

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



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This month:

2020 Annual Business Breakfast Briefing:

As part of its ongoing commitment to economic development, the Council hosted the 2020 Business Breakfast Briefing, attended by the business community from across the County and representatives from national development agencies. The theme of this year's event was 'Endless opportunities for Living, Leisure and Business in County Wicklow.

The Key note address was given by Chief Executive who outlined the various developments and major projects the Council has completed over the past year or is pushing forward with over the next 12 months.

The guest speaker at the event was Mr. Mick Seaton, Director of Development for SSE Renewables, who detailed the role renewal energy would play in Ireland's Climate Change policy and outlined SEE's plans to develop Arklow Wind Park which would provide significant socio-economic benefits for County Wicklow and the East Coast.

Customer Care Innovation HUB:

On 14th February, Moston Construction Ltd., was appointed as the Contractor to develop the Wicklow County Council's Customer Care Innovation Hub and to upgrade and refurbish the Council Chamber, elected members rooms, toilet facilities and foyer generally. Moston have over 20 years experience working in live environments and recently completed the DLR Civic Hub.

The project will commence on Monday the 9th of March, with an expected completion date of 24th of August, 2020.

The development of the Customer Care Innovation Hub will lead the process of major organisational change and improvement in how the Council delivers its services to the people of Wicklow. Supported by a Customer Relations Management (CRM) system and a highly trained customer care team, the Hub will greatly improve communication and engagement with the public as well as achieving efficiencies in service delivery.

Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project Scoops Silver Award

Wicklow County Council was delighted to win a silver medal in the All-Ireland Community & Council Awards 2020 at the weekend for the Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project.

Co-ordinated through the Heritage Office in partnership with staff at Wicklow Municipal District, the project received the silver award under the "Best Environmental/Ecological Project/Initiative" category.

Initiated in 2019, the project seeks to roll out a practical programme of actions to enhance the biodiversity of the Council-owned land and habitats between the North and South Beach Car Parks and to raise public awareness of the rich flora and fauna of the area.



HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Social Housing Support

	Jan 2020	Jan 19
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes	4380	4013
RAS and HAP)		
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	347	429
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	1662	976
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	10	7
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	11	10

2. Allocation of Social Housing

	Jan 2020	Jan 2019
WCC Social Housing	18	14
Approved Housing Bodies	1	1

3. Social Housing Stock

	Jan 2020	Jan 2019
Tenancies occupied	4435	4328
Total weekly rental accrual	€302,678.70	€235,587.49
Arrears	€1,592,99.35	€1,115,410.27

4. Casual Vacancies/Relets 49

	Jan 2020	Jan 2019
Municipal District		
Arklow	13	12
Baltinglass	8	11
Bray	6	7
Greystones	5	7
Wicklow	17	20

5. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Social Housing Supply Programme

4 schemes completed in 2019 27 Units
10 scheme currently on-site in 2020 299 units
further schemes to commence on site in 2020 210 Units
TOTAL 536 Units



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	7	Completed, awaiting allocation	Yes
TOTAL	55		
SCHEMES ON SITE	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS	PART 8 APPROVAL
Whitehall, Baltinglass RAPID BUILD	27	Completion anticipated March 2020.	Yes
Kilbride Lane Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	Completion anticipated August 2020	Yes
FCA Hall Wicklow Town	8	Completion anticipated October 2020	Yes
Kilmantan Place Bray	4	Completion anticipated September 2020	Yes
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completion anticipated April 2020	Yes
Sugarloaf View,Kilmacanogue	20	Completion anticipated August 2020	Yes
Convent Lands	51	Completion anticipated August 2020	Yes
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completion anticipated September 2020	Yes
Carnew RAPID BUILD	30	Completion anticipated November 2020	Yes
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completion anticipated April 2021	Yes
TOTAL	300		
PIPELINE SCHEMES	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS	PART 8 APPROVAL
Avondale Phase 2 RAPID BUILD	20	Site start anticipated June 2020	Yes
Ard na Greine RAPID BUILD	30	Site start anticipated May 2020	Yes
Greenhills Road Wicklow RAPID BUILD	36	Site start anticipated August 2020	Part 8 approval by Wicklow M.D. required
Ashtown Lane RAPID BUILD	40	Site start anticipated July 2020	Yes
Mountainview NTMK RAPID BUILD	26	Site start anticipated September 2020	Yes
Old Fire Station Arklow	7	Site start anticipated September 2020	Part 8 approval Arklow M.D. Required.
Cedar Court Bray RAPID BUILD	9	Site start anticipated October 2020	Part 8 approval by Bray M. D. required.
Three Trouts Greystones RAPID BUILD	32	Site start anticipated November 2020	Part 8 approval Gstones M.D.required
Shillelagh RAPID BUILD	20	Site start anticipated November 2020	Yes
TOTAL	220		



6. Part V

2019

- 2 units (Rathdrum) Department approval received. Acquisition into Council stock completed 12th March 2019.
- 2 Units Part V (Newtownmountkennedy) Acquisition completed into Council stock 28th June 2019.
- 2 Units (Rathnew) Acqusition completed into Council stock 20th June 2019.
- 7 units (Greystones) Acquisition completed via CALF 14th June 2019. 4 further units expected delivery Q4 2019.
- 4 units (Grevstones) Acquisition completed via CALF 2nd October 2019.
- 6 units (Ashford) Acquisition completed via CALF completed December 2019.
- 4 units (Kilcoole) Acquistion completed via CALF 8th April 2019. 2 further units expected delivery Q4 2019.
- 2 units (Kilcoole) acquisition completed by CALF 4th November 2019.
- 1 unit (Kilcoole) Agreement purchase into Council stock completed 19th July 2019.
- 1 Part V Unit (Ashford) acquisition into Council stock completed 28th March 2019.
- 4 Part V Units in Rathdrum acquisition by AHB via CALF due Q 3 2019.
- 2 Part V units in Greystones closed December 2019.
- 4 Part V units in Newtown closed December 2019.
- 3 Part V units (Wicklow) purchased in December 2019.
- 2 Part V units in Bray purchased in December 2019.

Potential Units

Negotiations ongoing with a number of developers at preplanning and planning stage. There are over 100 Part V units with planning permission but it's difficult to determine whether they will all proceed or even on what timescale.

Turnkey

- 2 turnkey units purchase completed and have been allocated in Rathnew.
- 1 turnkey unit (Tinahely) acquisition into Council stock completed 29th March 2019.
- Remaining 1 turnkey unit Tinahely completed and purchased into Council stock on 5th April, 2019.
- 2 Turnkey units (Greystones) purchased in December 2019.
- 3 Turnkey units (Ashford) purchased via CALF in December 2019.
- (Construction is ongoing on turnkey project at Vale Road, Arklow 10 units acquired into Council stock in June 2019 -10 further units purchased into Council stock in July 2019. 13 further units acquired to end of November with the remaining 7 closed in December 2019.
- Construction ongoing on a turnkey project at Bollarney Woods, Wicklow 14 units purchased into Council stock by 31st October 2019 with a further 13, including 3 Part V units purchased in 2019.
- Negotiations are ongoing with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units

7. PPP Social Housing Project

[Bundle 1)

Development Site at Convent Lands, Wicklow for 51 Social Housing units commenced on site in March 2019. The project is progressing well and is currently due for completion in mid 2020. The Department of Housing has dedicated €300 million towards delivery of housing through the public, private partnership



model in the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan. The Convent Lands site in Wicklow has been included as a project in Bundle 1.

