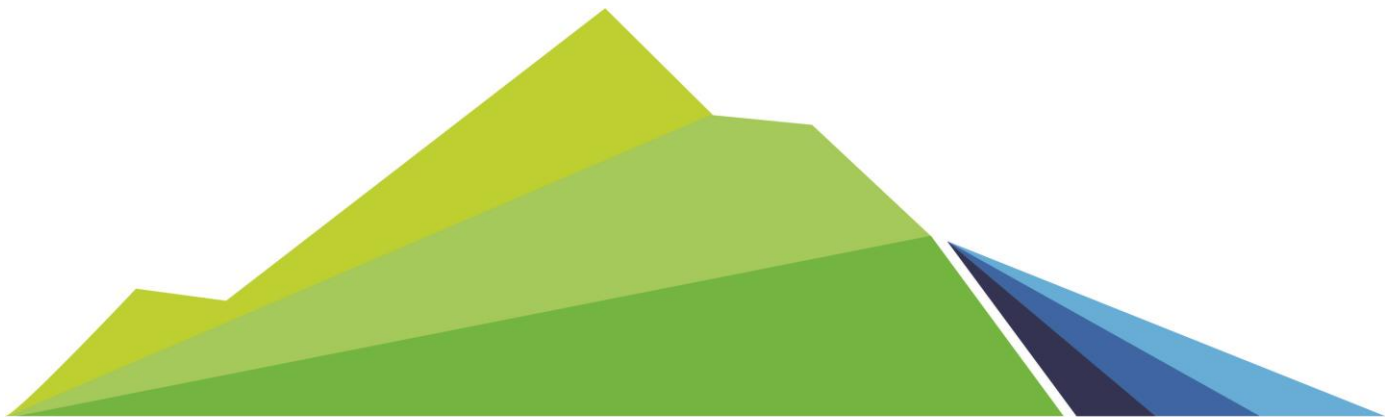




Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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This month:

Further Funding of Almost €200,000 under Town & Village Scheme

Six applications submitted by Wicklow County Council have been approved for funding under the Town & Village Enhancement scheme.

Funding has also been allocated for five Broadband connection points across the county.

These latest allocations from the Department of Rural & Community Development will enable towns and villages to implement immediate measures that will encourage people to shop and socialise, while adhering to public health guidelines.

Wicklow Libraries & Socially Inclusive Projects to Benefit from Government Grant

A number of socially inclusive and library projects in Wicklow are to benefit from an award of €31,000 which Wicklow County Council has received from the Government under the Dormant Accounts Action Plan.

The Government recently announced a funding package of €713,500 benefiting older people, families with low literacy skills and disadvantaged and marginalised groups that will be channelled through the country's libraries.

The scheme will see 90 per cent of the project costs being provided centrally while the local authorities will fund the remaining 10 per cent.

Building for the Future in Rathdrum

Wicklow County Council is delighted to announce that it has acquired the old St Joseph's site in Rathdrum from the HSE. The development of the site will be at the core of the latest proposals for the regeneration of Rathdrum.

The site is centrally located beside St Saviour's Church, adjacent to the Memorial Park and carpark, with children's playground and adult gym nearby.

An application is currently being prepared seeking funding through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund for the development of a multi-use Community and Enterprise Centre at the site, increased connectivity through improved road and pedestrian access and enhancements to public realm.

The proposed development will help to stimulate further growth in social, community and economic activities in the wider Rathdrum area.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Social Housing Support

	Sept 2020	Sept 2019
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP) *	4,519	4,367
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	300	372
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	2,022	1,518
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	15	10
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	17	10

Currently, Wicklow County Council is undertaking a Social Housing Assessment of all approved housing applicants up to 10th April 2019 with the exception of RAS, HAP and social housing transfer applications, under S.21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009.

2. Allocation of Social housing

	Sept 2020	Sept 2019
Wicklow County Council	150	134
Approved Housing Bodies	32	14

3. Social Housing Stock

	Sept 2020	Sept 2019
Tenancies occupied	4,525	4,396
Total weekly rental accrual	€299,845	298,571
Arrears	€2,462,060	€1,088,714

4. Casual Vacancies/Relets

Municipal District	Sept 2020
Arklow	6
Baltinglass	10
Bray	6
Greystones	6
Wicklow	23

Covid-19 Update

Relets for Self Isolation Units

A number of vacant houses being refurbished for reletting have been kitted out in anticipation of the need for vulnerable individuals/families to self isolate for the required period from emergency accommodation.

5. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Completed	Units	Current Status	Part 8 Approval
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Completed and allocated	Yes
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated	Yes
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated	Yes
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completed and allocated 2019	Yes
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated 2019	Yes
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated 2019	Yes
Whitehall, Baltinglass	34	Completed and allocated 2020	Yes
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completed and allocated 2020	Yes
Convent Lands	51	Completed and allocated 2020	Yes
Total	157		
Schemes on Site	Units	Current Status	Part 8 Approval
Kilbride Lane Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	Completion anticipated Quarter 4 2020	Yes
FCA Hall Wicklow Town	8	Completion anticipated Quarter 4 2020	Yes
Kilmantan Place Bray	4	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2021	Yes
Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue	20	Completion anticipated Quarter 4 2020	Yes
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completion anticipated Quarter 4 2020	Yes
Carnew RAPID BUILD	30	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2021	Yes
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completion anticipated Quarter 3 2021	Yes
Ashtown Lane, Wicklow	40	Completion anticipated Quarter 3 2021	Yes
Ard na Greine, Bray (RAPID BUILD)	31	Completion anticipated Quarter 3 2021	Yes
TOTAL	269		
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status	Part 8 Approval
Avondale Phase 2 RAPID BUILD	20	Site start anticipated November 2020	Yes
Greenhill Road Wicklow RAPID BUILD	36	Site start anticipated Quarter 1 2021	Yes
Mountainview NTMK RAPID BUILD	26	Site start anticipated Quarter 1 2021	Yes
Old Fire Station Arklow	7	Site start anticipated Quarter 1 2021	Yes.
Cedar Court Bray RAPID BUILD	14	Site start anticipated Quarter 1 2021	Part 8 approval from Bray M D awaited.
Three Trouts Greystones RAPID BUILD	40	Site start anticipated Quarter 1 2021	Part 8 approval from Greystones MD awaited
TOTAL	213		

6. Part V

2020 – PART V UNITS DUE FOR DELIVERY 2020

Location	Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Wicklow	1	Delivered 25/02/20	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Quarter 4	WCC
Wicklow Town	3	Delivered 30/06/20	WCC
Ashford	2	Quarter 4	CALF
Greystones	2	Quarter 14/08/2020	WCC
Dunlavin	4	Quarter 4	CALF
Ashford	8	Delivered 30/7/20	CALF
Wicklow	4	Quarter 4	CALF

Potential units

Negotiations ongoing with a number of developers at preplanning and planning stage.

Turnkey

Location	Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Wicklow	6	Delivered 02/04/20	WCC
Wicklow	2	Delivered 8/5/20	WCC
Wicklow	1	Quarter 3	WCC
Wicklow	2	Delivered 12/08/20	WCC
Wicklow	3	Delivered 07/07/20	WCC
Rathdrum	4	Delivered 17/6/20	CALF

- Negotiations are ongoing with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units
- Approval has recently been received from the Department in respect of 2 Turnkey units in Baltinglass.
- Application with the Department for a further 5 units in Tinahely.

7. PPP Social Housing Project

[Bundle 1] - Scheme complete and allocated.

[Bundle 3] - Blessington/Burgage – Site included in Bundle 3.

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

The Approved Housing Bodies are actively pursuing a number of potential CALF projects and are liaising closely with the Council on a regular basis. The members will be kept updated.

- Acquisition by AHB of 38 turnkey units via CALF in Arklow due by Q4 2020.



- Acquisition by AHB of 8 (Part V) units via CALF in Ashford now completed and included in the Part V figures above. The remaining 4 units (2 turnkey and 2 Part V) due in early 2021.
- Construction ongoing on a 40 units (including 4 Part V) via CALF Turnkey in Dunlavin .

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Wicklow County Council is continuing to support acquisitions under the Capital Assistance Scheme with Dublin Simon, Circle Housing, Ark Housing and Peter McVerry Trust.

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands - A preferred proposal has been identified.

8. Housing Schemes Remediation

Glending, Blessington – Remediation

Stage 2 and Stage 3 Phase 3A – No 1 to No. 12 Glending Road have been completed.

Stage 3 Phase 3B – Glending phase 3b is complete as of 18th December 2018.

Phase 4 - works have commenced.

9. Home Improvement/Adaptation

Mobility Aid Grants / Housing Adaption Grants / Housing Aid for Older People

- Grant funding for private house €1,899,714 (€631,902.50 spent to date)
- Grant funding for social houses €472,271.64 (€357,423.05 spent to date)

An awareness campaign has been running on Social Media since August 2020, which has generated a significant increase in the level of enquiries and applications.

Letters were sent to all GP's within Co Wicklow in August 2020 to raise awareness of scheme.

House Purchase Loans - Rebuilding Ireland Query

Received	Approved	Declined	Expired	With HA for FI	Incomplete/ineligible
355	104	149	38	27	37

Tenant Purchase Scheme

	To date	Sept 2020
Applications Received	90	2
Completed	5	1
Declined	52	0
Ongoing	33	1



10. Addressing Homelessness

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 30/09/20	Year To Date	As at 30/09/2019
No of New Presentations	41	*	34
No. of Repeat Presentations	12	*	8
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	11	245	30
No. of Adults Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	34	314	79
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	1	16	
No. of Children	31	469	60
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	7	129	9
Family Circumstances	21	248	34
Leaving Prison Hospital Care	0	20	1
Sofa Surfing	2	51	6
Rough Sleeping	1	27	1
*Stat not recorded prior to August 2020			

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/9/2020	
Families	12
Adults	28
Children	30
Single individual	0

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30 September, 2020								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	15	19	15	5 households (including 2 children)	4 households (including 5 children)	3 households (including 3 children)	1 household (including 2 children)	2 households (including 3 children)

COVID 19 UPDATE

The Homeless Team continues to provide key support by phone, working from both office and home. B&B proprietors currently retained by the Council are continuing to provide emergency accommodation for homeless clients. All Covid 19 protocols are in place in the facilities.

Self Isolation Units

A number of vacant houses being refurbished for reletting have been kitted out in anticipation of the need for families to self isolate for the required period from emergency accommodation.

Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (Covid-19) Act 2020

With effect from Friday, 27th March 2020, new emergency measures were introduced into law to protect tenants during the Covid-19 emergency period, preventing Notice of Terminations being served to 31st July 2020. This period expired on 1st August 2020 and these protections ended, which means that for most tenancies, the usual rules and protections apply again from 2nd August 2020.

The Mid East Region Homelessness Management Group completed a brief analysis of the impact of the moratorium on evictions to date, on the extent of homelessness in the region and recommended that the emergency measures pertaining to notice of terminations be extended, as a homeless preventive measure, with an exemption to be applied to termination notices that relate to rent arrears and/or anti-social behaviour.

Cold Weather Initiative

The Cold Weather Initiative, a partnership arrangement between the Council and the Dublin Simon Community, with the assistance of Five Loaves Homeless Services, opened on 14th November 2019, in Bray to provide emergency night shelter for homeless individuals.

Referral protocol is through Wicklow County Council, Dublin Simon, Five Loaves and the Gardai.

This facility will cease to operate once the new Supported Homeless facility in Bray opens in October. Clients will be accommodated in the new facility.

COVID 19 UPDATE

A new operational model has commenced at the Cold Weather Initiative to endeavour to achieve the necessary health and safety standards around Covid 19 protocols. Opening hours have been extended with a corresponding increase in staffing resources. Sanitary facilities have been increased and extensive temporary modifications have been introduced to ensure separation of beds and provision of secure isolation unit.

Homeless HAP

The Homeless HAP Placefinder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,



- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 272 households (211 families & 61 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 30th September, 2020.
- 131 homeless cases and 141 prevention cases to date. 91 properties were sourced by WCC.

Covid-19 Update

The Homeless HAP Placefinder and the HAP team continue to progress cases. Key focus at present is on maintaining payments to landlords and reviewing differential rent of those clients who have reduced income during this time.

Homeless Hub, Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

Following the advice that Sonas was withdrawing services from Wicklow, the operation of the facility was tendered out to Approved Housing Bodies to operate and manage the facility as a Family Homeless Hub. The successful tenderer was Dublin Simon Community, who will be in a position to commence operations and management of the facility pending finalisation of the legal handover.

