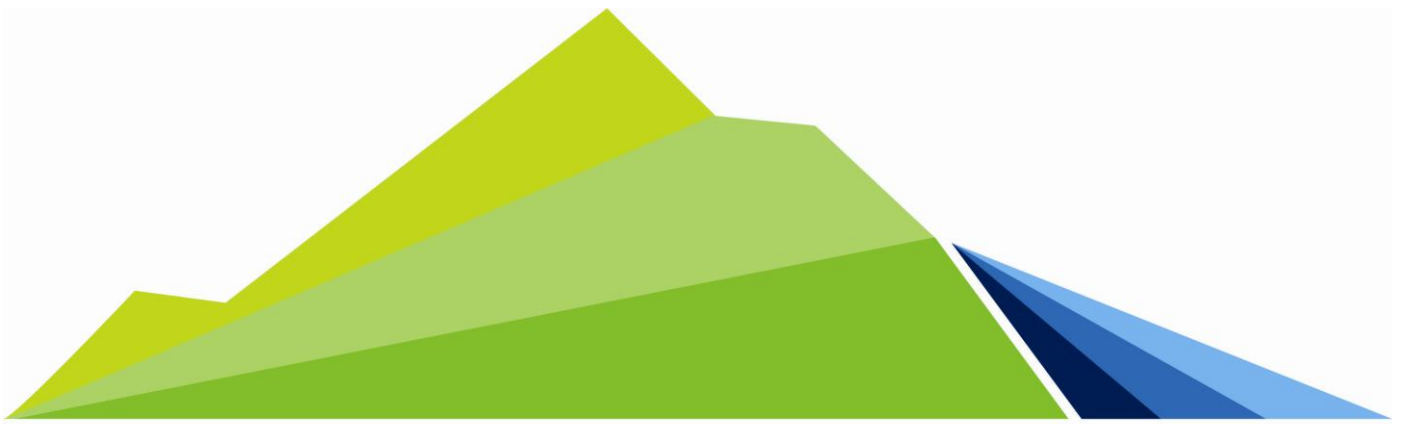


December 2017



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Report



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

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This Month:

IBYE County Final & Awards held in Wicklow Brewery, Rathdrum

Kate Dempsey, Irish Mussel Seed Company, Arklow, announced *Winner of Wicklow's Best Young Entrepreneur* as well as *Winner of Best Idea*

***Maurice Sheehy, Fleet of Wicklow* won the Best Startup category**

and

Michael Noble of Noble Solutions won the *Best Established Business category*

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Social Housing Support

No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP)	3601
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	516 as at 01/01/2017
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	410
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	7
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	10

2. Allocation of Social Housing

WCC Social Housing	63
Approved Housing Bodies	5 + 4 pending

3. Social Housing Stock

- > 4,330 tenancies occupied
- > Casual Vacancies/Relets 41
- > Total weekly rental accrual €240,587 (€12.5m per annum)
- > Minimum rent €24 pw - Maximum rent €275 pw
- > Arrears €1,402,393.90

4. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

12 schemes approved €35,500,000

Scheme	Units	Current status
Brewery Bends, Rathdrum (Phase 2)	20	Commenced
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Commenced November 2017
Kilbride Lane, Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	Tender out 3 rd November 2017
Farrankelly, Greystones (Phase 2)	23	Part 8 September 2017
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Commencing 27 th November 2017
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	25	Part 8 on display
Sugarloaf View, Kilmacanogue	20	Part 8 adopted – proceeding to tender stage
FCA Hall, Wicklow Town	8	Detailed design being prepared
Kilmantin Place, Bray	4	Detailed design being prepared
Ard Na Mara, Kilcoole	2	Detailed design being prepared
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Detailed design being prepared
Old Library, Arklow	7	Tender return 1 st Dec 2017

5. Part V

> 2017 - 5 units

- 1 unit purchased and allocated
- 4 units undergoing final snagging
- 2 units - Agreement reached.

> Potential units

- Negotiations ongoing with a number of developers at preplanning and planning stage
- > 98 units approved, planning granted
- > 192 at pre planning stage

6. PPP Social Housing Project

[Bundle 1]

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

7. Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) - 5 units were provided under a CALF lease to Co-operative Housing on the Greenpark Road in Bray.

Approval has been received from the Department of Housing, Planning Community and Local Government for a leasing arrangement with Cluid to provide 45 units of accommodation on the Council's site at St. Earnan's View, Ballybeg, Rathnew. Estimated delivery date of these units is quarter 3 2019.

A new CALF project with Tuath Housing was approved on 20th September 2017 for 32 units at Bollarney North, Wicklow Town. There is currently no start or completion date available.

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) The CAS call for 2017 has been recently advertised.

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 has been completed.

> Stage 3 Phase 3B – No. 1 to No. 10 Glending Square and No. 1 to No. 4 Glending Way – Contract has been signed and will start in New Year when all tenants have decanted.

> Tenants are currently being moved out of these properties for this phase of the development.

Parknasilloogue, Enniskerry - Remediation

Remediation works completed. Legal proceedings ongoing.

Hillview, Wicklow - Remediation

Roof works across the entire estate approximately 95% complete. Bridge works to "F" types is 25% complete. Refurbishment to "B" types 80% complete. Ceiling Repairs in B & C type dwellings are 20% complete.

9. Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

- > Grant funding for private houses - €1.1M
- > Grant funding for social houses - €650,000
- > 35 Open Applications to value of €563,267

Housing Assistance for Older People

9 applications - €42,821

Mobility Aid Grants

7 applications - €35,446

Housing Adaptation Grants

19 applications - €485,000

Approved

- > 58 Mobility Aid Grants €311,590
- > 23 Housing Adaption Grants €366,888
- > 50 Housing Aid for Older People €283,239

House Purchase Loans

- > 69 applications
- > 10 granted
- > 7 pending
- > 52 declined

2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

- > 143 applications to date
- > 92 offers to purchase to date
- > 15 sales completed

10. Addressing Homelessness

No of presentations to date: 30/11/2017

210 individuals (145 male and 65 female)

236 Families

446 in total

277 Adults and 395 dependent children

No in Emergency Accommodation

1 Individual – male

6 Families - 13 adults – 25 children

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.

Community and Social Development

11. Wicklow Sports Partnership

Sports Capital 2017 – Wicklow Overall Allocation - €1,796,244

71 applications submitted in total from Wicklow for Sports Capital grants 2017. 8 Applications were deemed invalid, 60 applications successful to date. A further 3 applications are being assessed under Regional applications which are worth up to max. €200,000 and there is €4 million allocated nationally to this section.

