



ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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 2016. This report outlines the very many and varied activities of Wicklow County Council across all services.

2016 was a very special year in which we commemorated the Easter Events of 1916. Wicklow County Council produced an ambitious programme of events to mark the 1916–2016 Centenary Commemorations from historical festivals and re-enactments, to book publications and drama. 5 Glór na Casca Gardens were established in each of the 5 Municipal Districts commemorating the 1916 proclamation. In addition, a full programme of centenary commemoration events took place throughout the towns and villages of County Wicklow.

In 2016, the elected members of Wicklow County Council adopted two major Strategic Plans for County Wicklow. The Wicklow County Development Plan, 2016–2022, which sets out the strategic spatial framework for proper planning and sustainable development of County Wicklow and focuses on the 'big picture' planning issues and the Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan which charts the future growth and development of County Wicklow over the next 6 years. The Plan (LECP) which runs to 2021 was prepared following a wide-ranging consultative process involving all interested groups in the County and contains 10 high level goals, 21 local objectives and more than 100 actions. We are confident that by working with our citizens and our partners we will enhance the quality of life for our urban and rural communities through both plans.

The Council's commitment to the film industry in County Wicklow strengthened in 2016 with the setting of the Business Industry Development Group through the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank initiative. Wicklow County Campus welcomed a packed auditorium for the South Eastern Creative Corridor as industry experts and entrepreneurs operating within the creative audio visual sector came together to explore opportunities.

Wicklow County Council proudly participated in the Co-operation Ireland 'All Island Pride of Place awards 2016'. I would like to acknowledge the fantastic work being carried out within communities of County Wicklow and to congratulate Rathdangan Community Council for their success in the competition. Over €570,000 was allocated to some 445 community groups and organisations in County Wicklow and new playgrounds were opened in Newtownmountkennedy and Rathnew.

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 water treatment facility representing an investment of over €10m was opened in Arklow. 42 new social housing units are on the way for Bray, and some 32 homes were provided in Newtownmountkenedy in partnership with Tuath.

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 library and Municipal District office at Arklow were opened this year as part of a major project in the town centre costing €5m and the Bray Eglinton Road Public Library was reopened following major refurbishment which has created a brighter more relaxed environment for the customer.

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

I would also like to take the opportunity to extend my thanks to Bryan Doyle, 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 Pat Fitzgerald
Cathaoirleach
Wicklow County Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S FOREWORD



I am delighted to welcome the publication of the 2016 Annual Report. Notwithstanding the challenges of budgetary constraints across all Directorates, there have been many achievements and completion of worthwhile projects throughout the County which are described within this report. Wicklow County Council has been tasked with the delivery of some 438 units under the social housing 2020 programme and significant progress has been made in the provision of new housing projects with 13 schemes at various stages of planning which will potentially yield 162 housing units.

Expressions of interests were sought from potential development partners to revitalise Bray Town Centre through the redevelopment of The Florentine Centre and a new Public square in Greystones Harbour was opened to the public. A new riverside boardwalk as part of the final element of the River Dargle Flood Defence scheme got underway and Coastal Protection at the Murrough in Wicklow Town commenced.

Substantial budgets were set aside by the Elected Members to support rates incentives scheme, enhancement of public realm projects in Municipal Districts and grants and contributions to community, cultural and sporting organisations throughout the County.

In 2016, the Council worked collaboratively to encourage economic development and job creation and reached implementation stage of the actions contained within the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) while continuing with the initiatives and working groups of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT). The LECP charts the future growth and development of County Wicklow over the next 6 years and represents a major collaborative initiative between local community development in the County reflecting the enhanced role of local government in these areas of activities. The Plan will position County Wicklow as a place prepared to harness its many unique physical, natural and human resources, in order to improve the quality of life for all who live, work and visit the County as the County moves forward into the future with confidence.

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. 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 Unit through its work will continue to support new business into the future.

We were delighted to host a number of events at Wicklow County Campus in 2016 such as the LEO Student Enterprise Awards, Best County Wicklow Young Entrepreneur Final and the conferring of 130 graduates with education awards at two conferring ceremonies by Institute of Technology Carlow in November, 2016. IT Carlow is a key stakeholder in Wicklow County Campus providing lifelong learning and higher education and training programmes and the Council looks forwarding to working with the Institute in implementing the 5-year Wicklow County Campus Strategic Plan.

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 2016. I would especially like to thank the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Pat Fitzgerald for his commitment, dedication and co-operation to deliver the goal of the Council in 2016 and to commend and thank the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for their ongoing support and assistance during the year.

Bryan Doyle
Chief Executive
Wicklow County Manager

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

PARTY NAME AND ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

ARKLOW ELECTORAL AREA

FF	Pat Fitzgerald, 32 Oaklands, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	0402 39563	087 2049013	pfitzgerald@wicklowcoco.ie
FF	Pat Kennedy, Kirikee, Greenane, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow		087 4198022	patkennedy1@outlook.com
FF	Tommy Annesley, 'Clydebank', Dublin Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	0402 31705	087 2508205	tomannesley@yahoo.co.uk
FG	Sylvester Bourke, Three Oaks House, Killiniskyduff, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	0402 24415	087 2501734	sylvesterbourke@hotmail.com
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BALTINGLASS ELECTORAL AREA

IND	Thomas Cullen, Deerpark, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow	059 6481786	087 1934300	tommy@tommycullen.ie
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FG	Vincent Blake, Coolruss, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow	0402 38256	087 2322521	vblake@wicklowcoco.ie
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BRAY ELECTORAL AREA

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IND	Joe Behan, 55 Richmond Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow	01 2868125	086 8375602	joebehan@outlook.ie
IND	Christopher Fox, Calary Lower, Kilmacanogue, Bray, Co. Wicklow		086 8374765	crfox@wicklowcoco.ie
SF	Oliver O'Brien, 'The Bungalow', Killough, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow		087 1420586	olobriain@gmail.com
IND	Brendan Thornhill, 19 Glendale Drive, Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow		086 0663144	jcbthornhill@gmail.com
GP	Steven Matthews, 'Saoirse', 12 Sydenham Mews, Sidminton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow		086 6086420	stevensgreenbray@gmail.com
FG	John Ryan, 'Huntingdon', 13 Ardmore Lawn, Bray, Co. Wicklow	01 2761439	087 2585738	jryan@wicklowcoco.ie
FF	Pat Vance, 'Beachmount', Putland Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow	01 2868169	086 8391871	pvance@wicklowcoco.ie

GREYSTONES ELECTORAL AREA

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IND	Tom Fortune, 'DeLacey', Sea Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow	01 2876135	086 2488195	tfortune@wicklowcoco.ie
FG	Derek Mitchell, 'Kiltoorish', Manor Avenue, Greystones, Co. Wicklow	01 2874115		mitchelld@eircom.net
FG	Grainne McLoughlin, 29 Wellfield, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow	01 2018912	086 8329686	cllrgrainnemcloughlin@gmail.com
FF	Gerry Walsh, 33 Burnaby Heights, Greystones, Co. Wicklow		085 8639848	gerrywalsh00@gmail.com
SF	Nicola Lawless, 25 Rivendell Grove, Greystones, Co. Wicklow		086 1607686	nicola.lawless.sf@gmail.com

WICKLOW ELECTORAL AREA

SF	John Snell, 81 Seaview Heights, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow		087 2210222	jsnell@wicklowcoco.ie
IND	Daire Nolan, Main Street, Newtownmountkennedy, Greystones, Co. Wicklow A63 D938		085 1374099	daire.nolan.1988@gmail.com
FF	Gail Dunne, 9 St. Manntans Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow		086 8214368	gdunne@wicklowcoco.ie
FG	Shay Cullen, 'The Crosses', Ballinahinch, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow		086 7275000	shaycullen2014@gmail.com
FG	Irene Winters, 23 Wicklow Heights Court, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow		087 2443610	irenewinters@eircom.net
IND	Mary Kavanagh, 58 Seafield, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow		087 7823513	mkavanagh@wicklowcoco.ie

Arklow



Cllr May McDonald



Cllr Miriam Murphy



Cllr Pat Fitzgerald



Cllr Pat Kennedy



Cllr Sylvester Bourke



Cllr Tommy Annelsey

Wicklow



Cllr Gail Dunne



Cllr Mary Kavanagh



Cllr Daire Nolan



Cllr Irene Winters



Cllr John Snell



Cllr Shay Cullen

Greystones



Cllr Derek Mitchell



Cllr Gerry Walsh



Cllr Grainne McLoughlin



Cllr Jennifer Whitmore



Cllr Nicola Lawless



Cllr Tom Fortune

Baltinglass



Cllr Tommy Cullen



Cllr Jim Ruttle



Cllr Edward Timmins



Cllr Vincent Blake



Cllr Gerry O'Neill

Bray



Cllr Michael O'Connor



Cllr Brendan Thornhill



Cllr Joe Behan



Cllr Stephen Mathews



Cllr Christopher Fox



Cllr John Ryan



Cllr Pat Vance



Cllr Oliver O'Brien



MANAGEMENT TEAM

Council Membership and Meetings

The County Council comprises 32 Members elected from five electoral areas, i.e. Arklow, Baltinglass, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow. Council meetings are held on the 1st Monday of each month with the exception of August, when there are no meetings. The Council is represented on a number of committees including:

- Housing & Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee
- Water & Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee
- Transportation & Roads Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee
- Community, Cultural & Social Development Strategic Policy Committee
- Planning & Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee
- Wicklow County Tourism Ltd.
- General Council of County Councils
- Midland & Eastern Regional Tourism Authorities

Corporate Policy Group

The Corporate Policy Group is designed to enhance the democratic mandate and policy-making role of the Elected Members. It is supported by the County Manager and comprises the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council and the Cathaoirleach of each of the five Strategic Policy Committees.

The main function of the Corporate Policy Group is to co-ordinate the work of the different Strategic Policy Committees and provide forum where policy decisions affecting the whole Council are agreed for submission to the full Council for decision. The Corporate Policy Group also play a key role in the preparation of the Annual Financial Budget.

Wicklow County Council Management Team



Mr Bryan Doyle
Chief Executive



Mr Sean Quirke
Director of Services
Transportation and Roads Infrastructure



Mr Michael Geaney
A/Director of Services
Water and Environmental Services



Mr Des O'Brien
Director of Services
Planning



Mr Michael Nicholson
Director of Services
Housing and Corporate Estate



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



Mr Thomas Murphy
T/Director of Services
Enterprise and Corporate Services



Mr David Sweetman
Law Agent



Mr Liam Fitzpatrick
Head of Information Systems



Ms Deborah Cromie
A/Head of Finance

HOUSING AND CORPORATE ESTATE

Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee

Chairperson
Cllr John Snell

Wicklow County Council

Cllr Joe Behan
Cllr Sylvester Bourke
Cllr Tommy Annesley
Cllr Michael O'Connor
Cllr Mary Kavanagh

Outside Agencies

Trade Union

Barry Nevin, ICTU

Disadvantaged

Vicky Harris (Simon)

Business/Commercial

Vacant

Community

Vacant

Wicklow Traveller Group

Eamonn McCann

Director of Services

Joe Lane

Senior Executive Officer

Jackie Carroll

Senior Engineer

Breege Kilkenny

Declan Marnane

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

The Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee met on five occasions in 2016 and focussed on a number of key areas including:

Budget 2016 - Implications for Housing Authorities nationally in terms of future housing supply, management and investment issues

- Housing Priorities for 2016 including future housing supply, management and investment issues
- Management of Housing Stock
- Housing Assistance Payment – rollout nationally
- New Housing Strategy – Rebuilding Ireland – An Action Plan for Housing & Homelessness
- Construction Programme

- Traveller Accommodation – Mid Term Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Voluntary Housing
- Homelessness
- Control of Horses

Social Housing Provision and Planning

Stage 1 approvals were received for 97 units in 2016 at a provisional cost of €36 million. These units are located in Bray, Rathdrum, Arklow, Greystones, Kilmacanogue, Kilcoole and Wicklow town area. The units have been reduced to 93 as Chapel Lane, Aughrim, cannot proceed due to lack of capacity in the waste water treatment system. 4 stages of approval have to be gone through with the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government before we can commence construction.

CALF Leasing

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

Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)

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

Energy Efficiency Upgrades to Social Housing Stock in Co. Wicklow

An amount of €1,717,226 was claimed by Wicklow County Council from the Department of the Environment for Energy Efficiency works in 2016, we received €1,716,877. This resulted in works being carried out on 855 houses, bringing the total to date to 1,572 units at a total cost of €3.5M.

Housing Management

The total budget for housing repairs for 2016 was increased slightly from 2015. This was distributed evenly between the Municipal Districts on a pro rata basis based on the number of units in each district.

When houses become vacant we make use of the opportunity to upgrade them as follows:

HOUSING AND CORPORATE ESTATE (CONTINUED)

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

Housing Allocations

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

A total of 3,083 housing applicants were on the housing list for County Wicklow at 31st December 2016. A total of 74 houses were allocated during 2016 at various locations throughout the County as per the table below:

	01/01/2016 to 31/12/16
Casual Vacancies	37
New Houses	
Social Leasing	1
Rural Cottages	
Purchases	33
Refurbishments	3
Total	74

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 2016. In 2016, 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 Co 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 continued to progress, in conjunction with the Department and relevant Approved Housing Body, the objectives of priorities which include -
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.

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 which was completed in 2016.

Under the Capital Assistance Scheme, Wicklow County Council retains 100% nomination rights regarding all prospective tenancies i.e. all nominations to be made from the local authority housing waiting list.

Other Housing Options

In terms of other housing options, Wicklow County Council continued to promote a broad range of additional housing options in 2016 including:

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

Other Housing options promoted by Wicklow County Council in 2016 included RAS, HAP, Long Term and Short Term Social Leasing.

RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme).