Covid-19 Update

Refurbishment work is substantially complete on the facility, initially providing self-isolation units for vulnerable clients during the current crisis.

Other Temporary Supported Accommodation

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 22 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. There has been a significant number of move ons from these properties, signalling the success of this model.

New Homeless Facility - Supported Temporary Accommodation, Bray

A key focus of Wicklow County Council in addressing homelessness was to identify and provide a high supported, temporary accommodation unit in Bray/North Wicklow to address the accommodation and support needs of a particular homeless cohort. This cohort was identified from the presenting population and those currently known to and accessing homeless services in Bray/North Wicklow.

The acquisition and upgrade of a former nursing home in Bray has completed and the facility is opening to clients in October. The facility incorporates a service model where will be a number of Cold Weather Initiative Beds (restricted during Covid), Supported Temporary Accommodation Beds (STA) There will be on site keyworking support linking in with clients.



The client base is homeless in the area and the provision of this service will significantly improve their day to day living situation.

Housing First

Housing First recognises that a stable home provides the basis for recovery in other areas.

Peter McVerry Trust has been appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid-East Region and Wicklow County Council is committed to working with them to achieve the targets identified in the programme. Properties will be provided by both Wicklow County Council and Peter McVerry Trust for the programme.

Wicklow County Council has successfully accommodated 4 clients under Housing First, with another allocation pending for October. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of accommodation.

11. Energy Efficiency

Solar Panel Carport - The local energy supply contract will be soon be signed with Enerpower at which time, procurement of the panels, support frame fabrication and other equipment will commence . On- site works will include ducting, drainage, foundation supports and works in the switchroom. Works are due to be completely in early 2021. Energy is to be supplied over a 20 year period at a fixed unit rate.

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 1- Lot 2 90 houses in Arklow, Wicklow and West Wicklow will commence in November. All tenants have been contacted in this regard.

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2 - Lot 1 88 houses in Bray and Greystones – awaiting determination of Department regarding repointing of properties

Currently finalizing costs with the contractor and agreements with Department for 20 properties in Wolfe Tone Square West, Bray. Connections for ESB and Gas will take 6 weeks, after which it is expected that the contractor will commence.



12. Wicklow Community Call

The Community Forum continues to meet to coordinate the response to COVID-19. The Community Call helpline is still operational between 9-5 Monday to Friday. The helpline has responded to 48 calls and emails in the last four weeks, with a wide range of requests, mainly to do with information.

13. Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme

A round of applications was made at the end of September under Measure 1:

Community/ Partner name(s)	Project	Total estimated project cost including Administration/ Professional fees	Amount of Match Funding available for this project (10% minimum)	Amount of ORIS funding requested for this project (max 90% of total cost of project)
County Wicklow Partnership	Avondale Avonmore	€20,330	€2,033	€18,297
County Wicklow Partnership	Trail Digitising	€19,600	€1,960	€17,640
Wicklow County Council	Tinahely	€20,000	€2,000	€18,000
Wicklow County Council	Stratford	€20,000	€2,000	€17,640
Wicklow County Council	Long Distance Video	€21,400	€2,140	€19,260
Wicklow County Council	Brockagh Mountain Access	€11,100	€1,110	€10,000
Wicklow County Council	People Counters	€22,000	€2,200	€19,800
Wicklow County Council	Sean Lenihan	€21,200	€2,120	€19,080
Wicklow County Council	Glenmalure Bridge	€12,500	€1,250	€11,250

14. County Wicklow Library Services

Small Scale Capital Works Grants

Wicklow County Council Library Service has been successful in securing €100,000 from the DRCD “Small Scale Capital Works” grants. Under this scheme, the Department provides grant aid at 90% of approved works.

This has enabled €76,000 to be recouped for additional costs in the new Wicklow library, including M&E element of My Open Library, rolling shelves for the library storeroom and an adult changing bench for the adult changing room. These projects were Change Order elements to original costs.



Another funded project saw over €26,000 for supply and installation of 250 Perspex screens across the library network. When the initial Covid-19 lockdown was lifted, an early move to procure these screens ensured all necessary precautions were in place from the outset, resulting in Wicklow County Council being one of the first local authorities to reopen all its libraries. This positive domino effect was repeated with the reintroduction of IT and study spaces to the public.

The final grant was for the installation of staff bike lockers at Library HQ and Bray public library. An increasing amount of staff are now cycling to work. Dedicated bike lockers provide peace of mind for staff, that their bikes are secure and dry. Over €9,000 in grant aid was secured for this project.

Statistical Data

Statistics have continued to be gathered re. library visits by the public, since libraries reopened in June. The return to Phase 3 means the public now only have access to “Click and Collect” (requesting stock online, or by coming up to the library door, but not entering the building).

Library Visits	July 2019	July 2020	Aug 2019	Aug 2020	Sept 2019	Sept 2020
Full time libraries – Bray, Greystones, Wicklow, Arklow, Blessington	41,644	14,480 (35% of 2019)	41,326	15,212 (37% of 2019)	40,457	18,380 (45% of 2019)

The data shows that whereas in July and August the 5 full time libraries totalled 14,000 / 15,000 visits per month, this increased to 18,380 for September. The increase is mainly due to the schools reopening, the reintroduction of IT and study facilities in late August. Like in many areas, many members of the public have been reluctant to return, but the reintroduction of services saw a notable increase in visits. Data is not available, at this time, to compare with other local authorities, but anecdotal evidence suggests Wicklow is above average.

All Wicklow libraries reopened for “Click and Collect” week beginning June 8, and opened for the public to enter the libraries and browse week beginning June 22. Items borrowed generally increased week on week.

Issues (including renewals)	Wicklow	Nationally	Wicklow as % of National
Jun-19	43,972	1,266,743	3.5%
Jun-20	10,533	221,941	4.7%
Jul-19	54,696	1,596,616	3.4%
Jul-20	19,426	498,563	3.9%
Aug-19	50,973	1,489,197	3.4%
Aug-20	20,108	539,597	3.7%
Sep-19	44,655	1,318,383	3.4%
Sep-20	27,010	625,677	4.3%
Total June - Sept 19	194,296	5,670,939	3.4%
Total June - Sept 20	77,077	1,885,778	4.1%
2020 as % of 2019 total	39.7%	33.3%	



The above statistics show that, with exactly 3% of the national population, Wicklow library statistics outperformed the national average, especially in 2020. The 2020 percentage increase demonstrates the importance of libraries being open to the public for browsing and other services, as opposed to merely online or “Click and Collect”.

The use of online resources (e-books and downloadable audio stock) by Wicklow borrowers shows that usage has more than doubled since the pandemic. Interestingly, the rate of increase slowed down, marginally, in September – when a corresponding increase was recorded in physical visits and items borrowed.

	<u>eBooks</u>	<u>eAudio</u>
August 2019	1262	2058
September 2019	1218	2088
August 2020	2739	4005
September 2020	2208	3685

15. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP National Annual Report 2019 has been released. This highlights SICAP projects and initiatives from across Ireland.

SICAP supports and services in Wicklow continue to be provided by both Programme Implementers in line with all safety measures.

Annual Plans 2021: Guidance has been circulated and planning has commenced in relation to next year's work programme.

16. County Wicklow Public Partnership Network (PPN):

Social Inclusion Week Oct 17th-23rd: Facilitation and promotion of events.

Meet your elected representative (online) events planned for October.

Consultations/Submissions: WCC Local Property Tax Adjustment Factor; WCC Part 8 Cedar Court, Bray Apartments Construction

Promotion of funding opportunities: Comic Relief; Covid 19 Response Fund; Community Enhancement Scheme; Restart Grant Plus; WCC Tree Grant; Wicklow LSP Bike Week Funding; Town & Village Renewal Scheme; Katie Taylor 3rd level bursary.

17. Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Dormant Account Funding

Wicklow Sports partnership has been allocated €173,000 in dormant account funding under the following measures:

Dormant Accounts 2020		€173,000
Sport Ireland Innovation for Sports Inclusion	€100,000	
Community Sports Hub Arklow	€40,000	
Sports Inclusion Disability Programme Capital Supports	€10,000	
Volunteer Supports Training and education supports for clubs in Wicklow	€15,000	
Youth Leadership Sport leader courses for youth clubs and schools in Wicklow	€8,000	

Inclusive Autumn Camp

An inclusive camp will take on 27th – 29th October for children age 5-8 on the Autistic Spectrum for outdoor activities on the track at Coral Leisure Arklow. This is planned for the outdoors to facilitate level 3 guidelines.

Minding Me

A week of online and outdoor events supporting new and expectant mothers in Kildare and West Wicklow took place on the 19th to 23rd October. In collaboration with the HSE, CYPSC, Tusla, Kildare Sports & Recreation Partnership, Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership hosted Buggyfit taster sessions in Blessington on the Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd October.

European Week of Sport

European Week of Sport took place 23rd – 30th September 2020 with just over 500 people participating in Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership organised events such as online nutrition talk with Daniel Davey, pound with Carla on Bray Promenade, virtual 5K walk/run and sunset Yoga in Greystones to finish off the active week.

Bike Week 2020

Wicklow SRP ran numerous events throughout County Wicklow during bike week 19th-27th September which included bike maintenance workshops, cycles on Blessington Greenway, family cycle from Wicklow to Ashford, Mountain Biking taster session for teenagers and women only in Ballinastoe. A number of schools and community groups also organised events to promote bike week with over 300 people getting involved.

18. Community Enhancement Programme 2020

Tranche 1 – General Fund

The applications have been assessed and the payment process is currently ongoing.

Tranche 2 – 2020 Fund for Community Centres and Community Facilities

The closing date for submission of applications was Thursday 15th October 2020. Assessment of the applications is currently ongoing.

19. County Wicklow Arts Office

Annual Arts Council Application

The Annual Application to the Arts Council was made in September with Covid-19 restrictions in mind and sighting an adapted programme of operation to support the arts sector and to continue to engage communities meaningfully in 2021. The Arts Council requested that we apply for additional funds to reflect any possible increased investment by Government in the arts sector through the Arts Council for 2021. The Funding announcements will be made to Local Authorities in December 2020.

Annual Arts Council Application

The additional Creative Ireland Job Stimulus funding of 50k received in September is now being invested in the roll out of activity. Under this funding Festival Development and Continuity training supports will be offered to Festivals, these will be delivered by Janice McAdam a Management Consultant who specialises in solutions and change management. This will be offered in two tiers to larger Festivals and then all other smaller Arts Festivals remotely. As part of this the needs of Festivals going forward will be identified. In addition under this Job Stimulus Fund the Architect will be appointed to do initial designs on the Bray Design Centre. This was initially paused due to Covid-19 but now with this funding it is possible to proceed to commission design drawings. Coming on stream at the end of October into November there will be a specific suite of development and adaption workshops for visual artists specifically commissioned by Wicklow County Council from Visual Artists Ireland, the National Resource Organisation for Visual Arts. In addition there will be workshops and mentorship clinics for Wicklow based artists.

Strategic Projects Fund

The Arts Office Strategic Projects funding scheme was assessed in September and applicants will be notified in October of the outcomes of this process. The applications were exceptionally strong for 2021 and illustrated great resilience and adaptation of the sector and artists to continue to make work and engage with communities against the backdrop of Covid – 19. There was a particular focus on local artists working together locally and delivering work through partnership in new and innovative ways given where we now find ourselves with Covid. A total of eight projects were selected to go forward subject to funding in 2021.



Additional Funding – Creative Ireland

Additional funding beyond the Creative Ireland Job Stimulus Scheme was sought from Creative Ireland on a speculative application to support a unique theatre / film project in the Direct Provision Centre in the Grand Hotel in Wicklow Town. The project first received development investment as part of The Abbey Theatre's 5x5x20 Scheme and a short work was performed by ten residents of the Grand Hotel and two professional actors on the Peacock Stage supported by writer and actor Tina Noonan. This has subsequently evolved into the development of a further work and film piece by the residents highlighting their desire to integrate into the community and focusing on the isolation they experience in direct provision. A further €15,400 will be received to make this project possible.

Decade of Centenaries

The Decade of Centenaries project is being progressed by the Creative Ireland Culture Team, specifically by Catherine Wright and Deirdre Burns with podcasts and book available shortly to discuss Wicklow's place and local events as part of the Decade of Centenaries commemorative activity. This is being funded through Creative Ireland.

HEALTHY IRELAND

Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025 is a national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of Ireland over the coming generation. Now in its 3rd year, the 'Healthy Ireland Fund' aims to support innovative sectoral, evidence-based projects, programmes and initiatives that support key national policies in areas such as mental health, physical activity, nutrition and sexual health, tobacco and alcohol and development of spaces and places for health and wellbeing.