Parkrun Wicklow

First Adult Parkrun (A free timed 5km run) was held on Saturday 2nd of December in Russborough House, Blessington and will continue every Saturday morning @ 9:30am. Over 100 people took part in this event.

The next adult Parkrun at planning stage is for Avondale House, Rathdrum.

Operation Transformation 2018 Operation 2018 will take place on Saturday 13th of January. Wicklow walks are planned for Blessington, Arklow and Bray for 2018.

Dormant Accounts Allocation

- €16,000 allocated to run an intervention programme for teenage girls in conjunction with the Ladies Gaelic Football Association.
- €13,000 allocated to run a 2018 community coaching activation programme.
- Awaiting results on Urban Outdoor Adventure programme for Bray with an allocation of €50,000.

Wicklow Healthy Ireland Fund Allocation 2017

Wicklow has secured €135,000 for the promotion of health and well-being in the county under the Health Ireland Fund.

The money was jointly secured by the Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Children and Young People Services Committee (CYPSC).

Healthy Ireland, the government framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Ireland over the coming generation, was launched in March 2013. It sets out actions that will be undertaken by Government Departments, public sector organisations, businesses, communities and individuals to improve health and wellbeing and reduce the risks posed to future generations.

Wicklow's Healthy Ireland application from the LCDC and CYPSC involved projects from multiple agencies, including Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Sports Partnership, HSE, Bray Area Partnership, County Wicklow Partnership, KWETB and Wicklow Child and Family Project.

There are a number of exciting programmes planned under this initiative, namely an inclusive mid-term activity camp, physical activity training for preschool teachers, older adults exercise programmes, HSE physiotherapist referral programmes, mental health and physical activity interventions, literacy friendly health and well-being courses for adults, social eating programmes, Healthy Ireland Week, Fostering Healthy Families and Kids Go Smoke Free.

The application included the development of a Healthy Wicklow Strategic Plan that will begin development in early 2018. This plan will inform future Healthy Ireland applications from County Wicklow and will provide a vision on how to best implement the Healthy Ireland plan throughout Wicklow.

This investment and interagency collaboration has resulted in a very strong application from Wicklow and an exciting opportunity to take the first steps in making Wicklow a healthy place to live for this and future generations.

“A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.” – Healthy Ireland 2013-2025.

Projects funded under Wicklow LCDC:

- Co-ordinator Healthy Ireland, Wicklow
- County Wicklow Healthy Ireland Strategy
- Physiotherapist & HSE referral intervention
- Older Adults Exercise Programmes
- Every Day Eating and Nutrition (EDEN)
- Woodlands for Health
- Parkrun X 2
- KWETB Healthy Ireland Week
- Well Now (literacy friendly healthy and wellbeing course for adults)
- Meet and Eat - Social Eating Programme
- Know Smoke – Smoking Cessation Project
- Swimming Pool Hoists

Projects funded under CYPSC:

- Buntús Refresher & Active School Flag Promotion Course
- Buggy Fit
- One Million Step Challenge
- Mid-Term Activity Camp (for children with disabilities)
- Play & Learn
- Family Day
- Healthy Eating and Exercise for families of 0 to 5 year olds – aimed at preventing obesity in young children
- Kids Go Smoke Free
- Cook Eat Share
- Fostering Healthy Families
- Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships
- After Care Service

- Rathdrum Intervention

12. Wicklow Library

Tender process has commenced for an architect and team to lead up the new Wicklow library and Archives project, with a closing date of the first week of January for submissions. A number of firms have now visited the building and expressed interest in tendering for the project.

13. Business Information

Thanks to grant aid from Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Vision-Net will be available to all Wicklow library users in 2018. This will provide online access to all the latest Irish /UK/NI Company, business and director information. All data is sourced from the Company Registration Office, the UK Companies House, the Courts, National Newspapers and the Insolvency Service. The product is currently used daily by a number of county councils, libraries, the media industry, banks, solicitors and general industry. All Wicklow County Council library members may access Vision-net remotely including home, mobile phone etc.

14. SICAP

- *Unsuccessful tender bids were submitted by Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership for their respective Lot areas for SICAP 2018-2022 contract.*
- *Wicklow LCDC are therefore now entering a negotiated procedure with both parties to assist them in compiling a better quality tender document.*
- *Pobal have confirmed that they will extend existing contracts for both Partnership Companies until end March 2018.*

15. RAPID

Allocation of RAPID grant:

- *Bray Family Resource & Development Project: Award €55,250 – To provide a new roof for Little Bray Community Centre*
- *Ballywaltrim Community Centre: Award €9,250 – To install new energy efficient LED lights in the Ballywaltrim Community Centre*

16. Play Policy – 2017 Achievements

- Skatepark at Baltinglass – completed
- Playground at Carnew – completed
- Playground at Rathdangan – completed

- MUGA (multi-use games area) at Knockananna – completed
- Playground at Kilcoole – completed and officially opened

Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

1. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

LCDC

The LCDC last met on 14th November 2017. The meeting of 12th December 2017 was deferred until January 2018.

LECP

The Advisory Group is continuing to monitor the implementation of the LECP, both the community and the economic actions, and to ensure the integration of economic and community actions. Update on Community Actions:

LECP Update Summary

Goal	Actions		
<p><i>Goal 1: Develop Community Capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Build capacity and social capital across all communities</i> - <i>Maximise opportunities for urban regeneration and rural development</i> 	<p><i>Town & Village 2016/2017</i></p>	<p><i>Rathdrum</i></p> <p><i>Kilcoole</i></p> <p><i>Shillelagh</i></p> <p><i>Wicklow</i></p> <p><i>Carnew</i></p> <p><i>Rathdangan</i></p> <p><i>Baltinglass</i></p>	<p><i>90% complete</i></p> <p><i>Complete</i></p> <p><i>80% complete</i></p> <p><i>90% Complete</i></p> <p><i>90% Complete</i></p> <p><i>Complete</i></p> <p><i>Project starting – developing business plan</i></p> <p><i>80% complete</i></p> <p><i>Project starting</i></p> <p><i>Project starting</i></p>
	<p><i>CLAR 2016/2017</i></p>	<p><i>Knockananna</i></p> <p><i>Askanagap</i></p> <p><i>Rathcoyle</i></p>	<p><i>Safety works complete</i></p> <p><i>MUGA complete</i></p> <p><i>Footpath completed</i></p> <p><i>Works completed</i></p> <p><i>Works completed</i></p>
<p><i>Goal 2: Promote active citizenship underpinned by good governance and participation in decision making</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Develop strong representative fora in the county</i> 	<p><i>Ongoing support for:</i></p> <p><i>PPN</i></p> <p><i>Comhairle na nÓg</i></p> <p><i>Co. Wicklow Older Persons Council</i></p> <p><i>Wicklow Disability Access Action Group</i></p>		
<p><i>Goal 3: Develop high quality integrated services available to all communities, in particular disadvantaged communities and</i></p>	<p><i>Healthy Ireland</i></p> <p><i>Wicklow has secured €135,000 for the promotion of health and well-being in the county under the Health Ireland Fund.</i></p>		

