

Arklow Harbour area – “Bait Store with Cooler for Fishermen” – the amount of grant allocated was €17,250.00

### Wicklow Harbour / Port

The President signed the Harbours Bill on the 25th December 2015 and the Act will be available shortly on the Oireachtas Website i.e. Harbours Act 2015 No 61 of 2015.

During 2015 Wicklow Co Co carried out due diligence on all areas of activity of Wicklow Port with a view that the Wicklow Port Company will transfer to Wicklow Council County in its entirety under the above legislation sometime in early 2016.

### 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 area engineers carries out the heavier type of maintenance where machinery etc. is required to be used.

A full review of County wide Burial Policy was undertaken during 2015, through the Transportation, Water & Environmental Services SPC, and work in this area continues. Monitoring of all graveyards is ongoing.

# Fire Service & 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 including the Municipal Districts. Regular meetings were held in 2015 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. An interagency motor way incident major emergency exercise was held in December 2015 and facilitated by Wicklow County Council on the new M11 motorway.

Other areas of Fire Service activity progressed during 2015 included:

- Inspection of Fire Hydrants
- 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

## Veterinary Services

### Food Safety

Wicklow County Council as an official agent of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) and makes provision for food control services for three abattoirs and six low-capacity meat premises in the county. Inspections are carried out by the Council's Veterinary Inspectors. A service Level Agreement remains in place until mid 2016 at which time a shared Veterinary Service Provision may be a consideration.

### 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 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 of Civil Defence progressed in 2015:

- Basic training for volunteers
- Training of instructors
- Community events/operations
- Upgrade of vehicles and equipment
- Introduction of Tetra Radio System
- Response to flooding and severe weather
- Search and recovery of missing persons

## Community Events / Operations

County 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...'

## New Headquarters & Training Facility

County Wicklow Civil Defence's first purpose built headquarters and training

Centre was opened in March by An Cathaoirleach Cllr Christopher Fox, in the presence of Eddie Sheehy Chief Executive and Bill Smith Director General Civil Defence.

The headquarters are located at Mill Road, Greystones with easy access from the N11, linking the facility with the rest of the County. This project was the result of input and support from many departments within the Local Authority including Enterprise & Corporate Services, Water & Environmental Services, Planning and Finance. The establishment of this facility provided a very welcome and clear signal to the volunteers who give freely of their time that their efforts are recognised and appreciated by Wicklow County Council and its members.



## Fire Service & Emergency Planning

### **National Training Seminar**

In November Wicklow Civil Defence hosted the Civil Defence Officers Association National Training Seminar and Conference in Arklow. Over one hundred delegates attended over three days. The conference was opened by Chief Whip, Minister of State at Departments of An Taoiseach & Minister for Defence Paul Kehoe in the presence of An Cathaoirleach Cllr John Ryan and Bryan Doyle Chief Executive.

Also in attendance were senior representatives from the Department of Defence, Directors of Service and Management & Staff from the Civil Defence College, Roscrea.

### **Health and Safety**

Water and Environmental Services staff are trained to deal with all aspects of delivery of service within the directorate and to improve internal and external communications. There are individual Ancillary Safety Statements written for the following areas: Waste Management, Water & Waste Water Services, Pollution Control & Laboratory, General Offices, Veterinary Services and Civil Defence and an excess of 95 Local Safety Statements have been prepared.

In order to manage all the requirements in Health and Safety a safety committee was set up in the Water and Environmental Services Section.

# Planning & Development

## Strategic Policy Committee

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Councillor Vincent Blake & Sylvester Bourke(2.5 years each)

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL:** Councillor Pat Vance  
Councillor Edward Timmins  
Councillor Christopher Fox  
Councillor Tommy Cullen  
Councillor Steven Matthews  
Councillor Gerry O'Neill

## Outside Agencies:

### DEVELOPMENT/CONSTRUCTION:

Tony Lawlor

### AGRICULTURE / FARMING:

Michael Byrne

### ENVIRONMENT/CONSERVATION:

Joan Campbell

### BUSINESS / COMMERCIAL:

Trevor Wood

## Executive:

### 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.

| Year | No. of Applications |
|------|---------------------|
| 2001 | 1607                |
| 2002 | 1460                |
| 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                |

In addition to planning applications, Development Management also deals with pre-planning compliance, appeals, collection of development contributions and section 5 referrals among other matters

## Enforcement

The functions of the Enforcement Section within the Planning & Development Department include:

- Implementation of Part VIII (Enforcement) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- Monitoring the development of residential projects in compliance with Section 180 of the above Act for the purposes of taking in charge of such developments by Wicklow County Council.

A major objective of the planning department is to ensure increased compliance with planning law and continued proactive approach to the consistent implementation of Part VIII of the Act. The enforcement provisions of the planning code are designed not only to regularise the situation, but also to deter future unauthorised development.

A total of 224 Warning Letters issued in 2015, while 87 Enforcement Notices were served. A total of 140 cases were resolved and 249 cases were closed.

## Forward Planning

### Wicklow County Development Plan 2016 - 2022

The County Development Plan will set out a strategic spatial framework for proper planning and sustainable development of County Wicklow for the period 2016-2022.

The plan mainly focuses on “big picture” planning issues and sets the framework within which developments could be undertaken, in the event that the public or private sectors have the finance to develop.

The structure of the plan is:

Volume 1: The primary written statement and plans that indicate the development objectives for County Wicklow.

Volume 2: Set of town/settlement plans for- Ashford, Aghrim, Avoca, Shillelagh, Baltinglass, Carnew, Donard, Dunlavin, Enniskerry, Kilmacanogue, Laragh- Glendalough, Newcastle, Roundwood and Tinahely.

Volume 3: Appendices

During 2015, the Draft Plan was adopted by the Elected Members and the plan went on public display.

### Wicklow Heritage

The aim of the Heritage Office is to promote pride, raise awareness, provide advice and propose policy in relation to Heritage in County Wicklow. The Heritage Officer contributes on an ongoing basis to the development of plans and strategies, provides advice to the development management section as necessary and deals with a range of public queries.

The Heritage Officer co-ordinates the Wicklow Heritage Forum and has responsibility for overseeing the delivery of actions in the County Heritage Plan.

During 2015

- Meetings held for the Wicklow Heritage Forum
- Heritage input to County Development Plan review and review of RPS
- Co-ordination of the Lakeside Heritage Project
- Hosting of a “Wicklow Heritage Buildings Show” over two days in Glendalough
- Publication of a book, “Here Lyeith – the 18th Century Headstones of Co Wicklow”
- Co-ordination and promotion of 100 plus activities for National Heritage Week





# Community Cultural and Social Development (CC&SD) - Annual Report 2015

## Members of the Community, Cultural and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Councillor Jim Ruttle

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL:**  
Councillor Jim Ruttle  
Councillor Pat Vance  
Councillor Gráinne McLoughlin  
Councillor Nicola Lawless  
Councillor Shay Cullen  
Councillor Brendan Thornhill  
Councillor Miriam Murphy  
Councillor Pat Kennedy

## Outside Agencies:

### **BUSINESS/ COMMERCIAL**

Ms. Irene Sweeney [Chamber of Commerce]

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK**

Ms. Gertie Salley [PPN Social Inclusion]

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK**

Mr. John Mullen [PPN Community&Voluntary]

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK**

Ms. Ann Halpin [PPN Community&Voluntary]

## **Director of Services**

Mr Michael Nicholson

The Community, Cultural and Social Development SPC considered and supported a wide range of Policy issues during 2015.

## **SPC – Policy Development and Monitoring Implementation:-**

- Wicklow County Council's Play Policy Programme
- Community Awards Scheme/Ballynagran Small Grants Scheme/Katie Taylor Bursary Award Scheme for 2015
- Sport and Recreational Amenity Policy Programme
- Community Development Policy
- Community Playgrounds and Sustainable Community Development/Facilities and Social Infrastructure
- Input into Wicklow County Council's Planning and Development process to reflect the sustainable Social Infrastructure, Community Development and Sport and Recreational Amenity needs of Communities, to ensure integrated and sustainable Planning that promotes Community Cohesion and Social Capital.
- County Wicklow Local Sports Partnership.
- Reviewing the Community Strand of Wicklow County Council's Development Levies Contribution Scheme (Class 3's)
- Development and rollout of the Library Services Development Plan and the Library Programme and Service for 2015.
- Development and rollout of the Wicklow County Arts Strategy for County Wicklow and the Arts Programme for 2015.
- Wicklow County Council's involvement in a range of Community / Voluntary based Awards Schemes, including the Annual IPB Co-operation Ireland All-Island Pride of Place Awards.
- County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy
- Wicklow Way Partnership

# Community Cultural and Social Development (CC&SD) - Annual Report 2015

## Community, Cultural & Social Development (CC&SD) Function includes:-

### The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC)

Reform of Local Government “Putting People First” represented a significant change in government policy in relation to Local Government –

“the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level – leading economic, social and community development, delivering efficient and good value services, and representing citizens and local communities effectively and accountably”

The role involves interaction and consultation with various Government Departments and other Bodies and Agencies and Community Groups

### Local Community Development Committee

Make up of the Wicklow LCDC

3 Elected Members

1 Local Authority Chief Executive or Nominee

5 State Agency

10 Private sector interests;

including partnership companies, community and voluntary interests, social inclusion interests, including business/employer interests, farming and agriculture interests, trade union interests, environmental interests and local development or community development bodies

### Purpose of LCDC's

Primary responsibility for co-ordination, planning and oversight of local development

- Bring a more coherent approach to the implementation of local and community development programmes and interventions
- Drive meaningful citizen and community engagement
- Ensure a more efficient administration of local and community programmes and delivery structures
- Explore and pursue opportunities for additional funding resources for the area.

## Functions of Local Community Development Committees:

- To prepare the community element of a 6–year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
- To implement or arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the plan
- To review the community elements of the Plan
- To co-ordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes
- To seek to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between public funded local and community development programmes
- To consider and adopt a statement for consideration of the Council in respect of the economic elements of a draft of the Plan prepared by the Local Authority

Meetings of the LCDC were held throughout 2015. Calls for submissions and many meetings and consultation workshops were also held on the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan.

### Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

- Economic element of the plan to be prepared by the Local Authority.
- Community element to be prepared by LCDC.
- Two elements to be prepared in parallel
- Cross-consultation is specifically provided for in the Local Government Act.
- Combined plan (LECP) then adopted by the Local Authority.

### Collaborative Action/Areas of Common Interest

- Economic Plan as part of LECP
- Employment opportunities
- Social Entrepreneurships

### EU Rural Development Policy (LEADER) - The New Framework

The Europe 2020 Strategy indicates that future economic growth in the EU should be smart, sustainable and inclusive. The strategy is centred on five ambitious goals in the areas of employment, innovation, education, poverty reduction and climate/energy and sets specific headline targets for each of these areas.

The three long term strategic objectives for EU Rural Development Policy in the 2014 -2020 period are -

- Improving the competitiveness of agriculture
- Sustainable management
- Balanced territorial development of rural areas.

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

# Community Cultural and Social Development (CC&SD) - Annual Report 2015

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.

Public Consultations to inform the Local Development Strategy took place throughout 2015.

## Support County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN) is the new framework for public engagement and participation in County Wicklow.