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 73 turnkey units via CALF in Rathnew completed 9th October 2019.
- Acquisition by AHB of residual 56 units via CALF in Rathnew completed December 2019.
- Construction ongoing on a 40 unit 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 - to commence by end Q.2 2019

9. Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

> Grant funding for private houses - €1,768,217 (€1,765,111.36 spent to date)

> Grant funding for social house - € 500,000 (€724,545.02, spent to date)

House Purchase Loans - Rebuilding Ireland

Up to 31/01/2020

- 310 received up to 31/01/2020
- 107 approvals.
- 131 declined
- 25 either incomplete, ineligible 21 expired
- 26 Further information, with HA

Up to 31/01/2019

170 to 31/01/2019

69 approvals

78 declined

23 further information/with HA



2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

January 2020

- 71 applications to 31/0/2020
- 4 sale completed
- 14 declined.
- 53 remaining various stages incomplete, with L.A., withdrawn.

10. Addressing Homelessness

10. Addressing Homelessness	31/01/20 31/01/20	019
No of Presentations	71	68
No. of Repeat Presentations	11	3
No. of Households (Families)	41	38
No. of Adults (Individuals)	85	30
No. of Children	73	71
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	27	23
Family Circumstances	25	15
Leaving Prison Hospital Care	2	1
Sofa Surfing	4	5
Rough Sleeping	0	6
Squatting	0	0
Own Door Temporary Accommodation	31/01/2020	31/01/2019
Families	12	9
Adults	24	12
Children	30	26
Singles	4	3

BED & BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION

No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31st January 2020

	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	6	12	11	3	1	0	0	2
Children Only				5	3	0	0	4

BED & BREAKFAST ACCOMMODTON

No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31st January 2020

	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household								
breakdown	10	16	22	7	1	0	1	1
Children Only				17	1	0	1	3



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.

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, 204 households (156 families & 48 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 31st January 2020.

106 homeless cases and 98 prevention cases to date. 73 properties were sourced by WCC.

Sonas Facility, Wicklow - Transition to Family Homeless Hub.

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 finaisation of the legal handover.

Refurbishment work has commenced and it is intended to be fully operational by guarter 2 2020..

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.

Housing First

With Housing First, the priority is to support a person who has experienced homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible, without any preconditions around sobriety or mental health treatment. Then, continue working intensively with them on these issues once they are housed. 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 successfully accommodated its first Housing First client with Peter McVerry Trust in Wicklow Town in December 2019 – this was the first client to be accommodated under the programme in the Mid East Region. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending completion of accommodation



11. Local Sports Partnership (LSP)

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Date	Course	Location	Attended
1/2/20	Disability Inclusion Training	Shoreline, Greystones	17
6/2/20	Positive Mental Health Talk	Blessington Library	6
11/2/20	Safeguarding 1 Basic Awareness Course	Clermont, Rathnew	17
13/2/20	Active Ageing Talk	Blessington Library	
19/2/20	Safeguarding 1 Basic Awareness Course	Blessington Further Education & Training Centre, Blessington	

Katie Taylor Bursary

Interviews took place for the Katie Taylor Bursary on the 7th January 2020 with Katie Ann O'Neill being this year's successful applicant for the Katie Taylor Bursary 2019/2020. Katie Ann has distinguishing achievements in Rugby and a presentation will be made to her at the Wicklow Sports Awards on Friday 21st February 2020.

Wicklow Sports Awards

The Wicklow Sports Awards will be held in the Arklow Bay Hotel on Friday 21st February 2020 where a presentation will take place to the below monthly winners and the winner of the five categories nominees will also be announced on the night:

Monthly Winners

January – Josh Van De Flier & Wicklow Darts Team

February - Lucy Mulhall & Ciaran Gethings

March - Mick Byrne & Warren Kavanagh

April - Fionnuala McCormack & Niall Earls

May - Aisling Beacom & Louise Quinn

June - Katie Taylor & Glencormack FC

July - Lara Gillespie & Regan Buckley

August - Joseph Byrne & Baltinglass Golf Club

September - Diana Moorehouse & Tinahley LGFA

October – Liam Scales, Áine O'Gorman & Claire Walsh

November - Leo Cullen, Edel Kennedy & Becky Cassin

December - Alan Miley & Wicklow RFC Girls Section



Wicklow Sports and Recreation Nominees;

Event of the Year: 'Reservoir Dogs', 'EcoTrail', 'Wicklow Tri Club Juniors'. Volunteer of the Year: John Kavanagh, Breda Donnelly, Sinead Byrne. Youth of the Year: Alan Miley, Lara Gillespie, Liam Scales, Tegan Farrell.

Coach of the Year: Stephen Coughlan, John Kealy, Peter Savage.

Club of the Year: Blue Dolphins Special Olympics Club, Balto Kayak Club, Wicklow Rugby Club.

12. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP:

- LCDC currently engaged in Annual Performance Review of Co. Wicklow's 2019 SICAP Programme
- LCDC will meet Feb. 28th deadline for approval of 2020 Annual Plans and 2019 Performance Review
- Pobal have released a new SICAP tool entitled "My Journey" to help measure progress with clients

Wicklow PPN:

- 8 new members, 300 in total
- Held public meetings with general election candidates
- Focus group on National Volunteering Strategy 2020-2025
- Submission to draft National Climate & Air Roadmap for Agricultural Sector

13. County Wicklow Arts Office

The Arts Office funding closing dates are 27th of February at 12 noon for the Individual Artist Award Scheme, Arts Festival Award and Arts Group Organisation Award Schemes.

We are excited to announce that our choral music programme through Creative Ireland will host an international residency for 2020. Mouthful an acapella choir from the UK with international experience and a great reputation for their work from prisons to children with complex needs and arts in health as well as in teaching choral practice, have begun their time with us in February 2020. For their February visit they will teach, perform and workshop throughout West Wicklow and as part of the Way with Words Festival. Participants for this first round visit will include local choirs, local schools, a children's autism unit, libraries and a hospital. There will also be public opportunities to see the choir and join a workshop.

The Way with Words Festival as part of the Arts and Library services of Wicklow County Council will return once more and cater for up to 2,000 people over a two week period. The main venues are Arklow and Blessington Libraries once again, but this year we have also included the Whale Theatre in Greystones and the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray. The Festival will take place from the 26th of February until the 14th of March and confirmed authors include Dermott Bolger, Pat McCabe, Christine Dwyer Hickey, Catherine Fulvio, Karl Henry, story teller Niall de Burca and children's practitioner Miss Pink! and many more. The full programme will be announced shortly on the www.waywithwords.ie website. The programme provides public workshops and links with local writing and reading groups and schools. There are sessions available for early years and something to offer for every generation.