<p>vulnerable groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The LCDC will provide the strategic direction for the integration of existing services - The LCDC will provide representation for additional services and resources where gaps are identified or where new issues arise 	<p>The money was jointly secured by the Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Children and Young People Services Committee (CYPSC).</p> <p>This will involve a number of projects and the development of a strategy for County Wicklow. This round of funding is to be spent by March 2018. However, funding is expected to be continued</p>
<p>Goal 4: A vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a strong social & community enterprise sector in the county 	<p>Consultant appointed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map social enterprise in the county Outline steps to develop the sector Identify supports needed for start-ups and up scaling stages

2. Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Action Plan

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).

BRAND

The Endless Opportunities Brand will be re-launched in January 2018, in conjunction with the web-portal launch.

FILM

Wicklow County Council continues to liaise with local service providers and state agencies with regard to the development of the film industry in County Wicklow. The development of Wicklow County Campus as a Content Creation hub, with possible funding from the Regional Enterprise Development fund, is being explored.

Arising out of a visit to China, by a delegation representing Wicklow County Council and Wicklow County Tourism, the possibility of working collaboratively with Hainan Province on the development of the film industry is also being explored.

RETAIL

The Florentine Centre

By developing the Bray town centre Site at Main Street/ Quinsborough Road/ Florence Road, Wicklow County Council aims to rejuvenate the heart of the town and its environs, to enhance the retail mix to include a more diverse offering including fashion retail, to extend the trading period on Main Street and to add life and vibrancy to the Main Street area in the evenings.

Planning consent was granted to Wicklow County Council for the following;

- Two anchor stores
- 8 retail units at upper ground floor level and at first level
- 3 restaurant units at upper ground floor level
- 3 business units at first floor level
- 5 screen cinemas at upper ground, first and second floor levels
- 256 car parking spaces at lower level with 320 cycle spaces
- Change of use of Nos. 6-7 Eglinton Road (protected structures) from residential to office use, demolition of rear returns and out buildings, construction of a glazed link extension to the rear of the structures and refurbishment of previous office use at No.8 Eglinton Road
- New urban street accessed from Main Street into the new development creating a central plaza with pedestrian access from Quinsborough Road, incorporating an events space, seating, landscaping and kiosks
- Demolition of Nos. 3 and 4 Florence Villas, Florence Road, and creating a new vehicular access for services at this location
- Demolition of No. 7 Main Street

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- *Demolition of the façade of No.5 Main Street.*

Following a two stage procurement process, one tender was received by the closing date of 6th December 2017. This tender was recommended to and accepted by the Chief Executive. The statutory disposal notice has been sent to the elected members for their consideration at the Wicklow County Council meeting of 15th January, 2018, the contract cannot be signed until the disposal has been approved by the members.

Retail - Other

The Council and the Municipal Districts have worked with the various Town Teams and the Chambers of Commerce to support the various Christmas retail initiatives in order to encourage people to “shop local”. Reports from Retail Excellence Ireland would indicate that the move towards online purchasing continues. Wicklow County Council via the Local Enterprise Office offers support and training for retailers wishing to sell goods online, it is vitally important that local retailers have an online presence.

In 2018 it is intended to further expand the Age Friendly Business Recognition programme for County Wicklow businesses in the retail and hospitality sectors.

TOWN TEAMS

Town Teams have been established in Bray, Arklow, Greystones and Wicklow .A key objective of the Town Team initiative is to encourage more collaboration, communication and cooperation between the Local Authority, business and the wider community and to develop one voice from one team for each town.

Towns Matter consultants have completed town centre health checks for Wicklow and Arklow and will present the final report and recommendations to each of the towns in January 2018.

Town Teams have made applications for LEADER funding for a variety of projects under the sub headings of Rural Tourism, Enterprise Development and Rural Towns.

An application has been made to the Department of Justice for CCTV for Arklow. It is proposed to submit a similar application in respect of Wicklow Town in 2018.

Wicklow County Council is working with the Town Teams to develop one or more digital hubs within the County in 2018.

Town Teams will be established in Rathdrum and Blessington in 2018.

Web Portal Project

The web-portal project is at the final stage of development and testing. When completed the Web Portal will play a key role in communicating the new ‘Wicklow’ brand which encapsulates what Wicklow has to offer across multiple dimensions: start and grow a business, live and work, visit and stay. It is anticipated that the new portal will be launched toward the end of January 2018

TOURISM

Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work plan 2017-2022:

Following a tendering process Wicklow County Council appointed ‘Bluesail Consulting Ltd.’ to draft a County Wicklow Tourism Strategy in November, 2017.

The overall vision is to make Wicklow the number one choice for visitors seeking an idyllic escape that harmonises a wide range of outdoor pursuits in Wicklow’s world class natural arena, while driving job creation.

Blue Sail has carried out some initial analysis. In 2016 Wicklow welcomed 329,000 domestic visitors, they stayed for an average of 3.1 nights and spent €71 million. There has been very strong growth in numbers of domestic visitors coming to Wicklow in recent years

Also in 2016 Wicklow welcomed 272,000 overseas visitors who spent €86 million in the County. Wicklow has 3% of Ireland’s visitor accommodation but only 2% of income from visitor accommodation. A workshop will be held in mid February with representatives of Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Tourism Strategy Group and Wicklow County Tourism to present and test recommendations prior to the roll out of the tourism strategy.

Other Tourism Activity

Following the visit to China in November by representatives of Wicklow County Council and Wicklow County Tourism a delegation from Hainan University visited Wicklow on 13th December. The group visited Powerscourt Estate, Glendalough and Wicklow Gaol. They also visited Wicklow County Campus Rathnew where they met the Leas

December 2017



Cathaoirleach and received presentations on the topics of Tourism, the Wicklow Film Commission and Wicklow County Campus. They were joined by the Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive for dinner and traditional music at Wicklow Brewery.