The PPN is now the main link through which Wicklow County Council will connect with Community and Voluntary Groups and Organisations, Social Inclusion Groups and Environmental Groups across the county.

The aim of the Network is to provide structures that will enable these Groups and Organisations to have their voices heard and to facilitate their representation on decision-making committees and bodies within Local Government. The PPN procedures enable community representation on various Local Authority committees, including the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

All Community Groups, Clubs and Voluntary Organisations across the County are encouraged to register with the new County-wide PPN.

## The Social Inclusion Unit (SIU).

The Social Inclusion Unit (SIU) continued in its role of supporting anti-poverty initiatives and raising awareness of social inclusion issues throughout the Local Authority during 2015. Over that period it facilitated the following:

- Representing social inclusion issues on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- Monitoring implementation of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government's Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in County Wicklow
- Prioritising social inclusion issues in the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
- Facilitating the development of Wicklow's Local Development Strategy for the LEADER Programme
- Representing social inclusion issues on the Community, Cultural and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
- Supporting the development of a strong and vibrant Public Participation Network (PPN) in County Wicklow
- Working with communities to develop high quality social, recreational and amenity facilities for all
- Inputting to Local Area Plans, Action Plans, County

Development Plan in relation to social inclusion, community and social issues

- Provision of statistical data and research analysis to Wicklow Local Authority and outside Agencies
- Participation on regional and national committees, networks and structures

## Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

**SICAP** is a national programme funded by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, which operates in each Local Authority area, to support the long-term unemployed, marginalized target groups and young people who are unemployed, to improve work readiness and access employment/self employment/social entrepreneurship.

### SICAP is:-

- Successor programme to LCDP (Local Community Development Programme)
- SICAP is a local social inclusion programme focussed on the most marginalised in Irish society.
- Aims to reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration and will operate across the Republic of Ireland in each of the thirty one Local Authority areas.

**SICAP** focuses on the most marginalised in Irish society through its three goals:

- To support and resource disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups to engage with relevant local stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion.
- To engage and support individuals and marginalised target groups (including young people) experiencing educational disadvantage to participate fully and achieve progression through life-long learning opportunities.
- To support the long-term unemployed, marginalised target groups and young people who are unemployed to improve work readiness and access employment/self-employment /social entrepreneurship.

The programme is managed locally by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in each Local Authority area. This is an important step in increasing the role of Local Authorities in local service delivery and takes account of the new aligned Local Authority/Local Development structures.



# Community Cultural and Social Development (CC&SD) - Annual Report 2015

Implementation of the programme is carried out by local Programme Implementers, which in County Wicklow are **Bray Area Partnership and County Wicklow Partnership**. The LCDCs will also have responsibility for monitoring the performance of the Programme Implementers in delivering the programme.

## 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 are 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.

Meetings and Consultation Workshops regarding the establishment of Age Friendly in County Wicklow were held throughout 2015.

## Leisure Facilities Operations.

**Charlesland Sport and Recreation Park and Skatepark,** 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 continues to provide a quality library service to the public. The Council's policy of providing 'free library membership' ensures that the public library service remains accessible to everyone and membership remained constant at over 30,000 in 2015.

Wicklow County Council Library Service operates thirteen branch libraries throughout the county. The Mobile Library serves a further 34 locations throughout the county. A library service is also provided to Shelton Abbey Open Prison. In addition, a monthly service is provided to some nineteen nursing homes in the county, including Carnew Community Care, Cheshire Home, Shillelagh and St. Coleman's Hospital, Rathdrum.

# Community Cultural and Social Development (CC&SD) - Annual Report 2015

## **New ‘Flagship’ Arklow Library and Arklow Municipal District Offices.**

The construction, fitting out and stocking of the new Arklow Library and Arklow Municipal District Offices at Main St., Arklow continued during 2015 and the project was completed towards the end of 2015.

The Irish Building and Design Award for the Cultural Project of the Year went to Coady Partnership Architects for the new Arklow Library and Arklow Municipal District Offices.

The new Arklow Library and Arklow Municipal District Offices comprise of 1,400 sq. metres over three floors.

The new Library will offer a range of facilities, apart from books, such as audio visual materials, free internet and wi-fi access, research and study space, relaxation space and facilities for special events and meetings.

The new Arklow Municipal District Headquarters will provide services and facilities for the public in the heart of the town and will attract increased footfall to Main Street.

## **Activity Programme in 2015 included:**

- Regular school class visits
- Exhibitions, incl. World Book Week Activities
- Culture Night 2015 events
- Book Clubs for adults and teenagers
- Arts and Crafts activities.
- Bealtaine Talks in Bray Library
- Historical talks
- Science week in Greystones Library
- Music Circle in Greystones Library
- Story reading for children
- Quizzes
- Maths Eyes in Blessington Library
- Wicklow Arts Festival in Wicklow Library
- Exhibitions, Commerations and Presentations for adults

## **Outreach and Social Inclusion.**

“**Shelf Help**” is a Mental Health initiative between the Health Services Executive, Kildare County Council and Wicklow County Council and is a collection of some 60 Book Titles covering various mental health topics, on display in Baltinglass, Blessington and Dunlavin Libraries.

## **“Accessibility for All”**

- Further research into the provision of books in electronic format.

- Introduction of Internationally recognised certified programme – Touch, Type, Read and Spell, particularly aimed at assisting people with special needs and dyslexia.

Wicklow County Council commits to outreach and public equality of access and social inclusion, to ensure equality of access to its public library service by :-

- Continue to develop the monthly Library Service to Nursing Homes and Hospitals in the County.
- Promote the Library Service to immigrants, including free internet access at all libraries and online access to Newspapers in 33 languages.
- Programme of Exhibitions, Commemorations and Presentations at Libraries, where space permits.

## **‘Touch Type Read and Spell’ (TTRS)**

This initiative was piloted in four schools across the county in 2015, through the Wicklow County Council Library Service. Teacher training was provided in Ballywaltrim Library and licences were then assigned to the schools and the pupils. The technology provides assisted learning to improve writing and phonics and feedback from the schools is extremely positive.

## **“Digitise the Nation” and “Get Ireland Online”**

Computer classes took place in Ballywaltrim, Bray, Baltinglass, Blessington and Greystones Libraries during 2015.

## **Wi-Fi Access.**

Wi-Fi access in libraries is proving very popular with the public and reflects the relevance of the public library today, with over 17,000 Wi-Fi sessions availed of in 2015.

## **New Technology and IT**

The Library Service has created a page on ‘Facebook’ to engage directly with users and other Agencies to promote the library service and to advertise events, facilities and new services, as they come on-stream.

More than 3,500 ‘Downloadable’ Audio Books were listened to in 2015.

E-books were introduced to library users in 2015, with an average of over 500 items being downloaded each month. Over 53,000 (36,000 on the Public PC’s and 17,000 Wi-Fi) online sessions were availed of in Wicklow Libraries during 2015.

# Community Cultural and Social Development (CC&SD) - Annual Report 2015

## Family History Centre and County Archives

### Wicklow Family History Centre.

The Wicklow Family History Centre is a genealogy research service and has computerised County Wicklow's Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland parish registers.

### The Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF)

The Irish Family History Foundation represents over 30 Irish County Centres and administers the Rootsireland website.

### Online Research Service – Pay per View records on [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie)

The Rootsireland website currently holds over 19 million records. The Wicklow Family History Centre features on the worldwide website, offering Irish parish records as a genealogy resource.

### County Wicklow Heritage Forum.

The Heritage Forum promotes County Wicklow in terms of genealogy and heritage tourism.

### Projects:

The genealogy service continues to process Research Projects for Diaspora families with 'Wicklow Roots'.

**The County Wicklow Heritage Website**, is part of a network of heritage websites created by the National Museum of Ireland. This site includes information on Wicklow's genealogy, history and heritage.

### Wicklow County Archives Service.

Records Management Programme:

- The archives service has developed documented systems for the retention and disposal of the records of Wicklow County Council, in partnership with Filestores. This programme continued during 2015.

## Community activity engaged in by Wicklow County Council throughout 2015:

### Comhairle na nÓg 2015.

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.

### Community Awards 2015.

The Community Award Grants for 2015 had an overall fund of €260,000 (€200,000 in Community Grant/Merit Awards and a further €60,000 in Community Social Innovation Awards). 180 Community Groups/Clubs/Voluntary Organisations benefitted under the Wicklow County Council Community Grants Award Scheme in 2015.

In addition, there were 5 Merit Awards and 10 Social Innovation Awards presented in 2015.



# Community Cultural and Social Development (CC&SD) - Annual Report 2015

## **Co-operation Ireland 'All - Island' Pride of Place Awards 2015.**

Wicklow County Council is proud to be involved again in the 2015 Annual IPB Co-operation Ireland All-Island Pride of Place Competition.

This is an annual prestigious competition, which 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 entered in 4 of the Categories for 2015.

### **Category 5**

#### **Theme – Age Friendly Community Initiative**

Carnew Community Care

Although a previous winner in 2008, Carnew Community Care has built on it's success and has introduced more initiatives to support and engage the Aged in the Community.

### **Category 6**

#### **Theme - Young People in the Community Initiative**

**Be Well Bray** – young people showing how a positive and strengths based approach to mental well being can make a difference.

Be Well continue to bring a positive mental health dimension to teens and other youth groups.

### **Category 7**

#### **Theme - Community Health Initiative**

Tiglin Rehabilitation Centre, Ashford – Helping people overcome their drug and alcohol problems. Provides individuals with an effective and comprehensive solution to life-controlling addiction problems, including gambling, in order to become productive members of society. The Tiglin Rehabilitation Centre Challenge endeavours to help people become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well, and spiritually alive.

### **Category 10**

#### **Theme - Population over 2,000**

Ticking all the boxes with its wealth of Community Infrastructure, Social Enterprise, Social Inclusion Initiatives, Environmental Initiatives, Arts Festivals, Enterprise and Commerce, Health and Fitness and Youth and Community Development , Wicklow Town is this year's worthy entry

under the Urban Neighbourhood category.

Wicklow won two of the top prizes in the 2015 Annual IPB Co-operation Ireland All-Island Pride of Place Awards, where they faced stiff competition from all over the country.

**Carnew Community Care** won top prize in the Age Friendly Community Initiative category, while **Tiglin Rehabilitation Centre** won runner-up position in the Community Health Initiative category.

In their citation the judges said of Carnew Community Care: "The winner in this category concerns a community of which the judges said that it would be difficult if not impossible to find a more comprehensive range of facilities and initiatives to assist the elderly than those provided in this rural village. The quality and extent of sheltered housing and an excellent community building further endorse this wonderful model village as a standard bearer in Elderly Care".

The judges were extremely impressed with the quality and ethos of the services offered in Tiglin Rehabilitation Centre in Ashford, highlighting the fact that Tiglin Rehabilitation Centre endeavours to help people become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well and spiritually alive. They added: "The Centre provides individuals with an effective and comprehensive solution to life controlling addiction problems in order to become productive members of society. What Tiglin Rehabilitation Centre has to offer is quite unique with an exceptional success rate."