14. All Ireland Community and Council Awards

Wicklow County Council has received seven nominations in the All Ireland Community & Council Awards for projects throughout the county. Under the Best Tourism Initiative category, Wicklow Gaol's "Gates of Hell virtual reality" project and the Wicklow Eco-trail are short-listed finalists while the Glen Turn Beach Cliff Walk in Wicklow town is a short-listed finalist in the Best Community Health Initiative section.

A further three nominees from the Wicklow Local Sports Partnership are also short-listed finalists.

Bray Sailing Club "Inclusion in Sport" programme is a finalist in the Best Disability Access & Inclusion initiative.

Wicklow Warriors inclusive club with Wicklow Rugby is a finalist in the Best Community Sports Team/Club. Power for Parkinsons' Physical Activity programme is also a finalist in the Best Community Health Initiative.

The Council's library service is also a finalist in the Best Education/Training initiative for its library community literacy supports project.

The awards ceremony will take place in Croke Park on 15th February 2020. The awards are supported by LAMA and IPBMI.

Community Awards Scheme and Community Pride Scheme

The Community Awards Scheme and Community Pride Scheme applications are available for the 2020 Schemes. The closing date for receipt of these applications is noon on Friday 28th February 2020.

15. County Wicklow Library Services

WICKLOW LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES UPDATE

Final layouts regarding library shelving, colours, floor finish and furniture, are now being agreed. The project is on track to be structurally completed by end of August. Allowing then for a 6 to 8 week fit out with technology, stock and furniture, we are on target for a late autumn opening.

RATHDRUM LIBRARY UPDATE

Legal documents are now with Wicklow County Council Law Agent, and will be discussed in the coming days. Mechanical and electrical details are also being finalised. Subject to Law Agent being satisfied with terms and conditions, this project will be rolled out in 2020.

BALTINGLASS COURTHOUSE UPDATE

Tender for architect led firm to manage the restorative works at Baltinglass courthouse closed on 6th February. Four tenders were received, which are now being assessed. It is likely that a recommendation will be made shortly, so that this project may proceed, as part of RRDF projects.



16. PPN National Conference 2020

Confirmation has been received that County Wicklow PPN will be hosting the PPN national conference which will take place in the Arklow Bay Hotel on 2nd and 3rd October 2020.

17. Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's)

Goal 1:

Develop community capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban and rural regeneration

Rural Regeneration Development Fund 2020

The Department of Rural and Community Development has announced the second call for Category 2 of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. The closing date for applications is 28th February 2020. **Urban Regeneration and Development Fund 2020**

Calls for this fund will open on 1st February 2020. The closing date for applications is 12 noon 31st March 2020.

Goal 3:

Strategic Direction – Develop high quality integrated services, available to all communities, in particular, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups

- 1. Healthy Wicklow Strategy Round 3 of Programme has been approved.
 - Recruitment of Co-ordinator is underway
- 2. Migrant Integration Strategy The procurement process is underway for a consultant to develop the Migrant Integration Strategy for the County

Goal 4:

Develop a vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector

The Social Enterprise Development Fund (SED) is now open. This year will again support up to 16 Social Enterprises with funding and business supports. In addition the **Genesis Programme** will provide support to Social Enterprises who do not receive a cash grant. The participants for the programme will be selected across Ireland, ensuring that the Social Enterprise Development Fund offers support to social enterprises in **every Local Authority** area. The Genesis Programme will be an intensive two-day residential workshop that will focus on building the skills and knowledge needed to develop a sustainable social enterprise and to be successful in future funding opportunities. The aim is to help these Social Enterprises be successful in future applications.



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).

Film

In February the elected members of Wicklow County Council were circulated with the Chief Executive's report on the Development of an Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow. This report informed the members that the Part 8 for the development of an Enterprise Hub within the grounds of Wicklow County Campus will be put forward with their consideration. The proposed development of Wicklow County Campus is located within the grounds of Clermont House, a protected structure. The new hub facilities will comprise a new 2 – storey building linked to the refurbished courtyard cottages, conference facilities in the former school chapel and administration offices in a section of former dormitory at second floor level in the school block.

Following a public consultation period and on consideration of the Chief Executive's report, the members agreed to proceed with the Development of an Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.

Retail

Bray Town Centre

Work is continuing on the Florentine Site but due to a number of factors such as weather, practical completion has been delayed. A revised timetable indicates that practical completion is due in Q2 2020 with fit-out estimated to take 3-4 months thereafter.

Interest by potential tenants has been very positive; negotiations with anchor tenants are ongoing.



Business Breakfast Briefing

As part of its ongoing commitment to economic development, Wicklow County Council hosted the 2020 Breakfast Briefing in Druids Glen Hotel attended by leading local and national businesspeople. The theme of this year's event was: "Endless Opportunities for Living, Leisure and Business in County Wicklow." In his address, Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Mr Frank Curran, outlined current and future developments and projects and plans in the pipeline.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Irene Winters, said the Council used the occasion to update the business community on the various activities carried out by the Council, with particular emphasis on enterprise and economic development. It is an opportunity for the local business community to engage with the Council, to network, and to provide feedback.

The guest speaker at the event was Mr Mike Seaton, Director of Development for SSE Renewables. Mr Seaton from SSE dealt with Ireland's Climate Change policy and the key role renewable energy would play in that. He said Ireland's offshore wind resource was vast and significantly under developed and pointed out that Ireland has just one offshore wind farm, located 13km off Arklow. He anticipates that SSE will shortly be making a decision as to the location of its O&M for Arklow Bank this will provide quality jobs for up to 80 full time employees for upwards of 25 years.

Town Teams

Town Teams in Arklow, Blessington, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow continue to meet on a monthly basis and to progress various projects.

Arklow Town Team

Arklow Town Team is currently looking into organising a new Seaside/Seafood themed festival for Arklow to coincide with the World Shore Angling Championships in October. They will host their 3rd International Women's Day Lunch in the Arklow Bay Hotel which will be held on Sunday 8th March 2020. International Women's Day provides an important opportunity to showcase commitment to women's equality and to raise awareness. Guest speakers will include Senator Marie Louise O' Donnell Evanne Cahill and Fiona Creedon of East Wicklow Youth Services. A raffle will be held on the day and all proceeds will go to East Wicklow Youth Services who do amazing work in County Wicklow. Tickets for the event can be purchased from the Arklow Bay Hotel, Cllr Miriam Murphy and at the offices of Arklow Municipal District.



Blessington Town Team

The last meeting of Blessington Town Team took place on the 28th January 2020 in the Civic Offices Blessington. There was a detailed discussion on the draft Blessington Health Check prepared by Future Analytics with the report being adopted by members with some minor amendments. The final report is due be published at the end of February. There was a wide ranging discussion on the infrastructural needs of the town and the need to have the Blessington Town relief road was highlighted as the main priority. The importance of the completion of the relief road from a business perspective was highlighted. There was a detailed discussion on the development of the Greenway and the need to be inclusive. The development of a changing room facility at the site of the old HSE building was highlighted as important in the development of an interpretative centre at site. Disappointment was expressed that the development of a Community Pool for West Wicklow did not secure funding under the Stream 1 funding announced by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Community Pool for West Wicklow hosted a meet the candidate's general election debate in the Avon on Tuesday 8th February. The impact of rising rents and rates on business in the town was also highlighted.