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

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

As of 31st December 2016, the following statistics applied to the RAS scheme in Co. Wicklow:

	Total at 31st December 2016
Voluntary Agency Transfers	31
Number of Tenant Interviews	1567
Number of Property Inspections	1430
Tenancy Agreements/ contracts Signed	675

HOUSING AND CORPORATE ESTATE (CONTINUED)

A total of 15 applicants transferred to the RAS scheme in 2016 Long Term & Short Term Social Housing Leasing

Efforts continued throughout 2016 to promote leasing as a social housing option in Co. 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 16 units were leased to Wicklow County Council as of 31st December 2016.

HAP (Housing Assistance Payment)

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

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

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

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

Estate Development

The Housing Section is not in a position to provide an Estate Development service due to lack of staff

Tenant Liaison Officer

Throughout 2016, 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

A full rent review was carried out in 2016. This resulted in the income generated from rents increasing by approx €1.8 million per annum. There are now two Differential Rent Schemes in operation. The rents for Wicklow and Arklow Municipal Districts are now calculated on the Wicklow County Council Differential Rent Scheme and Bray Municipal District retained their own original Bray Differential Rent Scheme.

At the 31st December 2016 there were 4353 tenanted units plus 486 RAS units and 16 Long/Short Term Leased properties. The Total for Collection for 2016 was €14.3 million; however €12.9 million was collected leaving a closing arrears figure of €1.4 million.

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

Housing Grants

In 2016 the following Disabled Persons Grants were awarded:

36 Housing Adaption Grants	€576,272
70 Mobility Aid Grants	€345,212
56 Housing Aid for Older People	€319,780
TOTAL	€1,241,264

Of this 80% can be recouped from the Department.

Council owned D P G works were carried out on 80 of Council owned properties at a cost of €707,328, 90% of this can be recouped from the Dept

Traveller Accommodation

The members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) met regularly during 2016. Implementation of the objectives under the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2014 to 2018 continued to ensure the accommodation needs of Travellers living in Co. Wicklow are met to 2018. This includes planning for the provision of standard housing, halting sites, group housing, rural houses and temporary/emergency sites.

A midterm review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan was undertaken in December 2016.

Homelessness

Prevention of homelessness is a key focus and the homeless team provides advice and support, to person's homeless or at risk of homelessness. The homeless team engage with Landlords and the Rents Unit, with a view to sustaining tenancies.

HOUSING AND CORPORATE ESTATE (CONTINUED)

The introduction of the Housing Assistance Payment on 1st December 2016, when fully operational, will replace rent supplement for approved housing applicants. This will be a useful support to individuals and families who could not access rent supplement, because they were in employment. In partnership with the Simon Community, the Council continues to provide a supported accommodation facility at Kilmantin Hill in Wicklow Town, for people experiencing homelessness. Ten individuals are accommodated in medium support, transitional units at the facility.

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

Two four bedroom properties, which provide low to medium supported accommodation for eight individuals, under licence agreement for a period of eighteen months, have been opened at Oldcourt and Glenthorn, Bray.

In addition, four individuals and one family have transitioned to full tenancies at Castle Street, Wicklow Town, with visiting support from Simon Staff. Emergency accommodation is provided by the Council where necessary, following a full assessment of need.

TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Strategic Policy Committee

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

Cathaoirleach

Cllr Derek Mitchell

Wicklow County Council

Cllr Daire Nolan

Cllr Mary McDonald

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald

Cllr Pat Doran

Outside Agencies

Trade Union

Mr Christy Byrne

Environment/Conservation

Mr Tim Morgan

Agriculture/Farming Community

Mr Shane O'Loughlin

Development/Construction

Mr Paddy Mordaunt

Director of Services

Sean Quirke/Michael Geaney (A)

Senior Executive Officer

Theresa O'Brien/Helena Dennehy

A/Senior Engineer/Senior Engineer

Declan Marnane/Michael Flynn

Administrative Officer

Margaret Malone/Allyson Minion

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Road Safety Promotion and Education

The Road Safety Together Committee, which includes members of the Gardaí, Fire Service, Road Safety Authority, National Roads Authority and officials of Wicklow County Council met on a quarterly basis in 2016 to review road safety in County Wicklow. A review of the County Wicklow Road Safety Plan commenced in 2015. The main objective of the Road Safety Plan is to reduce the number of casualties on County Wicklow's roads and to provide focus on making Wicklow a safer county for both motorists and pedestrians through Education, Enforcement, Engineering and Evaluation. The County Wicklow Road Safety Plan 2015–2020 is now available and can be accessed online on www.wicklow.ie

TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE (CONTINUED)

OBJECTIVE 2

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

National Secondary N81

Planning continued in relation to the N81 Knockroe bends and the project is being assisted by the Kildare National Roads Office.

Non National Road Maintenance and Improvement

Maintenance works on Non National Roads in 2016 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.

Bridge Rehabilitation Grant Works 2016

Works were carried out at the following locations in 2016

2016:

- Greenhall Bridge
- Ballinacash Bridge
- Beech Road Bridge
- Toorboy Bridge
- Talbotstown Bridge
- Meetings of the Waters Bridge
- Greenan Bridge

Funding proposals were submitted for the following projects for 2017:

2017

- White Bridge Avoca
- Rathdrum Bridge
- Fortgranite Bridge
- Bay Bridge Shillelagh
- Cherrymount Bridge,
- Avoca Rosnastraw Bridge,
- Tinahely
- Roddenagh Bridge

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works 2016:

Low cost safety improvements works were carried out at the following locations in 2016:

- Calary Upper R755 Road
- Farrankelly Dual Carriageway

Proposed Low Cost Safety Improvement Works for 2017:

- Calary Upper
- Church Road/Lane, Greystones
- Main Street/Castlepark, Arklow
- Avoca
- Adelaide Road/Florence Road, Bray

TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE (CONTINUED)

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

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

Projects which received funding from the National Transport Authority in 2016 included:

- Arklow to Shillelagh Cycle track (planning completion)
- Glendalough Traffic Control Measures/Glendalough Junction
- Strand Road Cycle Track Bray
- Boghall Road Cycle Route
- Bray Dart Interchange
- Fitzwilliam Square Wicklow Town – (complete design)
- Wicklow Town Port access route to Staton Pedestrian Access
- Arklow – pedestrian cycle scheme 0 Main Street, Vale Road, Wexford Road Junction
- Beech Road Footbridge, Arklow
- Killarney Road Cycle Route
- Vevay Road Cycle Route
- St. Laurence’s School Footpath provision
- N81 Baltinglass VRU improvements
- Greystones – Kilcoole Safety project
- Strand Road extension to Harbour/Schools and Aquarium area, Bray

Projects submitted for funding to the National Transport Authority for 2017 include:

- Arklow Woodenbridge, Shillelagh
- Boghall Road Cycle
- Strand Road Cycle
- Bray Dart Interchange
- Fitzwilliam Square Wicklow
- PAR Wicklow Train Station

- Vale Road – Wexford Road – Main Street, Arklow
- St. Laurence’s School Footpath

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 2017.

Liaison with Transport Providers

With the improvement of the public transport service for County Wicklow as the primary objective, Wicklow County Council continued to liaise and work closely throughout 2016 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 and updated on a regular basis. The implementation of good health and safety practices has resulted in additional costs for various projects, but notwithstanding this, the Council remains committed to the health and safety of its employees.

Cross Cutting Measures:

Energy Consumption

As per 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 2016 or 3% per annum.

Energy Saving Measures in 2016.

Works completed on upgrading public lighting on the Wexford Road from 135w SOX fittings to proposed LEDs (70watts). Works will be completed by end of quarter 2 of 2016. Estimated saving of 6,300kwh per year.

Draft business case was prepared to replace approximately 11,000 of the 16,000 lights in the County with LED lanterns.

TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE (CONTINUED)

Potential energy saving could be in the region of 2.2 million kwh.

All planning conditions were updated in 2016 to use the most energy efficient lanterns available (LED) and it is now the policy of the Council to seek LEDs to be installed by private developers and Council.

An inventory of all Public Lighting in the county was substantially

Energy Saving Measures Proposals for 2017

Further develop the business case for the entire retrofit of all public lighting with LEDs. This is likely to be undertaken on a regional basis.

Other small retrofit works (replacing exiting lights with LEDs) will be carried out when and where feasible.

ROADS SERVICE INDICATORS - JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016

R1: Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI)

- (a) 98.7% of Regional Roads have been surveyed
- (b) 98% of Local Primary Roads have been surveyed
- (c) 96% of Local Secondary Roads have been surveyed
- (d) 68% of Local Tertiary Roads have been surveyed

85% of Regional Roads received a PSCI Rating during 2016.

	Rating	
(a) Regional Road	1-4	2%
	5-6	16%
	7-8	58%
	9-10	24%
(b) Local Primary Road	1-4	9%
	5-6	25%
	7-8	56%
	9-10	11%
(c) Local Secondary Road	1-4	11%
	5-6	25%
	7-8	51%
	9-10	12%
(d) Local Tertiary Road	1-4	14%
	5-6	20%
	7-8	48%
	9-10	18%

R2: Regional Road Grant Works

Length of Regional Road Strengthened	9.44km
RI Grant Amount	€983,934
Length of Regional Road Resealed	20.2km
RM Grant Amount	€476,939
Length of Local Road Strengthened	26.71km
RI Grant Amount	€2,063,214
Length of Local Road Resealed	27.9km
RM Grant Amount	€476,939

Butterflies on display for M11 motorists

For anyone driving the M11 Rathnew to Arklow route on a regular basis, the latest addition to the motorway is guaranteed to brighten up your day. Twenty five larger than life stainless steel butterflies have found a new home just off the northbound lane at Ballinameesda.

This artistic installation was created by sculptor Mike Johnson and was commissioned by Wicklow County Council under the Per Cent for Art Scheme. The Per Cent for Art scheme is a government initiative, first introduced in 1978, whereby 1% of the cost of any publicly funded capital, infrastructural and building development can be allocated to the commissioning of a work of art up to a maximum of €64,000. Since 1997 this scheme has been made available to all capital projects across all government departments.

Following a rigorous selection process of the twenty seven proposals initially received under the Per Cent for Art Scheme, Mike's proposal emerged as the preferred option. Mike subsequently worked closely with local school children and community participants to make his vision become a reality and the Ballinameesda Butterflies were born! Costing €60,000 to complete, this public art sculpture has certainly captured the attention of road users and the feedback to date has been overwhelmingly positive.

Coastal Protection Works at the Murrough, Wicklow.

In 2016, increased funding of €450,000 was secured by Wicklow County Council from the Office of Public Works (OPW) under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme. This funding was approved in light of significant storm damage caused to the coastline at the Murrough and works have now been completed

WATER, WASTEWATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

OBJECTIVE

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

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

Introduction

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

- C01 Operation and Maintenance Water Supply
- C02 Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment
- C03 Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges
- C04 Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences
- C05 Administration of Group and Private Installations
- C06 Support to Water Capital Programme
- C07 Agency and Recoupable Services
- E01 Operation, Maintenance and Aftercare of Landfill
- E02 Operation and Maintenance of Recovery and Recycling Facilities
- E03 Operation and Maintenance of Waste to Energy Facilities
- E04 Provision of Waste Collection Services
- E05 Litter Management
- E06 Street Cleaning
- E07 Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement
- E08 Waste Management Planning
- E09 Maintenance of Burial Grounds
- E10 Safety of Structures and Places
- E11 Operation of Fire Service
- E12 Fire Prevention
- E 13 Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution
- F03 Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations
- G02 Operation and maintenance of piers and harbours
- G03 Coastal Protection and Flood mitigation works
- G04 Veterinary Services
- H07 Operation of Market and Casual Trading

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

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

- Cllr Derek Mitchell
- Cllr Daire Nolan
- Cllr Mary McDonald
- Cllr Pat Doran
- Cllr Pat Fitzgerald
- Tim Morgan - Environment/Conservation
- Shane O’Loughlin- Agriculture/Farming
- Paddy Mordaunt - Development/Construction
- Christy Byrne - Trade Union

Executive

Director of Services Transport

Sean Quirke

Director of Services Water & Environment

Michael Geaney

Senior Executive Officer

Helena Dennehy

Senior Engineer

Michael Flynn

During 2016, three meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee took place.

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

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

WATER, WASTEWATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE (CONTINUED)

WATER & WASTEWATER SERVICES

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

Irish Water has responsibility for the areas of:

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

Wicklow County Council will retain responsibility for the areas of:

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

Operation and Maintenance Water Supply Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment

The main duties of the Water Services 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.

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 2016.

The migration of Non Domestic metering and billing transferred to Irish Water in full in September 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

Wicklow Co Co 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.

WATER, WASTEWATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE (CONTINUED)

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 SERVICES

Complaints Procedure

The total number of complaints received in 2016 by Water and Environmental Services was 2,274 and cover areas of Waste, Litter, Water Pollution, Noise, Air, Water Waste, 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.

In 2015 a 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 waste, litter & burning environmental complaints during 2016. Many prosecutions were secured under the Waste Management Acts 1996 with individuals fined up to €3000 plus €1500 in costs. 213 Litter Fines were issued in 2016.



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 and again in 2016.

2016 turned out to be one of our busiest years in recent times with all Wicklow Recycling centres ahead on tonnage. 3981

WATER, WASTEWATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE (CONTINUED)

tonnes of recycling passed through our centres in 2016.

There was continued investment in the centre's, providing new signage to assist the public in correctly depositing their materials. Information on the recycling centre's 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 2016. Bray and Arklow recycling centres provide permanent outlets for the disposal of paints.

Wicklow County Council recycles from all its corporate locations. In 2016, 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.

Denis Naughten, T.D., Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, on 21 December 2016, announced the extension of the Protecting Uplands and Rural Environments (PURE) project for a further three-year period, 2017-2019. The Minister will provide funding of €115,000 per annum in support of the project over the three-year 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 2016 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 10.5% of its target.