# Community Cultural and Social Development (CC&SD) - Annual Report 2015

## 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 Childrens 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 Childrens Playground

### Skateparks: -

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

### Playgrounds facilitated

by Wicklow County Council in partnership: -

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

## Baltinglass Community Park.

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; Aughrim Community Sports and Leisure; Glenealy Village Hall; Blessington and District Forum Trails; Wicklow Skatepark 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 Failte Ireland.
- Wicklow Local Sports Partnership Strategy.
- Wicklow County Council's own Bray to Greystones Scenic Sea Cliff Walk and Tourist Trail.

## 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.

# Community Cultural and Social Development (CC&SD) - Annual Report 2015

## WICKLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP. (LSP). County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town. (0404) 20208

### Overview

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership was established in 2008, supported by the 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 objectives of Wicklow Local Sports Partnership are identified in its Strategic Plan 2010 – 2013 (under review) 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 2015

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

- Twelve Code of Ethics courses were completed in 2015
- Community coaching programme for people who are unemployed ran for fourteen weeks beginning in November 2015 with twelve participants from Arklow
- Provision and distribution of Bike Week grants to groups around County Wicklow
- Go for Life games and PALS training was held for the provision of activity for older adults throughout County Wicklow
- Schools based activity programmes were co-ordinated, namely; 'Be Active After School', Camogie, School Hall Athletics.
- Operation Transformation walks were held in Bray, Wicklow and Arklow
- Physical activity was provided for those with a disability, namely; Futsal, Basketball for All and Swimming.
- Community based physical activity programmes, namely; Community Resilience Programme and Community Walking Programme.

### Planned actions for 2016

- Provision of Code of Ethics, First Aid and disability inclusion training
- Establishment of a sports and physical activity club for children with disabilities in conjunction with other partners
- 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.

The Wicklow Local Sports Partnership is on Facebook and Twitter.

**Web:** [www.wicklowlsp.ie](http://www.wicklowlsp.ie)



# Community Cultural and Social Development (CC&SD) - Annual Report 2015

## **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.

## **The Wicklow Arts and Music Network Programme includes;**

- Arts Strategy 2016 – 2019 and Public Arts Policy.
- Promotion of the Arts in County Wicklow.
- Support outside venues and provide advocacy and advisory services for Artists.
- Administer Art and Artists Grant and Bursary Support Schemes.
- Community Arts Programme.
- Music Generation Wicklow in Partnership with Kildare/Wicklow Education & Training Board and Wicklow County Council. This is a music instrumental education programme strategically targeting those with social, cultural or geographic exclusion.
- Artlinks Programme.
- Absolutely Wicklow.
- Youth Arts Support and Education Programme in Film, Music, Visual, Art and Drama.
- Youth Choir Development.
- Thinking Visual – Visual Arts in Education.
- Get Vocal Choir. Older Persons Choral Programme extended to four locations in County Wicklow.
- Culture Night 2015.
- Per Cent for Arts Programme.

### **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 2015. 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 Local Authorities are meeting their obligations.

### **Audit Committee**

The Wicklow County Council Audit Committee was initially established in 2007 under the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2005 and its membership during 2015 comprised:

- Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman
- Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman
- Cllr. Pat Casey
- Ms. Mary Savage
- Cllr. Edward Timmins

The functions of the Audit Committee include:

- To review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the Local Authority
- To foster the development of best practice in the Internal Audit function
- To review the Local Government Audited Reports and Special Reports and assess follow-up action by Management
- To assess and promote efficiency and ‘value for money’
- To make such recommendation to the Council as the committee considers appropriate.
- To review the findings and recommendations of the National Oversight & Audit Commission (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 the Annual Report to the Council in April 2015.

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

- Road Opening Licences
- Review of Compliance with the Financial Procedures Manual
- Review of VAT
- Fixed Assets
- Debt Management

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

## Enterprise and Corporate Services

### Conferences attended in 2015

| <i>Conference &amp; Training</i>                | <i>Date</i>                    | <i>Number of Attendees</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| AILG Training, Arklow                           | 21st February 2015             | 7                          |
| EU Funding, Carlingford                         | 27th February – 1st March 2015 | 1                          |
| AILG Conference, Carrickmacross                 | 12/13 March 2015               | 9                          |
| AILG Training, Cellbridge                       | 2nd April 2015                 | 9                          |
| LAMA Spring Seminar, Tuam                       | 11th April 2015                | 7                          |
| AILG Training, Portlaoise                       | 21st April 2015                | 3                          |
| Crime Prevention, Galway                        | 8th – 9th May 20, 2015         | 1                          |
| EU support Programmes Irish Regions, Clonakilty | 5th – 7th June 2015            | 2                          |
| AILG Training, Longford                         | 12th June 2015                 | 6                          |
| Local Authority Budgets, Wexford                | 20th – 22nd November 2015      | 1                          |
| Local Economic & Community Plans                | 4th – 6th September 2015       | 1                          |
| Regulation of Lobbying Act, Carlingford         | 18th – 20th September 2015     | 1                          |
| La Touche Legacy Conference, Greystones         | 25th September 2015            | 14                         |
| A Practical Guide to Budget 2015                | 23rd – 25th October 2015       | 3                          |
| AILG Seminar, Clonakilty                        | 1st – 2nd October 2015         | 10                         |
| LAMA Conference, Kilkenny                       | 8th October 2015               | 4                          |
| AILG Training, Tullamore                        | 5th October 2015               | 6                          |
| Hidden Potential Of Irish Towns, Kilkenny       | 5th November 2015              | 1                          |
| AILG Training, Dublin                           | 6 November 2015                | 1                          |
| Disability Strategy Conference                  | 26th November 2015             | 1                          |





## Enterprise and Corporate Services

### County Wicklow Film Commission Annual Report

The County Wicklow Film Commission is the longest established film commission in Ireland, committed to attracting audio-visual production into the county. 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 production ranging from feature film to commercial, short film, television production 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 'The Tudors' 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 familiarisations trips along the Wicklow film trails.

In 2015 County Wicklow experienced high levels of production activity. Over 340 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.

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 2015 was the third series of 'Vikings' in the film studios at Ballyhenry, Ashford. It is estimated that the €30m production has employed over 500 Irish cast and crew and invested a hefty €20m in the County, from everything to set designs, studio facilities, and employing thousands of extras.

Other projects that were filmed in County Wicklow during 2015 include the Irish Film Board funded film 'Without a name' that shot in Glendalough for a couple of days. Up and coming film director Gerard Barrett directed a TV3 production called 'Small Town' which was all set around

Ashford and Wicklow Town. The Norwegian feature films, 'Fergie the Little Grey tractor I and II' were shot from Ashford Studios during the late summer. The second series of the production 'Penny Dreadful' occupied Ardmore Studios for many months and also used many locations around the county.

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) 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 explored by the Film Development Group and other relevant stakeholders during 2015.

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.

#### Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College Rathnew

#### Overview of Energy Usage in 2015

The main energy user is to heat the all the campus buildings. LPG gas is used for heating. Total LPG consumption for 2015: 34,182 Litres

Total Electricity consumption for 2015: 196,198KWH

In 2015 electricity supplied by Energia has been sourced from the following fuels:

- 74.6% Renewable sources
- 25.5% Fossil: gas/coal/peat/other

No use of natural gas or gasoil in Clermont.  
450 Litres of petrol were used for grass cutting and strimming.

#### Actions Undertaken in 2015

In 2015 Wicklow County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

- Introduction of a waste separation system.
- To manually turn down radiators and turn off unnecessary lighting through the year.
- To put draft excluders on all the windows on the top floor of Clermont House.

#### Actions Planned for 2016

In 2016 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 is wasted annually.
- 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.
- To replace all outdoor lighting on campus with LED lamps.

#### 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 65 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 Wicklow County Enterprise Board and Teagasc.

A strong partnership is in place with the national and local development agencies such as the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, 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 2008-2013

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 2015 a review of this strategy was continued to be finalised in 2016.

## Enterprise and Corporate Services

### 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 2015 there were some 330 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 300 students have graduated from the College with various degrees since 2006.

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

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 2015 in Wicklow County Campus include:

- The Local Enterprise Office Student Enterprise Awards.
- The Local Enterprise Office Best Young Entrepreneur County Wicklow finals.
- Two Conferring Ceremonies of Awards and Prizes – Institute of Technology Carlow. Over 100 graduates were conferred at these ceremonies.
- Three 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.

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



## 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: SafePass, 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 & 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 & 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.

## Maintenance Grants

Maintenance is payable at eight different rates. NA (non-adjacent) rates apply where a candidate lives over 45 kilometres from the college while the A (adjacent) rates apply where a candidate resides 45 kilometres or less from the college. The rates of maintenance for the academic year 2015/2016 are as follows:

|                        | Non-Adjacent Rate |     | Adjacent Rate |    |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----|---------------|----|
| Full Maintenance       | €3,025            | NA1 | €1,215        | A1 |
| Part Maintenance (75%) | €2,270            | NA2 | €910          | A2 |
| Part Maintenance (50%) | €1,515            | NA3 | €605          | A3 |
| Part Maintenance (25%) | €755              | NA4 | €305          | A4 |

## Special Rate of Maintenance Grants for disadvantaged students (Top-Up Grants)

In July 2001 the Department of Education & Skills introduced special rates of maintenance grants in respect of disadvantaged students who are in receipt of NA1 and A1 category grants. The special rate for full non-adjacent grant is €5,915 and for full adjacent rate is €2,375. The income limit (net of standard exclusions as set out in Clause 1 of the Scheme and child dependant allowance) is €22,703 for the year ended 31st December 2015 and must include an element of Social Welfare (a specified long term qualifying payment only as per Scheme) as part of the income.

## Free Fees Initiative

The free fees initiative was introduced in 1995 and came into full effect in the 1996/97 academic year. Under the initiative, undergraduate students are charged a registration fee only in the sum of €3,000\* in respect of their attendance at third level courses. Students attending postgraduate courses in approved institutions in Ireland and Northern Ireland are entitled to a maximum fee grant of €6,270 if they satisfy the relevant clauses of the grant scheme. There is no funding available in respect of post-graduate study outside of Ireland.

\*All students qualifying for a grant are also entitled to the registration fee.

## Enterprise and Corporate Services

### Income Limits

The income limits for the 2015/2016 Scheme are set out in the following table:

| Number of Dependent Children | Full Maintenance and Full Fees | Part Maintenance (75%) and Full Fees | Part Maintenance (50%) and Full Fees | Part Maintenance (25%) and Full Fees | Fees (100%) only* | Fees (50%) only |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Less than 4                  | 39,875                         | 40,790                               | 43,380                               | 45,790                               | 49,840            | 54,240          |
| 4 – 7                        | 43,810                         | 45,025                               | 47,670                               | 50,325                               | 54,765            | 59,595          |
| 8 or more                    | 47,575                         | 48,890                               | 51,760                               | 54,630                               | 59,455            | 64,700          |

\*Full Student Service Charge is paid where income is at or below this level.

### Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act 2014 came into effect on the 14th 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 decisions affecting oneself.

Wicklow County Council received a total of 63 requests during 2015. This was almost double the amount of applications received during 2014.

# Enterprise and Corporate Services

## 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 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 2015.

## 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. Enterprise Centres have not escaped the affects of the challenging financial times however significant development and expansion has taken place in this area 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.

It is proposed to develop new enterprise centres in Greystones and Bray also.

## 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 which opened its doors for business in early, 2014.

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, Aughrim, Blessington and Ashford.

## Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

In accordance with the guidelines for the establishment and operation of the SPCs, Wicklow County Council established the Economic Development Enterprise Support SPC in September, 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 2015 the SPC along with the Local Community Development Committee concentrated its work on the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) which will set out the objectives and actions needed to support economic development and local community development.



## Enterprise and Corporate Services

### Local Economic Plan

Supporting business growth and competitiveness and creating new employment opportunities in the County are critical to establishing and maintaining economic prosperity and a good quality of life in County Wicklow. During 2015 a substantial amount of work was undertaken in the preparation of the Local Economic Plan feeding from the work of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank. A Social Economic Statement was completed in 2015 which sets out 10 high level goals, 5 of which relate to Economic and Enterprise Development as follows:-

- Develop infrastructure and measures that are supportive and positive 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
- 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
- Harness efficiently the full resources of the County and promote interagency collaboration.

The County Wicklow Strategic Economic Framework prepared in 2015 will inform and support the preparation of the Local Economic Plan which it is expected to complete in early 2016.

### Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee – public meetings

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee continued to meet quarterly in 2015. 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 a Public meeting on 22nd April, 2015 in Kilcoole and in Blessington on the 12th of October.

The committee's focus during 2015 was the progression of the JPC Annual Work Plan and the 6 Year Strategic Plan. To progress these plans four working committees under the following headings were formed to work in line with the Divisional Garda Policing Plan, the objectives of the Local Community and Economic Plan and feedback from public meetings i.e. 1) Policing Communities, 2) Tackling crime in rural areas, 3) Drug Prevention and 4) Communications

### Members Expenses

Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance  
**€ 30,000**

Leas-Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance  
**€ 6,000**

SPC Annual Allowance (€500 per month per chair of SPC)  
**€ 30,000.00**

Annual Representational Allowance  
**€524,112**

Councillors Annual Allowance  
**€229,828**

Internal Conferences & Training (Costs, Travel & Subs)  
**€25,859.44**

Foreign Conferences  
**€1,718**

### Ombudsman

Any person who is dissatisfied with the manner in which they have been dealt with by the Local Authority may appeal to the Ombudsman.

Wicklow County Council, including the Municipal Districts had a total of 26 outstanding cases with the Ombudsman at the end of 2015.

### Partnership Agreements

The Partnership agreement between Wicklow County Council/Bray Town Council and the city of Würzburg has been in place since 1999 and continues to grow from strength to strength.

In April 2015 Wicklow County Council hosted an exhibition of photographs by world renowned playwright John Millington Synge titled "My Wallet of Photographs". The exhibition featured photographs of everyday life in the villages of County Wicklow taken by Synge, at the turn of the century when photography was very new technology. Synge had strong Wicklow connections and spent a considerable amount of time in the county in his youth. He studied music for a period of time in Würzburg also, before deciding to pursue a career in writing.

It was the Würzburg/Wicklow connection that inspired the President of the German Irish Association of Würzburg, Mr Matthias Fleckenstein to put the photographic exhibition together. The images were reproduced by kind permission of

## Enterprise and Corporate Services

the Board of Trinity College, Dublin. The exhibition had been on show at the Irish Embassy in Berlin and in Mullagh, County Cavan, birthplace of St Kilian, Patron Saint of Würzburg. The exhibition was officially opened in County Buildings, Wicklow by Oberbürgermeister Christian Schuchardt of the City of Würzburg, who led a small delegation to Wicklow for the visit.

A group from County Wicklow including members of the Irish German Association of County Wicklow visited Würzburg in May 2015 and participated in official celebrations to mark fifteen years of partnership.

In June 2015 a Letter of Intent on the establishment of a Sister County/Province Relationship between County Wicklow and Hainan Province of the People's Republic of China was signed. Signatories representing Wicklow and Hainan Province agreed to promote people to people friendly contacts and economic and trade interflow and co-operation in the fields of forestry, science and technology, tourism and environment.

It is hoped the this agreement will be of enormous benefit to the county from a tourism and trade perspective.

### 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 2015/2016 register was 93,809. 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 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 call 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 25th 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 Delvelopment

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.

In 2015 training was delivered to staff throughout the year on a wide variety of topics including: Health and Safety, Customer Care, Personal Development Training, Agresso Training, Legislative Training, IT Training, Risk Management Training, Managerial Development Training, interview preparation training, Data Protection training and Pre-retirement training







# Arklow Municipal District

## District Members

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Sylvester Bourke (FG)

**Leas-Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Pat Kennedy (FF)

**Council Members:**  
Councillor Pat Fitzgerald (FF)  
Councillor Tommy Annesley (FF)  
Councillor Miriam Murphy (IND)  
Councillor Mary McDonald (SF)

## 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 | Frances Clinton |
| Clerical Officer        | Jacinta Jameson |
| Clerical Officer        | Julie Kenny     |
| Clerical Officer        | Pauline Canavan |

## Contact Details

**Address:**  
Arklow Municipal District Offices,  
Castle Park, Arklow,  
Co Wicklow.

**Telephone:** 0402 42700  
**Email:** arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie  
**Website:** 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 880.

The offices of Arklow Municipal District relocated to a new building in Castle Park, Arklow and opened to the public on Tuesday 8th December 2015.

The public counter is opened from 9.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 to 5.00 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 2015 a total of 5325 counter receipts were issued.



## Opening of the AMD Offices 8th December 2015

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

## Community Sector

### Economic Development Funding

The members of AMD funded eight projects under this heading. The total funding awarded amounted to €20,000.

### Festival Funding

23 applications were received for assistance under this scheme. The total funding awarded amounted to €20,000.

### Bursary Scheme

The Members of AMD provided funding to Avondale Community College, Rathdrum under the Bursary Scheme for 2015. The total funding awarded amounted to €5,000.

### Christmas Lights

AMD continued to be responsible for the erection, maintenance and cost of the Christmas Lights in Arklow Town. The total funding awarded by the Members amounted to €31,250

### Arklow Christmas Festival

Following a public meeting in July 2015 initiated by AMD a committee was formed in order to develop a Christmas Festival for the town. The objective of the committee is to increase footfall during the Christmas period and create a Christmas atmosphere for the town.

### Chambers Ireland Awards

Arklow Municipal District won a Chambers Ireland Award for a submission under the category Parks and Recreation. The submission was on the Duck Pond, Nature Walk and Leisure Area.



## Retail / Business Sector

### Free Parking

Arklow Municipal District continued to support the retail/business sector by allowing four weeks free parking during the Christmas period. Parking continues to be free every weekend in Arklow Town.

### 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

The results of the National Tidy Towns competition were announced in September 2015. Four villages and one town from within the Arklow Municipal District participated in the National Tidy Towns Competition for 2015 and achieved the following results:-

- **Ballycoogue – 221**, up 8 points on 2014, (Category A : village population of under 200).
- **Avoca – 291**, up 5 points on 2014, (Category B : village population of 201-1,000).
- **Aughrim – 315**, up 5 points on 2014, (Category C : small town population 1,001-2,500). Winners of their category in the county award – Gold medal.
- **Rathdrum – 248**, up 4 points on 2014, (Category E : large town population 5001-10,000).
- **Arklow – 298**, up 7 points on 2014, (Category F : large town population 10,001-15,000). Winner of their category in the county award – Bronze medal.

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.

A number of road strengthen projects and footpaths were completed within the District in 2015.

The National Transport Authority funded improvement works to the Bridge Street Junction of Arklow Town in order to make the junction more pedestrian friendly.

Coastal Protection works were carried out on South Beach, Arklow during 2015.

# Baltinglass Municipal District

## District Members

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Cathaoirleach:</b>      | Councillor Jim Ruttie (NP)  |
| <b>Leas-Cathaoirleach:</b> | Councillor Edward Timmins (FG)  |
| <b>Council Members:</b>    | Councillor Vincent Blake (FG)<br>Councillor Tommy Cullen (NP)<br>Councillor Pat Doran (FF)<br>Councillor Gerry O'Neill (SF) |

## Municipal District Staff

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Director of Services:                          | Sean Quirke   |
| District Engineer & Blessington Area Engineer: | Declan Geraghty   |
| Tinahely Area Engineer:                        | Dermot Graham   |
| District Administrator:                        | Máire Halvey  |
| Technician:                                    | Roger Morrison  |
| Assistant Staff Officers:                      | Evelyn Brady (Blessington Area Office)<br>Geraldine Jordan (Tinahely Area Office) |

## Contact Details

### Address:

Civic Offices,  
Blessington Business Park,  
Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

|                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Telephone:</b> | 045 - 891222                 |
| <b>Fax No:</b>    | 045 - 865813                 |
| <b>Email:</b>     | baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie |

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.

## Baltinglass Municipal District

A number of road improvement and road maintenance projects totalling approximately twenty six kilometres were completed in the District as well as footpaths in Coolboy, Carnew and Tinahely.

The members of Baltinglass Municipal District funded the following projects from their discretionary budget:

- Public Lighting in Baltinglass, Blessington, Ballyknockan, Carrigacurra, Fiddan, Winetavern, and Donard
- Speed Ramps at Blessington Abbey and Blessington Orchard
- Provision of new footpaths in Carnew and Tinahely
- Road surfacing at Mill Bank, Shillelagh
- Contributions to local tidy towns committees, Christmas lights and other community groups

The monthly meetings of the Municipal District provided lively debate on a variety of issues. Members received deputations from Donard Glen Focus Group and Kildare National Roads Office at the meetings as well as presentations from the Housing and Corporate Estate, Transportation and Roads, Economic Development and Community Cultural and Social Development departments of Wicklow County Council.

Meetings are usually held in between Civic Offices in Blessington but to raise awareness of the municipal district structures set up in 2014, a number of the monthly meetings were held in Donard, Dunlavin and Carnew. At the December 2015 meeting held in Carnew, a presentation was made to Sr. Mary Crosbie to commemorate Carnew Community Care Limited winning first place in the Age Friendly Community Initiative category at the 2015 IPB/Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place Awards.

Baltinglass Municipal District is represented 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

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.

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

Blessington Skate Park opened in 2015 and has become a well used and valued addition to the town’s facilities.

A piece of Dunlavin’s heritage was returned to the Market House, Dunlavin in December 2015 when the restored bell, which had been damaged in a fire in 1966, was unveiled by Councillor Jim Ruttle, Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District.