Bray Town Team

The Town Centre Health Check recommendations are still being reviewed with a plan to form working groups.

Greystones 2020

Greystones 2020 have agreed to share their branding with the tidy towns in Greystones. Having been gifted the brand from Glenveagh Properties at the Marina, the graphic design company 'design factory' are incorporating the name Greystones Tidy Towns into the logo. Grainne McLoughlin, chairperson of Greystones 2020 said she was pleased to work with Marie McCooey Chairperson of Greystones Tidy Towns to ensure that Greystones develops a brand identity. We are hoping that all logos associated with the town from groups that involve all of the community will use the core part of the logo and only the words depicting their group will change. Greystones 2020 will now embark on a signage strategy for the town - working very closely with the Greystones Municipal District to incorporate the core part of the logo. Through the development of the previous Greystones Strategy and the recent public realm plan, Greystones 2020 recognises that a strong town logo provides many positives including (1) Revealing our identity (2)Inviting people to get to know us (3) Distinguishes us from other towns (4) Facilitates the brand of Greystones and (5) Can be used everywhere



Wicklow Town Team

The Wicklow Town Team welcomed the commencement of works on Fitzwilliam Square and look forward to seeing it in its completed form. Preparations are also underway for Féile Chill Mhantáin which will take place in Wicklow on the 15th 16th and 17th of May.

Wicklow County Council has submitted applications to the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport for funding to continue the development of the Greenway this will require a number of environmental studies and assessments, to bring the proposed Wicklow to Greystones Greenway to detailed design stage

The Council has also submitted an application for funding in respect of the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

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.

Key stakeholders including industry experts, representatives of local businesses and Town Teams, along with staff and elected representatives, were designated to the following Tourism Implementation groups:

- Accommodation
- Towns as Visitor Hubs
- Thematic Experiences & Marketing
- Glendalough



Each group will host a series of meetings throughout the year with a view to implementing the recommendations contained in the Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan.

Glendalough

The Chief Executive is chairing a working group consisting of representatives of Failte Ireland, NPWS, Coillte and OPW, aimed at progressing the development of Glendalough as one of Ireland's premier visitor destinations. The aim is to enhance the visitor experience through improved interpretation, signage, facilities and access.

The work of this group is enhanced by the recent adoption of a report by the elected members of Wicklow County Council in relation to Laragh – Glendalough Visitor Access Infrastructure Improvements, in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2006, as amended.

This is further supported by the recent application made under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund in relation to Regenerating Gateways to Glendalough. This application was made stronger by the collaboration of local statutory agencies working together to improve the visitor experience to Glendalough.

Failte Ireland

Destination Towns

Failte Ireland also announced an investment of €15.5 million available through local authorities to boost the attractiveness and tourism appeal of towns across the country. Funding of between €250,000 and €500,000 will be available to local authorities to develop towns in their area which have the potential to become a 'destination town' for tourists. The 'destination towns' will need to demonstrate their capacity and appeal to attract more international visitors to stay overnight.

Failte Ireland has set aside up to €500,000 in Destination Town Funding for County Wicklow.

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.



Work has begun by Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions who were awarded the contract to prepare the Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow. The first draft of the Strategic Review has been prepared and was considered by the Maritime Business Development Group in September.

The final version of the Maritime Strategic Review was presented to the MBDG in November The Maritime Strategic Review was also circulated to the Economic Development and Economic Support Strategic Policy Committee and will be sent to the full council meeting to be considered by the elected members thereafter.

Maritime Business Development Group

The MBDG continues to meet on a regular basis. An Aquaculture working group has been established to work with industry experts and investigate the proposal to restore natural oyster reefs off the coast of County Wicklow.

An application for funding for a feasibility study on regeneration of the oyster banks was submitted to BIM in February under the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) Programme 2016 – 2023. An allocation of €20,000 has been awarded to this project.

NORRI have been appointed to carry out a study in line with the FLAG funding received. This first phase of the project will include examination of sustainable sourcing of native Irish seed, consultation with stakeholders, and environmental impact/displacement of habitats. A workshop will be held in Spring of 2020 to publicise this project.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow County Council's Economic Development Unit and Community, Cultural and Social Development section, along with LEO Wicklow supported the development of a Food and Beverage Strategy for County Wicklow. The strategy was launched in April at Killruddery during the first Wicklow Food Producer's Showcase. The implementation of the strategy will be industry led.

County Wicklow Partnership with the support of Wicklow County Council, have been awarded LEADER funding for the implementation of the Food & Beverage Strategy. Following a procurement process, Jonathan Birnie Associates (JBA) were awarded the contract and are currently engaging with the Food and Beverage steering group.



Working groups have been established to progress actions from the Strategy viz:

- 1. Tell the Wicklow Story
- 2. Develop a Food Activity Calendar
- 3. Get Local Food to Local Consumers
- 4. Provide Appropriate Business Supports

The consultants JBA are currently engaging with stakeholders in order to deliver the actions identified.

Some of the key decision points agreed at the most recent food strategy meeting included:

- 1) The drafting of a definition for Wicklow Food.
- 2) The creation of a website and social media feed dedicated to the food strategy.

Members of the Steering Group representing the Food & Beverage sector have worked with brand specialists to develop the Wicklow Food Brand – this will be launched in the coming weeks. An event for Food Producers is due to be held on 20th February in Tinahely



2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives

To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:

- 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	

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	3
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73	75	15
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	832	800	68
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	0



METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS YEAR TO D	
	2019	2020	2020
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric		470*	89
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor		440	38

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2018/2019	2019/2020	Year to Date
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1134	1100	

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS 2020 Year to Date 202	
Academic Year	2019		
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	40	0

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
No. of Companies who have			
undertaken a Lean for Micro	11	11	0
Assessment by a Lean Expert			



February 2020 Activities

The Business Advice Clinics continue to run every Tuesdays and Thursday in Wicklow County Campus, every Monday evening in the Glenview Hotel on and in Blessington civic offices on the first Thursday every month.

2 days of Brexit mentoring clinics are scheduled for February 11th and 26th. 12 Wicklow based businesses will be able to meet with a Brexit Advisor to discuss the specific implications of Brexit for their business and the steps that they should take to mitigate any risks. These clinics follow a one-day interactive customs workshop which took place on January 30th the day before the UK officially left the EU.

On 13th February the first of two courses on Business Planning & Accessing Finance for your business to be run during the Spring Summer 2020 Training Programme will take place. There are currently 11 participants registered for same.

The Exhibition Masterclass: Marking the most of exhibiting at a trade fair, a must do workshop for anyone considering exhibiting for the first time at a trade fair, either at home or abroad takes place on Tuesday 25th February in Clermont House, Rathnew.