Hainan University is an International Education Partner of the DIT School of Hospitality, Management and Tourism. Wicklow County Council and Wicklow County Tourism are working with DIT and Hainan University to strengthen this relationship through supporting internships and work experience for Hainan University Students within the County. In anticipation of direct flights from China commencing in 2018, Wicklow is positioning itself as the ideal location for visitors to base themselves while visiting Ireland. . Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Tourism will be participating in the 2018 EU China Lightbridge Project aimed at attracting increased visitor numbers from China though developing a better understanding of visitor needs.

MARITIME

The Maritime Business Development Group met on 30th November and received presentations on aquaculture from Stephen Kavanagh of Marine Health Foods and from Kate Dempsey of the Irish Seed Mussel Company (winner of the County Wicklow Best Young Entrepreneur). Both Stephen and Kate confirmed that there are “endless opportunities” for the development of aquaculture along Wicklow’s coastline, in a sustainable way

A presentation was also delivered by Jerry Barnes of McCabe Durney Barnes on the opportunities for offshore wind energy. Planning consent exists for up to 400 turbines capable of powering up to 800,000 homes annually. The Codling Bank Windfarm Project was developed with a view to exporting energy to the UK this project has not progressed due to failure to reach agreement on tariffs.

Wicklow County Council has made a submission to the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources seeking to be included as a stakeholder given the likely impacts/ opportunities arising out of these projects.

Next Steps for the Maritime Business Development Group

The development of a maritime strategy which will include an audit of marine assets, and an audit of land available in the vicinity of the commercial harbours and a plan to maximise opportunities arising out of tourism, wind energy and aquaculture.

- maximise opportunities arising out of tourism, wind energy and aquaculture.
- How best to maximise the opportunity presented by offshore wind energy developments; The ESB is seeking expressions of interest for the provision of renewable energy marine services related to offshore wind farms. ESB plans to develop or acquire the offshore wind farms commencing in 2018. The location of these initial offshore wind farms is expected to be in the Irish sea. This is very significant for County Wicklow and we need to ascertain how to best maximise the benefit of such activity.
- Investigation into the development of an aquaculture cluster in County Wicklow

3. 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
	2017	2018	2018
Grants Approved (number/ value)			
- Measure 1	- 25/€520,084.90	- Meet Demand	
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	17/€27,664.03	- 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
	2017	2018	2018
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers	75	75	-
Management Development Programme Participant numbers (commences September)	21	18	-
Business Skills Training Courses Participant Numbers	217	200	
Business IT Training Courses Participant numbers	163	150	
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	
Seminars participant numbers	366	400	
METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2017	2018	2018
Number of new clients added to database *criteria has been amended for this metric	590	450*	
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings	363	350	
Businesses assigned a Mentor	79 *includes once off SECC Initiative	60	
Businesses assigned a MFI pre-application mentor	9	10	
Businesses assigned a MFI post-approval mentor	7	10	

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
		2017/2018	2018/2019
Academic Year	2017/2018	2018/2019	Year to Date
No. of Senior Cycle Secondary Student Participants	1,302	1,200	Figures available in Sept 2018

December 2017 Activities

- 5th December: Network of Entrepreneurial Women meeting in the Glenview Hotel
- 5th December: Driving Traffic to your Website: SEO Intermediate Level took place at Wicklow County Campus.
- 6th December: Bookkeeping using Excel training course took place at Wicklow County Campus.
- 12th December: IBYE County Final & Awards held in Wicklow Brewery. Winner of Wicklow's Best Young Entrepreneur announced (Kate Dempsey, Irish Mussel Seed Company, Arklow, Kate also won Best idea category). Maurice Sheehy, Fleet of Wicklow won the best Startup category and Michael Noble of Noble Solutions won the Best established business category
- 14th December: Presentation of Certificates and Networking event in the Glenview Hotel attended by Owner Managers who completed the Management Development Programme in 2017 (receiving certificates) and participants on the current programme.
- 19th December: Accessing Finance for Your Business Training took place at Wicklow County Campus.

4. Planning and Development

Forward Planning:

Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan 2018

The public display period for the plan ended on 19th December. Work has commenced on the preparation of the Chief Executive's report for consideration by the Members.

Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan 2018

The Chief Executive's report issued during November and will be considered by the Members at the January Council Meeting.

Heritage:

Applications for funding have been invited from owners of Protected Structures and structures within Architectural Conservation Areas under the:

- Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2018
- Structures at Risk Fund (SRF) 2018

months so far during 2017, have seen an increase in application numbers compared to last year.

Decisions issued in respect of 105 applications in November, being:

Advertisements have been placed in local media and on the Council website. The closing date for receipt of applications is 31st January 2018

Planning Applications:

A total of 108 applications were received during November, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	32
Housing Developments	6
Agricultural Structures	8
Commercial	16
Other Developments	45
Total	108

To the end of November 2017, a total of 1,424 applications were received, compared to 1,324 applications for the same period in 2016. This represents a 7% increase from the same period last year, With the exception of January this year, all

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	3
Individual Houses	27
Other Developments	75
Total	105

December 2017



In relation to decisions issued to date in comparison to 2016, the details are as follows:

	31/10/2017	31/10/2016
Total Number of decisions issued	968	888
Total Number of decisions to grant	793	691
% grant rate	82%	78%

Planning Enforcement:

Details of activity during October:

- 11 New files were opened
- 21 Advisory letters issued
- 19 Warning Letters issued
- 6 Enforcement Notices served
- 0 Files was referred for legal action
- 12 Files have been closed

16 court hearings were held in November. Of the cases that concluded, the Council won all of these cases.

Derelict Sites:

4 inspections or statutory notices issued during November.

5. Water and Environmental Services

Water Safety

Congratulations to Ciara Kelly, from the Poseidon Lifesaving Club who won a bronze medal in the National Lifesaving Championship in Leeds, England, in the Line Throw event. Ciara represented Team Ireland who competed against regions from all over the UK in the National Championship recently. Ciara worked as a Wicklow County Council Lifeguard on Bray beach for the 2017 bathing season."

Private Supplies - Group Water & Wastewater Schemes

Group Water Schemes

A total of €91,330.50 was paid out in November to six group water schemes under various measures of the Rural Water Multi-Annual Programme 2016-2018. Works carried out were in the areas of rural development, network upgrade and environmental and public health compliance.