Wicklow County Council set up an Energy Awareness Team in 2016. In conjunction with SEAI Wicklow Co Co took part in and Engaging People Programme. A document was prepared and is an Energy Awareness Strategy and Action Plan for Wicklow County Council. The aim is to run a campaign for 3 years between 2016 and for 2019.

The key messages of the Energy Awareness group is to:

- Encourage staff to save energy & money
- Use resources more efficiently
- Local and Global environmental benefits
- Enable staff to understand energy better
- Saving energy at home
- Raise Awareness for improved quality of projects and programmes with better energy understanding
- Better PR for the County Council

Wicklow County Council have also signed up to Optimising Power at Work which is due to commence in 2017. This programme will follow on from Awareness Programme and start to put many of the great staff ideas on Energy Efficiencies into practice.

Pollution Control

Wicklow County Council is committed to ensuring that

WATER, WASTEWATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE (CONTINUED)

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 2016.

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 such as public water supplies and requires remedial action where deficient quality was found. In 2016 Wicklow County Council concentrated efforts on private water supplies and working 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 2016. 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 2016.

Blue Flags

Wicklow County Council retained its other Blue Flags in 2016 at Brittas Bay South, Brittas Bay North and Greystones South Beach. Application was made in late 2016 for inclusion of Bray Brach for 2017 Blue Flag Programme and it is hoped that Wicklow County Council will then be operating 4 beautiful Blue Flag Beaches for years to come.

PORTS & HARBOURS

Wicklow Port

In August 2016 Wicklow County Council assumed control of Wicklow Port. Wicklow is the first of five designated 'Ports of Regional Significance' to come under local authority led

WATER, WASTEWATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE (CONTINUED)

governance under the Government's National Ports Policy of 2013.

Wicklow Port has an active commercial base, a diverse range of active harbour users and a maritime conscious community that wish to see their harbour thrive and grow.

Wicklow Port will retain an important regional position as a freight distribution hub with an increasing role in areas such as marine leisure and tourism. The Council will remain commercially appreciative and create the environment within which the various port-based companies can avail of the established facilities, the harbour infrastructure and land transport access in order to enhance maritime economic activity.

Since taking over Wicklow Port, Wicklow County Council has carried out risk assessments and created a new safety statement for the port and its users. The Council will be introducing induction training for employees and safety training for employees, port users and visitors. It has resolved long standing problems with navigation lights and installed waste oil and oil filter collection facilities for harbour users.



Wicklow Port Pier



Wicklow Port

Arklow Harbour

The improvement and upgrading works continued in Arklow Harbour. Under the Fishery Harbours Coastal Infrastructure Programme 2016 funding was secured for grouting work to

stabilise and strengthens the masonry of the river wall at the North Quay, Arklow. These works will prevent leaching of materials through stonework on the North Quay walls. During the year an increase of leisure craft visiting Arklow Harbour was recorded. There are approximately 20 moorings available to these visiting yachts.

The Council has dedicated the following staff structure to the resources of the harbours and Port in the County – a Senior Marine Officer, a Marine Officer, two administrative Staff, an Executive Engineer Staff and a General Operative.

BURIAL GROUNDS

There are thirty two burial grounds currently in use, which are controlled by the Council, part-time registrars are employed by the Council to sell grave spaces and maintain burial registers. The Council for its part through the District engineers carries out the heavier type of maintenance where machinery etc. is required to be used.

A full review of County wide Burial Policy commenced in 2015, through the Transportation, Water & Environmental Services SPC, and work in this area continued throughout 2016.

Monitoring of all graveyards is ongoing.

FIRE SERVICE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

Major Emergency Planning

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

A Major Emergency Management Committee is in place in Wicklow County Council and comprises of Senior Personnel from all sections of Wicklow County Council and the town authorities. Regular meetings were held in 2016 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. Other areas of Fire Service activity progressed during 2016 included:

- Inspection of Fire Hydrants

WATER, WASTEWATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE (CONTINUED)

- Inspections and enforcement under Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 – 97 Inspections carried out in 2016
- Assessing Fire Safety Certificates and Disability Access Certificates under the Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2009. – 70 Fire Cert applications were received and processed during 2016
- 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 new Service Level Agreement commenced mid 2016 for a period of 3 years.

Dog Control

The ISPCA provides a dog control service on behalf of Wicklow County Council. Two Dog Wardens and a Kennel assistant are employed to operate this service, which is based in the dog pound located in Rathdrum. A subsidised neutering scheme is available for dogs rehomed 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 2016:

- Basic training for volunteers.
- Training of New instructors.
- Up skilling of Current Instructors.
- Community events/operations.
- Upgrade of vehicles and equipment.
- Introduction of Drones.
- Recruitment programme.
- Induction Training of 13 new members.
- 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 County Wicklow...'

Recruitment & Induction Training.

After a successful Recruitment programme in June 2016, thirteen new members started their induction basic training in September. During this Ten week intense training, Volunteers completed courses in Manual Handling, Cardiac First Response and Basic Radio Skills. These volunteers will enhance the membership throughout the County.

Upgrade of Equipment and Vehicles

A replacement Ambulance and Fire Tender were added to the fleet during 2016.

These vehicles along with new flooding equipment will enhance Civil Defence capacity to respond to flooding incidents across County Wicklow.

Drones/ SUA (Small Unmanned Aircraft)

Members of Wicklow Civil Defence have Trained as Drone Camera operators.

The Drone programme will be expanded during 2017 with the issuing of equipment from the Department of Defence.

This equipment will greatly increase our capacity in searching from missing persons also for support to departments of Wicklow County Council.

ie Monitoring Flooding and Wildland / Gorse Fires



WATER, WASTEWATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE (CONTINUED)



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.

There are 9 Ancillary Safety Statements applicable to Environmental Services area and reviews are carried out annually.

Irish Water carries out reviews of all Safety Statements for Public Water & Wastewater supplies through their HSQE programme.

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 AND DEVELOPMENT

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.”

Strategic Policy Committee

Cathaoirleach

Sylvester Bourke & Cllr Vincent Blake
(2.5 years each)

Wicklow County Council

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

Outside Agencies

Development/Construction

Tony Lawlor

Agriculture/Farming

Michael Byrne

Environment/Conservation

Joan Campbell

Business/Commercial

Trevor Wood

Director of Services

Des O'Brien

Senior Planner

Sorcha Walsh

Senior Engineer

Fergal Keogh

Functions Include

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

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Development Management is the general term used to describe the functions relating to the processing of planning applications, up to and including any appeals to An Bord Pleanála. During 2016, we continued to see an increase in applications being received.

Year	No. of Applications
2002	1,460
2003	1,889
2004	2,118
2005	2,326
2006	2,560
2007	2,799
2008	2,146
2009	1,359
2010	1,147
2011	976
2012	939
2013	987
2014	1,285
2015	1,361
2016	1,465

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

Enforcement

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.

There are currently 777 live enforcement files. A total of 189 Warning Letters issued in 2016, while 58 Enforcement Notices were served. A total of 223 cases closed with 173 new complaints received. The number of cases referred for legal action was 25

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

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

Volume 2: Town/Settlement plans

Volume 3: Appendices

The plan was adopted in November 2016 and came into effect in December 2016 with the exception of the issues that were subject of the Minister’s Direction.

Wicklow Heritage

The Heritage Office seeks to promote pride, raise awareness, provide advice and propose policy in relation to Heritage in County Wicklow. The Heritage Officer provides a range of services including for example, input into Strategic Environmental Assessments and Appropriate Assessments for development plans, provides best practice for other departments in relation to their projects, sourcing funding for projects and deal with a wide range of queries from the public and other bodies

During 2016

- Meetings held for the Wicklow Heritage Forum
- Heritage input to County Development Plan review and review of RPS
- Development of the Glendalough Community Archaeology Project
- Co hosting a one day Wicklow 1916 Public Collections Day
- Developing bio diversity projects for a number of Tidy Towns groups
- Expansion of the Wicklow Online Community Heritage Archive

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Cathaoirleach

Cllr Jim Ruttle

Wicklow County Council

Cllr Jim Ruttle

Cllr Gráinne McLoughlin

Cllr Nicola Lawless

Cllr Shay Cullen

Cllr Brendan Thornhill

Cllr Miriam Murphy

Cllr Pat Kennedy

Outside Agencies

Business/Commercial

Chamber of Commerce

Ms Irene Sweeney

Public Participation Network

PPN Social Inclusion

Ms Gertie Salley

PPN Community & Voluntary

Mr John Mullen

PPN Community & Voluntary

Ms Ann Halpin

Director of Services

Mr Michael Nicholson

The Community, Cultural and Social Development SPC considered and supported a wide range of Policy issues during 2016.

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 2016
- 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 2016–2020 and the Library Programme and Service for 2016.
- Development and rollout of the Wicklow County Arts Strategy 2016–2019 for County Wicklow and the Arts Programme for 2016.
- 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 & Social Development (CC&SD) Function includes

The Government's 2012 Plan 'Putting People First: An Action Plan for Effective Local Government' proposed a series of Local Government reform measures "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities" and represents a significant change in Government Policy in relation to Local Government.

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

"the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level – leading economic, social and community development,

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

delivering efficient and good value services, and representing citizens and local communities effectively and accountably”

Measures set out under this action programme, included the integration of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) functions within Local Authorities, as well as the establishment of Economic Development and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) and Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) within each Local Authority.

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 (The Act) is the legal basis for the reforms proposed under the Governments 2012 Plan.

The Act has resulted in a changing and expanding role for Local Authorities, beyond their traditional functions. Under the Act, Local Authorities are considered to be “the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level, leading economic, social and community development”. The remit of Local Government now includes a more central role in local and community development. Creating and supporting stronger inter-agency collaboration and improved targeting of public funding are the critical elements of this new direction in governance.

Section 36 of The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC)

The LCDC is a committee of the Local Authority responsible for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funds in that area and is responsible for public funded, community focused programmes, which seek to develop the wellbeing of our communities.

The Membership is a mix of public and private representatives from key local interests, community and voluntary; social inclusion; business; local development; education; health; enterprise; agriculture; Local Authority Members.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Membership of the County Wicklow LCDC comprises of **19 Members** as follows:

- 3 Elected Members
 - 2 Local Authority Representatives (Chief Executive and Local Enterprise Officer)
 - 4 HSE/KWETB/DSP/Other Agency
- Private**
- 5 PPN (Comm./Vol. = 2; Social Inclusion = 2; Environment = 1)
 - 2 Partnerships
 - 1 Farming
 - 1 INOU

1 Business
Nine meetings were held in 2016.

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.
- Develop the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

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 LECP
- To review the community elements of the LECP
- 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.

A total of nine meetings of the LCDC were held throughout 2016. Calls for submissions and many meetings and consultation workshops were also held on the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

One of the key provisions of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 is the formulation by every Local Authority of a LECP.

The LECP is a 6 year Plan, developed after extensive public consultation and identifies how to tackle the main areas of concern for our community, education; youth services; integration; mental health; unemployment; health; lifestyle; literacy; age friendly; disabilities; tourism; local development

- 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

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

- Government Reform Act 2014.
- 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

The Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016 – 2022 was officially launched by Minister Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, at a ceremony at the National Ploughing Championships at Screggan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 20th September 2016.

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

As part of the process, extensive stakeholder engagement has been carried out with our partner Agencies, local business and the wider community. Engagement with the Public Participation Network (PPN) has ensured that the voice of the local community and voluntary sector has been heard. Equally, interaction with the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) has ensured that the actions proposed in the CWETT Action Plan are embedded in the LECP.

The LECP contains the measures necessary to promote and support community and economic development in County Wicklow and will also be the primary mechanism, at local level, to bring forward national programmes, such as the Action Plan for Jobs and the Report of the Commission for Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA).

Annual implementation plans will contain the detail of the actions in the LECP, along with indicators and timeframes to monitor progress and impact.

An implementation team is in place to ensure that the objectives are achieved.

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 set 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 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 2016.

Launch of LEADER in Wicklow

Wicklow's Local Development Strategy was launched by Minister Heather Humphries T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs at a function in County Cavan on 8th July 2016.

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.

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

Activity Performance Indicator 2016.

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

A Number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2016 = **148**

B Number of organisations that registered for the first time in 2016 = **16**

C Number of organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN = **42**

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 2016. 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.

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 is part of this worldwide initiative which aims to make sure that as we age, we can all:

- Have a real say in what happens in our own lives and what happens in the areas in which we live.
- Enjoy good health, good services, and live in a safe environment

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

- 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 and to produce the County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2017 – 2022, were held throughout 2016.

Leisure Facilities Operations

Charlesland Sport and Recreation Park and Skatepark,

Charlesland, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

Operated by Shoreline Leisure

Tel: 01 201 6145.

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: 01 287 8180.

Bray Swimming Pool and Gymnasium,

Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

This complex is operated by Shoreline Leisure

Tel: 01 276 5660.

Wicklow Historic Gaol,

Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow Town.

Tel: 0404 61 599.

E-mail: wicklowgaol@gmail.com

Web: 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 2016.

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.

Wicklow County Council Library Services Development Plan 2016-2020

Wicklow County Council Library Services Development Plan 2016–2020 was launched in early 2016.

Developments and improvements targeted in the Plan include:

- **Wicklow Town** – Wicklow County Council has identified a suitable building and matters are being pursued, to secure its purchase.
- **Rathdrum** – The current priority is to develop a modern library facility, as part of other community services.
- **Aughrim** – The present library is not of a suitable standard for a modern facility, so developing a modern library building on the existing site is the most practical solution.
- **Mobile Library** – The present Mobile Library Van is twelve years old and needs to be replaced. This very successful venture has an annual membership of 2,000, and over 35,000 items borrowed annually. The service is greatly appreciated by the public it serves.
- **Bray Library, Eglinton Road** – The need to provide a quality library building and library service for Bray is included in the Council's Library Service Development Plan 2016-2020.