Local Enterprise week takes place 2^{nd} to 6^{th} March and plans are well underway for a range of activities taking place during this week.



3. Planning and Development

Forward Planning

Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly 2019-2031

The new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region (EMRA) came into effect on the 28th June 2019.

On 14th January 2020, the Minister for Housing Planning and Local Government, issued a Direction pursuant to Section 31A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly was directed to amend Section 5.6 and Table 8.2 of the RSES. A copy of the Ministerial Direction and accompanying documentation is available using the following link: https://emra.ie/draft-ministerial-direction-relation-rses/

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. Work is currently underway on the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received.

Local Plans

The County Development Plan includes local plans for the towns of Ashford, Aughrim, Baltinglass Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely, Avoca, Donard, Newcastle Roundwood, Shillelagh and Laragh-Glendalough. The County Development Plan review will therefore include a review of the plans for all of these settlements. The Municipal District of Bray (which includes the settlements of Bray, Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue), as well as the settlements of Arklow, Blesssington, Greystones – Delgany, Kilcoole, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum and Wicklow – Rathnew all have their own 'Local Area Plans' which do not form part of the County Development Plan; these plans will be reviewed after the new County Development Plan is adopted.

Heritage

Biodiversity Plan Actions:

Brittas Bay Biodiversity project: Year 1 works complete, year 2 actions in planning stage. Public 'Explore the Shore' workshop with National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) planned for March 21st. Project nominated as a finalist under Best Ecological/ Environmental Protect in LAMMA Awards, due to be announced on 15th Feb. **'Lets Get Buzzing – Community Action for Biodiversity'** One day free public seminar planned for Sat 22nd Feb in Ashford Community & Heritage Centre

Heritage Plan Programme:

Applications for the County Heritage Plan fund 2020 made to the Heritage Council.

New ICAN Network for Wicklow: Redevelopment of Wicklow's online community heritage archive to facilitate six additional local community archives in the new multi platform site. Groups are; Delgany Tidy Towns, Glens Of Lead, Greystones Tidy Towns, Medieval Bray Project, Glendalough Heritage Forum, The Glen/ Donard Heritage Group. New sites in development.



Protected Structures Grants: The Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund were advertised and applications invited. 17 applications received under BHIS and 8 under HSF. €60,000 allocation for county Wicklow under the BHIS, HSF is based on applications received and national budget allocation. Assessment process completed and recommendations sent to DCHG for approval/ selection.

Planning Applications

A total of 89 applications were received during January, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	19
Housing Developments	3
Agricultural Structures	0
Commercial	3
Other Developments*	64
Total	89

^{*}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 71 applications in December, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	3
Individual Houses	15
Other Developments	53
Other Developments	0
Requiring EIA	
Total	71

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

	31/01/2019	31/01/2020
Total Number of	87	71
decisions issued		
Total Number of	70	62
decisions to grant		
% Grant Rate	80%	87%

No. of Applications withdrawn

January 16

*Withdrawals may not have been lodged in the month of January.



Planning Enforcement

Vacant Sites

31 no. sites stand on the Register.

06 Removed

02 On appeal

14 Demand for Levy Notices issued

01 Section 12(4) Notice issued

02 Section 7 Notice of Intent issued

01 Referred to Debt Collection

25 on Register 31/01/2020

Derelict Sites

04 No. of sites on Register

01 No. of Inspections

00 No. of Notices issued

00 Site removed from the register

Review of sites due for valuation to be undertaken in February

Enforcement

- 17 New Files were opened
- 34 Advisory letters issued
- 14 Warning letters issued
- 05 Enforcement Notices served
- 17 Files have been closed
- · 00 Files referred for legal action

Court Activity

1 case before the high court adjourned to June 2020

2 cases due in District Court in February



4. Climate Action

Wicklow County Council appointed a Climate Action Officer to manage the actions signed up to in the Climate Charter and the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy as adopted by Wickow County Council. Following on from the formation of a climate action team a list of priority actions will be drawn up from both the Climate Charter and the Adaptation Strategy

Wicklow County Council is part of a sub region of the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Region along with Kildare Meath and Louth. Going forward Wicklow will collaborate with these other Local Authorises to source funding for larger scale project across the region.

5. Waste Management

3	
No. of Complaints Opened	276
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	293
No of Litter Fines Issued	71
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	4
No. of Warning Letters Issued	10
No. of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	5
No. of Burning Applications Granted	7
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	2
No. of Notices issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	14
No. of files prepared for Court included in Court lists	55
Income – Litter	€7,263.00
Income – Waste Management	€3,019.25

Blue Flag Beaches

Applications have been submitted to An Taisce for 4 beaches in County Wicklow to be recognised as Blue Flag Beaches for 2020. These beaches are Bray, Greystones, Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South. The results will be known in May 2020. The recruitment process for the selection of Life Guards for the coming season will begin shortly.

Dogs Worrying Sheep

Dog Wardens will be calling to homes in North Wicklow in the coming weeks.

There are a large number of dogs in the county who are unlicenced. Reminders are sent by An Post to the owners whose dogs are licenced, but in order to get ensure all dogs are licenced, ISPCA dog wardens will be calling to homes in North Wicklow in the coming weeks to check are their dogs licenced.

Under the Control of Dogs Act 1986, which was amended in 1992, all dogs over four months old are required to be licensed, with the exception of Guide dogs.

If you are a dog owner, you must have a valid dog licence The dog wardens will be checking for licences and fines will be issued if you are found not to be in receipt of a valid licence.

315 dogs were licenced in County Wicklow in January 2020.



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.

- Priority Geotechnical Limited completed site Investigation on Friday 13th September and factual report received in January 2020 - results of the site investigation will inform the proposed remediation plan which is scheduled for completion in May 2020.
- Website is up and running and regular updates will be made to keep the Public and Members informed of progress.
- Environmental risk assessments as per EPA guidance document and a draft remediation plan are currently being carried out.

Ports and Harbours

During January three ships berthed at Wicklow Port. Two of these ships imported processed timber from Sweden and one contained a cargo of logs from Scotland.

Cargo movements during 2019 compared with 2018 were as follows:

		2018			2019		
TOTAL	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL	
Forestry							
Products	115,660	8,418	124,078	105,039	24,253	129,292	Forestry Products
Metals	0	40,291	40,291	0	30,660	30,660	Metals
Sand	2,149	2,506	4,655	2,460	0	2,460	Sand
Waste							
export	0	4,532	4,532	0	8,999	8,999	Waste export
Glass	0	12,109	12,109	0	0	0	Glass
TOTAL	117,809	67,856	185,665	107,499	63,912	171,411	TOTAL

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions
Jan-19	11	9	2	13
Feb-19	6	6	0	6
Mar-19	11	8	3	14
Apr-19	8	7	1	9
May-19	13	8	5	18
Jun-19	14	10	4	18
Jul-19	12	10	2	14
Aug-19	11	8	3	14
Sep-19	10	8	2	12
Oct-19	6	4	2	8
Nov-19	8	6	2	10
Dec-19	6	5	1	7
Total 2019	116	89	27	143
All 2018	138	126	12	150



One Marine Notice was issued in January.