Private Well Grants

Well Grants Received Nov 2017	Well Grants Processed November 2017	Cumulative Applications Received 2017	Cumulative Grants paid 2017
21	21	179	€262,403

Waste Management Section – November 2017

No. of Complaints Opened	191
No of Litter Fines Issued	28
No. of Waste Management Files Open	2

No. of Warning Letters Issued	7	
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	3	
No. of Burning Applications Granted	5	
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	15	
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	3	
No. of Cases brought to Court under Litter Pollution Act	0	
No. of Cases brought to Court under the Waste Management Act	5	
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	175	
Income from Waste Management Cases Settled outside of court		
WM 41/2017 waste dumped on Stable Lane, Bray	€150.00	
WM 106/2017 waste dumped at Boringer Road, Arklow	€150.00	
WM 24/2017 waste dumped and set alight at Monastery, Enniskerry	€500.00	
WM 43/2017 waste dumped on roadside at Ballyshane, Aughrim	€450.00	
WM 74/2017 waste dumped Bray/Greystones Road	€500.00	
	€ 1,750.00	
	Fine	Costs
Income from Waste Management Cases Settled in Court		
WM 107/2016 portion of waste dumped at Charlesland	€150.00	€516.10
Income from Litter Fines	€3,250.00	
Income from Litter Fine Court Cases	€494.82	

Environmental Awareness

A seminar on marine litter for transition year students was held in the Arklow Bay Hotel on November the 7th. 180 students from the town of Arklow attended to hear expert speakers on marine litter, the PURE project and Coastcare. The seminar was funded through the anti-dumping initiative. All students undertook beach clean ups on local beaches including Enereilly, Clogga and South Beach prior to attending the seminar.

European Week for Waste Reduction was marked through a number of events in the county. A seminar for Tidy Towns was hosted by Newtownmountkennedy Tidy Towns on Saturday

the 25th of November. The Greystones and Arklow libraries hosted waste prevention talks one on Greening your wardrobe in Arklow and one on upcycling furniture in Greystones to mark the week. Presentation College in Bray inspired by a visit to the Rediscovery held an open forum during the week to redesign their school using the sustainable development goals using Minecraft to plan changes to the school and grounds. A call out was made for businesses working in the Repair sector to register for a new website called www.repairmystuff.ie which is being developed through the Local Authority Prevention network with several local authorities to list businesses offering a range of repair services at local level.

December 2017



Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics November 2017

	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carenew	Tinahely	TOTAL
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		1		1							2
Fire Domestic		3	1	1	2						7
Road Traffic Collision	1	2		1	2	1	1			2	10
One Station Mobilised											
Fire Small/bin/skip	11	4	1	2		2					20
Fire Chimney	4		2	1			1	1	1	1	11
Fire Alarm Activation	4	3				1					8
Fire unknown	3		1								4
Fire Car	2			1		1					4
Ambulance Assist	1	1	1								3
Alarm Carbon Monoxide	2										2
Make Scene Safe	1	1									2
Oil Spill									1		1
Fire, Smoke Issuing				1							1
False Alarm, Good Intent			1								1
Fire Hay/Barn						1					1
Fire Gorse		1									1
	29	16	7	8	4	6	2	1	2	3	78

Sample Serious Incidents (November 2017)

06/11/17	Road Traffic Collision	Three Trouts Bridge, Greystones
	2 cars and a minibus, 1 person trapped	
	Crews: Greystones, Bray	
13/11/17	Road Traffic Collision	N11, Junction 11, Northbound
	6 cars, one person trapped	
	Crews: Greystones, Bray	
20/11/17	Road Traffic Collision	M11, Junction 21, Southbound
	1 car, 1 person trapped, car on roof	
	Crews: Arklow, Gorey (WX)	
22/11/17	Road Traffic Collision	Hempstown
	Car on roof, one occupant	
	Crews: Blessington, Naas (KE)	
23/11/17	Fire Domestic	Willow Grove, Ticknock
	Cooker on fire	
	Crews: Arklow and Wicklow	

December 2017



27/11/17 Fire Domestic persons reported near Lynams, Laragh
House destroyed, no casualties
Crews: Greystones, Rathdrum

Incidents mobilised outside county Wicklow (November 2017):

- 06/11/17 RTC Castledermot Baltinglass Crew
- 08/11/17 Fire Domestic Kilmeade Blessington Crew
- 15/11/17 Small fire Colbinstown Dunlavin Crew
- 27/11/17 RTC Sallins Blessington Crew

Fire Prevention Statistics November 2017

Application type	Received	Requested additional information	Validate BCMS /liaise with Building Control	Inspection of works	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	12	3			11
Regularisation Certificates		2			
Visual inspection of works				1	
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice	1		2		5
General query			3		
Disability Access Certificates	13	1			10

Licensing	Received, acknowledged	Inspected	Requested further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District	7	1	4	4	
Circuit	4		5	4	1

General

Meeting with consultants 4
Follow up inspections 1
General 'fire prevention' queries 4

Pollution Control

The laboratory and pollution control team continue to monitor water supplies, water quality and emissions in the environment to protect public health and environment.

December 2017

Licensed Discharges Qtr 4 2017

Section 16

- 75 Section 16 FOG discharge licences issued (via IW)
- 1 Section 16 Industrial discharge to foul reviewed (Servier Arklow)

Section 4 Discharge Licenses 1 Notice of non-compliance issues (Total for 2017= 25)

Environmental Planning Reports Qtr 4 2017

30 planning applications assessed (Total for 2017 = 130).

Pollution Response & Investigation

Water Pollution

Pollution Response & Investigation (Total for 2017 = 59)

Noise Pollution

Zero for 4th QRT (Total for 2017 = 130)

Air Pollution

1 Air pollution ((Total for 2017 = 5)

Drinking Water Supplies Investigation (Non-Scheduled)

Public Supplies

- 10 Investigative samples (Total for 2017 = 21)
- Private
- 10 Investigative samples
- 5 boil water notices lifted
- 2 boil water notices issued

WFD Sampling (Scheduled)

3 rounds completed (Total for 2017 = 27)

Septic Tanks

3 Non-Compliance Notices lifted, remedial works completed to satisfaction.

Solvents

1 Dry Cleaners registered in 4th QRT (Total of 14 Certificates issued to Vehicle Re-finishers and 5 Certificates issued to Dry Cleaners)

Water Framework Directive

River Basin Management Plans (2018-2021) are due to be published in December.

Public engagement process is now complete and submissions are under consideration for inclusion in the plan.

There are 8 River catchments recommended for action in Wicklow:

Slaney

Derreen and Douglas (Kiltegan)

Derry-Coolboy-Rosnastraw

Ow (Forestry)

Potters and Three Mile Water

Dargle and Carrickmines

Liffey & Kings pH (Wicklow) 1

Avonmore/Avonbeg pH (Wicklow) 2

Further details on Recommended areas for action and reason for selection are available from Environment section, Wicklow Co Council.