The Bray, Library, Eglinton Road received a major refurbishment in Autumn 2016, which included new shelving, redecoration and provision of a dedicated and quieter study area for students. The original 1910 mosaic tiles have been restored at the original reception area, and entrance from the Florence Road is now more accessible and user friendly.

It is intended to extend the library further in the next five years.

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

New 'Flagship' Arklow Library and Arklow Municipal District Offices

The new Arklow Library and Arklow Municipal District Offices at Main Street, Arklow were officially opened on 1st April 2016, to much acclaim.

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 offers a wide 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 ground floor contains all the library stock items for borrowing, including books in Polish, located in a Polish Section.

The first floor comprises of a dedicated study and reference room, art exhibition area, relaxation area for reading of newspapers and magazines, fourteen computer for public access and a community room for use by local groups. An average of 8,200 are being borrowed each month. The public have made over 75,000 visits to the new Library and have borrowed some 73,845 items, in the Library's first nine months of opening to the end of 2016.

Libraries throughout County Wicklow continued to provide and expand on their in-house activities during 2016.

Activity Programme in 2016 included:

- Regular school class visits.
- Historical talks
- Exhibitions, including World Book Week Activities
- Science week in Greystones Library 'Teddy Bears Sleepover' 'Daves Jungle'
- Culture Night 2016 events
- Music Circle in Greystones Library
- Book Clubs for adults and teenagers.
- Story telling/reading for children.
- Quizzes
- Arts and Crafts Workshops.
- Maths Eyes in Blessington Library
- Bealtaine Talks in Bray Library
- Wicklow Arts Festival in Wicklow Library
- Heritage Week Talks
- Exhibitions, Commemorations and Presentations for adults.
- 'Summer Stars'
- 'Owl Babies'

- Toddler Tale Stories
- Book Clubs/Shadowing Projects

'Summer Stars'

The 'Summer Stars' programme was rolled out to all libraries in the County, as part of a National initiative. This programme encouraged children of all ages to visit their local library and read, throughout the Summer holidays. As a reward, the children received wrist bands, book marks, promotional bags and badges and a certificate in September, as part of the programme.

It is intended to continue with this programme in 2017.

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)

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 2016.

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 21,500 Wi-Fi sessions availed of in 2016.

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

Technological Developments

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 4,500 'Downloadable' Audio Books were listened to in 2016.
- Over 2,000 E-books were read by library users in 2016.
- Over 55,000 (34,000 on the Public PC's and 21,000 Wi-Fi), online sessions were availed of in Wicklow Libraries during 2016.

Library Management System (LMS) – known as 'SIERRA'

Wicklow County Council and sixteen other Local Authorities are now 'live' on the new Library Management System (LMS) – SIERRA, with the remaining Local Authorities 'going live' in early 2017.

A major advantage of the new system is the streamlining of services, enabling an equitable service for all:

- All users have access to the same 'online' catalogue of resources, including e-books, downloadable audio books, e-languages, e-magazines and e-newspapers.
- Books and Items can now be requested 'online' from Libraries throughout Ireland and books and items are being collected from and delivered to Wicklow Libraries, twice weekly.
- Everyone can now borrow up to twelve items at a time. Where an e-Mail address has been provided, the borrower receives a warning e-Mail when fines are about to accrue, and then they can return or renew the items borrowed, or renew online.
- A National Advertising Campaign, showcasing all of the benefits available through the library service, is planned by the Local Government Management Agency, when all of the Local Authorities 'go live' in early 2017.

Activity Performance Indicators 2016

Library/Recreation Services (L1 and L2)

L1: Library visits and issues

A Number of visits to Libraries per head of population
= $505,360 \div 142,332 = 3.551$

(County Wicklow Population 142,332 per 2016 Census)

B Number of items issued to Library borrowers in the year 2016 = **475,686**

L2 : Cost of operating library service

A The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F (F02) data divided by the Population

= $\text{€}2,685,902 \div 142,332 = \text{€}18.871$

(County Wicklow population 142,332 per 2016 Census)

Registered Membership in 2016 remains constant at over 30,000.

Archives and Family History Service

Wicklow Family History Centre and County Archives, located at County Buildings, provide ongoing access to the Council's archival collections, as well as advice and guidance on historical and other research projects.

Wicklow County Council Archives hold a unique collection of Wicklow records relating to the Administration of the County and the people's interaction with its administration.

They offer a rich research resource, not only for the family historian and the local historian, but also for academic and other researchers of wide and varying interests, who wish to learn about the shape and development of communities and the authorities who served them.

Among the jewels of the collection are the 17th and 18th century Wicklow Borough records. These early minute books offer a snapshot of life in Wicklow from the mid -1600's.

The County archives also hold the records of the Grand Jury, which was the precursor of the County Council, as well as the Boards of Guardians of the Poor Law Unions, Boards of Health, Rural and District, Town and County Councils.

The Wicklow Family History Centre is a genealogy research service established in 1987 by Wicklow County Council and the then FÁS. It has computerised County Wicklow's parish registers, assembled a rich collection of Wicklow genealogical resources and offers a professional research service for enquirers from around the world with Wicklow roots.

Online Research Service - www.rootsireland.ie

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

Promotions:

- Promotion of the service, through articles submitted to various genealogy magazines and online publications, continues throughout the year.
- The Wicklow Heritage Forum promotes the service through the Heritage Plan
- A Member of the Irish Family History Foundation, creators of www.rootsireland.ie

Projects:

- The Genealogy Service continues to produce research reports for those with Wicklow roots, and corresponds with Wicklow descendants around the world - promoting the

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

- County as a destination to those on the “roots trail”.
- The Archives and Genealogy Service has digitised the following collections: Grand Jury Records; Wicklow County Council Minute Books; former Arklow Urban District Council Minutes. Further digitisation will be carried out in 2017
 - The service is in partnership with Trinity College, the National Library and the Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely in a plan to digitise the records of the Fitzwilliam Estate. Hundreds of thousands of Canadians and Americans descend from the tenants, who left this Estate during the Famine.
 - The County Wicklow Heritage Website is part of a network of websites created by the National Museum of Ireland. The site features a Genealogy Section with articles offering a guide to Wicklow research. More articles will be added in 2017. Articles about the Archives Services have recently been featured, as well as regular updates on genealogy and archives, on the Council’s Wicklow Heritage Facebook page.

Records Management:

The Wicklow County Council Records Management Group is developing a records management programme for Wicklow County Council, with reference to the National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records published by the LGMSB.

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 2016.

Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative

Wicklow County Library Service has administered the Irish Public Bodies Insurances (IPB)/Fáilte Ireland funding initiative since 2014.

Wicklow 1916 – 2016 Centenary Commemoration.

Local Authorities were regarded as having a vital role to play in the development of a programme of events to commemorate the 1916 – 2016 Centenary Commemoration.

Wicklow County Council’s 1916 - 2016 Steering Group stressed the importance, that after 2016 a legacy would remain, which would enable people remember the year that was and in this regard, produced an ambitious programme of events from historical festivals and re-enactments to book publications, drama and imagination to commemorate the events of Easter 1916.

Some of the ‘Flagship’ events included:

- **Glór na Cásca Gardens** have been established in each of the five Municipal Districts of County Wicklow. Each consists of the 1916 Proclamation engraved on a granite stone – in Irish and English, seven trees symbolising each of the 1916

signatories and a Flagpole for the National Flag. Suitable ceremonies were held to mark the official opening of each.

- **A Downloadable App “1916WicklowLife”** (the website version is www.1916WicklowLife.ie), which features weekly extracts from County Wicklow newspapers, the Wicklow People and The Wicklow Newsletter, from 100 years ago, which form part of Wicklow County Council Library Service local studies collection.
- Granite from McEvoy’s quarry in Ballyknockan was used to re-build the GPO following the Rising. This was honoured in an **Oral History of Lacken, Ballyknockan and Vallemount**.
- A Choral event, **‘Mary Gordon’**, which was commissioned by Wicklow County Arts Office, celebrates choral singing and 2016, with involvement from 320 members of amateur Community Choirs from throughout County Wicklow, including 50 children from Music Generation Wicklow Children’s Choir and the RTE National Symphony Orchestra will be held on 5th November 2016 in the National Concert Hall.
- **Freedom: A 1916 Story**. This ten minute stop motion animated film, incorporates a combination of handmade sets, lego minifigures and technology, was commissioned by Wicklow County Council, and tells the story of the Easter Rising in Dublin in 1916, in a family friendly manner. The film is available on www.wicklow1916.com in both Irish and English and has been very well received, as regards viewings and acclaim.
- On the actual centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising (April 24th) Wicklow County Council’s 1916–2016 Steering Group hosted a Cine-Concert: **Irish Destiny** - the film is part of the National Film Institute Collection – with grand piano accompaniment by Micheál O’Sulleabháin, in the Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray This silent feature drama was released on Easter Sunday 1926, to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising. The film is a love story set against the backdrop of the War of Independence and the majority of the outdoor locations were filmed in County Wicklow, including some identifiable scenes in Enniskerry Village and Laragh. Films and Newsreels from the 1916 period also feature.
- **A 1916 Curation Day** A countywide ‘Curation Day’ was held in County Buildings in May 2016, which invited people to register and to bring along their Memorabilia of 100 years ago (1916) for inspection and recording. This event was a great success.

In addition, a full programme of 1916–2016 Centenary Commemoration Events took place during 2016, in towns and villages throughout County Wicklow.

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

Community activity engaged in by Wicklow County Council throughout 2016:

Comhairle na nÓg 2016

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

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

- Wicklow
- Bray
- Greystones
- Arklow
- Baltinglass

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

Activity Performance Indicators 2016

Youth and Community (Y1 and Y2)

Y1: Participation in Comhairle na nÓg scheme

A Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme = **69.57%**

Compiled as follows:

Number of second level schools in the Local Authority Area at 31/12/2016 = 23

Number of second level schools in the Local Authority Area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2016 = 16

Community Awards 2016.

The Community Award Grants for 2016 had an overall fund of €250,000 (€200,000 in Community Grant/Merit Awards and a further €50,000 in Community Social Innovation Awards).

230 Community Groups/Clubs/Voluntary Organisations benefitted under the Wicklow County Council Community Grants Award Scheme in 2016.

There were 5 Merit Awards presented in 2016

Co-operation Ireland 'All - Island' Pride of Place Awards 2016.

Wicklow County Council is proud to be involved again in the 2016 Annual IPB Co-operation Ireland 'All-Island Price 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 nominated 3 Projects under three Categories for 2016.

Category Population 0–300

Rathdangan Community Council

Rathdangan is a small village set in a beautiful location in West Wicklow. The location in itself brings challenges like remoteness, fewer services and a sparse population.

The community of Rathdangan decided to fight back and in 2013 Rathdangan Community Council undertook a community consultation and developed a five-year plan.

The plan centres on a vision of strengthening Community spirit and involvement

Category Population over 5,000

Arklow

Situated midway between Dublin and Wexford, Arklow, a town rich in character and personality, is a harbour town founded in Viking times, and set in a very scenic location on the Avoca river. Offering easy pedestrian access to wonderful beach and river walks, Arklow also offers excellent shopping and every amenity you can think of.

Shipping and maritime traditions have been part of Arklow's DNA over many generations and has always been integral to the development of Arklow.

There is a wide range of educational, employment and sporting facilities on offer in an attractive and friendly environment. Leisure boats are moored at the marina and fishing trawlers are based at the deep water harbour sited within the town.

Category Communities Reaching Out Initiatives

WH Five Loaves

Mission Statement We believe in the inherent dignity of every person, proactively addressing and meeting the needs of the

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

homeless and disadvantaged, in a spirit of compassion and hospitality, with the hope of making a difference in their lives.

W.H. Five Loaves is a homeless charity based in Bray providing a low threshold day care centre, hot breakfast and dinners, information and advice, social inclusion initiatives, one to one support, recreational and educational programmes, support to residents in their housing project and a charity shop.

There was success for Wicklow at the 2016 Pride of Place Awards Ceremony which was held in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast on 26th November 2016.

Rathdangan Community Council was presented with one of top awards in the competition when it took runner up place in category one, which is for areas with populations of less than 300.

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:** Sidmorton Park, Bray.
- **Bray:** Seafront, Promenade
- **Wicklow Town:** Ballynerrin.
- **Wicklow Town:** Hill View.
- **Wicklow Town:** The Murrrough.
- **Rathnew:** Children's Playground and Teen Area with a Skate and BMX Park (Opened in 2016)
- **Baltinglass:** Recreation Park and Playground.
- **Blessington:** Playground, Business Park, Blessington.
- **Enniskerry:** Playground, Monastery Grove, Enniskerry.
- **Greystones:** Playground, Mill Road, Greystones.
- **Kilmacanogue:** Playground, Rockfield Park.
- **Newcastle:** Playground, Wicklow Coast Road, Newcastle.
- **Newtownmountkennedy:** Children's Playground (Opened in 2016)

Proposed:

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

Skateparks:

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

Proposed:

- **Baltinglass:** Skatepark

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 Mór 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.

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

- 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.

WICKLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP. (LSP).

Overview

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

The 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 2016

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

- **CARA Two Hour Disability Inclusion Course.** Two courses were rolled out in 2016, one to St. Andrews School, Bray and the other to Donard and Stratford GAA Club.
- Fourteen **Code of Ethics Courses** were completed in 2016
- **Community Coaching Programme** for people, who are unemployed, began in Bray in 2016.
- 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.
- **Buntus Start** training was delivered in Laragh and Bray in November 2016. Nine childcare facilities completed the training with more planned for 2017. The aim of this training is to supply those who are working in the childcare profession with both the equipment and the skills to give children the best possible introduction to physical activity.
- 2016 seen the launch of Wicklow LSPs **'One Million Step Challenge'** in which teachers and students compete to reach One Million Steps within 5 days. Schools are supplied with

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

step counters and tracking sheets by the LSP to complete the challenge. This programme was a huge success and was completely booked up by the end of the year.