During January the Draft Wicklow County Council (Wicklow Port) Explosives Bye-Laws 2020 were submitted to the Minister for Justice and Equality for sanction.

Meetings were held with a number of parties with an interest in the harbours including Wicklow Town Team and wind farm operators.

6. Environmental Services

Pollution Control

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants - Ambient Monitoring

 13 River/Lake samples were taken and analysed upstream and downstream of discharges of public wastewater treatment plants involving 31 samples and 312 individual analyses were monitored on behalf of Irish Water.

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 6 Water pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 2 Air Pollution complaints were received and investigated.

Private Water Supplies

- Regulated Private Water Supplies Sampling Plan prepared.
- 1 unregistered private water supply was inspected and 2 letters issued requiring information and assessment.
- 10 Private water supplies were written to and requested to give updated information for the regulated private water supply register.
- 3 Private water supplies deemed non-compliant with pH parameter. Letters issued and remedial action advised.
- 1 registered private water supply was inspected and recommended for lifting of boil water notice.
- 1 boil water notice lifted from private water supply after remedial works.
- 1 private water supply exempted after cessation of commercial activity crèche.

Environmental Protection Agency recently published the Focus on Private Water Supplies 2018 Report.

- Local Authorities have supervisory and monitoring roles in relation to regulatory private water supplies.
- 8 Private group water schemes which serve a population of 768 were monitored in 2018.
- 119 Private water supplies which serve a population of 24,558 were monitored in 2018.
- 22 Private group water schemes/Private water supplies serving a population of 1,246 were subject to boil water notice in 2018.

Deco Paints and Solvent Regulations

- 3 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installations were inspected.
- 2 Dry Cleaners installations were inspected.
- 13 Paint Retailers were inspected.



Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2020

• 19 Pre-inspection letters issued for sites selected for inspection of domestic waste water treatment systems under national inspection plan for 2020.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

 17 licensed wastewater discharges were monitored. 4 discharges to water had minor noncompliances and letters to inform licensees were issued. 3 discharges to sewers were noncompliant and were referred to Irish Water. 2 self-monitoring discharge sample results were reviewed.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 2 Lakes were monitored involving 9 samples were taken for analysis for the purposes of WFD/River Management Plan.
- 14 Rivers were monitored involving 19 samples for analysis for the purposes of the WFD/River Management Plan.
- Catchment investigation conducted at Scratenagh Bridge on the Redcross River.

Environmental Protection Agency recently provided updated Ecological Stats for Rivers and Lakes in Wicklow.

- Local Authorities have monitoring, restoration and protection roles in relation to our river and lakes.
- 23 River water bodies have improved and 12 have declined which gives a net improvement of 11 water bodies.
- 2 Lake water bodies have improved.

Planning & Development

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

Well Grants

- Number of New Applications 2
- Number of Provisional Approvals 2
- Number of Grants provided 10
- Number of Inspections 16
- Number of New Wells 3
- Number of New Pumps 13
- Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) 28

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 questions have arisen regarding the affect of the flood defences on the hydrology of the Arklow Marsh and a study of the water levels in the marsh has been carried out. The report concluded that, while there was a link between the groundwater levels in the Marsh and the Avoca river, the change in groundwater level is significantly dampened when compared to changes in river level.

A number of changes in design have resulted in the need to update the Public realm drawings which is presently being done expected completion: at the end of February

Possible disposal options for the dredge material are currently being investigated.

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

Initial meeting with the foreshore section of the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government has taken place.



7. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Public Lighting

	16th December 2019	2nd January 2020	13th January 2020	20th January 2020	27th January 2020	10th February 2020
Access Issues (Attended)	16	13	14	14	13	14
Cable Fault (Attend)	28	21	29	29	30	23
ESB Required (Attended)	25	26	26	26	35	38
Knock Down (Attended	4	4	4	4	4	5
Materials required	4	4	4	4	5	12
No Supply	27	26	26	26	26	22
On Hold	2	0	0	0	0	0
Submitted	519	450	479	578	579	419
Traffic Management Required	14	13	12	16	20	19
TOTAL	639	557	594	697	712	552

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	1	1	5	2	5	14
Cable Fault (Attend)	2	2	8	5	6	23
ESB Required(Attended)	1		6		31	38
Knock Down (Attended)	1		2		2	5
Materials required			10		2	12
No Supply	4	3	4	7	4	22
Submitted	52	115	104	46	102	419
Traffic Management Required	5	3	7	4		19
Grand Total	66	124	146	64	152	552



Transportation Statistics (General)

	December	2019	January
Solicitors Queries	61	775	62
Road Closure Applications	2	40	6
Road Opening Licences	67	1418	125
Abnormal Load Applications	2	35	2

Winter Maintenance

The winter maintenance programme commenced on the 1st October 2019 and monitors conditions for the winter season of October 2019 to April 2020. In January 150 call outs were made and 610 tonnes of salt were used over the 9 routes within the County. Salt stocks were replenished with the delivery of 500 tonnes of salt.

M11/N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

Kildare RDO made a presentation to the Transportation SPC at their January meeting and advised that public consultation was continuing: To date:

125 Individual meetings have been held

Consultations initiated with 127 other stakeholders including: Government Departments, Environmental and Heritage Groups, Community Groups, Transport Providers, Utility Providers.

They outlined the Scheme Objectives -

Safety: Reduce Collisions on N11/M11- Support Road Safety Strategy

Integration: Improve Network Connectivity, Support Land-Use Objective, Continuity of Road Type

Economy: Improve efficiency of N11/M11 corridor, Improve connectivity to Rosslare Europort and European Markets, Generate Economic Benefits, reducing journey times, improving journey time reliability

Environment: Reduce CO2 Emissions, Manage noise impacts, Preserve Communities and Minimise impact on designated sites

Accessibility and Social Inclusion: Support Investment and Employment, Improve road-based public transport Journey Time, Achieve National, Regional and Local Policy Objectives

Physical Activity: Promoting walking and cycling by providing a safer environment for non-motorised users.

N81 Knockroe Bends

Work is progressing on the N81 Knockroe Bends realignment scheme just south of Hollywood and for safety reasons a roadwork's speed limit of 60km/h on all public roads was introduced. The special roadwork speed limits to apply from Thursday 12th December 2019 to Friday 31st July 2020.



Kilmacanogue Parallel Service Road

A contract for the construction of the N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue was signed on 13th January 2020 by Wicklow County Council with SIAC Construction Ltd.

A special speed limit of 60 km/h on all public roads will apply to the Northbound and Southbound carriageways effective from the 17th February 2020 to the1st February 2021. The reduction in the speed limit is required for the completion of necessary road works in the area.

The scheme is being funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Fitzwilliam Square, Wicklow

A contract for the Fitzwilliam Square Improvement Scheme in Wicklow Town was signed by Wicklow County Council on Thursday 23rd January with Shareridge Limited.

The scheme involves the creation of a multi-functional space within Wicklow that will improve accessibility, enhance the presentation and public realm of the historic town core at Fitzwilliam Square.