Wicklow County Council, on behalf of Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (Wicklow LCDC) are now seeking submissions for a Small Grants Scheme to deliver actions or projects which are in line with the Mental Health theme of Healthy Ireland.

- A total of €30,000 has been allocated to Wicklow.
- Minimum Grant €2000 / Maximum Grant €5000 per project.
- The programme budget must be spent by 31st May 2021.

Applications can be made up to 4pm on Friday 30th October 2020

20. County Wicklow Archives

Democracy and Change: The 1920 Local Elections in Ireland - New book compiled by the Local Government Archivists Group & the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

This year marks the centenary of the local elections of 1920 (urban authorities in January and the remainder in June) which were pivotal in the history of local government in Ireland. In the context of the *Decade of Centenaries*, it is important to mark these events because of their significance for the struggle for independence and the enduring place of proportional representation in our political system. Working with the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage recently commissioned the production of a booklet to commemorate the 1920 local elections. The booklet contains images and information on areas such as the political climate at the

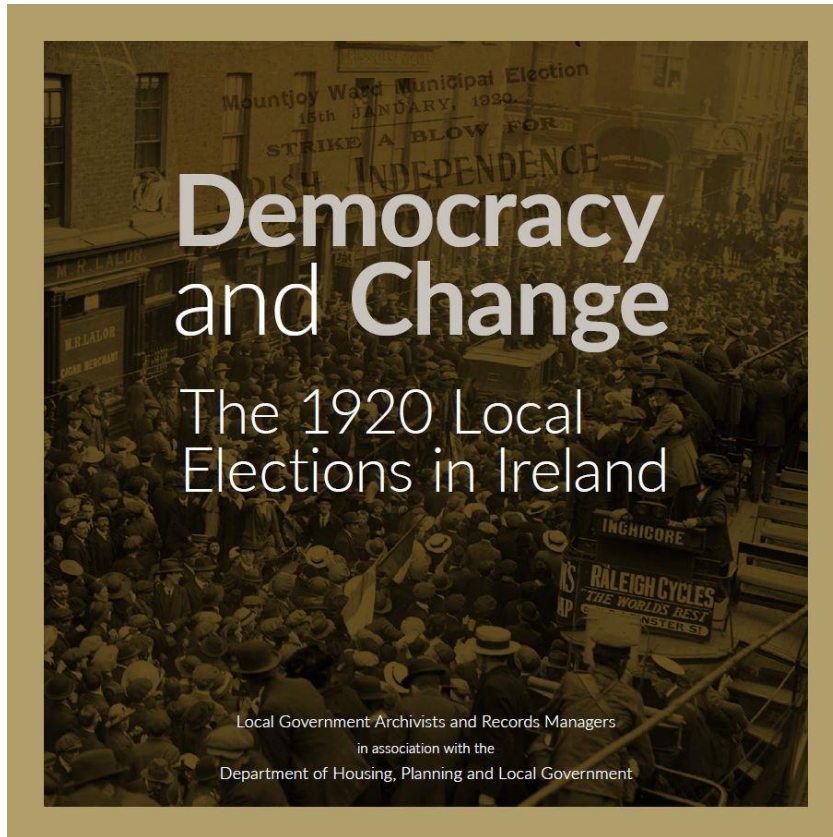


time, the War of Independence, local government reform, rural and urban district councils, county and city councils and both 1920 local elections. It also provides an insight into the highs and lows of 1920 -1925, as well as the role that women played in the 1920 local elections.

Wicklow County Council in 1920

Similar to all counties, the 1920 local elections in County Wicklow saw the election of a new generation of county councillors who were overwhelmingly supporters of Sinn Féin and Labour. Of the 20 candidates elected for Wicklow County Council that year, 14 were Sinn Féin, 3 Sinn Féin/Labour, 2 Farmers' Association and 1 Nationalist. The council acknowledged the authority of Dáil Eireann and undertook to give effect to all its decrees. Robert Barton was a notable figure in the election – elected Chairman of Wicklow County Council during his detention in prison for making seditious speeches. An extensive landowner and former British army officer, Barton joined the republican movement after witnessing the ill-treatment of the 1916 leaders in Dublin. As TD for West Wicklow, he was elected Minister for Agriculture at the first Dáil sitting in 1919. Re-elected to the Dáil in 1922, he was imprisoned later that year for his activities in the Civil War. He lost his seat in the general election of 1923 and was released from prison in December 1923. He did not seek election again, but held a number of public appointments thereafter.

The booklet is available to download as a pdf (English & Irish language versions) at <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/new-contributions/new-publication-marking-the-centenary-of-the-1920-local-elections> or a limited number of printed publications are also available. Please email localgovernment@housing.gov.ie with your name and address should you wish to receive a printed booklet in the post.



CHAMBERS IRELAND EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS

Wicklow County Council has been shortlisted in the seventeenth annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020 for the following projects:

- **Wicklow's Historic Gaol – Gates of Hell** in *Supporting Tourism*
- **Wicklow Naturally – Wicklow's Food and Beverage Network** in *Promoting Economic Development*
- **Relove Fashion Competition** in *Sustainable Environment*
- **Wicklow County Council Library Service Literacy Supports – Home Schooling** in *Best Library Service*
- **Our Wicklow Heritage – A Living Archive of Wicklow Communities** in *Heritage and Built Environment*
- **Wicklow Life: 1919-1923 War of Independence & Civil War years** in *Commemorations and Centenaries*



Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

1. Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Action Plan Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Economic)

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). Many of the 142 actions listed in the LECP have come from the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Action Plan. The CWETT which was initiated in 2013 was a collaborative project initiated by Wicklow County Council and involved the business community from across the county and the County Enterprise Board (now LEO Wicklow).

Retail

Bray Town Centre

Works are progressing well on site, and the structural steel throughout the site is complete. The various stair cores and lift cores within blocks 1, 2, and 3 are progressing with stairs on order for same. Block work and brickwork has also commenced on site. Other subcontractor packages that have been placed have now commenced on site. These packages consist of roofing, glazing, curtain walling, mechanical, and electrical and escalators. Installation of the first two lifts on Block 3 is complete. Stone cladding has commenced on site.

Heads of terms have gone out to several new tenants. To date, there is excellent interest from a number of operators for the smaller retail units. The development has been rebranded as Bray Central, which highlights better its Main Street location.

Town Teams

Town Teams in Arklow, Blessington, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow continue to meet virtually where possible to progress various projects. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic meetings with a number of community groups and other various stakeholders have been postponed to later dates. This may reflect in the updates below.

Arklow Town Team

Arklow Town Team is delighted to have secured LEADER funding for two additional new projects. These projects include:-



1. River Tourism – Harbour to Headwaters project. The project plan is to map the Avoca River from Glenmalure to Arklow and to install educational panels of aqua life of the river and the wildlife on the river bank with a view to linking to our new website at a later stage and an information platform to river conservation.
2. Flower Irrigation System – Arklow 19 Arches Bridge- Installation of a sustainable irrigation system for winter and summer pollinator friendly planters on 19 Arches Bridge. The bridge is the leading landmark of Arklow town with a unique and long history. It is the longest multi arched bridge in Ireland and the only bridge in town linking the Main Street with traffic from Dublin over the wide Avoca river estuary.

Contracts for the **SEA-nanagins** Seafood Festival have been drawn up for signing.

Work is progressing on the design and development of a new website to promote Arklow Town and its environs. Funding has been secured to develop a new brand and marketing strategy to coincide with this.

Bray Town Team / Bray Reopening Committee

Covid-19 has hit our country and Bray extremely hard. As the country gradually reopens safely, while trying to minimise the risk of a second wave, it was really important to restart the local economy here in Bray responsibly, so a special committee was established by Wicklow County Council. This committee is taking a collaborative approach – one voice / one strategy.

In recent weeks several joint initiatives have been implemented across the town to help drive a message of 'Unity in the community' during these uncertain and challenging times. They include, to name but a few:

- A strong communications strategy using the tagline 'Bray bouncing back...' which was supported by a PR, Marketing and digital plan – we mirrored bray.ie's seasonal campaign planning and execution model.
- The dedicated COVID-19 information hubs help connect local businesses with customers, share some practical hints, tips, supports and links to help our town and community bounce back. The dedicated COVID-19 information hubs can be accessed via: Covid-19 updates: <https://www.bray.ie/covid19updates/> & Information hub for businesses: <https://www.bray.ie/covid19businessinfohub/>



- Dedicated special times for people who are aged 70 and over, or who are medically vulnerable to exercise outdoors were implemented at the People's Park and Bray Promenade.
- Council engineers have implemented some temporary changes throughout the District to ensure safe space for people to navigate and businesses to operate in.
- The Council's cleaning staff continue to clean street surfaces in high footfall areas around the town.
- Free standardised temporary ground graphics have been issued to local main street businesses in order to help them implement queuing measures to encourage social distancing.
- 'Shop Local First' marketing campaign was launched back in March; we're continuing to encourage consumers to spend locally and help businesses bounce back. Read more about the initiative here: <https://www.bray.ie/shoplocalfirst/>.

Blessington Town Team

The judging for the Bank of Ireland Begin Together Awards took place on the 14th September, due to Covid – 19 restrictions judging took place over Zoom. Members of Blessington Town Team presented all that Blessington has to offer from a business, retail, community, cultural and socially inclusive perspective. Judges were treated to a video of the Hello Neighbour by Bailey and Blake Productions which showed the multifaceted nature of the project. Blessington Town Team is extremely grateful to all the volunteers and businesses that have made the Hello Neighbour project a success and continue to provide much need support to people in the community. The results were announced on Tuesday 6th October and while disappointed not to take first place Blessington Town Team would like to congratulate Kinsale on their success.

In order to advance implementation of the Blessington Town Health Check it was agreed to establish a subgroup of the Town Team to progress implementation of the actions contained in the report prepared by Future Analytics. The development of the Wicklow Passport by Wicklow Tourism was welcomed by members and it is hoped that it will attract visitors to West and South Wicklow. Members were updated on the work of the Accommodation working group. There was a detailed discussion on the town relief road and the District Manger updated the meeting on progress to date. Members were also updated on the progress of the West Wicklow Swimming Pool campaign.

Greystones 2020

The subcommittee of Greystones 2020 have been busy finalising plans for an online Christmas Festival in Greystones; '**A 2020 Greystones Christmas**'; to celebrate the switching on of the Christmas lights on Saturday 21st November. There are a wide range of events proposed for the festival including:



- A Charity Christmas Tree outside of the train station to raise funds for the Caroline Foundation
- A Huge Christmas tree in the Harbour
- Greystones Elf that will popping up in shops with online competitions for children
- Online workshops to include Christmas cake decorating, Children's chocolate creations, Craft workshop and a Gift idea workshop
- 6ft advent calendar - with competitions and prizes for each day.
- Greystones Christmas Television with video links from abroad to Greystones and from Greystones to abroad, Music and ecumenical message - Broadcast prior to the Christmas Lights switch on
- 12 days of Christmas painted murals on business windows with competitions and prizes.

Wicklow Town Team

Wicklow Town Team held their AGM on the 30th September 2020. The achievements of 2020 were outlined by the Chairman Mr. Dave Shannon which included the securing the car park at the Beehive to be used as a park and ride, some progress has been achieved on the planned provision of a bus corridor on the N11, the information lecterns are now in situ at the Black Castle and Abbey Grounds, the provision of the heritage trail is now well underway, the successful launch of wicklowtown.ie has provided a great source of information on Wicklow town. A new 18-30 year old working group has been set up and the first project is to look at the feasibility of a youth theatre/cinema in the town. The illumination of the historical sites in Wicklow Town is now nearing completion and the progress on Fitzwilliam Square and the new town library is well underway. It was further outlined that the potential of Wicklow Town is enormous and the Town Team will continue with its ongoing support to realise its potential.

Town Re-opening Committees

Following the success of the Bray Re-opening Committee, Wicklow County Council proposed the establishment of re-opening committees in each Municipal District – the purpose of these committees is to support businesses as they re-open and to encourage members of the community to support local business.

Membership of the Re-Opening Committees consists of the MD Cathaoirleach (Chair), MD Manager, MD Administrator, MD Engineer, Chair of the Town Team, Representative of the Chamber of Commerce and An Garda Síochána.

A Town Re-Opening/Tourism recovery meeting was held in July 2020 with a number of ideas provided including promoting the 'Wicklow Passport' to drive tourism in the County.