ENERGY MONITORING & REPORTING – QTR 4 2017

- **All public bodies are expected to achieve a target of 33% reduction in energy usage from baseline figures in 2009 to 2020**
- Analysis of key parameters in the Monitoring and Reporting System, including improving activity metrics, Irish Water data removal and robust data collection procedures have been analysed in conjunction with the Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency (CKEA). This included assistance in completing gap to target analysis & investment strategies for 2018 – 2020 to ensure targets are met
- Information has also been sought for all buildings in Council ownership or usage with a view to energy efficiency measures that may be taken and also details of usable floor areas. This latter with a view to improving the activity metrics reported by Wicklow County Council to demonstrate our energy use more accurately.
- The awareness campaign run by the Energy Team has done daily emails to all staff with tips for improved energy efficiency at home and at work since September and will continue with these on a weekly basis from January
- November-December – Audits on the three larger Recycling Centres were carried out by CKEA and we are awaiting the report on these and recommendations for energy efficiencies.

Proposed Measures for 2018- A comprehensive energy audit for larger facilities and energy users, where all potential energy savings measures will be

December 2017

identified, and life cycle cost analysis will be completed during the next 12-18 months. 38 buildings and facilities were identified and the audits of the first 10 of these will begin in early February. This would include full certification of all public building that require DEC/BER

CLIMATE CHANGE 2017

One of the important aspects of Climate Change Adaptation planning will be the necessity to develop two-way communications with local groups and communities.

With this in mind a meeting was held in early December of the County Wicklow PPN with a view to explore the possibilities for setting up a Co Wicklow Environmental Network. All groups with an environmental focus (i.e. ecological protection/environmental sustainability) were welcome to attend.

Wicklow County Council gave a presentation on the current status of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plans and encouraged the meeting to work towards forming a comprehensive Environmental Group.

The meeting agreed to develop an environmental network that can be supported by Co Wicklow PPN. Any group with an interest in Environmental issues can participate. The focus of the group will be on two-way information to inform community groups with support from the PPN while giving the opportunity for communities to communicate and engage on environmental issues relating to Climate Change.

Harbours & Ports

November – 3 Wicklow Port Projects- (paving and strengthening works and repairs to quay walls, East Pier and Quays) substantially completed.

Claim submitted to the Dept of Agriculture, Food and Marine on 17th November for these projects.

December – Payment of grant due in the sum of €286,296.30 from DAFM. New Marine Officer commenced.

6. Transportation & Roads Infrastructure

TII	2017 allocation	Draw down at 8.12.17
National Roads		
Improvement		
N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment Scheme	€260,000	€123,951
HD28 NS Pavement Renewals 2017 LA Eng Support	€350,500	€343,318
<i>N81 Baltinglass Resurfacing</i>	€379,865	€297,551
Maintenance		
NS Ordinary Maintenance 2017 17/14524	€175,452	€175,452
NS Winter Maintenance 2017 17/14529	€104,187	€104,187
Both NP & NS		
Support (Maintenance) 2017 17/14603	€25,200	€23,489
Support (Winter Maintenance) 2017 17/14591		
<i>NP Motorway MMarC Lighting 17/16212</i>	€157,115	€157,115
<i>NS Route Lighting 17/16211</i>	€19,143	€19,143
<i>Local Authority Support (Improvement) 17/14720</i>	€125,000	€125,000

NTA		
Strand Road Cycle, Bray	€298,000	€249,425
Vale Rd Wexford Rd /Main St Arklow	€95,000	€87,277
<i>Arklow –Shillelagh Cycle Route</i>	€50,000	€34,496
<i>Wicklow Town Port access route</i>	€20,000	€17,224
<i>Marine Road Cycle Route</i>	€50,000	€49,911
<i>Fitzwilliam Square Wicklow</i>	€10,000	€7,756
<i>Bray Dart Interchange</i>	€20,000	€17,224
Dept of Transport Tourism & Sport		
Non National Road		
Road improvement Length: 64.5km	€3,466,297	€3,466,297
Road Maintenance Length: 56.4km	€952,823	€952,823
Discretionary Grant	€1,827,616	€1,827,616
Bridge Rehabilitation Works	€204,000	€204,000
Safety Improvement Works	€310,000	€310,000
<i>Local Improvement Scheme</i>	€310,000	€310,000
<i>Speed Limits</i>	€100,425	€100,425

Public Lighting - List of faults per Municipal District currently outstanding

ALL OUTSTANDING FAULTS

Row Labels	ARKLOW	BALTINGLASS	BRAY	GREYSTONES	WICKLOW	Total
Access Issues (Attended)	4		3	4	6	17
Cable Fault (Attend)			3	2	1	6
ESB Requ (Attended)	15		19	14	13	61
Knock Down (Attended)	1					1
Materials required	9		21	7	10	47
No Supply	1	1	1	2		5
On Hold	8		1	10	2	21
Submitted	77	45	119	52	105	398
TMR	2	1	6	4	8	21
Grand Total	117	47	173	95	145	577

ALL FAULTS THAT ARE SOX LIGHTS

Row Labels	ARKLOW	BALTINGLASS	BRAY	GREYSTONES	WICKLOW	Total
Access Issues (Attended)	4		1	2	2	9
Cable Fault (Attended)			2	2	1	5

December 2017



<i>ESB Requ (Attended)</i>	13		11	11	11	46
<i>Materials required</i>	3		18	4		25
<i>No Supply</i>	1	1		2		4
<i>On Hold</i>	4			4	2	10
<i>Submitted</i>	34	24	58	22	52	190
<i>TMR</i>	1	1	3		4	9
<i>Grand Total</i>	60	26	93	47	72	298

Parking Income by Municipal District - Jan - Dec 2017	€
Income Florence Road Carpark Bray	230,526
Income Herbert Road Carpark Bray	133,693
Income North Beach Car Park - Strand Road Bray	40,992
Income Restricted Parking Bray	473,951
Income Parking Fines Bray	39,029
Income Residential/Special Parking Discs Bray	19,274
Bray Municipal District	937,464
Income Greystones Pay Parking Scheme	417,994
Greystones Municipal District	417,994
Income Parking Charges Wicklow	345,178
Income Residential Parking Disk Wicklow	5,930
Income Traffic Fines Wicklow	58,502
Wicklow Municipal District	409,611
Income Parking Traffic Fines Arklow	38,790
Income Pay Parking Fees And Permits Arklow	232,482
Arklow Municipal District	271,272
Wicklow County Council	2,036,341

Winter Maintenance

The 2017/2018 winter maintenance programme continued during November with 141 call outs made and with approximately 730 tonnes of salt used over 9 individual gritting routes across the county. Salt stocks were also replenished during the last week of the month with deliveries made to the depots at Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew and Roundwood. Further salt deliveries are set to continue during December 2017.