The renewal of the Square will be of major benefit to the town centre, improving pedestrian access, creating a more attractive public realm and a more commercially vibrant town.

The lower side of Fitzwilliam Square will be pedestrianised and Bridge Street made one-way which will enable the widening of the footpaths.

Part of Church Street will also be made one-way from the junction with Bridge Street to the entrance to the Car Park. This, along with the footpath widening on Church Street and narrowing of the roadway on Abbey Street, will improve accessibility in the town centre.

Site works commenced this week and it is anticipated the main works contract will take 12 months. Site supervision of the main works contract will be provided by O'Connor Sutton Cronin, Consultant Engineers.

The scheme is being substantially funded under Project Ireland 2040, Building Ireland's Future.

Funding 2020

The following annual funding has been received for 2020 to date

Transport Infrastructure Ireland – National Roads €7,207,126

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport – Regional and Local Roads - €11,641,360

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District - January 2020	EURO
Bray Municipal District	71,001
Greystones Municipal District	23,676
Wicklow Municipal District	20,883
Arklow Municipal District	12,193
Parking Permits	12,876
Parking Fines	25,510
Wicklow County Council	127,753



Operational Fire Statistics

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	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		,	T -				_			_	-
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Domestic	14	5	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Caravan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	27	3	6	5	3	2	1	0	0	3	4
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	4	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Materials Incident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Industrial / Commercial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Single Station Mobilised		T	T					T			
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	25	9	6	4	1	1	0	0	0	2	2
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	7	1	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Chimney	15	1	5	0	0	3	0	0	1	4	1
Fire Small / bin / skip	4	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Vehicle	7	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Fire Barn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flooding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ambulance Assist	5	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Garda Assist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electrical Incident	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gas Leak	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
River Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Oil / Petrol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lock Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mobilised into other County	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	0
Times Stations mobilised	123	28	26	22	10	11	2	4	2	10	8

Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of 123 occasions.

Operational activity for the month January was **the same as** the preceding month (December 2019 – 131 mobilisations). Activity for the month was **up 15%** on January 2019, mainly due to an increase in domestic fires (+100%), alarm activations (+33%), chimney fires (+100%).

Sample Incidents (January 2020)

- ➤ 04/01/2020 Bray and Greystones crews responded to a domestic house fire involving a Christmas tree. The fire was quickly extinguished but there was extensive damage.
- > 07/01/2020 Wicklow Town and Rathdrum crews responded to a domestic kitchen fire in Merrymeeting, Rathnew.
- > 08/01/2020 Bray and Greystones crews responded to a 5 car RTC at Kilmacanogue, one car on roof.
- ➤ 10/01/2020 Wicklow Town fire crew assisted a child whose hand was stuck in a grating at Hawkstown.
- ➤ 10/01/2020 Bray and Greystones crews (assisted by Wicklow Town) attended a protracted fire at derelict premises on Castle Street Bray.



- ➤ 14/01/2020 Arklow and Rathdrum crews attended an overturned car at Woodenbridge with 2 occupants.
- > 21/01/2020 Wicklow Town and Greystones attended an RTC in Newcastle involving an overturned truck with a trapped driver.
- 29/01/2020 Bray and Greystones crews were mobilised to a domestic house fire.
- 30/01/2020 Arklow and Wicklow Town crews responded to a teenage boy trapped under the rear wheels of a bus. The bus was raised, stabilised the casualty removed in 11 minutes.

Incidents mobilised outside county Wicklow (January 2019):

Kildare (4-incidents)

- > 04/01/20 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to support units from Athy at an industrial fire (car sales building) at Timolin, Ballytore, County Kildare.
- > 09/01/20 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to an alarm activation at Kennycourt Stud Farm, County Kildare.
- > 09/01/20 Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to support units from Naas at an RTC at Newtownpark, County Kildare.
- > 15/01/20 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to support units from Naas at an RTC at Blackhall, Calverstown, County Kildare.

Wexford (1-incidents)

> 25/01/20 Carnew Fire Crew were mobilised to a chimney fire at Monaseed National School, Craanford, County Wexford.

General

- ➤ A Major Emergency Management Exercise took place in the Glenview Hotel 17th January 2020. There were over 80 attendees from a range of organisations including staff of Wicklow County Council, Gardai, HSE, Irish Water, OPW, Kildare Fire Service, Civil Defence, Mountain Rescue, ESB, Defence Forces, Irish Coastguard, RNLI.
- Wicklow County Fire Service has reached 1,240 followers on Twitter.
- The National "Emergency Services Driving Standard" (ESDS) is continuing to be rolled out.
- The Primary Schools Programme has commenced, all schools in the County will be visited with nationally developed programme.

Fire Prevention Statistics

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	10		6		6
Regularisation Certificates	1		3	2	1
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	8	1	2		7

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District	1		1		
Circuit					



General

Chief Fire Officer was forwarded 17 planning files during the month of which 15 recommendations were made.

Inspection of other premises (not in table)	1
Monitoring visits	2
General enquiries from the public	7
Meetings with consultants	2

Building Control

Commencement Notices

41 Commencement Notices Submitted:

Distribution;

- 6 => Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 2 => Seven day Notice
- 28 => Opt Out Declarations
- 5 => Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents

Submission Statistics

- (i) 68% of Commencement Notices Opt Out
- (ii) *Revised Information requested

15No. Commencement Notices (CN)

Of which, 12 are Opt Out (80%)

3 are Compliance Documentation (20%)

Validated CNs for January = 26No.

Relating to 58 new build residential Units

16 of which are one off houses

(iii) Invalidated (CNs) for January = 0

13 No. Certificates of Compliance on Completion (CCC) processed this period

- 12No. Deemed Valid
- 1 No. Deemed Invalid

12 No. Validated CCCs related to

- 6No CCCs submitted in January 2020
- 5No CCCs submitted in December 2019
- 1No CCC submitted in November 2019

75% => 9No. @ Multi-Development site => 96 new residential units

17% => 2No. @ One-off House, (private homes) => 02 new residential units

8% = > 1No. @ Commercial Development => 00 new residential unit

^{**}BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments



Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. Recruitment

Competitions for the following posts were held in January 2020

Clerical Officer.

Employee Numbers

	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019
Managerial/ Administrative	280	272	280	285
Professional/ Technical	104	98	103	102
Outdoor	316	318	318	318
Temporary/ Seasonal	65	88	62	62
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	8
Total	773	784	771	775

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	2018	2018	2018	2018
Managerial/ Administrative	246	263	280	278
Professional/ Technical	119	105	105	104
Outdoor	317	306	313	312
Temporary/ Seasonal	41	79	54	38
Non DOHPLG	13	8	8	8
Total	736	761	752	740

(Excludes figures for Fire-fighters)



2. Access to Information

No. of F.O.I. Requests

January 2020	10
January to January 2020	10

January 2019	10
January to January 2019	10

No. of Ombudsman Requests

January 2020	0
January to January 2020	0

January 2019	0
January to January 2020	0

3. Press Releases

January 2020 - 9 Press Releases

4. Register of Electors

The General Election was called on 14th January 2020 for polling day on the 8th February. The Franchise Section had an extremely busy 2½ weeks adding all eligible electors to the Supplement, printing and copying the Registers used in the ballot boxes, producing the Postal and Special Voters List, calculating the electorate and providing information to the cross party tally in time for the Election. The turnaround time was very short in order to achieve this. However, all the work was done and achieved on time with the Register and Supplement handed over to the Wicklow Returning Officer on 3rd February.