Funding for Public Realm Enhancements

Wicklow has been allocated funding totalling €3.342m covering 25 projects supporting pedestrian and cyclist movement and to enhance accessibility in towns and villages by the National Transport Authority. The funding was allocated under the July Jobs Stimulus Plan announced by the Government last and is among measures designed to stimulate a jobs-led recovery and build economic confidence in response to the Covid-19 crisis.

The funding will allow for changes to traffic management arrangements to facilitate the reallocation of overall road space to improve facilities and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Town and Village Funding

Three projects submitted by Wicklow County Council under the 2020 Town & Village Renewal Large Town Scheme have been approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Funding was awarded for Enhancement of Public Spaces in Arklow through a biodiversity scheme, to Wicklow Town for the Purchase and installation of portable street awnings and to Greystones for Repair and upgrade gravel paths at Burnaby Park

Extension of Section 254 permits for tables and chairs

Wicklow County Council has extended the waiver for outdoor tables and chairs licensing under section 254 to the end of December 2020. This is to support social distancing for businesses and help enable them to re-open.

Tourism

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

The strategy sets out a number of challenging but achievable priorities along with a series of detailed actions to be implemented over the next 5 years

The Key Priorities are:

1. Develop New Accommodation
2. Develop Key Towns as Visitor Hubs
3. Develop a Masterplan for Glendalough
4. Grow Thematic Experiences
5. Market our County by Developing A Common Narrative



A Tourism Implementation Group has been established to oversee these actions and drive all sectors towards helping Wicklow achieve the target of **€200m in tourism revenue by 2023**.

Accommodation: Fáilte Ireland had engaged Crowe Consultants to develop a Toolkit to help attract investment in accommodation. It is estimated that Wicklow requires an additional 175 Hotel Rooms over the next five years based on 4% growth, this is assuming that the additional 50 rooms that have extant planning permission are developed.

The County Wicklow Accommodation working group was re-activated at the end of July. The group has engaged the services of a consultant to assist the Accommodation Working Group in preparing a dedicated study building on Fáilte Ireland's Accommodation Toolkit and contributing in terms of information and advice to the preparation of the related prospectus aimed at attracting the development of tourism accommodation in the County. The report is expected by the end of October.

Destination Town Funding: An application to Fáilte Ireland on behalf of Wicklow Town was made in respect of Destination Town Funding and funding has been awarded to develop visitor amenities in Wicklow Town.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

Fáilte Ireland, with its strategic partners OPW, NPWS and with Wicklow County Council is engaging with Consarc Consultants to develop a tourism master-plan for Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park and a Visitor Orientation Plan for County Wicklow. Consarc lead a multi disciplinary team consisting of tourism, environmental, heritage, public realm, and traffic and parking consultants to develop the suite of plans. Stakeholder engagement is underway at present.

A schedule of meetings is now being organised by Consarc and Fáilte Ireland to consider some of the following;

Developing a detailed understanding of the volume, needs and motivations of the best prospects customers;

- Planning suitable visitor facilities and car parking sites within the park compatible with conservation objectives;
- Identifying the widest range of activities and sites of interest within the Park, compatible with conservation objectives;



- Development of physical links between all facilities to provide a flexible, interconnected visitor management plan;
- A seasonal strategy of 'flexing up' the visitor facilities to meet demand but visitor experience led;
- Identifying links of activities and sites of interest throughout Wicklow with Visitor Orientation Recommendations
- Compliance with statutory planning and environmental legislation, local and national government policies etc.

Thematic Experiences

Tracks and Trails - Wicklow County Council engaged the producers of Tracks and Trails to redevelop some of the existing programmes for use on the Wicklow.ie website and social media and also to develop shorter tracks and trails videos aimed at internet viewers, airlines and traditional media.

The Bray Head to the Great Sugarloaf Trail was launched via Facebook in July. Similarly the Tinahely Looped Walk will be launched in the coming weeks. It had been intended to hold an outdoor event to mark this launch; however recent additional Covid 19 restrictions make it less likely.

Wicklow Passport: A Wicklow Passport aimed at encouraging locals and visitors to explore Wicklow have been introduced by the Wicklow Tourism Alliance. Passport holders can collect various Wicklow Stamps and discover the activities, attractions, and hospitality on offer across the county. Loosely based on the 'Camino Passport' in Spain, the Wicklow Passport is a series of stamps that can only be collected at the respective towns or villages represented on each stamp. For example, you can only get the Shillelagh stamps at stamping locations around Shillelagh.

The Wicklow Passport can be purchased for €2 online at <http://visitwicklow.ie/passport>. Or can be collected free-of-charge from participating stamping locations, or through the Wicklow Libraries at Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Blessington. The details of the circa 75 and growing stamping locations is available at <http://visitwicklow.ie/passport> by clicking on each icon.



We have developed a new stamp for Newtownmountkennedy that is now available at various businesses in the village. The Wicklow Passport enjoyed excellent media coverage through an East Coast Radio campaign and a radio interview on Morning Ireland on RTE1 and we have extended our network of Stamping Locations around the County and further Passports were distributed or sold online through the visitwicklow.ie. We are planning an extensive promotional campaign nationwide with the support of Failte Ireland, but due to the current restrictions we have slowed down the current promotional activities.

Eco Trail: Unfortunately this year's Eco Trail edition has been cancelled due to Covid 19. It's obviously a huge disappointment but following from latest safety guidelines, it was impossible to safely run the event. There was very strong communication for the event though, with approximately 1550 registered runners, almost 500 more than last year. This shows the amazing interest that the event has generated for its second edition, and proves the viability of the event for the future. Furthermore, Ecotrail has generated an amazing level of interest for the destination and the sport here in Ireland and abroad.

It is intended to continue to use the Ecotrail platform to showcase our county as a fantastic outdoors destination.

Covid 19: Failte Ireland, Wicklow County Council, LEO Wicklow are providing a range of supports and advice for tourism providers and are following all advice and guidelines set out by NPHET and the Government.

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

There are currently three 2018 URDF projects underway; Arklow Historic Town Core, Wicklow Library and Fitzwilliam Square and the Bray Public Transport Bridge. URDF applications were also submitted in May 2020 for the Regeneration of the Arklow Quays, Bray Harbour Regeneration and the regeneration of Wicklow's Waterfront.

Wicklow County Council was awarded Category 2 funding of €357,750 in respect of Newtownmountkennedy for the design and plans for upgrades to the public realm, street landscaping, traffic management, public spaces and community facilities. The funding will be matched by a 25% contribution from the Council's resources bringing the investment to over €500,000. This funding builds on the €150,000 that Newtownmountkennedy received in 2018 from the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme, which funded streetscape improvements in the town. The closing date for the latest round of RRDF funding is 1st December 2020, when an application in respect of Rathdrum will be submitted.



We are currently in the initial stages of preparing an RRDF submission in respect of Rathdrum which has to be submitted by 1st December 2020.

Climate Action

Climate Action Applications have also been submitted in respect of Wicklow and Arklow Harbours aimed at ensuring both harbours can benefit from development of the offshore wind energy industry.

The Wicklow harbour application was submitted to apply for funding to develop the physical infrastructure in Wicklow harbour in order to accommodate crew transfer vessels servicing the offshore wind sector.

Similarly the application in respect of Arklow is to facilitate servicing of the offshore wind industry and to investigate the possibility of developing enterprise units for small businesses engaged in marine activities. Offshore wind has a cross governmental mandate secured through the delivery of the Climate Action Plan targets of 3.5 GW of offshore wind by 2030.

Maritime

Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow

The Strategic Review will identify ways in which the economic base of County Wicklow could be strengthened through its ports and harbours and formulate recommendation for Wicklow County Council.

Key Recommendations:

- To maximise the Offshore Wind Opportunity
- To investigate the feasibility of a new harbour facility at Wicklow
- Aquaculture Support
- Marketing Strategy for County Wicklow as a Coastal Tourist Destination

The Strategic Review is at the core of the applications for Climate Action and URDF funding.

There are currently three wind farm projects in development:

- Arklow Bank
- Codling Bank
- Dublin Array

All three have commenced stakeholder engagement.



Maritime Business Development Group

The Next meeting of the MBDG will be take place on 29th of October. Three presentations will be offered and will include-

- A presentation of the Dublin Array Offshore Wind Farm
- A presentation of an Options Report on opportunities for development of a marshalling facility for offshore wind farms in County Wicklow
- A presentation of proposals for the development of Bray Harbour

FLAG Funding

Wicklow County Council has supported applications for FLAG funding in respect of the Native Oyster Reef Restoration project and also in respect of a Wreck Fishing proposal.

The Native Oyster Reef Restoration (NORRI) project is a plan to establish self-sustaining native oyster habitats in the Irish Sea, in collaboration where possible, with Wind Energy and Coastal Defence Development. A workshop is planned for the end of March to publicise this project.

Progress has been delayed on the NORRI project due to travel restrictions and other Covid 19 related issues.

The Wreck fishing FLAG is an application supported by the Maritime Business Development Group. It is a proposal aimed at surveying current wreck fishing sites and eventually attracting leisure type fishing in these areas.

Approval has been granted for funding in respect of the Wreck Fishing project and the project is underway.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow County Council was awarded Leader funding for the implementation of the Food and Beverage Strategy.



Wicklow Naturally October Feast

The last 6 weeks have focused heavily on the preparation for the Wicklow Naturally Feast. Approximately 35 events (either physical or virtual) have been arranged and delivery has commenced. The meetings include:

- Food demonstrations
- Foraging Tours
- Meet the Maker events
- Demonstration videos
- Supper Clubs

Some of the activities have been curtailed due to Covid-19 restrictions

Social Media

A publicity/social media programme is being operated, and our social media coverage is increasing substantially.

- Facebook: 1675 followers (original target: 400)
- Instagram: 744 followers
- Twitter: 269 followers

The Wicklow Naturally Facebook posts from September 8th to October 5th have reached 35,024 people.

Food Incubation Centre

An additional survey has been circulated amongst the food business community in Wicklow to gauge their opinion on the development of the Food Incubation Centre. The findings from the survey will be used to add an additional chapter to the Food Incubation Centre report and will provide additional supporting evidence for funding bids.

Structure of Wicklow Naturally

A structure of Wicklow Naturally has been agreed with the Steering Committee. The group is to be officially formed as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

A Wicklow Naturally handbook has also been created and a Constitution with a Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association has also been drafted.

Membership

Membership is currently at 80 and final information or confirmation from around 20 of these on different aspects of their blog/website listing is pending. Several other businesses have applied for membership and are being followed up.



2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives
<p>To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 33/€888,954.62 - 8/€11,427	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	- 22/€501,333 - 3/€3,850
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			

METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	53	55	58
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73	75	60
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	832	800	1144
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	7

OCTOBER 2020



METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	546	470*	1053
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	458	440	573

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2019/2020	2020/2021	Year to Date
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1121		

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2019	2020	Year to Date 2020
Number of Applications	57	Programme review	Programme review

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2019	2020	Year to Date 2020
Trading Online Vouchers	39	No Limit	261

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	11	9



October 2020 Activities

Brexit Supports:

- ✦ One to one Brexit mentoring clinics are on offer with customs expert Michael McGill
- ✦ A 'Prepare your Business for Customs' online training programme took place with 15 participants
- ✦ Two designated Brexit Advisors can work with businesses to get Brexit ready.
- ✦ A High Level of demand for business advice clinics is being met by business advisors providing additional clinics which are run remotely.
- ✦ The autumn winter training programme offers a combination of core training courses, Brexit supports and Covid Crisis related courses to LEO clients
- ✦ The annual Management Development Training Programme, for owner-managers of LEO client businesses has commenced and is proceeding well with 17 participants, online.
- ✦ The October Network of Entrepreneurial Women network meeting will take place on 7th October via Zoom. This is now a monthly meeting
- ✦ National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED), a national day for female entrepreneurship, will take place as an online conference on 14th October, all day. It is free of charge and open to all
- ✦ Extremely high volume of applications for the Trading Online Voucher are being accepted and assessed depending on budgets being available. Incomplete applications are causing delays in assessing them.
- ✦ Weekly newsletter is circulated to clients on supports, training courses, events and other relevant information.
- ✦ Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- ✦ The Student Enterprise Programme for academic year 2020/2021 is underway with a combination of virtual and in class workshops being held.

Training

Upcoming courses include the following:-

- ✦ Start Your Own Business commencing on the 4th November
- ✦ Digital Marketing Clinics taking place on 2nd November
- ✦ Design Your Own Social Media on the 12th November
- ✦ The next Trading Online Voucher Seminar is scheduled for Thursday 5th November.