# Bray Municipal District

## Council Members

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Brendan Thornhill (Ind)

**Leas-Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Steven Mathews (GP)

**Council Members:**  
Councillor Joe Behan (Ind)  
Councillor John Brady (SF)  
Councillor Christopher Fox (Ind)  
Councillor Oliver O'Brien (SF)  
Councillor John Ryan (Fine Gael)  
Councillor Pat Vance (FF)

## Senior Staff

Director of Services: Des O'Brien  
District Administrator: David Forde  
District Engineer: Liam Bourke  
Administrative Officer,  
Housing/River Dargle  
Flood Defence Scheme: Triona Irving

## Contact Details

**Address:**  
Civic Offices,  
Main Street, Bray,  
Co Wicklow.

**Telephone:** 01 2744900  
**Fax No:** 01 2860930  
**Email:** braymd@wicklowcoco.ie  
**Website:** www.braytowncouncil.ie  
**Area:** 12,350 hectares  
**Population:** 35,000

## Community Festivals

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| St Patrick's Festival | €17,000 |
| Bray Summerfest       | €7,500  |
| Bray Air Display      | €7,500  |

## Community Involvement

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Christmas Lighting                 | €20,000 |
| Tourism Development<br>& Promotion | €10,000 |

## The following list represents just some of Bray Municipal District key involvements in 2015

- Renaming of Bray Bridge to the Fran O'Toole Bridge.
- Works on the River Dargle Flood Protection Scheme are ongoing. It is anticipated that the scheme will be substantially complete by October 2016.
- Purple Flag Renewal.
- Easter Promotion.
- The Christmas programme of activities for Bray included a Shopping Stroll, Christmas Lights, Santa Experience.
- Installation of new storm sewer at Vevay Village, Bray.
- Extended the Sugarloaf Carpark.
- Upgraded the communications for the coordination of traffic signals from the Townhall to Dublin Road, Bray.
- Modified traffic signals at Dublin Road/ Old Connaught Avenue to effect significantly reduced journey times north bound.
- Upgraded foul drainage for the Bogmeadow, Enniskerry.
- Regraded and reconstructed roadway and footpaths at Knocksink Road, Enniskerry.
- Resurfaced Scalp Road, Enniskerry.
- Reconstructed the Red Lane at Calary Upper, Kilmacanogue.
- Drainage works and resurfaced Old Long Hill, Kilmacanogue.
- Drainage works and reconstructed footpaths at Millfield, Enniskerry.
- Commenced the construction of the Strand Road Cycle Scheme, Bray.

# Greystones Municipal District

## District Members

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Grainne McLoughlin (FG)

**Leas-Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Jennifer Whitmore (NP)

**Council Members:**  
Councillor Derek Mitchell (FG)  
Councillor Nicola Lawless (SF)  
Councillor Gerry Walsh (FF)  
Councillor Tom Fortune (NP)

## District Staff:

Director of Services: Michael Nicholson  
District Engineer: Ruairi O' Hanlon  
District Administrator: Myra Porter  
Technician: Vincent Byrne  
Assistant Staff Officer: Anne Marie Roberts  
Clerical Officers: Kay Coughlan  
Lily Davis  
Andrea Egan

## Contact Details

**Address:**  
Mill Road,  
Greystones,  
Co. Wicklow.

**Telephone:** 01 2876694  
**Fax No:** 01 2877173  
**Email:** 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 (146 KM). The number of social house 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.

## Greystones Municipal District

A number of road improvement projects were completed within the District in 2015. The National Transport Authority funded road improvement works on the Sea Road, Kilcoole, provision of footpaths and public lighting on Three Trouts Bridge and on the R761 at Woodstock, Kilcoole. Road improvement and maintenance schemes were completed in a number of residential areas throughout the district. Works also commenced to provide a footway at St. Crispin's Cell to improve access to this important historic site.

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

- Zebra crossings in the district were provided with improved low level floodlighting to improve visibility at night.
- Burnaby Heights to Killincarrig footpath.
- Provision of new footpath, seating and lighting in Burnaby Park.
- Footpath through the park in Newcastle.
- Benches for South Beach playground.

Greystones 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. Members received representatives from Greystones Tidy Towns, Bray Area Partnership and the Dog Park Campaign group at their meetings.

Christmas lights were provided in association with Greystones Business Community Group who organised an afternoon of family entertainment and outdoor market 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, followed by an outdoor screening of the film Frozen. Greystones Municipal District continued to support the retail and business sector by allowing free parking on Saturdays in the run up to Christmas.

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.

Participants on the Gateway Labour Activation scheme continued to assist with maintenance and improvement of public areas. Gateway it is a government initiative to provide training and work experience for people in receipt of job seekers allowance to assist them to get back into the workplace. Participants work 19.5 hours a week and are engaged in a number of projects to enhance and improve public areas and facilities.

Work continued to improve access to the amenities of the harbour development, including the commencement of construction of the community clubhouses. 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 harbour & coastal protection works. When completed the development will include facilities for local sporting clubs, public square and park, a boardwalk and improved access to the cliff walk. Also included will be retail facilities including shops, restaurants and residential units.

# Wicklow Municipal District

## District Members

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Pat Casey (FF)  
Councillor Irene Winters (FG)

**Leas-Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Irene Winters (FG)  
Cathaoirleach  
Councillor John Snell (SF)

**Council Members:**  
Councillor Daire Nolan (IND)  
Councillor John Snell (SF)  
Councillor Shay Cullen (FG)  
Councillor Pat Kavanagh (IND)

## District Staff:

District Manager: Loraine Lynch  
District Engineer: Paul Byrne  
District Administrator: David Porter  
Executive Engineer: Alan Martin  
Technician: Aidan Doyle  
Assistant Staff Officer: Catherine McCann  
Clerical Officers: Caroline Lynch  
Sinead Turner  
Frances Clinton/Julia Nugent

## Contact Details

**Address:**  
Wicklow Municipal District,  
Wicklow County Council,  
County Buildings, Station Road,  
Wicklow.

**Telephone:** 0404 20100  
**Email:** wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie  
**Website:** www.wicklow.ie

As part of the amalgamation process from the 1st June 2014 the Town Councils became Municipal Districts. Wicklow Municipal District is responsible for over 900 Local Authority Houses and 423 Kilometres of road.

The offices are based in Wicklow County Buildings and the public counter is open from 9:00 – 1:00 & 2:00 – 5:00 each day and deals with a wide variety of queries including: housing repairs, roads and general queries.

The members of Wicklow Municipal District hold their meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 3:00pm in the Town Hall with the exception of August when, no meeting is held.

## Housing

Wicklow Municipal District is responsible for the maintenance and repair of over 900 Local Authority Houses. 974 repair requests were logged during 2015 including 221 plumbing repairs, 207 heating repairs and 111 electrical repairs.

Wicklow Municipal District Technical staff provided technical support and supervised the works on 9 Disabled Person Grants (DPG) during 2015.

## Roads

The following road works were carried out in 2015:

- R755 Annamoe to Raheen – Road Surface Overlay
- R755 Laragh to Kilifin – Surface Dressing
- L6088 Trooperstown to Lickeen – Road Strengthening
- L6086 Laragh to Ballard – Road Strengthening
- L1076 Tomriland Crossroads to Roundwood Park – Surface Dressing
- R750 Threemilewater to Ballinacarrig – Surface Dressing
- L5103 Herbst Farm to Convent – Road Strengthening
- L5605 Bonagrew to Brittas – Road Strengthening
- L1041 Ballinastoe to Altidore – Road Strengthening
- L1037 Newtown to Altidore – Road Strengthening

## Promotion of interest local community

The sum of €25,000 was allocated in respect of Promotion of Interest of Local Community and the sum of €5,000 was allocated in respect of Tidy Towns. Contributions were made to The Regatta Festival, Taste of Wicklow, Wicklow Arts Festival, and Saint Patrick's Day Parade.



# Wicklow Municipal District

## Twinning of local authority areas

The sum of €6,340 was spent in respect of Town Twinning this involved a contribution of €3,000 to the Twinning Association, contribution to Wicklow Rugby Club for the hosting of teams from Montigny and subsidising trips both to and from Eichenzell and Montigny.

## Discretionary Income

The following footpath works were carried out during 2015 and were funded by discretionary income:

- Roundwood: R765 Toherbeg to Bridge
- Colley Row, Wicklow Town
- Ashford (Various locations)
- Hollygrove Estate, Wicklow Town
- Hollybrook Estate, Wicklow Town
- Glenview Park Housing Estate, Kilpedder

Public lighting projects in Ashford, Rathnew and Glenealy were also completed under the Discretionary Income programme.

The Elected Members allocated a total of €84,375 in discretionary income to various projects including footpaths and public lighting as outlined above and also contributed to various community groups including Tidy Towns throughout the District. The Elected Members also apportioned funds to fencing at Ballynerrin playground and the Cliff Walk, Wicklow.

## Murrough Playground

2015 also saw the opening of the new playground on the Murrough which added to the outdoor gym, skatepark and BMX track considerably enhances this wonderful amenity.

## Swimming Pool

Wicklow Municipal District provided technical support to CCSD for the repairs to the swimming pool roof following extensive damage in the winter storms. Services provided included supervision of construction, liaison with Contractor etc.

## General

The Municipal District made a contribution to the Chamber of Commerce towards the Christmas lights and contributed to and facilitated a wide number of varied events during the year including: St.Patrick's Day Parade, The Regatta, Taste of Wicklow and many more.

The District helped support the commercial and retail sector by providing 3 hours free parking for the three weeks prior to Christmas and also contributed a prize of a years free parking to the retailers Christmas shop local draw. The District maintains close links with the Chamber of Commerce to continue the improvement of the Wicklow District.

Members and staff continued to work closely with Tidy Towns groups in the District and acknowledge the efforts of the many volunteers who work so hard during the year and contribute hugely to the successes of the local towns and villages in the IBAL and Tidy Town's competitions.

# Energy Consumption

## Energy Usage 2015

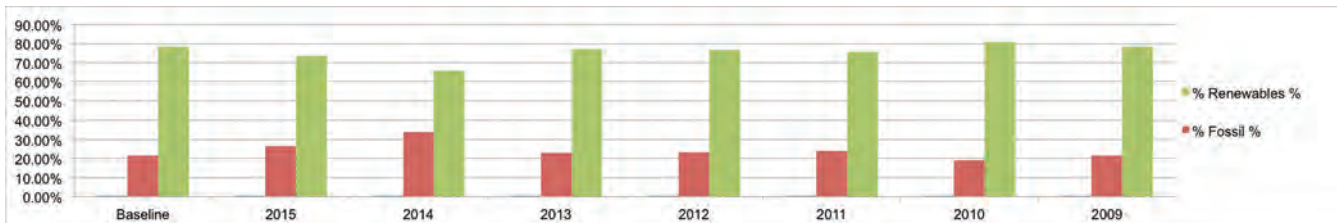
SI 542 of 2009 and SI 426 of 2014. – All Public Bodies are required to report annually on their energy consumption and performance. The National Requirement is to reduce public sector energy consumption by 33% by 2020 or 3% p/a. Wicklow County Council are currently at 8% at end of last reporting cycle 31/12/14 – over all shortfall of 25%.