Wicklow polled the highest turn out in the county on the 8th February with 70.9%. A high percentage turnout like this confirms the accuracy of the Wicklow Register of Electors.

We operated a 'call centre' for the full day of the poll, where the main issues arising were people who had not submitted their form in time to be included in the Supplement Closing date, electors who had moved away more than 4 to 5 years ago and had not re-registered on return and electors who had not posted their postal votes in time to the Returning Officer.

Work is now underway by the Franchise Section to prepare, print and issue the 2020/2021 Register of Electors due for publication on the 15th February 2020.



5. I.C.T. Report

IT Helpdesk

• The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 27 tickets a day.

Customer Service Delivery

- Customer Relations Management (CRM) System Arklow Municipal District continue piloting the new system for Housing Repairs and Environment have begun using it for waste enforcement.
- Work continues with the business process mapping and DPIA's are being carried out for each process as it arises.

Domain Migration

• The domain migration project is nearing competition on the computers and users. The last few laptops are currently being migrated. Mailboxes are the next step in the project.

Managed Print Service

• A review of print volumes and devices are currently underway.

GIS & Data Collection Systems

- Data analysis underway for the upcoming County Development Plan.
- Cloud mapping is being more widely used by Arklow and Greystones MD's.
- Parallel projects in Housing, Roads and Environmental Services departments are on-going and integration to CRM and GIS systems are being developed.
- Resister of Elector Database now has over 95% Eircode match, making the collection of electoral details more efficient.

eServices

- The Online Consultation Hub on the Wicklow.ie website currently has 1 item up for consultation Part 8, 3 Units in Ballinteskin.
- Plans in place for improvements to the Library events calendar.
- Wicklow.ie pageviews for January 2020 were 140,179
- Social media accounts
 - o Facebook (Wicklow County Council) 6515 followers.
 - o Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) 6169 followers.
 - o Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) 955 followers.

Broadband Development

- National Broadband Plan Following signing of contract for NBP in November, planning for the rollout of broadband has now commenced.
- Survey of Broadband Connection Points will start in February and National Broadband Ireland are scheduled to make a presentation to the council in March.



Financial

Revenue Account

Due to year-end adjustments that are currently being carried out as part of the 2019 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) process, we are not in a position to provide January 2020 expenditure figures in the normal format at this time. This situation will be regularised during the Quarter 1 period. The below table outlines the 2020 adopted budget by service division.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE S	REVENUE ACCOUNT UMMARY BY SERVICE DIVIS	ION AT 31st JANUARY	2020
	EXPENDITURE	INCOME	NET
	Adopted Full Year	Adopted Full Year	
	Budget	Budget	
		, and the second	
	€	€	€
A - Housing and Building	24,541,664	30,692,854	6,151,190
B - Road Transport & Safety	23,611,358	16,493,380	- 7,117,978
C - Water Services	5,560,661	6,545,641	984,980
D - Development Management	11,242,546	6,144,652	- 5,097,894
E - Environmental Services	11,837,313	2,002,200	- 9,835,113
F - Recreation and Amenity	7,663,027	847,647	- 6,815,380
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,479,516	819,228	- 660,288
H - Miscellaneous Services	11,879,184	6,156,153	- 5,723,031
LG - Local Government Fund		13,720,320	13,720,320
RA - Commercial Rates		31,950,795	31,950,795
	116,222,871	116,372,870	(149,999)

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 January 2019 to 31st January 2019.

Capital Account

	CAPITAL ACCO	DUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST JANUARY 2019									
Opening Actual Actual Transfers Closing Ba									
	Balance at	Expenditure	Income	To/From	at 31/01/2020				
	01/01/2020			Reserves					
	€	€	€	€	€				
Housing and Building	33,534,129				•				
Road Transport & Safety	(42,686,278)	(325,856)	(1,223,735)		(44,235,869)				
Water Services	(10,850,376)	3,002	(203,995)		(11,051,369)				
Development Management	(10,075,409)	(3,037)	(19,217)	0	(10,097,663)				
Environmental Services	1,194,208	(76,209)	(173,372)	0	944,627				
Recreation and Amenity	(446,064)	335,783	(515,827)	0	(626,108)				
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(906,920)	(76,099)	0	0	(983,019)				
Miscellaneous Services	(14,503,784)	(36,475)	(616)	0	(14,540,875)				
	(44,740,494)	1,171,664	(5,781,957)		(49,350,787)				



Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST JANUARY2020									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2020	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/01/2020	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates *									
Rents & Annuities	1,857,647	1,607,119			3,464,766	1,366,996	2,097,770		39%
Housing Loans *									

N.B. The commercial rates figures will be populated after the 2020 rate demands are issued

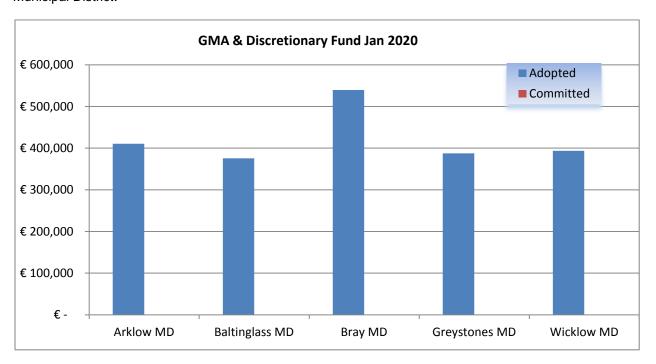
This updated 2020 housing loan figures will be available in next months report

The rent collection percentage is below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year.

This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2019

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



Municipal District	Adopted
	€
Arklow MD	410,500
Baltinglass MD	375,500
Bray MD	539,500
Greystones MD	387,500
Wicklow MD	393,500
Total	2,106,500



Capital Investment Programme 2019-2021

The Capital Investment Programme 2019-2021 for Wicklow County Coucil 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 4th 2019.

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

Programme Group	Proposed Expenditure					
	2019	TOTAL				
	€	€	€	€		
Housing & Building	71,127,000	119,392,000	146,372,000	336,891,000		
Road Transport & Safety	17,201,600	24,692,200	31,043,000	72,936,800		
Water Services	150,000	150,000	150,000	450,000		
Economic Development – Development Management	2,015,000	3,945,981	2,130,000	8,090,981		
Environmental Services	720,000	2,675,000	2,175,000	5,570,000		
Recreation & Amenity	7,439,000	17,950,000	9,988,000	35,377,000		
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,200,000	7,300,000	11,050,000	20,550,000		
Miscellaneous Services	1,975,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,975,000		
OVERALL TOTAL	102,827,600	177,105,181	203,908,000	483,840,781		