3. Planning and Development

Forward Planning

Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly 2019-2031 & Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan

The new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region (EMRA) came into effect on the 28th June 2019. This was subsequently subject to a Ministerial Direction which was confirmed in January 2020. The final RSES and accompanying documentation is available at the following link: <https://emra.ie/final-rses/>

The requirement for a **Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP)** to be prepared for the Dublin metropolitan area as part of the RSES is set out in Project Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework (NPF). The MASP provides a 12 to 20 year strategic planning and investment framework for the Dublin metropolitan area.

A MASP implementation group has been formed, with ‘terms of reference’ and governance structure agreed by the Regional Assembly in May 2020. The Implementation Group, whose function is to oversee progress on the implementation of the Dublin MASP, offers an opportunity for enhanced spatial coordination of land use planning and strategic infrastructure delivery in the Dublin metropolitan area. The Implementation Group will drive strategic housing, employment and regeneration opportunities that are identified in the MASP in tandem with the delivery of key public transport, enabling infrastructure and metropolitan scale amenities, in order to achieve targeted population and employment growth as set out in the accompanying RSES and NPF. The membership of the MASP Implementation group comprises representatives from each of the seven metropolitan local authorities, the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) and key infrastructure, transport and enterprise agencies.

National Policy Objective (NPO) 68 of Project Ireland 2040 - the National Planning Framework states ‘A Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan may enable up to 20% of the phased population growth targeted in the principal city and suburban area, to be accommodated in the wider metropolitan area i.e. outside the city and suburbs or contiguous zoned area, in addition to growth identified for the Metropolitan area’. The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides further elaboration as it states ‘This shall apply only to the three Metropolitan Key Towns in the MASP namely **Bray, Maynooth and Swords**, and only if they can demonstrate compact growth on high capacity planned or existing public transport corridors’.

The following Guiding Principles for the determination of transitional population projections within the MASP in accordance with the NPF and the RSES, including the population targets for the city and the Metropolitan Key Towns, were agreed in consultation with the MASP Implementation Group:

1. That up to 20% of the targeted growth of people in Dublin city and suburbs (220,000 people) may be transferred to facilitate compact growth in Bray, Maynooth and Swords i.e. up to 44,000 population
2. This allocation will support the delivery of the identified capacity of strategic development areas within those towns to 2031, as set out in Table 5.1 of the adopted RSES.
3. The allocation of transitional projections shall be based on the targeted population growth for the city and suburbs in the NPF and the further breakdown by Local Authority as set out in Appendix B of the RSES.
4. The core strategies of development plans should have a focus on the delivery of strategic development areas in the MASP, and be evidence-based in line with national guidelines.
5. That these population projections may be further adjusted as part of the ongoing monitoring and review of the RSES to ensure responsive planning and delivery of compact growth in the Key Towns. If this is not the case the transitional population may revert to Dublin city and suburbs.



The Transitional Populations for the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) set out in the table below were agreed in consultation with the MASP Implementation Group and the MASP Committee, and were approved by the elected members of the Regional Assembly on July 10th, 2020.

	2016 Population (CSO)	NPO 68 Population Allocation	2031 high (Adjusted)
Bray (Wicklow and DLR)	32,500	13,000 - DLR 3,500 - WCC 9,500	45,500
Maynooth (Kildare and Meath)	14,500	10,000 - KCC 10,000	24,500
Swords	39,000	20,000 - FCC 20,000	59,000

County Development Plan Review

Notice to review the current County Development Plan 2016 - 2022 and prepare a new County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 was given on the 6th November 2019. Closing date for submissions was Friday 10th January 2020. 156 submissions were received. All of the submissions are available to view on the website:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2021-2027/Issues-Paper>

The First Chief Executive's Report was issued to the Elected Members on Friday 12th June 2020. This Report forms part of the statutory procedure for the review of the existing plan and the preparation of the new plan. Its purpose is to report on the outcome of the statutory consultation process and to set out the Chief Executive's opinion on the issues raised in the submissions received. The report is available to view on the website:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2021-2027/Stage-2>

Directions regarding the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan were discussed at the September Council meeting.

The Forward Planning team are now in the process of preparing the Draft County Development Plan. When finalised, it will be issued to the Members for their consideration prior to going on public display in 2021.

Heritage

Heritage & Biodiversity Plan Actions:

- Community Monument Fund announced by National Monument Service of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government on 7th Sept. Heritage Office co-ordinated applications under the scheme for WCC; six projects submitted and one successful project announced on 8th Oct for Arklow's Medieval Heritage interpretation, €7,700 grant allocation.
- Heritage Plan actions 2020; Community Archaeology Project (Focussed on Glendalough and Preban) films, podcasts and publications produced and launched during Heritage Week.
- National Heritage Week awards ceremony on 20th October
- Biodiversity Action Plan Projects 2020: Brittas Bay biodiversity management and survey; Swift phase 2 project; Biodiversity Awareness actions – video tutorial and publications, events
- Draft World Heritage Site Tentative List application made to DHHLG for the Glendalough Valley by end Sept.



- Our Wicklow Heritage Network: Ongoing co-ordination of multi-platform website hosting County Wicklow Heritage and the following community heritage recording groups; Delgany Tidy Towns, Glens Of Lead, Medieval Bray Project, Glendalough Heritage Forum and, The Glen/ Donard. Shortlisted for the Chamber Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award 2020, results to be announced 23rd November
- Creative Wicklow/ Heritage Plan project: creation of a collection of Avoca River Stories (short films) is underway. Partnership project with LAWPRO based upon template of River Liffey Stories project 2018-2020
- Wicklow Local Biodiversity Plan project: Partnership project with County Wicklow Partnership under the biodiversity fund in the LEADER programme.

Protected Structures Grants: Funding allocations announced June DCHG. €60000 has been allocated to Wicklow projects under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, €35,000 allocated to St. Patrick's Church, Wicklow Town under the Historic Structures Fund with an additional allocation received of €15,000 under the Governments July stimulus package.

Planning Applications

A total of 102 applications were received during September, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	34 (26 refer to rural Hse applications)
Housing Developments*	06
Agricultural Structures	00
Commercial	06
Other Developments**	56
Total	102

* Large hsg Development
PRR20/940 – 25 hses at Melwood, Kindlestown Upper, Delgany

**Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger sign post, Well, change of use, Hoarding, relocation of vehicular entrance, extend the appropriate period of permission, various amendments/modifications to previous planning permission, conversion, retention, boundary screen wall, attic conversion, reclamation of land, effluent treatment system & percolation area.

Decisions issued in respect of 97 applications in September, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	4
Individual Houses	22 (15 refer to a rural Hse)
Other Developments	71
Other Developments Requiring EIA	0
Total	97

In relation to decisions issued between January to September 2020, in comparison to the same period for 2019, the details are as follows:

	30/09/2019	30/09/2020
Total Number of decisions issued	722	646
Total Number of decisions to grant	618	646
% Grant Rate	85%	87%

OCTOBER 2020



No. of Applications withdrawn

September 8 (5 refer to rural hse applications)

*Withdrawals may not have been lodged in the month of August

Planning Enforcement

Enforcement

New Files	20
Advisory Letters	58
Warning Letters	11
Enforcement Notices	04
Legal files	02
Closed	33

Courts

01 Cases listed for hearing in District Court in October

Vacant Sites

26 no. sites now stand on the Register.

3 sites on appeal

Valuations to be sought for two additional sites on the Register

Derelict Sites

04 No. of sites on Register

4. Environmental Services

Waste Management

No. of Complaints Opened	262
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	196
No of Litter Fines Issued	11
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	4
No. of Warning Letters Issued	3
No. of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	9
No. of Burning Applications Granted	14
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	0
No. of Notices issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	4
No. of fixed penalty notices issued	5
No. of files prepared for Court included in Court lists	60
No of cases in court under the Litter Pollution Act	1
Income – Litter	€1,650.00
Income – Waste Management	€3,500.00

Climate Action

The Climate Action Team is currently made up as follows

- Mary Cahill – Climate Action Officer
- Jim Callery A Environmental Awareness Officer
- Deirdre Burns Heritage Officer
- Pam O'Reilly Assistant Staff Officer

An Implementation plan with actions from the Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Climate Charter are being developed by a task group of which M Cahill is a member. The draft Implementation Plan (guidance and tool kit for all LAs) will be submitted to environment committee of the CCMA for approval and rollout.

Progress on actions in the climate adaptation strategy was submitted to CARO for collation at national level Pilot training for Climate Action Officers is in progress and being attended by Mary Cahill Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Officer as an evaluator.

Priority Action items:

- Installation of EV Charging points in Greystones. 4 No. Chargers are proposed for Shoreline Greystones. There is a 6 week lead in time to delivery so installation is likely to happen early November 2020. Suitable locations for the installation of EV Charging points in Blessington are being investigated.
- Tree Policy to be drawn up for the County. UCD Landscape architecture department has been appointed to co-ordinate the tree management policy for Wicklow County Council - a draft policy document is expected by early 2021.
- Community Woodlands: All sections are asked to identify public lands which could be suitable for community woodlands. CARO will issue guidance on this project which is being funded by the DAFM.



- A submission has been made for funding of a research project by UCD and Trinity to look at nature based solutions for flood protection in the Upper Avoca Catchment. We await a response to the application for funding.
- Alternatives to Glyphosate – following a number of pilot studies throughout the Country Foam stream has emerged as the preferred options as an alternative of Glyphosate for weed control. It is proposed to purchase the first foamstream machine in 2020.
- A workshop will be held with the members of the Climate and Biodiversity SPC to agree on the content of the Climate Action section on Wicklow.ie

Environmental Awareness

A project to fund the collection, repair and shipping to Africa of old bikes was funded under the Anti –Dumping Initiative. The Rotary Clubs of Bray and Wicklow were partners in the project. The collection was held over two Saturdays in four locations including the recycling centres of Bray, Wicklow and Arklow and the Greystones Municipal District Office. Hundreds of bikes were donated exceeding the target set by the Rotary club of 200 bikes. The bikes are being transported to Shleton Abbey for repair before being shipped to Africa. The Relove fashion competition piloted successfully in 2019 in partnership with Meath, Westmeath and Dublin City Councils and the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun was relaunched for 2020. Six more local authorities joined the competition a Wicklow County Council initiative, The focus is on producing wearable clothing design and good use of skill with textiles will be strengthened in the competition to develop circularity skills among students in textiles and fashion. Twenty teams of students from four schools have registered for the competition.

Work has continued with the Wicklow PPN to explore the development of a mapping tool to record projects and actions that deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals. A first draft of the map was developed in house by the IT section. A seminar with the PPN is being planned for community groups in October which will introduce the Goals and the new mapping tool.

A new tree grant has been developed as a climate action to facilitate more planting of tree by local groups in County Wicklow. The grant was launched in August with a closing date for the 9th of October. The grant has attracted high levels of interest.

Funding was secured through the EPA's LAPN programme for a project to develop composting solutions for the management of the high levels of grass production which must be lifted when green space is being managed for pollinators. This project will help to facilitate Wicklow County Council's commitment to designate spaces for pollinators.

The annual Tidy Towns, Estates and Environmental Awards were launched at the beginning of July with a closing date set for the end of July for groups to submit applications. Judging was undertaken of entries in August and September.

SEC

County Wicklow now has six communities registered in the Sustainable Energy Communities Programme, SEC, with SEAI.

Four have already commenced their energy master plans with some delays caused by Covid 19. Wicklow County Council is working with SEAI to facilitate extension where needed.

- Glenmalure – draft report done
- Laragh / Glendalough
- Newtownmoutkennedy



- Greystones / Delgany

Two more now are now ready to commence having been approved by SEAI.

- Wicklow
- Blessington

Recycling Centres

A mattress amnesty was held in Arklow Recycling Centre on 12th September 2020. This event allowed members of the public to bring up to 3 mattresses to the Recycling Centre for free on the day. This project was funded under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2020 by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. A total of 632 mattresses were collected on the day. A further Mattress Amnesty will be held in West Wicklow in the autumn. This will be funded from Wicklow Council's own resources

Brittas Bay Carparks

From the 1st October Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South car parks opened to the public for free for the winter.

The franchise/paying-in recommences on 1st May 2021.

Wicklow County Council are not in a position to provide toilets and bins service and ask that the public who use the beach would leave no trace of their visit and bring home their own litter.

Dog walking is allowed during the winter period and horse riding is also allowed during the day on week days and before 10am on weekends and bank holidays

Dog Licences

A total of 389 dogs were licenced for the month of September 2020. This is an increase of approximately 20 licences on September 2019.