Planned actions for 2017

- 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.
- Continue to roll out the various Programmes undertaken in 2016.

The Wicklow Local Sports Partnership is on Facebook and Twitter. Web: www.wicklowlsp.ie

Wicklow County Arts Office

County Wicklow has a rich artistic and cultural tradition with a range of vibrant activities taking place in the visual arts, music, theatre, literature, sculpture, youth arts, community arts and festivals.

Wicklow County Council's Arts Programme is to nurture and develop this rich tradition and to ensure that the Arts are made accessible to all in the County.

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 Events.
- Per Cent for Arts Programme.

Other Programmes

Town and Village Renewal 2016

Wicklow County Council received a Grant Allocation of €380,000 for Town and Village Renewal Projects at Shillelagh; Wicklow Town; Rathdrum; Dunlavin; Kilcoole; Rathdangan and Carnew.

The Projects include Playgrounds, Footpaths, Tourist Walks, Library Extension and a Pedestrian Bridge.

CLÁR 2016

Under the 2016 CLAR programme, a total of seven District Electoral Divisions (DED's) qualified for funding as follows:

Arklow Municipal District: Ballinacor and Kilpipe

Baltinglass Municipal District: Ballinguile; Imaal North; Luglass; Ballybeg and Coolballintaggart.

The following types of work qualify:

1. Safety measures for Schools and Community/Sports Facilities
2. Outdoor Play Facility enhancements
3. Local access road measures

REDZ 2016 (Rural Economic Development Zones)

Following on the success of the REDZ 2015 Scheme, REDZ 2016 was launched in October 2016.

Similar to the 2015 Scheme, REDZ 2016 is aimed at providing additional support to existing REDZ initiatives and to develop the concept further in additional areas.

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

Walk Projects

Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk

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

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

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

Wicklow Cliff Walk

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

Mapping of Walks in County Wicklow

An exercise is currently underway to map all the walks in the County, to identify gaps and to explore the possibility of linking all the walks.

This work will continue in 2017.

IRELAND – WALES INTERREG PROJECT

Wicklow County Council, working with Waterford County Council and Wexford County Council and a number of Local Authorities in Wales, an application was made in 2016 for an EU INTERREG Funding Project to create a series of county cross-border tourism trails that combine natural, cultural and heritage assets in Ireland and Wales to increase visitor numbers to the benefit of the Irish and Welsh economies.

BLUEWAY

The coastlines of Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford have a combined length of circa 415 Km.

This coast is accessible to the public with numerous beaches and water - based activities operating along the route.

The land corridor has a strong heritage, culture, craft and food offering, with the potential for further development.

A proposed Blueway Project would extend from Bray in County Wicklow to Ardmore in County Waterford.

A Blueway is a recreational water activity trail that is developed for use by non-motorised water activity enthusiasts.

It is defined by trail heads, access and egress points and readily available trail information.

Blueways can be developed along canals, rivers, lakes or along the coast.

ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

GOAL

“Provision and retention of sufficient professionally developed staff to meet the needs of the organisation.”

Access

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

Wicklow Local Authorities Access Group (WLAAG)

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

Audit Committee

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

- Mr Tom Gregan, Chairman
- Mr Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman
- Ms Mary Savage
- Cllr Edward Timmins
- Cllr Gerry Walsh (who replaced Deputy Pat Casey during 2016)

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

- To review the financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the Local Authority
- To foster the development of best practice in the performance by the Local Authority of its internal audit function
- To review any audited financial statement, Auditor’s Report or Auditor’s Special Report in relation to the Local Authority

and assess any actions taken within that authority by its Chief Executive in response to such a statement or report and report its findings to the Authority

- To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the Local Authorities performance of its functions
- To review systems that are operated by the Local Authority for the management of risks
- To review the findings and recommendations of the National Oversight & Audit Committee (NOAC) and the response of the Chief Executive to these and take further action as appropriate.

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

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

- Compliance with the Financial Procedures Manual
- Review of Fixed Assets
- Review of Debtors
- Bank Reconciliation
- Review of VAT Compliance
- Review of Gateway Labour Activation Scheme

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

ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE SERVICES (CONTINUED)

Councillor – Conferences attended in 2016

CONFERENCE ATTENDED IN 2016	DATE	NO. OF ATTENDEES
LAMA Training, Sligo	31st March – 2nd April 2016	9
AILG Training, Mullingar	17th – 18th February 2016	1
AILG Training, Buncrana	5th – 6th May 2016	6
AILG Training, Arklow	10th May 2016	1
Best Places to Visit, Ballygarry House, Tralee	11th June 2016	1
AILG Training, Dundalk	17th – 18th June 2016	3
AILG Training, Dublin	14th July 2016	1
AILG Training, Longford	15th September 2016	4
Housing Grants and Schemes	22nd – 24th September 2016	2
La Touche Legacy Conference, Greystones	24th September 2016	3
LAMA Training, Bantry	30th September – 1st October 2016	9
AILG Training, Gorey	13th – 14th October 2016	7
AILG Training, Birr	18th October 2016	5
Co-operation Ireland	27th October 2016	1
Budget Seminar, Clonakilty	28th – 30th October 2016	2
AILG Training, Red Cow	19th November 2016	1

ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE SERVICES (CONTINUED)

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 2016.

Development of Enterprise Centres

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

The Wicklow Enterprise Centre/Business Park, comprises 74,000 sq ft of enterprise space providing a complete turnkey facility to existing and new developing businesses. It comprises workspace units, research & development, manufacturing and distribution and food production training in sizes from 180 sq. 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 in partnership with development agencies and the business community.

Sites for Enterprise/Employment uses

Wicklow County Council has invested some €1.3m on the construction of Avondale Business Park, Rathdrum. The park is divided by four roads, linked by a main roundabout. The bulk of the work has been carried out to Road no. 1 and 2 and also to the new roundabout with most of the utility providers' ducts and pipes laid on Road no. 1 and 2. High quality fencing has been erected to the front perimeter of the site as well as construction of entrance pillars and gateway etc. A very positive step for Avondale Business Park is the construction and operation of the first commercial premises. The Enterprise Unit is engaging with businesses that have expressed an interest in locating to the Business Park, and the Council will continue to push forward with its plans for the development of the site into the future.

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

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

In accordance with the guidelines for the establishment and operation of the SPCs, the Economic Development Enterprise Support SPC has been established and has been operational since December, 2014. The main function of the SPC is to assist the Council in the formation, development and review of policy in this area. The SPC comprises seven elected members and six external members drawn from the various pillars, such as: Environment/Conservation, Agriculture/Farming Community, Trade Union, Development/Construction/Business commercial and Business (West Wicklow). In 2016 the SPC along with the Local Community Development Committee concentrated its work on the overseeing the goals and objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) which actions to support economic development and local community development.

Local Economic Plan

The Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) launched in November, 2016 charts the future growth and development of the county for the next six years.

ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE SERVICES (CONTINUED)

Prepared after a wide-ranging consultative process involving all interest groups in the county, the Plan, which runs from 2016 to 2021, has core objectives to:

- Promote and support economic development and
- Promote and support local and community development in County Wicklow both by Wicklow County Council itself and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

LECP 2016–2020 contains 10 high level goals, 21 local objectives and more than 140 local actions. In addition, it sets out outcomes and timeframes for the delivery of the various elements. These will be assessed on an annual basis and a progress report will be presented annually throughout the lifetime of the plan.



Launch of Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee 6-year Plan

Key economic goals set out in the Plan include and feeding from the work of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank are:

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

Wicklow County Council joint policing committee – public meetings

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee continued to meet quarterly in 2016. 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 2 November 2016 in Roundwood.

Adoption of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing committee Six-Year Strategic Plan 2016–2021

Wicklow County Council adopted the WCC Joint Policing Committee Six-Year Strategic Plan, 2016–2021 following the holding of a stake holder workshop in March 2016. The workshop was very well attended with fifty three people present indicating the high level of interest sectors and geographical areas of the county. The Plan was adopted at Council meeting held on the 3 October 2016 which was formally launched at a public meeting held in Roundwood in November. The Plan was prepared so assist the Joint Policing Committee in taking a genuine strategic and collaborate approach to policing issues in County Wicklow and to strengthen the strategic alignment of JPCs with other relevant County Plans and structures. Four key themes identified within the Plan which will form the key objectives for the JPC’s annual work plan for 2017 are:

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



Launch of LECP 2016–2020

ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE SERVICES (CONTINUED)

Members Expenses

Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€30,000.00
Leas-Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€6,000.00
SPC Annual Allowance (€500 per month per chair of SPC)	€ 30,000.00
Annual Representational Allowance	€517,656.25
Councillors Annual Allowance	€197,752.51
Internal Conferences & Training (Costs, Travel & Subs)	€24,602.69
Foreign Conferences	€2,531.08

Ombudsman

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

The Ombudsman referred 11 complaints to Wicklow County Council in 2016. 6 were closed as "not upheld", 1 was closed as "partially upheld" and 3 were closed as "resolved". 1 case is outstanding.

Networking and Collaboration with Other Agencies

During 2016 the Enterprise Unit met with representatives of EI and the IDA, Failte Ireland and other agencies engaged in economic development. Formal and informal networking continues with the Local business, the Chambers of Commerce and the County Wicklow Chamber to promote and develop business in County Wicklow and develop job opportunities in County Wicklow. The Business Breakfast Briefing held in May was a successful networking event.



Breakfast briefing 2016

County Wicklow Economic Think Tank

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

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

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

Actions delivered in 2016:

- The development and soft launch of a new brand with the tagline "Endless Opportunities"
- The production of a baseline study and action plan for Wicklow's Harbours
- Further engagement with local business and development agencies in the County via the first in a series of Business Breakfast Briefings
- Contact with telecoms providers and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment with regard to the rollout of broadband.
- Engagement between the Maritime Business Development Group and experts on various aspects of maritime business, from transport and harbours to aquaculture.
- Progression of the development of a Wicklow Film Hub
- The establishment of Town Teams/Fora in Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow
- Engagement with Failte Ireland and Wicklow Tourism with regard to maximising the benefit of the Ireland's Ancient East and the development of tourism infrastructure.
- Roll out of procurement documents for the development of the Wicklow.ie web-portal
- Preparation of a suite of documents promoting business in County Wicklow
- Development of the promotional video titled "Arklow Making a Difference" in conjunction with Arklow Municipal District.

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

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

The Action Plan covers the counties of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow. The Plan has been developed on the basis of a series

ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE SERVICES (CONTINUED)

of consultations with stakeholders in the region, identifying particular strengths and opportunities in the region. The APJ sets out a series of commitments on the part of public bodies, complemented by some actions from the private sector, which will support enterprise growth and job creation.

Key Themes

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

Key Actions

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

Partnerships

Hainan Province China

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.

In June 2016 a small delegation led by Cathaoirleach Councillor John Ryan, visited Hainan Province to further the relationship. The delegation were received by the Governor of Hainan Province and was met with senior government officials, the group visited a number of innovative projects including a newly developed micro city, built for the tech industry. The delegation visited Hainan University and met with representatives of Hainan Normal University also. Hainan University Department

of Tourism have developed links with DIT, a group of Masters Students from Hainan University visited Wicklow in November 2016. They spent a day at Wicklow County Campus and met with representatives of Wicklow County Tourism and Wicklow Enterprise Park and Wicklow Gaol.

Cost €10,269

Würzburg

In July 2016, Irish German Association of County Wicklow visited Würzburg the Partner City of Bray and County Wicklow for the annual Kiliani an event dedicated to the Irish Saint Kilian. As part of the official programme, the group attended a reception in the Town Hall hosted by the Deputy Mayor and mass and a reception in the Cathedral, hosted by the Bishop of Würzburg.

In October 2016, a delegation from Würzburg paid a return visit to County Wicklow during their visit the group took a tour of County Wicklow and visited the Men's Shed in Newtownmountkennedy, had a guided tour of Glendalough Mining Village, visited the Weaving Shed at Avoca Handweavers and the Arklow Maritime Museum. They had dinner on one evening at Druid's Glen and also visited Dun Laoghaire's Lexicon, Maritime Museum, Joyce Tower and the Oratory.

Costs €5,756

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 2016/2017 register was 96,063. Progressively smaller electorates apply in the case of Elections to the European Parliament, the Dáil and the Office of Uachtarán na hÉireann 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 calling card is left along with a FREEPOST voter registration form for the householder to return to the Franchise section of the Council.

Existing electors who have not been met at the door by the

ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE SERVICES (CONTINUED)

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 Development

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

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

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

COUNTY WICKLOW FILM COMMISSION

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

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 television series such as 'Vikings' are used to attract visitors here by featuring them on our website and through the County Wicklow Movie Map, which was reprinted in 2012. Copies of the movie map are distributed to all tourist offices and major tourist attractions in County Wicklow.

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

In 2016, County Wicklow experienced high levels of production activity. Over 380 shooting days were recorded containing a mixture of all types of audio-visual production. The financial benefit from audio-visual 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 2016 was the fourth series of 'Vikings' in the film studios at Ballyhenry, Ashford. It is estimated that the €30m production has employed on average per week around 700 Irish cast and crew and invested a hefty €20m in the county, from everything to set designs, studio facilities, and employing thousands of extras.

Other projects that were filmed in County Wicklow during 2016 include the pilot high end prehistoric television drama 'Dawn' which was produced from Ashford Studios and shot in

Rathdrum and Avoca starred BBC production 'Red Water', offshoot of Eastenders, shot for numerous weeks on a farm in Roundwood starring amongst many others: Henry Proctor, Oisín Stack and Jessie Wallace.