The main areas of spend for Wicklow County Council in 2015 are as follows:

- Roads Directorate – Public Lighting, Electricity, & Road Diesel – Machinery fleet
- Water & Environment Directorate – Electricity & Diesel – Recycling Centres, Fire Stations
- Housing & Corporate Estate– Electric, Gas & Diesel – Corporate buildings
- Community, Cultural & Social Development – – Electric, Gas & Diesel - Libraries

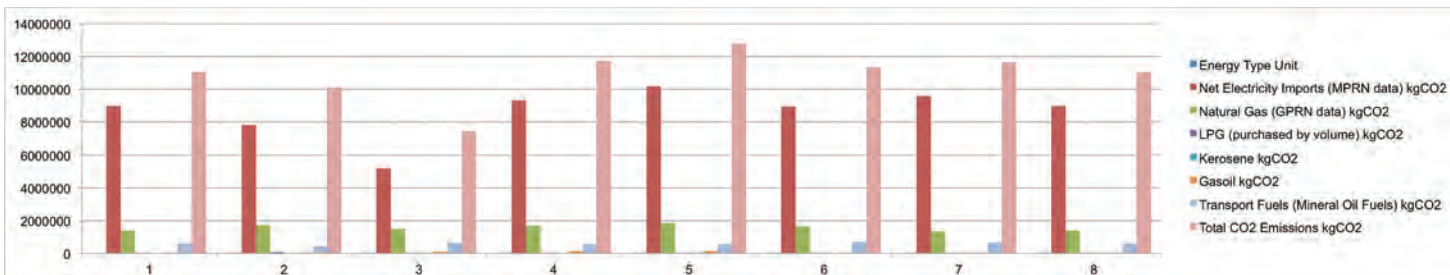
## Summary

|                    |     | Baseline | 2015     | 2014     | 2013     | 2012     | 2011     | 2010     | 2009     |
|--------------------|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Renewables         | kWh | 41984    | 62146    | 98994    | 72499    | 58699    | 89918    | 73787    | 41984    |
| Fossil             | kWh | 10176650 | 11868976 | 11366422 | 11787092 | 12706701 | 12207915 | 9441457  | 10176650 |
| Grid Electricity   | kWh | 37422736 | 32995288 | 22138948 | 39525368 | 42028304 | 38419452 | 40490744 | 37422736 |
| Total              | kWh | 47641370 | 44926410 | 33604364 | 51384959 | 54793704 | 50717285 | 50005988 | 47641370 |
|                    |     | Baseline | 2015     | 2014     | 2013     | 2012     | 2011     | 2010     | 2009     |
| % Renewables       | %   | 0.1%     | 0.1%     | 0.3%     | 0.1%     | 0.1%     | 0.2%     | 0.1%     | 0.1%     |
| % Fossil           | %   | 21.4%    | 26.4%    | 33.8%    | 22.9%    | 23.2%    | 24.1%    | 18.9%    | 21.4%    |
| % Grid Electricity | %   | 78.6%    | 73.4%    | 65.9%    | 76.9%    | 76.7%    | 75.8%    | 81%      | 78.6%    |



## CO2 Emissions

| Category        | Energy Type                         | Unit  | Baseline | 2015     | 2014    | 2013     | 2012     | 2011     | 2010     | 2009     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Energy          | Net Electricity Imports (MPRN data) | kgCO2 | 8981572  | 7805515  | 5189500 | 9328169  | 10203120 | 8949076  | 9590283  | 9590283  |
| Thermal         | Natural Gas (GPRN data)             | kgCO2 | 1396943  | 1716816  | 1490965 | 1676650  | 1840397  | 1659371  | 1341966  | 1396943  |
| Thermal         | LPG (purchased by volume)           | kgCO2 | 28821    | 54057    | 1841    | 20554    | 20554    | 12880    | 9709     | 28821    |
| Heating Oils    | Kerosene                            | kgCO2 | 34892    | 2,524    | 7128    | 25435    | 25435    | 16129    | 30846    | 34892    |
| Heating Oils    | Gasoil                              | kgCO2 | 20449    | 39162    | 109357  | 152968   | 152968   | 5890     | 12644    | 20449    |
| Transport Fuels | Transport Fuels (Mineral Oil Fuels) | kgCO2 | 580584   | 465608   | 644639  | 542731   | 546442   | 700032   | 668409   | 580584   |
| Total           | Total CO2 Emissions                 | kgCO2 | 11046265 | 10098596 | 7443770 | 11750585 | 12792994 | 11343377 | 11653890 | 11046265 |



## Financial Statement

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

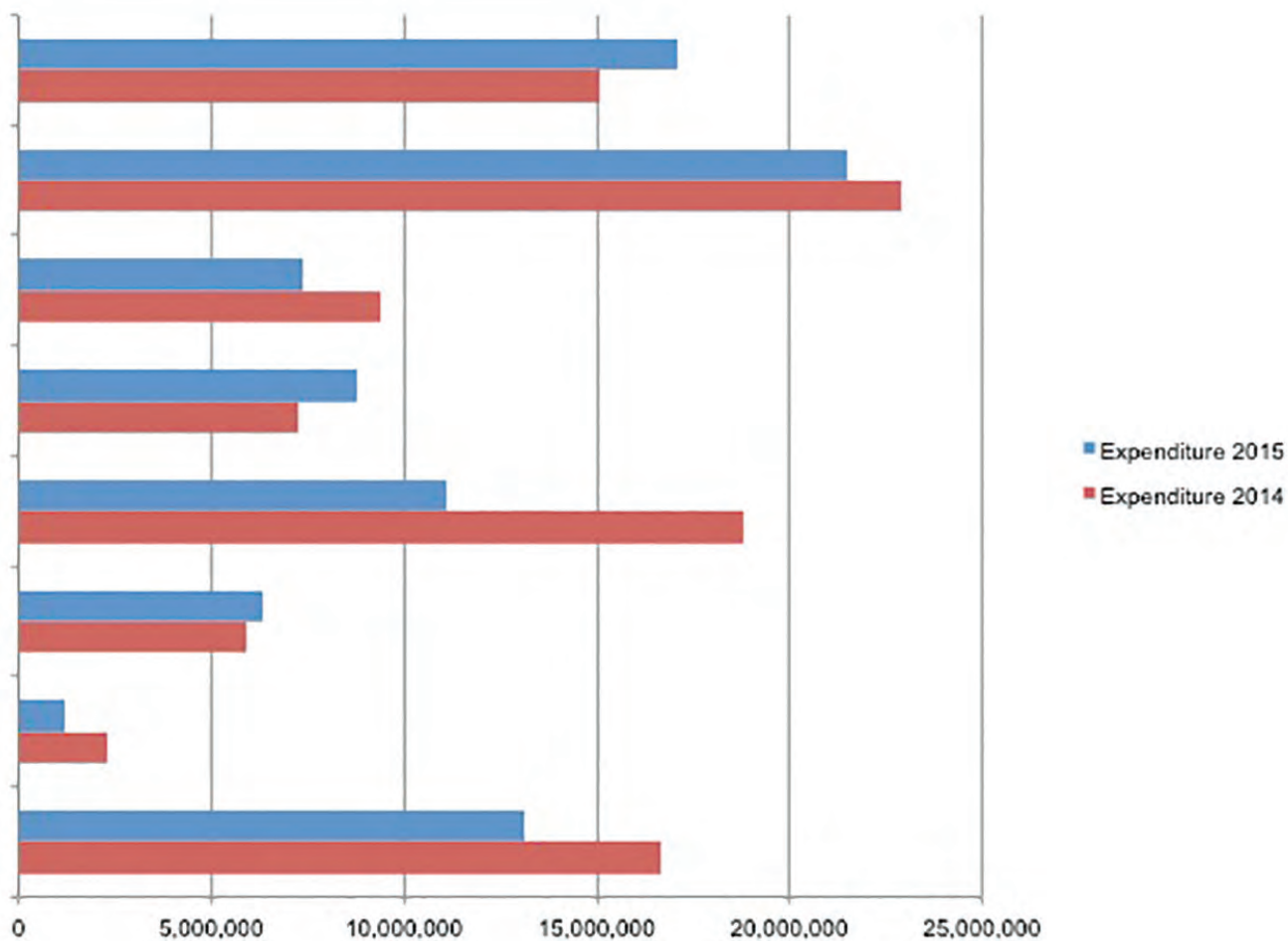
| <b>Income And Expenditure Account Statement For The Year Ended 31st December 2015</b> |                               |                    |                             |                             |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Expenditure By Programme Group</b>   | <b>Gross Expenditure 2015</b> | <b>Income 2015</b> | <b>Net Expenditure 2015</b> | <b>Net Expenditure 2014</b> |
| Housing & Building  | €17,132,558                   | €19,183,862        | €2,051,304                  | €2,543,632                  |
| Road Transportation & Safety  | €21,520,514                   | €11,932,332        | €9,588,182                  | €10,357,999                 |
| Water & Sewerage  | €7,388,161                    | €7,057,626         | €330,535                    | €415,699                    |
| Development Incentives & Control  | €8,764,956                    | €3,522,477         | €5,242,479                  | €4,760,540                  |
| Environmental Protection  | €11,114,739                   | €2,041,866         | €9,072,873                  | €10,240,074                 |
| Recreation & Amenity  | €6,353,329                    | €495,090           | €5,858,239                  | €5,383,873                  |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare  | €1,208,295                    | €649,694           | €558,601                    | €654,457                    |
| Miscellaneous   | €13,147,181                   | €5,260,472         | €7,886,709                  | €6,358,052                  |
| County Charge   |                               |                    |                             |                             |
| <b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>   | <b>€86,629,734</b>            | <b>€50,143,420</b> |                             |                             |
| Net Cost Of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund               |                               |                    | €36,486,314                 | €35,627,060                 |
| Pension Related Deduction   |                               |                    | €1,571,898                  | €1,700,937                  |
| Local Government Fund   |                               |                    | €7,726,977                  | €6,846,310                  |
| County Charge   |                               |                    |                             |                             |
| Rates   |                               |                    | €30,004,697                 | €29,937,895                 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for year before Transfers   |                               |                    | €2,817,258                  | €2,858,081                  |
| Transfers From/(To) Reserves  |                               |                    | €2,466,015                  | €2,557,611                  |
| Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year  |                               |                    | €351,243                    | €300,470                    |
| General Reserve @ 1st January   |                               |                    | €3,783,860                  | €4,084,331                  |
| General Reserve @ 31st December   |                               |                    | €3,432,617                  | €3,783,860                  |
| <b>Capital Account Statement of Balances</b>  |                               |                    |                             |                             |
|   | 2015                          | 2014               |                             |                             |
| Housing & Building  | €17,549,500                   | €11,452,662        |                             |                             |
| Road Transportation & Safety  | €34,623,544                   | €33,273,090        |                             |                             |
| Water & Sewerage  | €8,140,797                    | €7,036,974         |                             |                             |
| Development Incentives & Control  | €10,615,107                   | €9,899,140         |                             |                             |
| Environmental Protection  | €2,952,079                    | €283,032           |                             |                             |
| Recreation & Amenity  | €3,025,849                    | €1,941,706         |                             |                             |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare  | €230,990                      | €545,865           |                             |                             |
| Miscellaneous   | €19,959,496                   | €17,408,346        |                             |                             |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>€53,484,683</b>            | <b>€55,052,079</b> |                             |                             |