Winter Service Plan 2017/2018

- Plan operational from 16th October 2017 to 30th April 2018
- Wicklow County Council uses the Road DSS Manager system to assist in predicting appropriate response to weather events involving ice/snow.
- The Road DSS system comprises a software package and weather stations located at various locations along the road network. Met Eireann provide forecasts as to likely weather conditions.

December 2017



- Wicklow County Council Duty Engineers monitor the forecasts provided on the Road DSS system each day for the duration of the winter service period.
- A decision is made by the Duty Engineer as to whether or not to grit based on the forecast provided. Some or all of the following routes are treated according to the forecast weather conditions.

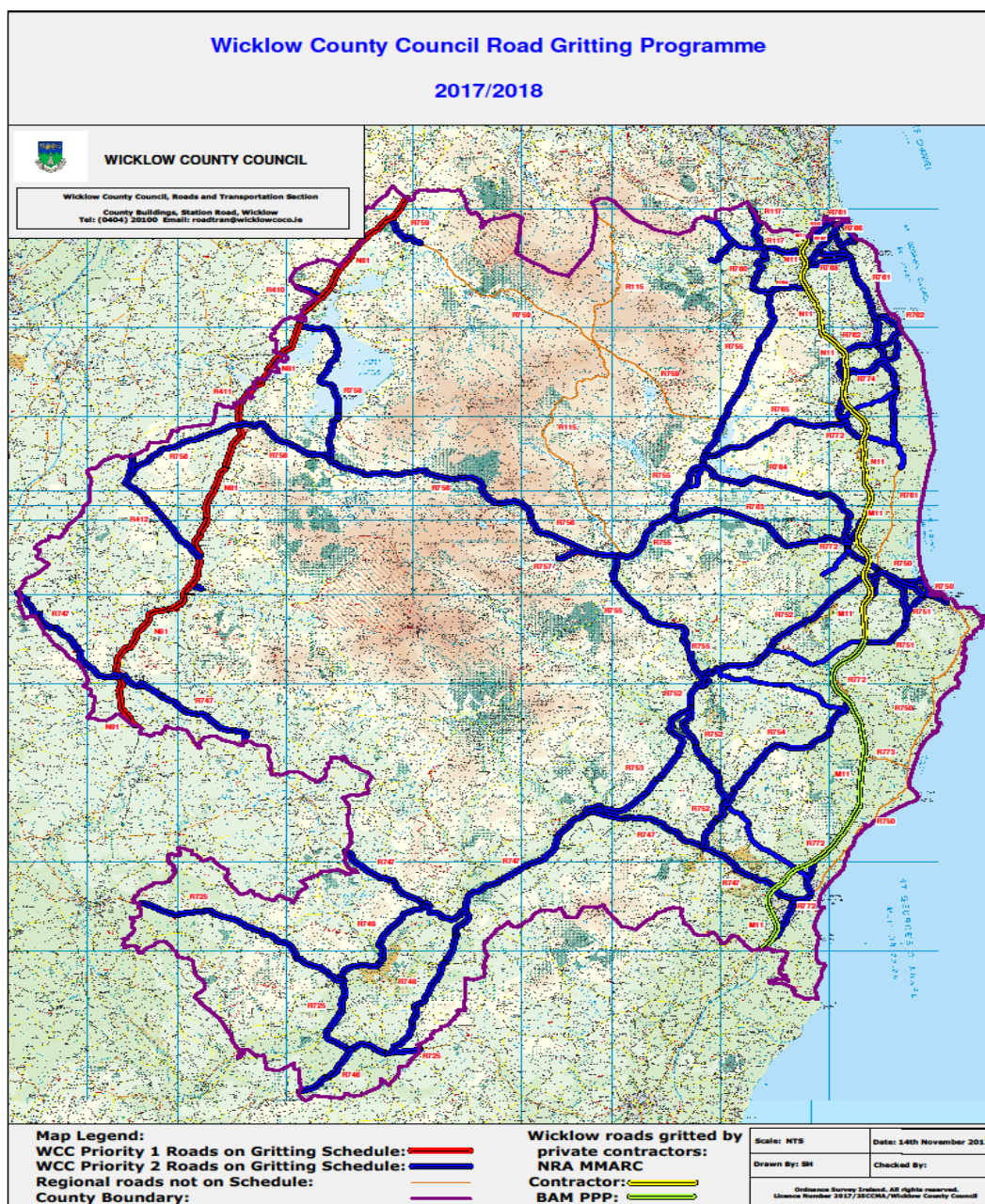
Priorities

- Priority 1 N81

- Priority 2 All other roads shown on the Winter Service Route Map
- Priority 3 Other routes as required and subject to the availability of resources.

Salt/grit Stockpiles

- In addition to gritting carried out by Wicklow County Council personnel, salt/grit stockpiles are provided at various locations around the county. These are available for localised treatment of bends, hills etc.



Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. Recruitment

Recruitment Staff Numbers

	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
Head Count	844	835	824

2. Access to Information

No. of FOI requests

November – 12

Jan to Nov 2017 – 132

No. of Ombudsman Requests

November – 3

Jan to Nov 2017 – 10

3. Register of Electors

Following completion of the Draft Register, there were 100,027 electors in the system. 4,911 letters issued to those people that the fieldworkers were unsuccessful in contacting either through having moved out of the county or being unable to establish if they were still resident.

Out of the 4,911 letters issued to constituents, 65% - 70% of these have been returned as still resident at that address and have been keyed into the system accordingly. 600 e-mails were received, responded to and auctioned. Approximately 1,200 letters have been returned marked as "gone away" or "not known at this address". A further batch of letters will be sent to give these voters one last opportunity to either remain on the register in Wicklow or to provide a new address elsewhere for forwarding onto other local authorities. It is anticipated that in the region of 400 replies will be received.

The Claims Court with the County Registrar, Mary Delahunty took place on 12th December.

The compiling of the Postal and Special Voters list is ongoing whereby electors registered in nursing homes, army personnel, disabled voters living at home, postal voters by circumstance of occupation and the diplomatic service are being contacted to

see if they wish to remain on or be removed from this list.

A complete re-run of the draft register will take place in January 2018.

4. Press Releases

November – 14 Press Releases

5. I.C.T. Report

IT Helpdesk

Workflow analysis of IT Helpdesk function has been used to develop a working model for customer care & case management.