Chambers Ireland Excellence Awards

Wicklow County Council has been shortlisted in the seventeenth annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020 for a number of projects.

The Planning, Development & Environment directorate was successful in the shortlisting of 2 of the projects listed below.

- **Relove Fashion Competition** in Sustainable Environment
- **Our Wicklow Heritage – A Living Archive of Wicklow Communities** in Heritage and Built Environment



Whitestown Remediation Project

Wicklow County Council have employed Fehily Timoney & Company to advise on the remediation of the site at Whitestown, in accordance with the judgments of Mr. Justice Humphreys

- Draft remediation plan to be submitted by FT and Co. to Wicklow County Council by the end of November 2020.
- As per the judgement the draft plan must be circulated to all stakeholders for agreement

Harbours and Ports

Nine cargo vessels berthed in Wicklow Port during September 2020. All were single transactions with seven of the vessels importing materials and two exporting commodities. The imports included logs, timber while the exports were scrap-metal.

At the ordinary meeting of Wicklow Municipal District t held on the 28th September 2020 the Members were, in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), presented with a CE Report on the proposals to develop a floating pontoon at South Quay, Wicklow. The proposal, as detailed in the report, was passed unanimously by the Members present.

Over the last few months works have taken place on a number of projects in the harbours including

- New fenders were installed on the East Pier, Wicklow
- Resurfacing of sections of the southern end of the East Pier
- New railings along the East Pier
- Eleven new ladders were installed along the North and South Quays, Wicklow
- Intermediate bollards on the North Quays and East Pier.

Further works are due to take place in the coming weeks including:

- Public Lighting along the East Pier, Wicklow
- New ducting the full length of the South Pier, Arklow
- New navigation lights of the North and South Piers, Arklow
- Installation of a 50T bollard on the Packet Pier

Yet again this year Wicklow's harbours have supported the film industry. During late September and early October a number of scenes for upcoming productions were filmed at both Wicklow and Arklow harbours.

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 6 Water pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 2 Noise Pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 4 Air pollution complaints were received and investigated/under investigation.

Private Water Supplies

- Of the 34 Private water supplies monitored and 4 were found non-compliant with microbiological standards and 3 found non-compliant with chemical standards.

The water suppliers concerned were requested to take remedial action and 2 boil water notices were issued.



Petrol Vapour Recovery Regulations

- 1 Dry Cleaner and Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installations was issued a certificate of compliance.
- 1 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installations was issued a certificate of compliance.
- 2 Petrol Vapour installations (Petrol Filling Stations) were inspected.

Deco Paint and Dry Cleaner Regulations

- Certificate of Registration under Petrol Vapour Regulations was issued.
- Certificate of Testing under Petrol Vapour Regulations was issued.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants - Ambient Monitoring

- 4 River/Lake samples were taken and analysed upstream and downstream of discharges of public wastewater treatment plants involving 40 individual analyses were monitored on behalf of Irish Water.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters

- 16 Effluent samples were taken from licensed installations to waters were sampled and analysed.
- 6 were deemed compliant with discharge standards and 5 had minor non-compliances.
- 5 were deemed non-compliant and letters required correction actions were issued.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Sewer

- 7 Effluent samples were taken from licensed installations to sewer were sampled and analysed.
- 5 were deemed compliant with discharge standards and 1 had minor non-compliances.
- 1 was deemed non-compliant and reports on non-compliances were issued to Irish Water.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2020

- 2 Septic tank inspections were carried out and 1 found compliant and the other non-complaint. An advisory notice was issued to rectify the problem with the non-compliant septic tank.
- 2 Advisory notices were complied with to rectify problems with septic tank system.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 2 Lakes were monitored involving 9 sample stations for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 43 Rivers were monitored at 63 stations involving 133 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plan

Pollution Control Team participated in East & Midlands WFD Operational Committee meeting to consider the selection of water bodies that require protection and restoration under River Basin Plan 2022-2027 on 8th October. The East & Midlands WFD Management Committee met to consider and agree recommendation on the selection of water bodies that require protection and restoration under River Basin Plan 2022-2022 on 14th October.



A presentation was given to the SPC meeting on 12th October about the progress/status of Wicklow's river water bodies.

Bathing Water Monitoring Programme

There are 6 designated bathing waters, 4 of which fly Blue Flags*, which will be monitored 10 times through the season until 15th September. Results for September are shown below. Poor results were obtained for Wicklow Harbour Lifeboat associated with a rainfall event. 1 Bathing prohibition notice was issued upon HSE advice for Wicklow Harbour Lifeboat Area due to effect of rainfall event in September.

Blue Flag & Designated	07/09/2020			
Bray South Prom	EXCELLENT			
Greystones South Beach	EXCELLENT			
Brittas Bay North	EXCELLENT			
Brittas Bay South	EXCELLENT			
Designated				
Clogga	EXCELLENT			
Siverstrand	EXCELLENT			
Non-Designated	07/09/2020	10/09/2020	12/09/2020	
Bray South of Harbour	EXCELLENT			
Greystones The Cove	EXCELLENT			
Kilcoole	EXCELLENT			
The Murrough	EXCELLENT			
Wicklow Harbour	GOOD	GOOD	EXCELLENT	
Wicklow Lifeboat Area**	POOR*	GOOD*	EXCELLENT	
Arklow South Beach	EXCELLENT			
Arklow The Cove	EXCELLENT			
*Bathing prohibition notice issued on 10/09/20 and on 14/09/20				
**Not a Bathing Area				
HSE Classification for Individual Samples per 100ml of sample:				
Parameter	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Poor
E. coli	≤ 250	251 - 500	501 - 1000	>1000
Intestinal Enterococci	≤ 100	101 - 200	201 -250	>250

A presentation was given to the SPC meeting on 12th October about the public participation in identification of bathing waters for 2021. There were 446 submissions with 304 nominations for the Cove Beach in Greystones. There were about 10 submissions relating to 6 other beaches located in Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow. The Cove beaches in Arklow and Greystones to be further considered.

Planning & Development

7 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerned agricultural, commercial and forestry development.



Well Grants

- 8 New Applications
- 1 Number of New Wells
- 3 Number of New Pumps
- 12 Treatment/Disinfection Equipment
- 19 Inspections in advance and after works.

A revised water grant scheme is now in operation effective from date of issue of Departmental Circular. This financial assistance is towards the improvement of water supply which is not wholesome or clean or is not sufficient to meet the domestic needs of a household in the opinion of the Housing Authority.

There are 3 categories of grant available for houses of 7 year and older, a 100% treatment grant of €1,000, rehabilitation grant for pumps/well protection of 85% cost up to € 3,000 and a new well grant of 85% of cost up to € 5,000. 3 quotations for each grant category of work are required from tax compliant contractors.

The cost of sampling/testing the quality of the well where treatment is required may only be included under the treatment grant. The cost of testing the quantity of a well may be included under the new scheme.

Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

The Office of Public Works (OPW) and Wicklow County Council have commissioned Byrne Looby PH McCarthy (BLP) and Arup to undertake engineering and environmental studies respectively to assess and develop a viable, cost effective and sustainable Flood Relief Scheme for the Avoca River, Arklow.

The process of identifying a preferred scheme to address fluvial and coastal flooding in Arklow includes a detailed assessment of a range of flood risk management measures to determine their technical, economic, social and environmental viability.

Following a detailed scheme options assessment process, the series of measures that will make up the emerging preferred flood relief scheme for the Avoca River, Arklow have now been identified.

A number of changes in design have resulted in the need to update the Public realm drawings which has been carried out and presented to the Arklow District Members.

Following the confirmation of the preferred flood relief scheme an Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be prepared and submitted to An Bord Pleanála.



5. Transportation, Water and Emergency Services

Public Lighting

	31 st August 2020	7th September 2020	14th September 2020	28th September 2020	12 th October 2020	
Access Issues (Attended)	12	11	12	10	13	
Cable Fault (Attend)	9	9	8	0	5	
ESB Required (Attended)	26	18	17	16	28	
Knock Down (Attended)	4	4	1	1	3	
Materials required	1	1	1	4	4	
No Supply	17	17	17	16	17	
On Hold	0	0	0	0	0	
Submitted	206	226	224	224	276	
Traffic Management Required	13	14	11	8	9	
TOTAL	288	300	291	279	355	
Percentage of lights not working	1.95%	2.03%	1.97%	1.89%	2.40%	
	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)		1	6	2	4	13
Cable Fault (Attend)			5			5
ESB Required(Attended)	16	1		1	10	28
Knock Down (Attended)	1				2	3
Materials required				3	1	4
No Supply		6	3	4	4	17
Submitted	58	122	39	13	44	276
Traffic Management Required	3		4	2		9
Grand Total	78	130	57	25	65	355
Percentage Not Working	2.68%	5.52%	1.75%	0.91%	1.85%	2.40%

Transportation Statistics (General)

	2019	Running Total 2020	August 2020	September 2020
Solicitors Queries	775	593	63	122
Road Closure Applications	40	20	3	4
Road Opening Licences	1418	883	104	99
Abnormal Load Applications	35	20	1	3

M11/N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

Site Surveys and Field Walk over works are continuing:

- Biodiversity surveys for each of the specialist areas
- NPWS assessing the Glen of the Downs and extents of the Natura 2000 site.

The Arup Design Team are progressing the Preferred Options Assessment Report that will establish the preferred corridor(s). Tenders awarded/to be awarded include: the appointment of Avison Young Ireland for Property and Land Valuation Consultancy Services for Phases 2 through to 4, and the pending appointment of Legal Services for Phases 2 and 3 of the scheme development.

M11/N11 Interim Bus Priority Project

ARUP has produced a draft feasibility report; workshop with TII/NTA to be organised shortly

N11 Kilmacanoge Parallel Service Road

Construction work is continuing at phase 1 in central median along southbound carriageway. Approx. 1100 metres of surfacing to binder course along with concrete safety barrier is now complete. Lengthy consultations with Gas Networks Ireland and Irish Water have resulted in a redesign of utilities within the median and hard shoulder. Progress has been slowed as a result of these redesigns that include:

- The diversion of a gas distribution main at junction 7. This work will be carried out at night over the coming weeks. This diversion includes a crossing of the southbound N11 carriageway.
- The addition of a new foul sewer crossing of both northbound and southbound carriageways in Kilmacanoge, also night-works.
- The diversion of approximately 1km of a foul sewer rising main between Kilmacanoge and junction 7.

Phase 2 Traffic Management will commence following the diversion of some specific utilities. Traffic will be moved onto the new running lane and works will commence on construction of remaining utility diversions, service road traffic islands and all associated accommodation works. Phase 2 works are currently expected to be complete at the end of Quarter 1 2021.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The construction work commenced in August 2019 and the new alignment was opened to two way traffic on 24th July 2020. Construction work is expected to be substantially completed by the end of October 2020.

Funding is available for Per Cent for Art Commission for the scheme, the Arts Officer Jenny Sherwin is preparing a submission to TII for approval.

A Road Safety Audit at stage 3 is planned for 15 October 2020.

Climate Change Adaptation

Wicklow County Council received an allocation of €378,000 for five schemes under **Circular RW 09/2020 Climate Change Adaptation Allocations**

- **Progress to Date:**
 - 2 Schemes under construction
 - 1 Schemes at procurement stage
 - 2 Schemes at design/planning stage
- An application has been made to DTTAS to carry forward funding amounting to €100,000 for 2 schemes into 2021.

Covid 19 Interim Mobility Measures

Wicklow County Council received funding allocation of €950,000 for 30 projects involving works to facilitate changes to current street layouts to address social distancing and revised travel patterns

- **Progress to Date:**
 - 10 Schemes Complete
 - 3 Schemes under construction
 - 3 Schemes at procurement stage
 - 12 Schemes at design/planning stage
 - 2 Schemes discontinued
- Funding applications for a further 2 projects are under consideration by NTA
 - Newtown Main Street Footpath Works €31,700
 - Wicklow One-Way System €90,000

July 2020 Stimulus Package - Active Travel Measures

Wicklow County Council received funding allocation of €3.34m for 25 projects to support Pedestrian and Cyclist movement and to enhance accessibility, works must be completed by 30 November 2020

- **Progress to Date:**
 - 1 Scheme Complete
 - 5 Schemes under construction
 - 10 Schemes at procurement stage
 - 8 Schemes at design/planning stage
 - 1 Scheme discontinued
- **Laragh/Glendalough Junction** - Archaeological consent from Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has been received for construction. IAC Archaeology has been engaged on behalf of Wicklow County Council to finalise the test trenching works around existing house remains. Those works have been completed and IAC continue to engage with the Department. Construction works commenced on 19th September with bulk excavation works progressing well.
- **Ballinaclash Junction:** Construction has started and Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act is with the Garda for review. Land transfer to be completed, Road Safety Audit stage 2.