Television miniseries 'Innocent' starring Tony Gardner, Valerie Lilley and Daniel Moore was shot around Enniskerry and RTE television series 'Grace Harte' made the most of the stunning seascapes around Wicklow Lighthouse for nearly a week in December.

Kilbride Manor and surrounding countryside opened its door to four weeks of filming for the feature film titled 'We have always lived in the Castle'.

With the production offices once again based in the former Kiltarnan Hotel, the second series of 'Into the Badlands' was shot all around North Wicklow including Powerscourt Waterfall and Avoca Mines.

The Feature film 'The Professor and the Madman', starring Sean Penn and Mel Gibson was based in Ardmore Studios and shot in many surrounding locations.

The WFC also assisted location managers working on projects such as the feature films 'The Lodgers' and 'The Belly and the Whale' that didn't end up shooting in County Wicklow as alternative locations were found elsewhere.

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

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.

COUNTY WICKLOW FILM COMMISSION (CONTINUED)

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 2016

The main energy user is to heat the all the campus buildings. LPG gas is used for heating. Total LPG consumption for 2016: 26,000 Litres

Total Electricity consumption for 2016: 89,126KWH

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

Actions Undertaken in 2016

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 in Clermont House.

Actions Planned for 2017

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 is not known how much energy is saved 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 55-acre facility. The buildings comprise offices, meeting rooms, a conference and exhibition venue, lecture rooms, I.T. rooms, a college library. Clermont House accommodates the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow and Teagasc.

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

Strategic Plan 2016-2020

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

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

During 2016 a review of this strategy was continued to be finalised and adopted in 2017.

Wicklow County Campus and IT Carlow

Wicklow County Council in conjunction with IT Carlow is providing a range of part-time Lifelong Learning Education and Training Courses. In 2016, there were over 400 students attending Wicklow County Campus for part-time evening courses and this figure is expected to grow considerably over the lifetime of the plan for the campus with the introduction of new academic programmes. Some 3000 students have graduated from the College with various degrees since 2006.

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 Rick Analysis
H.Dip in Arts (Digital Media Design)

Business and Accounting

BA of Business (Honours) in Management
Higher Certificate in Business
Certificate in Project Management
Certificate in Digital media
Certificate in Web Design
Certificate 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

WICKLOW COUNTY CAMPUS, CLERMONT COLLEGE RATHNEW (CONTINUED)

Some of the major events held in 2016 in Wicklow County Campus include:

- The Local Enterprise Office Student Enterprise Awards
- Wicklow County Council student debating event held in the main hall.
- The Local Enterprise Office Best Young Entrepreneur County Wicklow finals.
- Two Conferring Ceremonies of Awards and Prizes – Institute of Technology Carlow. Over 109 graduates were conferred at these ceremonies.
- Five large business seminars on online trading were held in room 203 by LEO Wicklow.
- The rooms in Clermont House and College are rented out for numerous training courses (i.e. CPC/Health and Safety / ECDL) and meetings by various businesses and agencies on a day to day basis.
- The filming of 'I Kill Giants' starring Zoe Saldana and Imogen Poots took place over the course of three days on Wicklow County Campus.
- The filming of the Irish feature film 'The Third Wave' also took place in December 2016 starring Tom Vaughan Lawlor as well as Ellen Page.

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

The Wicklow County Council Health and Safety Policy have been established to ensure that in so far as is reasonably practicable, everyone who works for or on behalf of Wicklow County Council does so in the safest and healthiest conditions possible. The Housing Directorate has endorsed this Health and Safety Policy as being applicable to all Wicklow County Council operations within the Housing Section. The organisations policies and procedures for health and safety are constantly reviewed in line with best practices, legislative changes and national initiatives. Appropriate resources were made available in 2016 to allow the Policy to be effectively carried out.

Individual Ancillary Safety Statements have been written for the following areas: Housing Maintenance and Construction Section, Housing Section Office Staff and Housing & Corporate Estate County Buildings Facility
Safety audits and safety inspections of contractor and direct labour sites are carried out on a weekly basis by the Health and Safety Facilitator.

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

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.

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 106 requests during 2016. A disclosure log detailing all non-personal freedom of information requests can be viewed on the Council's website at www.wicklow.ie

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Pat Kennedy (FF)

Leas-Cathaoirleach

Councillor Tommy Annesley (FF)

Council Members

Councillor Pat Fitzgerald (FF)

Municipal District Staff

A/District Manager

Michael Geaney

District Administrator

Linda McDonald

District Engineer

Jack Kelly

Executive Engineer

Robert Mulhall

Technician

Sean Dunne

Assistant Staff Officer

Sinead Boddy

Clerical Officer

Jacinta Jameson

Clerical Officer

Julie Kenny

Clerical Officer

Pauline Canavan

Contact Details

Address:

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

Tel: 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 900.

The new offices of Arklow Municipal District were officially opened on Friday, 1 April 2016. The offices are open to the public from 9.00–1.00 and 2.00–5.00 each day and queries are dealt with in relation to housing applications, housing repairs, road, etc. Cash receipting also takes place in AMD for housing rent, rates, parking fines, leases, etc. During 2016 a total of 5,500 counter receipts were issued.

District Meetings

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



Cathaoirleach of WCC, Cllr John Ryan, Bryan Doyle, Chief Executive, Nellie & Joe McElheron and Cathaoirleach of AMD Cllr Sylvester Bourke at the opening of the new McElheron Chamber in Arklow Municipal District offices on Wednesday 20th January 2016.

The Chamber is named after the McElheron family who together served Arklow for over 70 years. Vincent McElheron served the public as a member of Arklow Urban District Council & Arklow Town Council for 30 years up to its abolition. His father Edward and his mother May also both served as Councillors from the early 1940s and in 1985 Vincent followed in their footsteps when he was elected to represent Arklow.

The members of Arklow Municipal District made history on Wednesday, 22 June when they held, for the first time, their monthly meeting in Rathdrum.

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

Community Sector

Trees for the Community

The Members presented a number of trees to Residents' Associations in May 2016. The value of the trees amounted to €1,000.



Cathaoirleach of AMD, Cllr Pat Kennedy, Bryan Doyle Chief Executive, Linda McDonald District Administrator & Cathaoirleach of WCC, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald at the launch the video "Arklow Municipal District – Making a Difference".

Festival Funding

10 applications were received for assistance under this scheme. The total funding awarded amounted to €5,000.

1916 Garden of Remembrance

The Members of AMD contributed the sum of 1,000 to this garden which was officially opened in Rathdrum on Wednesday, 22 June.

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 €20,000.

Arklow Christmas Festival

Arklow Christmas Festival Committee continued to be supported by Arklow Municipal District. The festival for 2016 was a big success and contributed to an increase footfall during the Christmas period and added to the Christmas atmosphere in the town.

Retail/Business Sector

Free Parking

Arklow Municipal District continued during 2016 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 Members of Arklow Municipal District continued to support the Tidy Towns Associations in the District and awarded the total sum of €2,600 to Arklow, Avoca, Rathdrum and Aughrim Associations during 2016. This funding came from their Economic Development budget. 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.

Economic Development

New video to promote Arklow's Business and Tourism Attractions

Arklow's attractions as a centre for business and tourism was highlighted in a video launched on 6 October 2016. The four-and-a-half-minute long video covers the Arklow Municipal District and features contributions from local representatives, business figures and others as well as aerial shots of the locality. The purpose of the "Arklow Municipal District – Making a Difference" project is to highlight the District as a business location and a tourist destination.



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

- During 2016, the Members of Arklow Municipal District and the Chief Executive Bryan Doyle visited Gaines Europe, a local pet food factory. A tour of the factory was provided and plans for its expansion were outlined to the Members and officials. A similar visit was made to Ark Building Products which recently moved to Arklow..
- In December 2016, AMD introduced a Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme whereby businesses can gain

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

advertising rights on a particular roundabout.

- The Members agreed to provide a footpath at Avondale from their Tourism budget of €10,000.

Civic Receptions & Presentations

The Members of Arklow Municipal held a number of Civic Receptions and Presentations during 2016 for the following:

- Bursaries in the sum of €5,000 were awarded to former Avondale Community College Students.
- The Members received a visit from His Excellency Archbishop Charles J Brown in June 2016.
- AMD honoured Maria Curran, the first lady Chairperson of Arklow UDC in 1920 and in Ireland, by unveiling a picture of her in the Chamber. Members of Ms Curran's extended family were in attendance.
- Presentation to Oisín Byrne won two medals in the International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF) World Championships which were held in Brighton in the summer of 2016.
- Civic Reception for Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney GAA Football Club
- Presentation of cheque to the Leinster Female Boxing Squad.
- Olympic Gold Medal winner Ronnie Delany was honoured by the Members on the 14th December. This reception was to mark the 60th anniversary of his win in Melbourne in 1953.

Road & Infrastructure Projects

- Surface dressing took place on the R750 Arklow to Brittas Road for a stretch of 1,400 metres.
- Road improvements took place on the L2191 from Barnacleagh west to south for a distance of 1,100 metres.
- Improvement and safety works at St John's School on the Coolgreaney Road.
- In accordance with Section 38 of the Roads Traffic Act 1994 AMD introduced an one-way system on Bradshaw's Lane and The Brook.
- Dunne's Lane & St. Mary's Park were officially named.
- Public consultations were held for the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme and the Arklow Sewerage Treatment Plant Project.
- The removal of gravel from the Avoca River took place in August 2016.
- The opening of the Ballyduff Water Treatment Plant took place in February 2016.
- Community Involvement Schemes. Four schemes were selected for the Arklow Municipal District in the current year. All four are now complete.
- Remedial works were carried out on the South Beach to address the erosion issues which were identified in November 2016. These remedial works consisted of the following elements: Excavation and relocation of over 3,000m³ of beach sand to including the excavation and re-grading of area at north end of beach to previous levels, transport of sand to south end of beach and graded out to

match existing levels. Repairs to undermined section of concrete pavement at southernmost car park as well as the reinstatement of rock armour in front of the pavement in order to protect the structure in the future.

Twinning

Arklow Town has an active Twinning Committee who aim to:

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

Arklow Town is twinned with Châteaudun in France, Treia in Italy, Piaseczno in Poland, and Aberystwyth in Wales.



Cathaoirleach Cllr Sylvester Bourke at the signing of the Twinning Agreement between Arklow and Aberystwyth on the 29 April 2016.

BALTINGLASS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Pat Doran (FF) 2015-2016
Councillor Edward Timmins (FG) 2016-2017

Leas-Cathaoirleach

Councillor Vincent Blake (FG)

Members

Councillor Tommy Cullen (NP)
Councillor Gerry O'Neill (SF)
Councillor Jim Ruttie (NP)

District Staff

District Manager

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) (Jan- Aug)
Derek Cullen (Acting) (Blessington Area Office) (Aug- Dec)
Geraldine Jordan (Tinahely Area Office)

Clerical Officers

Ann Marie Butler (Tinahely Area Office)
Sharon Mulhall (Blessington Area Office)
Deirdre Norton (Blessington Area Office)

District Offices

Blessington Area Office

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

Tel: 045 891222

Fax: 045 865813

Email: baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie;
blessington@wicklowcoco.ie

Tinahely Area Office

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

Tel: 0402 38174

Fax: 045 865813

Email: tinahely@wicklowcoco.ie

GENERAL

Baltinglass Municipal District includes the towns of Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew and the villages of Dunlavin, Donard, Knockananna, Tinahely, Manor Kilbride and Shillelagh. The population of the Municipal District is 25,267 (18%).

Baltinglass Municipal District covers 45% (352 square miles) of the area of Wicklow and 40% (943 km) of the county's roads. The number of social housing units within the district is 700.

Monthly Meetings are held at 10.30 a.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (third Monday if the fourth Monday is a public holiday) at 10.30 a.m. – no meeting in August. Meetings are usually held in Civic Offices in Blessington but to raise awareness of the municipal district structures set up in 2014, a number of the monthly meetings were held in Baltinglass and Carnew.

The monthly meetings of the Municipal District provided lively debate on a variety of issues. Members received deputations from Glending Residents' Association and Baltinglass Traders as well as presentations from South Western Drug & Alcohol Task Force and the Kildare National Road Design Office regarding the N81 Hollywood to Tallaght Road Improvement Scheme.

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

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

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

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

The members of Baltinglass Municipal District provided discretionary funding in the sum of €118,000 towards the maintenance and improvements of roads in various parts of the

BALTINGLASS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

district together with the provision of footpaths in Carnew and Baltinglass. Funding was also provided to Tidy Towns organisations, Christmas lighting funds and other community focus groups in the District.

Funding was provided for the production of heritage trail brochures providing information on tourist and historical places of interest in the District – it is anticipated that the brochures will be officially launched in early Summer 2017.

The members also gave sponsorship towards the organisation of the very successful “Homeward Trek” organised by Coollattin Country in August 2016 which saw over thirty visitors from Canada with roots in the Carnew/Coollattin hinterland travelling to the area and visiting places of interest and well as tracing their family trees. A very successful re-enactment of an eviction and a concert were held at Coollattin House during the trip.

Glór na Cásca - As part of Wicklow County Council's 1916-2016 centenary programme, five Glór na Cásca commemorative gardens were created in locations throughout the county, one in each of the five municipal districts – the garden in Baltinglass Municipal District is located in Knockananna and was officially opened at a ceremony held in May 2016. Each Garden of Remembrance has an engraved replica of the 1916 Proclamation inscribed in Irish and English, a flagpole with Tricolour and seven trees representing the seven signatories of the Proclamation.

The District was successful in securing CLÁR funding for pedestrian improvements at the school in Knockananna and signage at Ballymanus G.A.A. grounds. These works will be completed in 2017.

BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Steven Mathews (GP)

Leas-Cathaoirleach

Councillor Christopher Fox (Ind)

Council Members

Councillor Joe Behan (Ind)

Councillor Oliver O'Brien (SF)

Councillor Michael O'Connor (SF)

Councillor John Ryan (Fine Gael)

Councillor Brendan Thornhill (Ind)

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.

Tel: 01 2744900

Fax: 01 2860930

Email: braymd@wicklowcoco.ie

Website: www.bray.ie

Area: 12,350 hectares

Population: 35,000

Community

Festivals

St Patrick's Festival €17,000

Bray Air Display €7,500

Community Involvement

Christmas Lighting €20,000

Tourism Development & Promotion €10,000

The following list represents just some of Bray Municipal District key involvements in 2016

- Works on the River Dargle Flood Protection Scheme are ongoing. It is anticipated that the scheme will be substantially complete by September 2017.
- Purple Flag Renewal
- Easter Promotion
- Application for Blue Flag Status
- Formation of Town Team
- Roll out of Big Belly Compact Bins
- Completion of Seafront Enhancement Scheme, Southern End
- The Christmas programme of activities for Bray included a Shopping Stroll, Christmas Lights, Santa Experience.
- Completion of installation of new storm sewer at Vevay Village, Bray
- Installation of cast iron seatbacks on Bray Promenade
- Re-plastering of the promenade wall.

GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Jennifer Whitmore (SD)

Leas-Cathaoirleach

Councillor Gerry Walsh (FF)

Council Members

Councillor Grainne McLoughlin (FG)

Councillor Derek Mitchell (FG)

Councillor Nicola Lawless (SF)

Tom Fortune (NP)

District Staff

Director of Services

Michael Nicholson

District Engineer

Ruairi O' Hanlon

Executive Engineer

Eoghan Forristal

District Administrator

Myra Porter

Technician

Vincent Byrne

Assistant Staff Officer

Anne Marie Roberts

Clerical Officers

Kay Coughlan

Lily Davis

Andrea Egan

Contact Details

Address: Mill Road,
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Co. Wicklow.

Tel: 01 2876694.

Fax: 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.

GENERAL

A number of road improvement projects were completed during the year funded by the Department of Transport. This included road works on Woodstock Road Kilcoole, Bohilla Lane and Ballydonagh Road and Blacklion. Road resurfacing and reconstruction works and footpath and drainage improvements were also completed on Sea Road, Kilcoole and St Vincent's Road, Greystones. Safety improvement works were also carried out at the Farrenkelly Road roundabout to make the crossing distance shorter. Footpath works were also carried out on the R761 at Knockroe and at Farrenkelly Close including the installation of two traffic islands to improve safety for those crossing the road to the bus stop at this location. Traffic calming works were completed on the Woodstock Road, Kilcoole.

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

- Boundary fences at Beechwood and Beachdale, Kilcoole.
- Installation of public lighting on the Burnaby Heights to Killincarrig footpath.
- Provision of solar compacting smart bins on Church Road, Greystones.
- Bollards to prevent illegal parking along the cycle track of Blacklion Bypass.
- Renewal of section of footpath at Lott Lane, Kilcoole.
- Tree planting in the grass verge on Bellevue Road, Greystones.
- Funding for tree maintenance.

The Community Affairs Committee was active as usual promoting and organising annual events. The large crowds that turned out to view the annual St Patrick's Day parade were entertained by a wide variety of entries, including a marching band from Rochdale, England.

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

As part of the Glór na Cásca 1916 Centenary Celebrations to celebrate and remember the Easter Rising of 1916, the 1916 Remembrance Garden was completed in Burnaby Park and officially opened in a ceremony in June, which was attended by local members of the emergency services

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.

GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

The monthly meetings of the Municipal District provided lively debate on a variety of issues and members received representatives from Irish Rail to a meeting to discuss concerns in relation to the DART service and proposals for a new timetable for services.

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

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 at Greystones harbour, including the commencement of the residential development and the completion 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.

The 28th Annual La Touche Legacy Seminar was held in September. This event is held each year to commemorate and honour the La Touche Family and their historic connections with the town of Greystones. The theme for the conference was "Emerging Ireland Post 1916". There were a number of distinguished speakers and the conference was attended by many delegates, generating a much-needed boost to the local economy and showcasing the town's many excellent facilities.

WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Irene Winters (FG)/John Snell (FF)

Leas-Cathaoirleach

Councillor John Snell (SF)/Shay Cullen (FG)

Members

Councillor Daire Nolan (IND)

Councillor Shay Cullen (FG)

Councillor Gail Dunne (FF)

Councillor Mary Kavanagh (IND)

District Staff

District Manager

Lorraine Lynch/Joe Lane

District Engineer

Paul Byrne

District Administrator

David Porter

Executive Engineer

Alan Martin

Technician

Aidan Doyle

Assistant Staff Officer

Catherine McCann

Clerical Officers

Gerry Dornan/Caroline Lynch

Sinead Turner

Julia Nugent

Contact Details

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

Tel: 0404 20100

Email: wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Website: www.wicklow.ie

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. 888 repair requests were logged during 2016. They were categorised as follows 257 plumbing repairs, 196 heating repairs 125 electrical repairs & 310 were structural both interior or exterior.

Wicklow Municipal District Technical staff provided technical support and supervised the works on 10 Disabled Person Grants (DPG) during 2016.

Roads

The following road works were carried out in 2016:

- R115 Military Road at Carrigeenduff Road Surface Overlay
- L6088 Trooperstown to Lickeen Road Strengthening
- L6086 Laragh to Ballard Road Strengthening
- L5102 Kilpoole to Blainroe Cross Road Strengthening
- L1111 Glenealy to Coolbeg Road Strengthening
- L5095 Ballylusk to Ballycullen Road Strengthening
- St. Joseph's Road, Newtown Road Surface Overlay
- R757 OPW Car Park to House of Prayer Glendalough Road Surface Overlay
- R750 Market Square Wicklow Town Road Surface Overlay
- R750 Burkeen at Railway Bridge Road Surface Overlay
- R757 Laragh to Upper Lake Glendalough Surface Dressing
- R115 Laragh to Glenmacnass Surface Dressing
- L 5087 Castlekevin to Tomriland Surface Dressing
- L 1059 Roundwood School to Ashtown Surface Dressing

Promotion of interest local community

The sum of €17,000 was allocated in respect of Tourist Promotion/ Contribution and Economic Development. The sum of €11,000 was allocated in respect of Tidy Towns groups across the District. Contributions were made to The Regatta Festival, Sailfest, Wicklow Arts Festival, and Saint Patrick's Day Parade. A sum of €20,000 was allocated for the Christmas Lights in Wicklow Town.

Twinning of local authorities areas

The sum of €3,000 was allocated to the Wicklow Town Twinning Association and €500 was allocated to Wicklow Rugby Club for twinning activities.

Discretionary income

The following footpath and public lighting projects were carried out during 2016 and were funded by discretionary income:

- Rathnew Centra Store to Rathnew GAA Entrance (footpath)
- Laragh/Glendalough (Public Lighting)
- Newtownmountkennedy (Public Lighting)

WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

The Elected Members allocated a total of €110,000 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 Ashford Heritage Centre, First Responders Wicklow and the 1916 Glór Na Casca Monument.

General

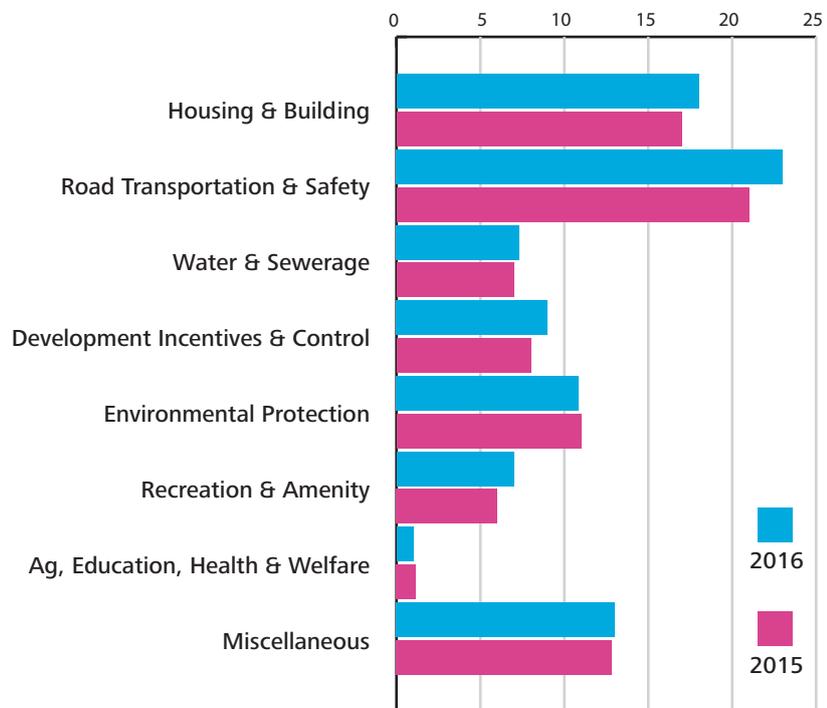
The Municipal District made a contribution to the Chamber of Commerce towards the Christmas lights and contributed to and facilitated a wide number of varied events during the year including: St Patrick's Day Parade, The Regatta, Sailfest, Taste of Wicklow, Inktoberfest and many more.

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 year's 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.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE ACCOUNT 2016 - FINANCIAL PROFILE AT A GLANCE



FINANCIAL STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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

Income And Expenditure Account Statement for the year ended 31 December 2016				
Expenditure By Programme Group	Gross Expenditure 2016 €	Income 2016 €	Net Expenditure 2013 €	Net Expenditure 2012 €
Housing & Building	18,542,082	22,080,753	(3,538,671)	1,930,823
Road Transportation & Safety	23,057,717	12,683,394	10,374,323	9,588,183
Water & Sewerage	7,820,374	7,253,811	566,563	330,535
Development Incentives & Control	9,046,470	4,028,800	5,017,670	5,242,479
Environmental Protection	11,039,319	1,976,563	9,062,755	9,072,873
Recreation & Amenity	7,000,463	578,094	6,422,369	5,858,239
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,082,725	590,548	492,178	558,601
Miscellaneous	13,308,254	7,684,181	5,624,073	7,886,709
Total Expenditure/Income	90,897,403	56,876,143		
Net Cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund			34,021,260	40,468,440
Rates			27,804,886	30,004,697
Local Property Tax			10,170,438	7,726,977
Pension Related Deduction			1,153,391	1,571,898
Surplus/(Deficit) for year before Transfers			5,107,455	(1,164,868)
Transfers From/(To) Reserves			(4,650,063)	1,516,111
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			457,392	351,243
General Reserve @ 1st January			(3,432,617)	(3,783,860)
General Reserve @ 31st December			(2,975,225)	(3,432,617)

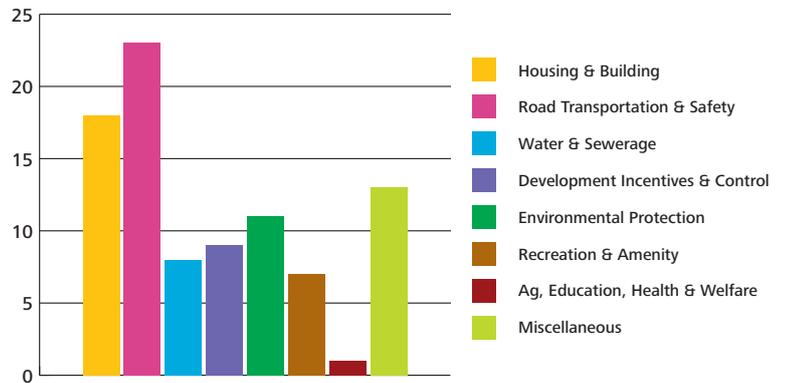
Capital Account Statement of Balances for the year ended 31 December 2016		
	2016 €	2015 €
Housing & Building	(15,538,901)	(13,567,374)
Road Transportation & Safety	33,175,607	32,174,120
Water & Sewerage	7,079,808	6,636,314
Development Incentives & Control	8,973,752	8,642,921
Environmental Protection	(877,533)	(686,447)
Recreation & Amenity	(2,162,143)	(4,530,332)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	483,714	(230,990)
Miscellaneous	<u>11,596,917</u>	<u>13,977,370</u>
Total	42,731,221	42,415,581

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

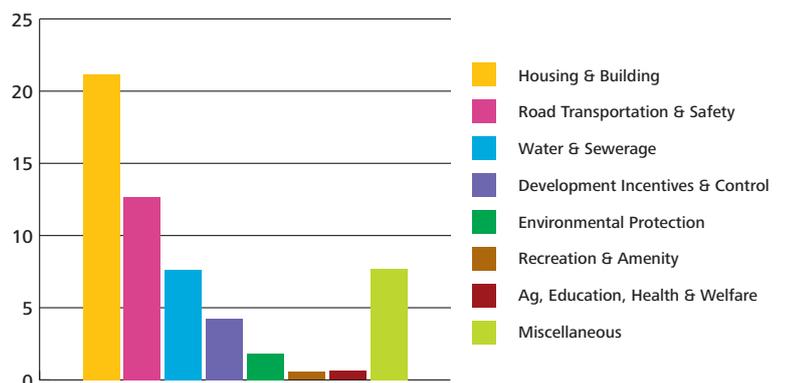
Balance Sheet for the Year Ended 31st December 2016		
	2016	2015
	€	€
Fixed Assets		
Operational	1,089,336,385	1,085,332,017
Infrastructural	1,562,710,425	1,537,927,410
Community	18,440,344	18,449,347
Non-Operational	470,000	220,000
	<u>2,670,957,153</u>	<u>2,641,928,774</u>
Work in Progress And Preliminary Expenses	25,412,270	24,162,781
Long-term Debtors	20,710,202	27,535,861
Current Assets		
Stock	259,844	268,616
Trade Debtors And Prepayments	20,900,705	22,657,592
Bank Investments	46,524,151	47,548,884
Cash at Bank	4,753,490	2,997,300
Cash in Transit	453,878	279,123
	<u>72,892,069</u>	<u>73,751,515</u>
Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	19,164,252	21,298,562
Finance Leases	-	-
	<u>19,164,252</u>	<u>21,298,562</u>
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)	<u>53,727,817</u>	<u>52,452,952</u>
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)		
Loans Payable	79,865,547	86,374,220
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable Deposits	15,246,018	13,819,827
Other	970,756	6,480,041
	<u>96,082,321</u>	<u>106,674,088</u>
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	<u>2,674,725,121</u>	<u>2,639,406,281</u>
Financed By		
Capitalisation	2,670,957,153	2,641,928,774
Income WIP	14,446,206	12,878,744
Specific Revenue Reserve	-	642,771
General Revenue Reserve	(2,975,226)	(3,432,617)
Other Balances	(7,703,012)	(12,611,390)
Total Reserves	<u>2,674,725,121</u>	<u>2,639,406,281</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

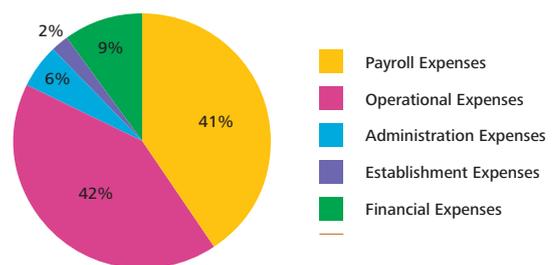
Capital Expenditure 2016	
Division	€
Housing & Building	18,542,082
Road Transportation & Safety	23,057,717
Water & Sewerage	7,820,374
Development Incentives & Control	9,046,470
Environmental Protection	11,039,319
Recreation & Amenity	7,000,463
Ag, Education, Health & Welfare	1,082,725
Miscellaneous	13,308,254
Total Capital Expenditure by Service Division	90,897,404



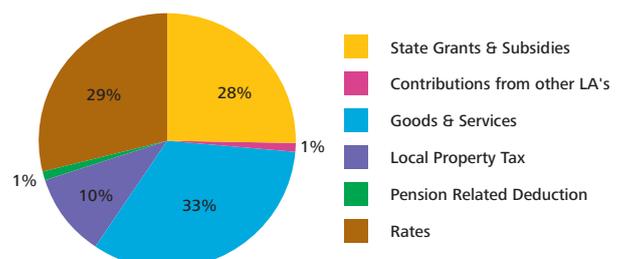
Capital Income 2016	
Division	€
Housing & Building	22,080,753
Road Transportation & Safety	12,683,394
Water & Sewerage	7,253,811
Development Incentives & Control	4,028,800
Environmental Protection	1,976,563
Recreation & Amenity	578,094
Ag, Education, Health & Welfare	590,548
Miscellaneous	7,684,181
Total Capital Income by Service Division	56,876,144



Revenue Expenditure 2016	
Analysis of Revenue Expenditure	€
Payroll Expenses	37,177,238
Operational Expenses	38,039,245
Administration Expenses	5,178,445
Establishment Expenses	1,739,765
Financial Expenses	8,762,710
Total Revenue Expenditure	90,897,403



Revenue Income 2016	
Analysis of Revenue Income	€
State Grants & Subsidies	24,667,272
Contributions from other LA's	671,653
Goods & Services	31,537,218
Local Property Tax	10,170,438
Pension Related Deduction	1,153,391
Rates	27,804,886
Total Revenue Income	96,004,859



SERVICE INDICATORS

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016

HOUSING: H1, H2 & H4

A.	Overall total number of dwellings provided by the LA during the year	53
B.	Number of dwellings directly provided	28
B1.	Number of dwellings constructed	0
B2.	Number of dwellings purchased	28
C.	Number of dwellings provided under RAS	-7
D.	Number of dwellings provided under the HAP Scheme	3
E.	Number of dwellings provided under the SHCEP	29
	<i>0 - Unsold Affordables, 0 - Nama, 0 - Mortgage to Rent, 26 - SHCEP (rossmore 8 + La Touche 7 + Glenbrook Avenue 11). STL 2 (45 La Valley & 70 Wilton) LTL 1 (19 Parc na Sáile)</i>	
F.	The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the LA at year end	4,959
G.	The total number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the local authority	4,369
H.	Total number of dwellings provided under the RAS	516
I.	Total number of dwellings provided under the HAP if operated	3
J.	Total number of dwellings provided under the SHCEP	71
	<i>0 - 9 - NAMA 14 - LTL/STL 2 LTL (Bray entered as Rent) 4- Mortgage to Rent (with AHB's) 42 SHCEP (9 unsold affordables included in 2015 now being used for decanting)</i>	
K.	No. of single rural dwellings that are planned for demolition or sale due to dereliction	0
A.	Percentage of the number of dwellings at H1G that were vacant on year end	0.96%
	The number of dwellings within the overall stock that were not tenanted at year end	42
	<i>25 for decanting comprise units in three Estates Oldcourt in Bray Hillview in Wicklow Glending in Blessington</i>	
A.	Expenditure in the year on repair & maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA divided by H1G	€1,251.54
	Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock compiled on a continuous basis during the year	€5,467,963.48

HOUSING: H3, H5

A.	Average time taken from date of vacation of dwelling to date when a new tenancy had commenced	19.42 wk
B.	Average cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted during the year ready for re-letting	€18,103.18
	No of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in the year (excl. those vacant for estate refurbishment)	74
	No. of weeks from when previous tenant vacated dwelling up to date new tenant's first rent debit	1,437.14 wk
	Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings included above	€1,339,635.63
A.	Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2016	6,815
B.	Number of rented dwellings inspected end of June	357
C.	Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2016 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	2.80
D.	Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2016	15
	The number of dwellings inspected that were found not to be compliant with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations	10

SERVICE INDICATORS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016 (CONTINUED)

HOUSING: H6

A. Number of adults in emergency accommodation long-term as a % of the total number of homeless adults	32.61%
Number of adults classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on night of the 31/12/2016	46
Number of adults on that date who had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	15

ROADS: RI R2

% Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating	96%
% Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	96%
% Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	96%
% Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	67%
% Regional roads that received a PSCI rating during the year	86%
% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	4%
% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	11%
% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	57%
% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	24%
% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	9%
% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	20%
% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	54%
% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	13%
% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	11%
% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	24%
% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	49%
% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	12%
% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	9%
% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	14%
% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	32%
% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	12%
A1. Kilometres of regional roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants	9.1 km
A2. Road improvement grant amount spent on Regional Roads (strengthening)	€915,360.00
B1. Number of kilometres of regional roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants	18.7 km
B2. Road maintenance grant amount spent on Regional Roads (resealing)	€436,938.00
C1. Kilometres of local roads strengthened using Road improvement grants	28.9 km
C2. Road improvement grant amount spent on Local Roads (strengthening)	€2,216,256.00
D1. Number of kilometres of local roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants	31.0 km
D2. Road Maintenance grant amount spent on Local Roads (resealing)	€515,812.00

SERVICE INDICATORS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016 (CONTINUED)

MOTOR TAX: R3

% of motor tax transactions online 74.16%

WATER: W1

% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements 1.00%

WATER: E1

No. households in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2016, (2016 census) 13,700
 % households within the LA that the number A represents 27.96%

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION: E2

Total number of pollution complaint cases 2,274
WCC data is based on number of complaints as system does not record / summarise number of cases.
 Number of pollution cases not investigated or finalised 1,563
 Number of pollution cases that arose in 2016 not finalised 711
 Number of pollution cases in respect of complaint during the year 2,274
 Number of pollution cases closed during the year 1,563
 Total number of cases on hand at year-end 711

LITTER POLLUTION: E3

Percentage of area unpolluted by litter 11% Percentage of area slightly polluted by litter 61%
 Percentage of area moderately polluted by litter 18%
 Percentage of area significantly polluted by litter 9%
 Percentage of area grossly polluted by litter 1%

PLANNING: P1

Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority 21.23%
Although there was a lower percentage of inspections during 2016, there was still a consistent inspection of sites. The additional administrative duties related to the BCMS has resulted in a lower inspection rate but this is expected to be resolved once additional resources have been secured for Building Control.
 Total no. of new buildings notified to the local authority 504
 No. of new buildings notified to the local authority during the year subject of at least one inspection 107

SERVICE INDICATORS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016 (CONTINUED)

PLANNING: P2 & 3

A.	Number of planning decisions subject of appeal to An Bord Pleanála determined by board in 2016	72
B.	% of the determinations which confirmed (with or without variations) the decision made by the LA	77.78%
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation	56
	<i>Strong consistency of decision making confirmed by this indicator. Of 948 decisions only 72 (8%) were appealed. Of these 72 decisions 56 were upheld.</i>	
A.	Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the LA during 2016 that were investigated	194
	<i>During 2016 22 cases were reopened and have now been included in total for new cases</i>	
B.	Total number of cases that were closed during 2016	223
C.	% cases at B dismissed re Section 152(2) or closed because statute barred or exempted development	29.15%
D.	% of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	4.48%
E.	% Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	66.37%
F.	Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2016	777
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	65
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	10
	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	148

PLANNING: P4 & 5

	AFS Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area	€25.01
	AFS Programme D consisting of D01, D02, D03 (inclusive of the central management charge)	€3,562,666
A.	The average no. of weeks taken to deal with applications for fire safety certificates received in the year.	8.00wk
	Number of fire safety certificates issued in respect of applications received	45
	The number of weeks from the date on which a complete and valid application was received by the local authority to the date on which a fire safety certificate issued to the applicant, with any partial week decimalised to two decimal places, totalled for all fire safety certificates issued in respect of applications received in 2016.	360.14wk

FIRES SERVICE: F1

	AFS Programme e expenditure divided by the Census 2016 population served by the Fire Service	€35.50
	AFS Programme e expenditure data consisting of E11, operation of fire service and E12 Fire Prevention	€5,029,330

FIRES SERVICE: F2 & 3

A.	Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of Fire Stations in respect of Fire	
	<i>No full time brigade</i>	
B.	Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of Fire	5.07min
	<i>ERCC records time In-Attendance if given over the radio or logged on the Automatic Status Update This metric relates to cases where there is an actual time logged for In- Attendance. Fire 742 of 841 cases Other 207 of 222 cases</i>	

SERVICE INDICATORS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016 (CONTINUED)

C.	Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of other accidents	
	<i>No full time brigade</i>	
D.	Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of other accidents	5.18 min
A.	% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	47.84%
B.	% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	41.24%
C.	% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	10.92%
D.	% of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	29.95%
E.	% of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	58.45%
F.	% of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	11.59%
	Total no. of call-outs in respect of fires during the year	742
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	355
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	306
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins	81
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents during the year	207
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 mins	62
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	121
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins	24

Library Service: L1

	Number of library visits during the year	505,360
	Number of items borrowed during the year	475,686
A.	Number of library visits per head of population	3.55
B.	Number of items issued to borrowers during the year	475,686

LIBRARY SERVICE: L2

	The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data / by the population of the LA area per 2016 census	€18.86
	AFS Programme F02 Cost of Library Service	€2,685,902

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY: Y1 & Y2

A.	Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	69.57%
	Total number of secondary schools in the LA area at year end	23
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the Comhairle na nÓg AGM	16
A.	Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	28.38
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area	148
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2016	16
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College when they registered for the PPN	42

SERVICE INDICATORS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016 (CONTINUED)

CORPORATE: C1 & C2 & C4

Wholetime equivalent staffing number at year end	668.85
<i>Typo in DOE return at Dec 16. Corrected figure is 668.85 Separate update to DOE return in process.</i>	
Percentage of paid working days lost due to sickness absence through medically certified leave	3.14%
Percentage of paid working days lost due to sickness absence through self- certified leave	0.31%
Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	5,347 days
Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	488 days
Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	585 days
Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	17 days
All ICT expenditure in the period 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016 divided by the WTE number	€3,535.59
Total revenue expenditure on account elements	€2,364,782.08

CORPORATE: C3

Total page views of the LA website in 2016	852,712
<i>Relates solely to www.wicklow.ie and compares directly to 2015 return of 790,591. Site is being redeveloped as County Portal and will include existing sites such as Wicklow Tourism (2,660,106) Arklow MD, Bray MD (522,497) Wicklow Film Commission, Wicklow Family History etc. Total page views therefore 4,035,315</i>	
Total number of social media users at 31/12/2016 following the LA on social media sites	17,062
<i>Relates solely to Wicklow CoCo accounts and compares directly to 2015 return of 10,008 Other social media accounts such as Wicklow Tourism (13,622), Arklow MD (75), Bray MD (2,039) Wicklow Film Commission, Wicklow Family History etc. are not included. Total followers therefore would exceed 30,674</i>	
The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the LA during 2016	852,712
Total no. of social media users who, at 31/12/2016, were following the LA on any social media sites	17,062

FINANCE: M1 & M2

A. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2012 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-1,393,802
B. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-4,084,330
C. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-3,783,860
D. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-3,432,617
E. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-2,975,226
F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2016 as a percentage of Total Income from the AFS statement	-3.10%
G. Revenue Expenditure per capita in 2016	€638.21
The 2016 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€9,6004,858
Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€90,897,403
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	65.0%
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	64.0%
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	69.0%

SERVICE INDICATORS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016 (CONTINUED)

Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	76.0%
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	79%
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	92.0%
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	93.0%
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	92.0%
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	93.0%
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	90%
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	74.0%
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	74.0%
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	73.0%
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	76.0%
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	76%

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: J1 to J3

A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the year	110.0
A. The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in the year	58
A. The no. of participants who received mentoring during the year	436
B. The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in the year	48





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