- Monthly tickets handled have now reached 450 items
- Asset Management Module is now being prepared

Customer Relations Management (CRM)

- Workflow analysis in Environmental Services area has been used to develop a proof of concept in the use of Microsoft Dynamics.
- This is expected to be trialled in a live environment in January 2018

Managed Print Service (MPS)

- Renewal of MPS is progressing. Vendor neutral audit of print requirement complete and request for tenders is to be published this month. Closing date is early December with roll-out of new devices expected in January.
- Tender evaluation is complete and project roll-out plan nearing completion.

Unified Communications

- Voice over IP phone solution has been extended to main Council sites across county Wicklow. This includes Bray MD, Greystones MD, Arklow MD.

CORE Network

- Procurement exercise for network hardware refresh is now complete and LAN upgrade is expected to be implemented in Late January/Early February

December 2017



Data Collection Systems

- Data collection systems using mobile devices have been used for the Register of Electors.
- Other trials including in Housing and Roads departments are underway.
- Housing Condition Survey being finalised while the first roads project is now live.

6. Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2017							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to date	Actual income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to date	
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
A - Housing and Building	15,310,047	17,165,654	89	19,248,839	21,679,785	89	-3,938,792
B - Road Transport & Safety	16,709,615	18,159,414	92	9,487,303	10,499,393	90	7,222,312
C - Water Services	4,920,000	6,327,118	78	5,793,212	7,449,560	78	-873,212
D - Development Management	7,244,259	9,293,470	78	3,594,581	4,739,275	76	3,649,678
E - Environmental Services	9,268,561	10,110,290	92	1,439,420	1,721,900	84	7,829,141
F - Recreation and Amenity	5,445,266	6,108,501	89	504,771	464,910	109	4,940,495
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,040,204	1,329,599	78	578,622	717,428	81	461,582
H - Miscellaneous Services	11,287,867	11,551,758	98	7,347,800	6,945,323	106	3,940,067
J - Central Management Charges	13,785,447	15,165,742	91	945,035	1,209,411	78	12,840,412
LG - Local Government Fund				10,961,970	11,958,514	92	-10,961,970
PL - Pension Levy				-	-		0
RA - Commercial Rates				25,433,743	27,976,047	91	-25,433,743
	85,011,266	95,211,546	89	(85,335,296)	(95,361,546)	89	-324,030

7. 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 November 2017 to 31st November 2017.

8. Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2017				
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2017	Actual Expenditure	Actual income	Closing Balance at 31/10/2017
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	15,538,901	14,840,375	(3,574,855)	26,804,421
Road Transport & Safety	-33,175,607	3,530,930	(5,728,764)	-35,373,441
Water Services	-7,079,808	318,644	(1,640,195)	-8,401,359
Development Management	-8,973,752	650,382	(826,622)	-9,149,992
Environmental Services	877,533	14,947,176	(15,038,177)	786,532
Recreation and Amenity	2,162,143	2,062,725	(3,133,821)	1,091,047
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-483,714	419,574	(291,464)	-355,604
Miscellaneous Services	-11,596,917	2,599,567	(3,020,042)	-12,017,392
	-42,731,221	39,369,373	(33,253,940)	-36,615,788

9. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

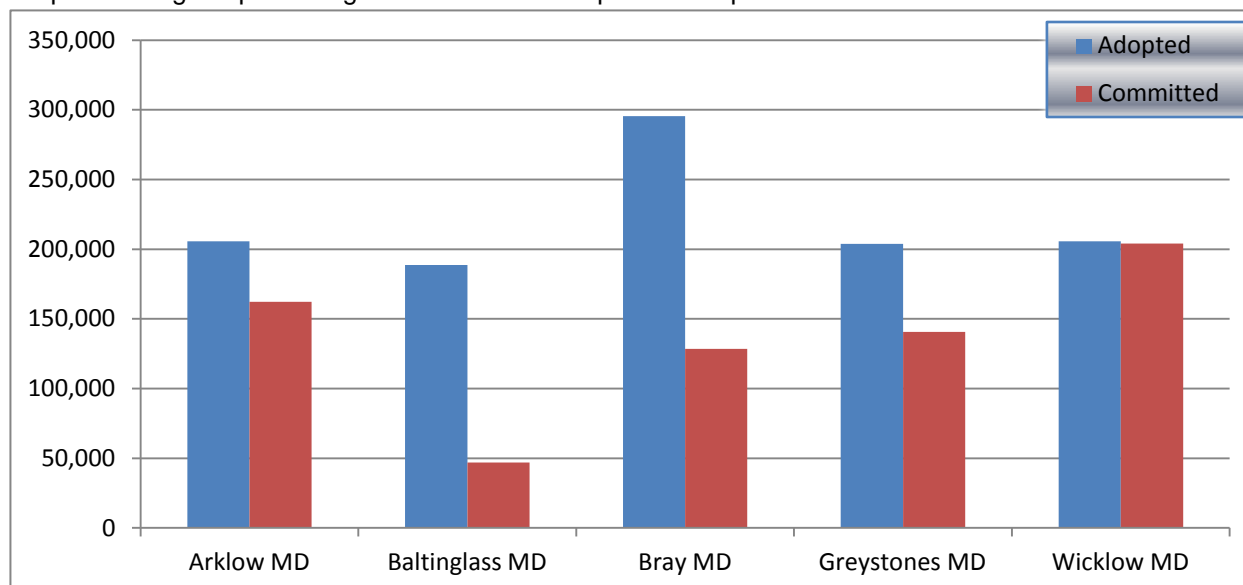
SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30th NOVEMBER 2017									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2017	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/10/2017	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	8,307,373	27,742,651		(2,000)	36,052,025	22,481,157	13,570,868		62%
Rents & Annuities	1,407,659	12,714,479		(644)	14,121,494	12,548,093	1,573,401		89%
Housing Loans	398,441	1,146,391			1,544,832	1,123,083	421,749		73%

N.B.
 Vacancy Property Adjustments are accounted for as part of year end procedure.
 Specific doubtful arrears = (i) Vacancy applications pending/criteria not met & (ii) Accounts in examinership/receivership/liquidation and no communication and are accounted for as part of year end procedure.

10. General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2017

Adopted Estimate 2017 €1,099,500.

Graph outlining adopted budget and committed expenditure up to 30th November 2017.



Municipal District	C/F from 2016	Adopted	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	(30,746)	205,750	162,211	43,539
Baltinglass MD	(20,339)	188,750	46,830	141,920
Bray MD	(126,929)	295,500	128,443	167,057
Greystones MD	(15,205)	203,750	140,621	63,129
Wicklow MD	(87,198)	205,750	203,991	1,759
Total	(280,417)	1,099,500	682,096	417,404

December 2017