Covid 19 Interim Mobility Schemes

Work is ongoing on the design, procurement and construction of the schemes allocated funding under this programme.

Progress to Date

- Completed - 10
- Commenced Construction - 3
- Procurement Stage - 3
- Design Stage - 2
- Discontinued – 2

The Herbert Road and Aravon Court Schemes have been discontinued.

Funding applications for Wicklow Town One Way System and Newtownmountkennedy Footpath Repairs are under consideration by NTA.

July 2020 Stimulus - Active Travel Measures

Work is ongoing on the design, procurement and construction of the schemes allocated funding under this programme.

Progress to Date

- Completed - 1
- Commenced Construction - 6
- Procurement Stage - 10
- Design Stage - 8
- Discontinued – 1

The Aravon Court Scheme has been discontinued.

Funding of €80,000 has been approved for Bogmeadow Car Park & Bus Terminus Scheme, Enniskerry.

July 2020 Stimulus - Climate Change Adaption

Work is ongoing on the design, procurement and construction of the schemes allocated funding under this programme.

Progress to Date

- Completed - 0
- Commenced Construction - 2
- Procurement Stage - 1
- Design Stage - 2

NTA Schemes Update

- **Bray Dart Interchange** – Site Investigation works have been completed. Detail design of the scheme is being undertaken by Atkins Consulting Engineers and is expected to be completed in Q1 of 2021.
- **Bray Bridge Footbridges** – The Options Assessment report has been completed by Barry Transportation and it has been circulated to stakeholders for agreement.
- **Bray Strand Road Cycle Scheme** – Shareridge Civil Engineering have been appointed as Contractors for the scheme and O'Connor Sutton Cronin have been appointed as ER & RE.
- **Swan River Greenway** – DBFL Consulting Engineers have completed the Constraints Study and Options Report and it has been circulated to stakeholders for agreement.
- **Bridge from Port Access Road to Wicklow Station** – Tenders have been sought for Consultants to bring the scheme from Part 8 to Completion. It is expected that Consultants will be appointed in November 2020.
- **Arklow to Shillelagh Recreational Trail Scheme** –Roughan O'Donovan are progressing with the preparation of the Natura Impact Statement. They have commenced the Bridge Design, Flood Risk Assessment and the Planning Report which is to be submitted to An Bord Pleanala.
- **Arklow Transport Study** – The scope has been revised further to discussions with NTA. Tender documents for Consultants to lead the scheme are being prepared.
- **Greystones Transport Study** – A revised scope is being prepared and will be sent to NTA for approval. Tender documents for Consultants to lead the scheme are being prepared.
- **Bray Southern Cross Road VRU Improvements** – Tenders have been sought for Consultants to bring the scheme from Preliminary Design to Completion. It is expected that Consultants will be appointed in early November 2020.
- **Bus Priority in Little Bray** – Scope has been sent to NTA for agreement. Tender documents for Consultants to lead the scheme are being prepared and it is expected to be advertised in November 2020.
- **Killarney Road/Vevay Road Cycle Scheme** – Aecom Consulting Engineers have reviewed the designs for these schemes.
- **Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge - Phase 2** – Scope has been issued to NTA for approval. Tender documents for Consultants to lead the scheme are being prepared.
- **Bus Stops Mill Road** – Construction works are expected to be completed in November 2020.

Operational Fire Statistics

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baitinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Callsign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	4	2	2								
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	19	2	2	4	5	1				2	3
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	2		1	1							
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	0										
Fire Barn / Shed	0										
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	17	3	6	4	1	2			1		
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	34	12	15	2			3	2			
Fire Chimney	4			1		1		1	1		
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	34	19	3	7	1	2	1	1			
Fire Vehicle	5	1	1	2	1						
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	0										
Ambulance Assist	10	4		2		1	2			1	
Garda Assist	1	1									
Electrical Incident	2	1				1					
Gas Leak	0										
River Rescue	0										
Explosion	2				1	1					
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	2		1						1		
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	0										
False Alarm – Good Intent	4	1		1				1	1		
Malicious False Alarm	2	1	1								
Mobilised into other County	11					2	1	3	2	2	1
Times Stations mobilised	153	47	32	24	9	11	7	8	6	5	4

There were **141 incidents** attended during the month of September 2020. Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **153 occasions** including 9 incidents in neighbouring counties. On 5 occasions during the month an Incident Commander requested an additional crew above what has been predetermined for the incident type to deal with the incident. On all occasions these were for gorse fires where additional personnel or water was required.

Operational activity for the month of September **increased by 58% over the preceding month** (August 2020 – 97 mobilisations). This can be accounted for by a 5-fold increase in gorse fires (+27) mainly in the Ballyremon Common / Sugarloaf areas, and a 10-fold increase in the number of bonfires / malicious fires (+30) mainly in Bray in Deerpark, Oldcourt, San Souci Woods and Ravenswell as well as the Charlesland area of Greystones.



Activity for the month was up 38% (42 mobilisations) **on the equivalent month last year**, (September 2019 – 111 mobilisations). This can be accounted for by a doubling in gorse fires (+15) and a doubling of the number of bonfires / malicious fires (+17).

Sample Incidents:

- 06/09/2020 Rathdrum, Wicklow Town and Tinahely Fire Crews responded to a serious RTC in Ballinaclesh where a male occupant was removed to hospital by Coastguard helicopter.
- 18/09/2020 Rathdrum and Arklow Fire Crews were mobilised to a large explosion on Main Street Rathdrum that extensively damaged 2 properties and resulted in 2 casualties.
- 19/09/2020 Wicklow Town and Rathdrum crews attended a 2 car RTC near Ashford with 5 casualties that required the attendance of 4 ambulances.

Incidents mobilised outside county Wicklow:

Kildare (4-incidents) examples

- 14/09/20 Blessington and Dunlavin Fire Crews were mobilised to support Dublin Fire Brigade at a reported house / barn on fire at Killeel.
- 25/09/20 Baltinglass Fire Crew were mobilised to support the Carlow Town fire crew at an RTC at Graney West, Castledermot – tractor vs van, one male casualty.
- 26/09/20 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to support Naas fire crew at Carnalway Cross Roads, Kilcullen – 2 vehicle RTC, horsebox overturned with horse inside.

Wexford (4-incidents) examples

- 10/09/20 Arklow and Tinahely Fire Crews were mobilised to support Gorey Fire Crew at an RTC at Ballyfad, Oulart, single vehicle roll over, 2 casualties trapped.
- 22/09/20 Carnew Fire Crew were mobilised to support Gorey and Bunclody Fire Crews at a long duration haybarn fire in Clonee Lower, Camolin.

Carlow (1-incident)

- 03/09/20 Baltinglass Fire Crew were mobilised to an Entrapment at Waterstown where a shed shutter had fallen and trapped a casualty.

General

- There were 60 inspections of licensed premises in the months of August and September in preparation for Licensing Courts.
- Road Traffic Collision refresher training took place in Bray Fire Station. 4, two-day courses involved a total of 40 students. The training standardizes procedures in all fire stations and ensures that personnel are competent and safe for this very important role.
- Officers and firefighters were practiced in the application of a range of incident skills on 2, two-day courses which involved a total of 20 students. The courses focus on skills development to enhance operational effectiveness.
- Driver training continued in preparation for assessment in October.

- Arklow and Wicklow Town Stations staged a combined exercise at the Bridgewater Centre to practice skills associated with height rescue.
- The Bray Training Centre hosted a 1-week national officer training course.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	568,883
Greystones Municipal District	212,238
Wicklow Municipal District	187,597
Arklow Municipal District	114,304
Parking Permits	51,376
Parking Fines	219,478
Wicklow County Council	1,353,876

Fire Prevention Statistics

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	7		3		6
Regularisation Certificates					1
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	6		1		7

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District	19	46	1	60	
Circuit	1	1			
Dangerous Substances Act					

August and September are extremely busy months for inspections of licensed premises

Building Control

Commencement Notices for September 2020:

48 Commencement Notices Submitted:

- 16 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- Seven day Notice
- 22 Opt Out Declarations
- 9 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents

Submission Statistics

- 48 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 72 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 35 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 16 are Opt Out (45%)
 - 1 Seven Day Notice (2%)
 - 13 are Compliance Documentation (38%)
 - 5 Without Compliance Documentation (15%)
- 42 Valid Commencement Notices
 - 145 new build residential Units (19 of which are one off houses)
 - Invalidated CNs for September = 1
 -

- **Certificates of Completion processed in September 2020**

- 11 New No. of CCC submitted
- 13 No. Valid
- 0 No. Invalid

13 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 2 No CCCs submitted in August 2020
- 11 No CCCs submitted in August 2020

77% => 10 No. @ Multi-Development site => 50 new residential units & 1 Apartment Block

7% => 1 No. Schools

16% => 2 Commercial Units Retail, Crèche etc.

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Points to note:

- September had the highest number of submitted & validated Commencement Notices in 2020 so far. Having a Commencement Notice validated after Revised Information has been requested, received and reviewed would demonstrate a confidence in the Construction Industry returning to normal from both private & commercial sectors.
- There has also been an increase in the number of Certificates of Completion being submitted, especially in multi-unit developments. This will show an increase in building stock available to buy or rent in County Wicklow
- 2 No. Social Housing projects totally 73 new homes were submitted and validated in September. namely Ashtown Lane in Wicklow town & the Rectory in Blessington.

Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. HR and Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following assessments were held in September:

- Acting Senior Executive Engineer
- Plumber
- IS Project Leader
- IS Technical Support Officer

Employee Numbers

	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
Managerial/ Administrative	280	285	292	294
Professional/Technical	103	102	105	104
Outdoor	318	318	321	320
Temporary/ Seasonal	62	62	62	55
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	8
Total	771	775	788	781

	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
Managerial/ Administrative	280	278	280	272
Professional/Technical	105	104	104	98
Outdoor	313	312	316	318
Temporary/ Seasonal	54	38	65	88
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	8
Total	752	740	773	784

(Excludes figures for Fire-fighters)

Access to Information

F.O.I. Requests

September 2020	9
January to September 2020	76

September 2019	8
January to September 2019	103

Ombudsman Requests

September 2020	1
January to September 2020	18

September 2019	4
January to September 2019	15

Press Releases

September 2020 – 9 Press Releases

Register of Electors

The Franchise staff continue to work on database maintenance required to maintain the Register of Electors, including updating Eircodes in areas where there are a number of Eircodes missing on individual properties. Letters continue to be issued to electors to establish whether they are still resident and the replies are being updated onto the Register, or forwarded to other local authorities for registration at new addresses as required.

We have issued approximately 1000 RFA forms to new estates and houses that have been sold in Wicklow since February 2020. However, it should be noted that there has been just under a 10% response rate to these forms being issued. Contact has also been made with Nursing Homes in the County to update their Disabled Special Voters List which has been positive with all Nursing Homes on the system engaging with us.

We have established a highly visible social and print media campaign to raise awareness of the upcoming 2021/2022 Draft Register of Electors and for those who wish to receive a postal vote from home on the grounds of ill health/cocooning due to Covid-19. A new social media campaign has recently been launched providing those who have obtained Irish Citizenship since May 2019 an opportunity to amend their details on the Register of Electors to enable them to vote in all electoral events. We have contacted the Year Heads of 5th and 6th Year Classes in all the Secondary Schools in Wicklow to register students who will reach 18 on or before 15th February 2021.

Due to the Covid-19 Emergency and restrictions, there will be no Fieldworkers carrying out work on the Draft Register of Electors for 2021/2022.

WCC Refurbishment works

Works are continuing in the County Buildings. Old Motor tax area has now been demolished and cleared. New walls of the new Wurzburg room have been erected, doors and glass windows fitted. Electrical works are currently ongoing in the Wurzburg room.

Council chamber roof repair and insulation works are complete, 5 new skylights has been fitted. New raised floor has been fitted and carpet has been laid. Acoustic wall panels are currently being fitted.

Customer Service Innovation Hub

- Works are complete in the new Customer Service area and staff are in situ.

Completion date for the full project including the Council Chamber is scheduled for December. Holding the first Council meeting there in January (if Covid 19 restrictions are lifted).



Communication

Communication has been a vital tool in our organisation, especially over the challenging last few months. Due to the need for us all to maintain social distancing alternative methods of holding and administrating meetings had to be introduced. Various technologies such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom and Cisco WebEx have been tested and deployed throughout the organisation, depending on the business need.

Our key objective is to ensure that there is clear, consistent and appropriate communication between Wicklow County Council and all Staff. Communication has been delivered through Microsoft Teams and other technologies such as Zoom, as well as our traditional methods, such as e-mail and text alerts.

Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020

Wicklow County Council has been shortlisted in the seventeenth annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020! We submitted 11 projects at the end of July and are delighted to hear we have been shortlisted for the following 7 projects:

- Wicklow's Historic Gaol – Gates of Hell in Supporting Tourism
- Wicklow Naturally – Wicklow's Food and Beverage Network in Promoting Economic Development
- Relove Fashion Competition in Sustainable Environment
- Wicklow County Council Library Service Literacy Supports – Home Schooling in Best Library Service
- Our Wicklow Heritage – A Living Archive of Wicklow Communities in Heritage and Built Environment
- Wicklow Life: 1919-1923 War of Independence & Civil War years in Commemorations and Centenaries
- Face Mask Loops

The Quality Customer Service Network invited us to submit an Excellence in Customer Service Case Studies at the beginning of September, extension was then granted up to Thursday 15th October, this gave us an opportunity to showcase the innovation initiatives we have delivered in Wicklow, over the last few months, carried out by the hard work of our colleagues. The focus was based on service delivery in our community, such as: Improving services for our customers; Making services more accessible and Innovation through digital and people.

The following Case Studies were submitted:

WCC Submissions
Community Call response team
Library Home schooling assistance
Wicklow keeping active – Couch to 3km
Arklow Library – Being Meaningful in a Time of Change
Face Mask loops

2. I.C.T.

Response to COVID19

The IT Department continue to support all the systems setup to respond to the additional business needs arising from the response to COVID19:

- Restart Grants – online form setup and backend Assendus & Agresso systems integration.
- Community Call Helpline
- Remote Working Requirements
- Return to work desk arrangements
- Government Networks
- Phone Systems
- Call Conferencing
- Communications and awareness

IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 36 tickets a day.

Domain Migration

- The domain migration and the mailbox migration projects are progressing well. 99% of email accounts have been migrated.
- Retention policies have been amended for mailboxes and we are encouraging staff to Cryoserver to access archived emails in a bid to reduce mailbox sizes.
- The team continue to upgrade all legacy operating systems to Windows 10 to ensure continued support from Microsoft.

GIS & Data Collection Systems

- Final stage and design of the Strategic Development Goals Application has been finalised and is currently being populated by members of the PPN as part of the Climate and Biodiversity Action.
- Development of CRM System automation continues, particularly for the new Customer Service Innovation Hub.
- Map production is underway for the upcoming County Development Plan.
- Parallel projects in Housing, Roads and Environmental Services departments are on-going and integration to CRM and GIS systems have being developed and rolled out.
- Development of new GIS Departmental Viewers has begun to replace legacy applications. These will include further improved features.

Customer Service Delivery

- Soft launch of the new Customer Service Innovation Hub commenced. This project requires a high level of IT collaboration with both hardware and software elements integrated into the Hub.
- Work continues with the business process mapping and DPIA's are being carried out for each process as it arises.
- Avaya IP Office Phone System has been modified to integrate the Avaya Contact Centre Select Hardware Appliance and software. This will integrate more completely with call reporting systems and improve customer service delivery

eServices

- Wicklow.ie – pageviews for 2020 to date are over 1,084,112 (September).
- Social media accounts – followers to date
 - Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 8,730 followers.
 - Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 6,842 followers.
 - Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 1,662 followers.
- During September/October, the Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie had the following items up for consultation –
 - ReStart Grant Plus.
 - Wicklow Migrant Integration Survey
 - Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Greenway
 - Development of a Food Hub for the County
 - Local Property Tax 2020
 - Part 8 - 41 Residential Units Charlesland, Greystones
 - Part 8 - 14 Apartments Cedar Court, Schools Road, Ballymorris, Bray
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month and a number of very positive results have been recorded such as the Stop Food Waste online challenge with Catherine Fulvio - Facebook campaign (run in conjunction with Meath County Council, Laois County Council, Westmeath County Council and Wicklow County Council).
 - A series of four videos hosted by Award Winning Chef, Catherine Fulvio followed each week by a live Q&A hosted by Stop Food Waste.
 - Promotion of National Reuse Month.
 - Metrics for Wicklow County Council's Facebook account (September)
 - Impressions – (how many times posts (including video posts) showed up in people's newsfeeds) – **142,800**
 - Reach – (how many people were reached. People need to hear about a campaign message between 9 to 18 times for it to have a significant impact on them.) – **52,051**
 - 3 Second Video Views – **50,031**
 - 10 second views – (at 10 seconds people have increased brand awareness, increased purchase intent and will remember seeing the video thumbnail for up to 30 days.) – **14,433**



3. FINANCIAL

Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2020							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	17,491,341	24,541,664	71%	(21,704,844)	(30,692,854)	71%	(4,213,503)
Road Transport & Safety	13,877,745	23,611,358	59%	(7,537,876)	(16,493,380)	46%	6,339,869
Water Services	3,655,057	5,560,661	66%	(4,513,143)	(6,545,641)	69%	(858,086)
Development Management	18,230,422	11,242,546	162%	(14,847,884)	(6,144,652)	242%	3,382,538
Environmental Services	8,231,399	11,837,313	70%	(909,311)	(2,002,200)	45%	7,322,088
Recreation and Amenity	5,337,830	7,663,027	70%	(521,886)	(847,647)	62%	4,815,943
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	914,808	1,479,516	62%	(402,201)	(819,228)	49%	512,608
Miscellaneous Services	8,852,434	11,879,184	75%	(4,530,956)	(6,156,153)	74%	4,321,478
Central Management Charges	13,732,160	18,407,601	75%	(800,530)	(1,000,000)	80%	12,931,630
Local Government Fund				(10,290,240)	(13,720,320)	75%	(10,290,240)
Pension Levy				0	0		0
Commercial Rates				(24,007,350)	(31,950,795)	75%	(24,007,350)
	90,323,195	116,222,870	78%	(90,066,221)	(116,372,870)	77%	256,974

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st September 2020 to 30th September 2020.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2020					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2020	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/09/2020
	€	€	€	€	€
	Housing and Building	19,000,508	40,734,435	(40,656,613)	(1,811,965)
Road Transport & Safety	(42,851,352)	9,652,847	(9,226,162)	(506,608)	(42,931,276)
Water Services	(10,670,498)	197,621	(521,423)	(15,000)	(11,009,300)
Development Management	(9,612,396)	1,363,545	(620,415)	(208,642)	(9,077,908)
Environmental Services	968,611	2,813,931	(1,892,061)	(489,375)	1,401,105
Recreation and Amenity	(914,062)	3,533,724	(3,132,456)	(202,250)	(715,044)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(885,558)	49,655	0	(228,750)	(1,064,654)
Miscellaneous Services	(15,413,049)	3,661,496	(2,570,800)	(1,599,420)	(15,921,774)
	(60,377,798)	62,007,254	(58,619,931)	(5,062,010)	(62,052,485)

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

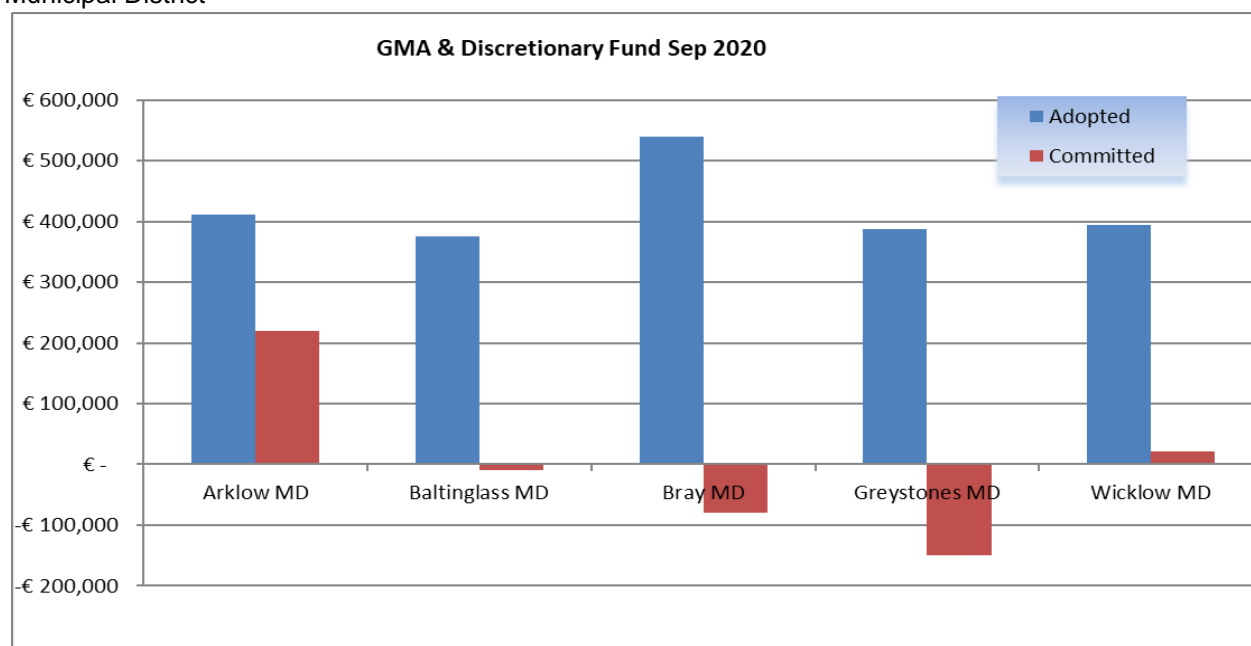
SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2020										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2020	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/09/2020	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	5,217,406	32,009,800	0	0	0	37,227,206	(14,175,513)	23,051,693	1,347,396	40%
Rents & Annuities	1,853,579	12,702,695	0	1,493	0	14,557,767	(11,590,540)	2,967,226	0	80%
Housing Loans	402,724	1,065,773	0	0	0	1,468,497	(1,345,668)	122,829	0	92%

Nine Month Rates Waiver: A 100% waiver of commercial rates will be applied for a 9-month period from 27 March 2020 to 27 December 2020 to all ratepayers except a small number of categories. The waiver will be applied as a credit in lieu of rates for the 9-month period covered in 2020. The excluded categories are mainly utilities, banks, large supermarkets and corporates.

There is no application process required for this scheme. Wicklow County Council will automatically apply a 100% credit in lieu of commercial rates, for a nine-month period, to classes and categories of occupied rateable property where the occupying business is not in an excluded category. In the event that a business qualifies for the nine-month credit in lieu of rates and the business has already paid their full rates bill for 2020, a refund or credit will be arranged by the Council.

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2020

Discretionary Budget 2020: €2,106,500. The graph and table below outline the discretionary budget for 2020 by Municipal District



Municipal District	C/F from 2019	Adopted	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	52,813	410,500	272,630	190,683
Baltinglass MD	159,389	375,500	149,897	384,992
Bray MD	180,991	539,500	101,163	619,328
Greystones MD	165,252	387,500	15,805	536,947
Wicklow MD	205,713	393,500	227,527	371,686
Total	764,158	2,106,500	767,022	2,103,636

Capital Investment Programme 2020-2022

The Capital Investment Programme 2020-2022 for Wicklow County Council which details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was approved by the Members at the Ordinary Council meeting of March 2nd 2020.

The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Proposed Expenditure			
	2020	2021	2022	Total
	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	119,892,000	147,722,000	135,450,000	403,064,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	21,960,200	35,220,000	37,283,000	94,463,000
WATER SERVICES	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	1,900,000	3,390,000	1,650,000	6,940,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	1,225,000	2,725,000	5,225,000	9,175,000
AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	1,250,000	6,000,000	19,150,000	26,400,000
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	3,155,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	7,155,000
OVERALL TOTAL	156,956,000	212,308,000	212,843,000	582,107,000

Restart Grant Scheme

The Restart Grant Scheme statistics in relation to applications approved and paid out up to the end of September are outlined in the table below.

RESTART GRANT SCHEME	APPLICATIONS	VALUE
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	3	€23,659
APPLICATIONS PAID	1,059	€4,009,247
GRAND TOTAL	1,062	€4,032,905
RESTART GRANT PLUS SCHEME		
APPLICATIONS APPROVED BUT NOT PAID	19	€135,600
APPLICATIONS PAID	1,075	€5,831,527
GRAND TOTAL	1,094	€5,967,127
TOTAL APPROVED AND PAID	2,156	€10,000,033