## Financial Statement

| Balance Sheet For The Year Ended 31st December 2015 |                       |                       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|   | 2015                  | 2014                  |
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                                 |                       |                       |
| Operational   | €1,082,551,451        | €1,073,129,903        |
| Infrastructural                                     | €1,537,927,410        | €1,483,677,692        |
| Community   | €18,449,347           | €18,031,962           |
| Non-Operational                                     | €220,000              | €220,000              |
|   | <b>€2,639,148,208</b> | <b>€2,575,059,557</b> |
| Work In Progress And Preliminary Expenses           | €24,162,781           | €78,065,532           |
| Long Term Debtors                                   | €22,520,917           | €24,626,085           |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                               |                       |                       |
| Stock   | €268,616              | €270,959              |
| Trade Debtors And Prepayments                       | €31,311,062           | €60,202,490           |
| Bank Investments                                    | €47,548,884           | €46,038,217           |
| Cash at Bank  | €2,997,300            | €3,682,099            |
| Cash in Transit                                     | €279,123              | €425,143              |
| Urban Account                                       |                       |                       |
|   | <b>€82,404,985</b>    | <b>€110,618,907</b>   |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>                          |                       |                       |
| Bank Overdraft                                      |                       |                       |
| Creditors & Accruals                                | €18,882,930           | €43,731,090           |
| Finance Leases                                      |                       |                       |
|   | <b>€18,882,930</b>    | <b>€43,731,090</b>    |
| <b>Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>             | <b>€63,522,054</b>    | <b>€66,887,817</b>    |
| <b>Creditors ( Amounts greater than one year)</b>   |                       |                       |
| Loans Payable                                       | €86,374,220           | €91,089,894           |
| Finance Leases                                      |                       |                       |
| Refundable Deposits                                 | €13,819,827           | €13,761,059           |
| Other   | €1,465,097            | €2,018,267            |
|   | <b>€101,659,144</b>   | <b>€106,869,220</b>   |
| <b>Net Assets / (Liabilities)</b>                   | <b>€2,647,694,817</b> | <b>€2,637,769,771</b> |
| <b>Financed By</b>                                  |                       |                       |
| Capitalisation Account                              | €2,639,148,208        | €2,575,059,556        |
| Income WIP  | €13,000,050           | €67,840,654           |
| Specific Revenue Reserve                            | €642,771              | €642,771              |
| General Revenue Reserve                             | €3,432,617            | €3,783,860            |
| Other Balances                                      | €1,663,594            | €1,989,350            |
| <b>Total Reserves</b>                               | <b>€2,647,694,817</b> | <b>€2,637,769,771</b> |



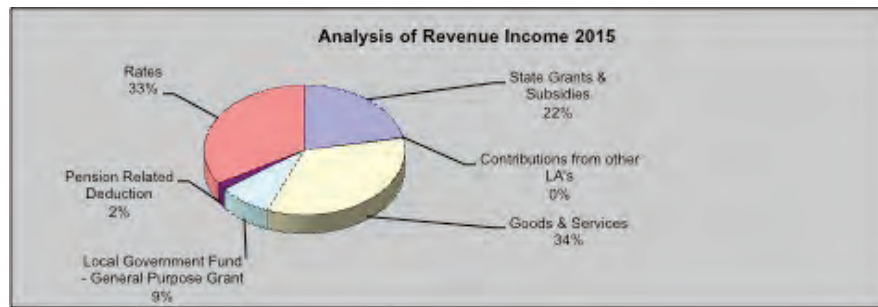
## Revenue Accounts 2015 / Financial Profile at a Glance.



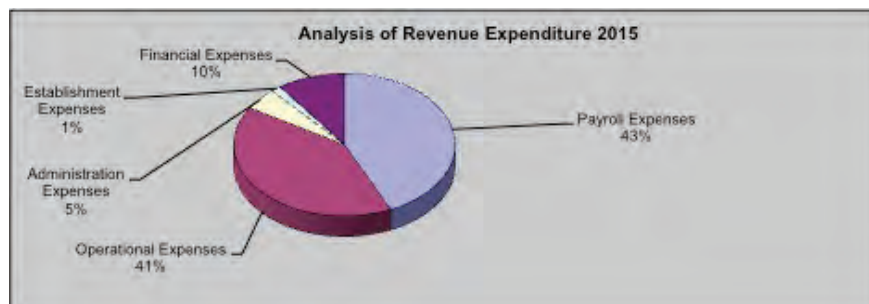
|  | Expenditure 2015   | Expenditure 2014   |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Housing & Building                       | €17,132,558        | €15,109,781        |
| Road Transportation & Safety             | €21,520,514        | €22,941,361        |
| Water & Sewerage                         | €7,388,161         | €9,378,587         |
| Development Incentives & Controls        | €8,764,956         | €7,257,949         |
| Environmental Protection                 | €11,114,739        | €18,818,599        |
| Recreation & Amenity                     | €6,353,329         | €5,927,592         |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | €1,208,295         | €2,288,077         |
| Miscellaneous                            | €13,147,181        | €16,650,085        |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                 | <b>€86,629,734</b> | <b>€98,372,031</b> |

# Revenue Income / Revenue Expenditure

| Revenue Income                                | 2015               |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Analysis of Revenue Income</b>             |                    |
| State Grants & Subsidies                      | €19,530,812        |
| Contributions from other LA's                 | €206,157           |
| Goods & Services                              | €30,406,450        |
| Local Government Fund - General Purpose Grant | €7,726,977         |
| Pension Related Deduction                     | €1,571,898         |
| Rates   | €30,004,697        |
| County Charge                                 |                    |
| <b>Total Revenue Income</b>                   | <b>€89,446,992</b> |

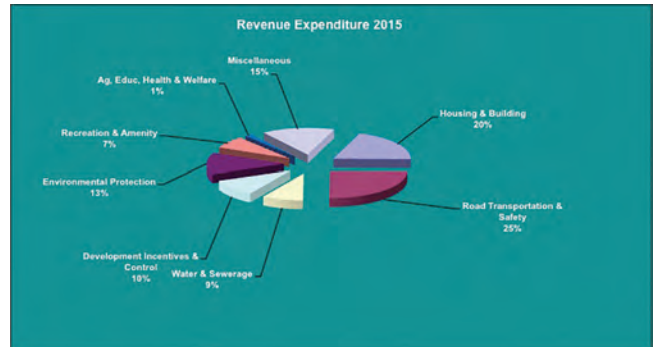


| Revenue Expenditure                    | 2015               |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Analysis of Revenue Expenditure</b> |                    |
| Payroll Expenses                       | €37,351,776        |
| Operational Expenses                   | €35,150,817        |
| Administration Expenses                | €4,287,248         |
| Establishment Expenses                 | €1,224,301         |
| Financial Expenses                     | €8,615,592         |
|  |                    |
| <b>Total Revenue Expenditure</b>       | <b>€86,629,734</b> |

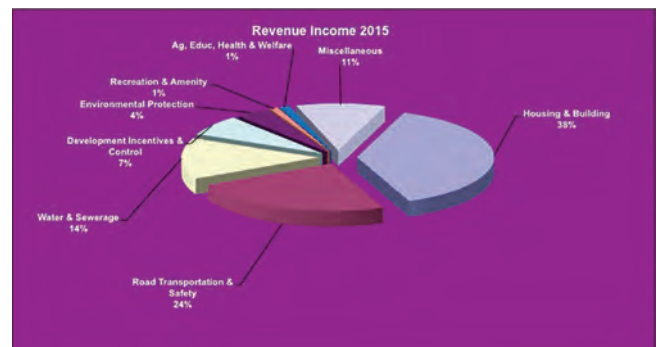


# Revenue Income / Revenue Expenditure

| Rev Expenditure                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Housing & Building               | €17,132,558        |
| Road Transportation & Safety     | €21,520,514        |
| Water & Sewerage                 | €7,388,161         |
| Development Incentives & Control | €8,764,956         |
| Environmental Protection         | €11,114,739        |
| Recreation & Amenity             | €6,353,329         |
| Ag, Educ, Health & Welfare       | €1,208,295         |
| Miscellaneous                    | €13,147,181        |
|                                  | <b>€86,629,734</b> |



| Rev Income                       |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Housing & Building               | €19,183,862        |
| Road Transportation & Safety     | €11,932,332        |
| Water & Sewerage                 | €7,057,626         |
| Development Incentives & Control | €3,522,477         |
| Environmental Protection         | €2,041,866         |
| Recreation & Amenity             | €495,090           |
| Ag, Educ, Health & Welfare       | €649,694           |
| Miscellaneous                    | €5,260,472         |
|                                  | <b>€50,143,420</b> |



## Returns Response



Details the response submitted in response to the specified publication

### Performance Indicators

01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015 (Annual)

Wicklow County Council

Status: In Progress

| Topic                            | Indicator  | Value | Comment |
|----------------------------------|--|-------|---------|
| Housing: H1, H2 & H4<br>Approved | A. Overall total number of dwellings provided by the LA in the period 1/1/2015 to 31/12/2015       |       | 81      |
|                                  | B. Number of dwellings directly provided   |       | 20      |
|                                  | B1. Number of dwellings constructed  |       | 1       |
|                                  | B2. Number of dwellings purchased  |       | 19      |
|                                  | C. Number of units provided under RAS  |       | 48      |
|                                  | D. Number of units provided under the HAP Scheme   |       | 0       |
|                                  | E. Number of units provided under the SHLI   |       | 13      |
|                                  | F. The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the LA at 31/12/2015                    |       | 4878    |
|                                  | G. The total number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the LA            |       | 4346    |
|                                  | H. Total number of units provided under the RAS  |       | 501     |
|                                  | I. Total number of units provided under the HAP if operated  |       | 0       |
|                                  | J. Total number of units provided under the SHLI   |       | 31      |
|                                  | A. Percentage of the number of dwellings at H1G that were vacant on 31/12/2015                     |       | 1.13 %  |
|                                  | The number of dwelling units within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2015       |       | 49      |
|                                  | A. Expenditure in 2015 on repair & maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA divided by H1G |       | €825.53 |



## Returns Response



Details the response submitted in response to the specified publication

| Topic                                       | Indicator   | Value       | Comment |
|---|---|-------------|---------|
| <b>Housing: H1, H2 &amp; H4</b><br>Approved | Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock compiled on a continuous based during 2015        | €3587750.77 |         |
| <b>Housing: H3 &amp; H5</b><br>Approved     | A. Average time taken from date of vacation of dwelling to date when a new tenancy had commenced    | 33.74 wk    |         |
|   | B. Average cost expended on getting the units re-tenanted ready for re-letting                      | €22084.78   |         |
|   | No of units that were re-tenanted on any date in 2015 (excl. those vacant for estate refurbishment) | 78          |         |
|   | No. of weeks from when previous tenant vacated dwelling up to date new tenant's first rent debit    | 2631.43 wk  |         |
|   | Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of the units included above             | €1722612.98 |         |
|   | A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area  | 6825        |         |
|   | B. Number of inspections carried out  | 358         |         |
| <b>Housing: H6</b><br>Approved              | A. No. of adults in emergency accom. long-term as a % of the total number of homeless adults        | 33.93 %     |         |
|   | No. of adults classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on night of the 31/12/2015      | 56          |         |
|   | No. of adults on that date who had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously        | 19          |         |
| <b>Roads: R1 &amp; R2</b><br>Approved       | % Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating   | 91.00 %     |         |
|   | % Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating  | 93.00 %     |         |
|   | % Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating  | 49.00 %     |         |
|   | % Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating   | 12.00 %     |         |

## Returns Response



Details the response submitted in response to the specified publication

| Topic                                      | Indicator   | Value      | Comment     |
|--|---|------------|-------------|
| <b>Roads: R1 &amp; R2</b><br>Approved      | % Regional roads that received a PSCI rating during 2015                          |            | 93.00 %     |
|  | % Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4                        |            | 2.00 %      |
|  | % Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6                        |            | 11.00 %     |
|  | % Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8                        |            | 51.00 %     |
|  | % Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10                       |            | 27.00 %     |
|  | % Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4                         |            | 7.00 %      |
|  | % Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6                         |            | 19.00 %     |
|  | % Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8                         |            | 56.00 %     |
|  | % Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10                        |            | 11.00 %     |
|  | % Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4                       |            | 13.00 %     |
|  | % Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6                       |            | 13.00 %     |
|  | % Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8                       |            | 15.00 %     |
|  | % Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10                      |            | 8.00 %      |
|  | % Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4                        |            | 4.00 %      |
|  | % Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6                        |            | 2.00 %      |
|  | % Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8                        |            | 3.00 %      |
|  | % Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10                       |            | 3.00 %      |
|  | A1. Kilometres of regional roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants       |            | 5.2 km      |
|  | A2. Regional road Improvement Grant amount  |            | €3366056.00 |
|  | B1. Number of kilometres of regional roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants |            | 20.7 km     |
| B2. Regional road Maintenance Grant amount |   | €952823.00 |             |
| <b>Motor Tax: R3</b><br>Approved           | % of motor tax transactions online  |            | 66.22 %     |



## Returns Response



Details the response submitted in response to the specified publication

| Topic  | Indicator  | Value | Comment   |
|--|--|-------|---|
| <b>Water: W1</b><br>Approved                   | % of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance  |       | <b>94.10 %</b>  |
| <b>Waste: E1</b><br>Approved                   | No. households in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2015 |       | <b>10705</b>  |
|  | % households within the LA that the number A represents  |       | <b>22.50 %</b>  |
| <b>Environmental Pollution: E2</b><br>Approved | Number of pollution cases in respect of complaint during 2015                                    |       | <b>1406</b>   |
|  | Number of pollution cases closed during 2015   |       | <b>1290</b>   |
|  | Total number of cases at hand at 31/12/2015  |       | <b>116</b>  |
|  | Total number of pollution complaint cases  | 1406  | WCC data is based on number of complaints as CRM system uses unique identifier for all reported cases |
|  | Number of pollution cases not investigated or finalised  | 1290  | WCC data is based on number of complaints as CRM system uses unique identifier for all reported cases |
|  | Number of pollution cases not finalised  | 116   | WCC data is based on number of complaints as CRM system uses unique identifier for all reported cases |
| <b>Litter Pollution: E3</b><br>Approved        | Percentage of area unpolluted by litter  |       | <b>17 %</b>   |
|  | Percentage of area slightly polluted by litter   |       | <b>52 %</b>   |
|  | Percentage of area moderately polluted by litter   |       | <b>18 %</b>   |
|  | Percentage of area significantly polluted by litter  |       | <b>11 %</b>   |
|  | Percentage of area grossly polluted by litter  |       | <b>1 %</b>  |
| <b>Planning: P1</b><br>Approved                | Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority             |       | <b>29.22 %</b>  |

## Returns Response



Details the response submitted in response to the specified publication

| Topic                         | Indicator   | Value   | Comment        |               |
|-------------------------------|---|---|----------------|---------------|
| Planning: P1<br>Approved      | Total no. of new buildings notified to the local authority  |   | 243            |               |
|                               | No. of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2015 subject of at least one inspection     |   | 71             |               |
| Planning: P2 & P3<br>Approved | A. Number of planning decisions subject of appeal to An Bord Pleanála determined by board in 2015   |   | 64             |               |
|                               | B. % of the determinations which confirmed (with or without variations) the decision made by the LA |   | <b>71.88 %</b> |               |
|                               | Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation                     |   | 46             |               |
|                               | A. Number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the LA during 2015 that were investigated   |   | 166            |               |
|                               | B. Number of cases that were closed during 2015   |   | 249            |               |
|                               | C. % cases at B dismissed re Section 15(2) or closed because statute barred or exempted development |   | <b>23.29 %</b> |               |
|                               | D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's sanctification through negotiations               |   | <b>9.64 %</b>  |               |
|                               | E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings                                     |   | <b>67.07 %</b> |               |
|                               | F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2015                               |   | 806            |               |
|                               | Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 15(2), Planning and Development Act 2000   |   | 58             |               |
|                               | Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations             |   | 24             |               |
|                               | Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings                              |   | 167            |               |
|                               | Planning: P4<br>Approved  | AFS Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area |                | <b>€27.18</b> |



## Returns Response



Details the response submitted in response to the specified publication

| Topic                             | Indicator   | Value | Comment                    |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|----------------------------|
| Planning: P4<br>Approved          | AFS Programme D consisting of D01, D02, D03 (inclusive of the central management charge)              |       | €3713231                   |
| Fire Service: F1<br>Approved      | AFS Programme E expenditure divided by the census 2011 population served by the Fire Service          |       | €36.16                     |
|                                   | AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service & E12 Fire Prevention  |       | €4893827                   |
| Fire Service: F2 & F3<br>Approved | A. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of Fire             |       | 0 min No full time station |
|                                   | B. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of Fire             |       | 5.22 min                   |
|                                   | C. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of other accidents  |       | 0 min No full time station |
|                                   | D. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of other accidents  |       | 5.3 min                    |
|                                   | A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins                 |       | 39.32 %                    |
|                                   | B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins |       | 44.34 %                    |
|                                   | C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins                  |       | 16.34 %                    |
|                                   | D. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins                           |       | 44.26 %                    |
|                                   | E. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins           |       | 46.99 %                    |
|                                   | F. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins                            |       | 8.74 %                     |

## Returns Response



Details the response submitted in response to the specified publication

| Topic                             | Indicator   | Value | Comment   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|---|
| Fire Service: F2 & F3<br>Approved | Total no. of call-outs in respect of fires from 01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015                             |       | 557 Some calls where an appliance is mobilised might not have time logged In-Attendance. ERCC records same if given over the radio or if logged on the Automatic Status Update (via VHF) system |
|                                   | No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes              |       | 219 Some calls where an appliance is mobilised might not have time logged In-Attendance. ERCC records same if given over the radio or if logged on the Automatic Status Update (via VHF) system |
|                                   | No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins |       | 247 Some calls where an appliance is mobilised might not have time logged In-Attendance. ERCC records same if given over the radio or if logged on the Automatic Status Update (via VHF) system |
|                                   | No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins                  |       | 91 Some calls where an appliance is mobilised might not have time logged In-Attendance. ERCC records same if given over the radio or if logged on the Automatic Status Update (via VHF) system  |
|                                   | Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents from 01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015  |       | 183 Some calls where an appliance is mobilised might not have time logged In-Attendance. ERCC records same if given over the radio or if logged on the Automatic Status Update (via VHF) system |
|                                   | No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 mins             |       | 81 Some calls where an appliance is mobilised might not have time logged In-Attendance. ERCC records same if given over the radio or if logged on the Automatic Status Update (via VHF) system  |
|                                   |   |       |   |



## Returns Response



Details the response submitted in response to the specified publication

| Topic                                    | Indicator   | Value          | Comment  |
|--|---|----------------|--|
| Fire Service: F2 & F3<br>Approved        | No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins |                | 86 Some calls where an appliance is mobilised might not have time logged In-Attendance. ERCC records same if given over the radio or if logged on the Automatic Status Update (via VHF) system |
|  | No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins                  |                | 16 Some calls where an appliance is mobilised might not have time logged In-Attendance. ERCC records same if given over the radio or if logged on the Automatic Status Update (via VHF) system |
| Library Service: L1<br>Approved          | A. Number of library visits per head of population  | <b>3.16</b>    |  |
|  | B. Number of items issued to borrowers during the year  | <b>428715</b>  |  |
|  | Number of library visits during the year  | 431985         |  |
|  | Number of items borrowed during the year  | 428715         |  |
| Library Service: L2<br>Approved          | The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data / by the population of the LA area 2011 per census      | <b>€21.40</b>  |  |
|  | AFS Programme F02 Cost of Library Service   | €2923834       |  |
| Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2<br>Approved | Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council//Comhairle na nÓg scheme                | <b>71.43 %</b> |  |
|  | Total number of secondary schools in the LA area at 31/12/2015  | 21             |  |
|  | No. second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the Comhairle na -Óg AGM    | 15             |  |
|  | No. organisations in the County Register and proportion who opted in to the Social Inclusion College    | <b>28.36</b>   |  |
|  | No. organisations in the County Register for the local authority area                                   | 134            |  |

## Returns Response



Details the response submitted in response to the specified publication

| Topic   | Indicator   | Value | Comment     |
|---|---|-------|-------------|
| <b>Youth and Community: Y1 &amp; Y2</b><br>Approved | Total number of registered organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College  |       | 38          |
| <b>Corporate: C1 &amp; C2 &amp; C4</b><br>Approved  | Wholetime equivalent staffing number as year end  |       | 666.85      |
|   | Percentage of working days lost due to sickness absence through medically certified leave           |       | 2.98 %      |
|   | Percentage of working days lost due to sickness absence through self-certified leave                |       | 0.27 %      |
|   | Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave                   |       | 4510 day    |
|   | Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave                        |       | 415.5 day   |
|   | Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave            |       | 589 day     |
|   | Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave                 |       | 14.5 day    |
|   | All ICT Expenditure in the period 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015 divided by the WTE no.                   |       | €3367.67    |
|   | Total revenue expenditure on Account Elements   |       | €2245727.97 |
| <b>Corporate: C3</b><br>Approved                    | Total page views of the LA website in 2015  |       | 790591      |
|   | Total number of social media users at 31/12/2015 following the LA on social media sites             |       | 10008       |
|   | The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the LA during 2015                      |       | 790591      |
|   | Total no. of social media users who, at 31/12/2015, were following the LA on any social media sites |       | 10008       |



## Returns Response



Details the response submitted in response to the specified publication

| Topic                        | Indicator  | Value     | Comment |
|------------------------------|--|-----------|---------|
| Finance: M1 & M2<br>Approved | Cumulative balance at 31/12/2011 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS   | €-1420281 |         |
|                              | Cumulative balance at 31/12/2012 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS   | €-1393802 |         |
|                              | Cumulative balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS   | €-4084330 |         |
|                              | Cumulative balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS   | €-3783860 |         |
|                              | Cumulative balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS   | €-3432617 |         |
|                              | Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2015 as a percentage of Total Income from the AFS statement | -3.73 %   |         |
|                              | The 2015 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS          | €91973510 |         |
|                              | Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011                             | 69.0 %    |         |
|                              | Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011                  | 93.0 %    |         |
|                              | Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011                     | 74.0 %    |         |
|                              | Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012                             | 65.0 %    |         |
|                              | Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012                  | 92.0 %    |         |
|                              | Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012                     | 74.0 %    |         |
|                              | Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013                             | 64.0 %    |         |
|                              | Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013                  | 93.0 %    |         |

## Returns Response



Details the response submitted in response to the specified publication

| Topic                                       | Indicator   | Value | Comment |
|---|---|-------|---------|
| <b>Finance: M1 &amp; M2</b><br>Approved     | Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011          |       | 74.0 %  |
|   | Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014                  |       | 69.0 %  |
|   | Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014       |       | 92.0 %  |
|   | Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014          |       | 73.0 %  |
|   | Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015                  |       | 76 %    |
|   | Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015       |       | 93 %    |
|   | Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015          |       | 76 %    |
| <b>Economic Development: J1</b><br>Approved | Number of jobs created with assistance form the Local Enterprise Office during the year |       | 62.50   |



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES