

January 2018



# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Report



W I C K L O W

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



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## **This Month:**

***2018 Breakfast Briefing and Workshop held in Druids Glen Hotel & Golf Course and attended by key County Wicklow Business Stakeholders etc.***

***Arklow Town awarded €40,000 funding for the installation of CCTV at 11 locations in the town***

***Wicklow County Council voted in favour of disposing the Florentine Centre Site to Navybrook for development***



## 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)	487 as at 01/01/2018
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	444
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	7
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	9

### 2. Allocation of Social Housing

WCC Social Housing	71
Approved Housing Bodies	16

### 3. Social Housing Stock

- > 4,323 tenancies occupied
- > Casual Vacancies/Relets 34
- > Total weekly rental accrual €236,624 (€12.5m per annum)
- > Minimum rent €24 pw - Maximum rent €275 pw
- > Arrears €989,389

### 4. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

**12 schemes approved €35,500,000**

Scheme	Units	Current status	
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	On site	
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	On site	
Kilbride Lane, Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	Tender out 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017	
Farrankelly, Greystones (Phase 2)	23	Part 8 September 2017	
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	On site	
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	Tender Docs being prepared	
Ard Na Mara, Kilcoole	2	Tender Docs being prepared	
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Tender Docs being prepared	
Old Library, Arklow	7	Tender being evaluated	
Oak Drive Blessington	1	Stage 1 approval received	
10 Castle Villas	1	Stage 1 approval received	
<b>Further schemes to commence in 2018</b>			
Kilbride Lane, Bray	March	42	Tender being evaluated
Sugarloaf, Kilmacanogue,	August	20	Consultant appointed to prepare tender docs
FCA Hall	September	8	Tender documents being prepared
Delany Park Phase 2 Arklow	October	26	Part 8 February meeting
Delany Park Phase 3 Arklow	October	21	Part 8 February meeting
Farrenkelly Greystones	November	24	Part 8 January meeting
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141</b>		

# January 2018



## 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.

**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.

### Parknasilloge, Enniskerry - Remediation

Remediation works completed. Legal proceedings ongoing.

### Hillview, Wicklow - Remediation

*Contract re. roofing to 11 blocks (44 houses) completed and now watertight. Extra works on above contract for re roofing of apartment blocks 19 and 20 (4 apartments) now started. Bridge works F Types 30% complete. Refurbishment works to B Types 90% complete. Ceiling repairs to B and C types 20% complete.*

### Oldcourt Energy Efficiency Scheme

Work was completed on 27 houses to the end of December 2017 with tranche 4 having started this month for an additional 9 houses with a completion date of the second week in March. The remainder of the houses – 33 – will be completed in phases during 2018.

## 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
- > 34 Open Applications to value of €558,345

Housing Assistance for Order People	(8) € 40,000
Mobility Aid Grants	(7) € 32,843
Housing Adaptation Grants	(19) €485,000

### Approved

- > 62 Mobility Aid Grants €328,643
- > 24 Housing Adaption Grants €356,700
- > 51 Housing Aid for Older People €285,134

### 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: 31/12/2017

232 individuals (163 male and 69 female)

238 Families

**470 in total**

*299 Adults and 421 dependent children.*

### No in emergency accommodation

#### Private Providers:

*4 Individuals – 1 male 1 female.*

*8 Families - 15 adults – 32 children.*

### Emergency Accommodation – Council Houses

#### **Families – 5**

(Adults - 7 Children - 21)

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.

## 11. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

The negotiated process in relation to Co. Wicklow's two SICAP Lots is ongoing. The LCDC has contracted two separate consultants to work with the two Partnerships involved – Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership. *With support from the consultants, both Partnerships will redraft new tender documents over the next five weeks. Final submission date is 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.*

## 12. Public Participation Network (PPN):

The development of Public Participation Networks (PPNs) by local authorities across the country has led to many LA's now utilising their local PPN as its first port of call to publicise news, events, public notifications.

In light of this, Co. Wicklow PPN would like to invite and encourage all staff in Wicklow County Council to contact them directly if they have any information which they feel should be shared with, or would be of benefit to, the communities of Wicklow. This may also include information about community

events/groups which they are involved with outside of work.

Co. Wicklow PPN is becoming recognised as a beneficial channel for the distribution of information generally. It produces and circulates a monthly E-bulletin full of information on events, funding opportunities, community plans, training events and public consultations to its 180 member groups (some of which are networks in their own right). Wicklow PPN also has a popular Facebook Page. A recent post about a new community initiative for older people reached 2,504 people, received 204 likes/reactions and 22 shares.

If staff are involved with community groups, either through their work with Wicklow County Council or in a personal capacity outside of work, please also suggest to the group to join the PPN. It's free! To get in touch please email them at [countywicklowppn@gmail.com](mailto:countywicklowppn@gmail.com) or for more information see [www.countywicklowppn.ie](http://www.countywicklowppn.ie). Helen Howes is the County Wicklow PPN resource worker. Her number is 087 1895145.

## 13. Wicklow Library Service

### End of year statistics 2017

- Issues (items borrowed) reached a record high of 574,657 in 2017, compared with 468,373 in 2016 (22.7% increase).
- Library visits increased to 583,000, compared with 508,000 in 2016 (14.7% increase)
- There was 71,425 public internet and wi-fi sessions in Wicklow County Council's libraries in 2017, compared with 57,969 in 2016 (23.2% increase)
- The above increases are partly attributable to the restoration of full opening hours in Bray, Blessington and Greystones along with the benefit of having the new Arklow library open for the full calendar year.
- Wicklow library members borrowed 4.04 items per head, compared with a national average of 3.5



## **Wicklow Town Library & County Archives**

Tenders were received for a lead architect for the new Wicklow library and county Archives. They are currently being assessed, with an appointment expected during February 2018.

## **Grant Aid**

Grant aid was secured for tagging of stock and provision of state of the art self service machines under the "Right to Read" programme. Technology will be installed before end of January 2018 and the tagging will enable all stock to circulate across the country, as part of the national request service

## **14. Local Sports Partnership**

### **Katie Taylor Bursary 2017**

10 very good candidates were interviewed for the 2017 Katie Taylor Bursary from Wicklow County Council. Emer Kelly of Wicklow Town was the successful applicant. Emer has competed at national and international level in both swimming and Surf Lifesaving. Most recently she has won gold at both European and World championship events, and is now part of the elite athlete programme in University of Limerick.

### **Russborough Park Run**

The first adult park run in Wicklow was in Russborough House, Blessington on 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. This is a free timed 5km run in the grounds of Russborough House that takes place 51 weeks of the year on a Saturday morning at 9:30am and is open to both walkers and runners alike. This project is supported by our activity leaders in the area who are part of the Tús programme with County Wicklow partnership and Healthy Ireland and is managed through the LSP.

### **Operation Transformation**

Three walks were held in Wicklow for Operation Transformation on 13<sup>th</sup> of January. These were in Arklow, Blessington and Bray.

## **Dormant Account Programme with LGFA**

Our Gaelic 4 Teens programme in conjunction with Ladies gaelic football is starting on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January with the successful clubs that have applied.

## **New Website for Wicklow LSP**

Wicklow sports partnership has launched a new website at [www.wicklowlsp.ie](http://www.wicklowlsp.ie) where all events, courses and relevant information will be listed.

## **15. LAG/LEADER:**

- The LAG for LEADER met on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018
- Approved LEADER spending for September and October 2017
- Noted circular 21/18
- Approved two projects presented by CWP that were recommended by the evaluation committee

## **Rural Development Schemes (Other)**

Information meetings are being held for Rural Development Schemes other than LEADER throughout January and February:

31<sup>st</sup> Jan Lawless Hotel Aughrim 7.30 p.m.

6<sup>th</sup> Feb Hollywood Hall 7.30 p.m.

8<sup>th</sup> Feb Glenview Hotel 7.30 p.m.





## 16. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Community)

### LCDC

The LCDC last met on 16<sup>th</sup> 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:

Goal	Actions		
<p>Goal 1: Develop Community Capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build capacity and social capital across all communities</li> <li>- Maximise opportunities for urban regeneration and rural development</li> </ul>	<p>Town &amp; Village 2016/2017</p>	<p>Rathdrum Kilcoole Shillelagh Wicklow Carnew Rathdangan Baltinglass</p>	<p>90% complete Complete 80% complete 90% Complete 90% Complete Complete Project starting – developing business plan 80% complete Project underway Project underway</p>
	<p>Town &amp; Village 2018</p>	<p>Countywide</p>	<p>Information sessions and workshops are being held to animate projects for 2018 31<sup>st</sup> Jan Lawless Hotel 6<sup>th</sup> Feb Hollywood centre 8<sup>th</sup> Feb Glenview Hotel All at 7.30 p.m.</p>
	<p>Outdoor Recreation</p>	<p>Roundwood Wicklow</p>	<p>Under Measure 2 €151,000 funding was announced recently: €76,000 €75,000</p>
<p>Goal 2: Promote active citizenship underpinned by good governance and participation in decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop strong representative fora in the county</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing support for: PPN Comhairle na nÓg Co. Wicklow Older Persons Council Wicklow Disability Access Action Group</p>		
<p>Goal 3: Develop high quality integrated services available to all communities, in particular disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The LCDC will provide the strategic direction for the integration of existing services</li> <li>- The LCDC will provide representation for additional services and resources where gaps are identified or where new issues arise</li> </ul>	<p>Wicklow County Council in partnership with County Wicklow Citizens Information Centre is conducting a consultation process with the families resettled under the Refugee Resettlement Programme. This is the first step in the development of an Integration Strategy for the county.</p> <p>The LCDC in partnership with Wicklow County Council and County Wicklow Partnership are developing a food strategy for the county covering: Food Production and Marketing Food Tourism Food Sustainability</p>		



<p>Goal 4: A vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish a strong social &amp; community enterprise sector in the county</li> </ul>	<p>Consultant appointed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map social enterprise in the county</li> <li>Outline steps to develop the sector</li> <li>Identify supports needed for start-ups and up scaling stages</li> </ul>
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## 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).

#### BRAND

There was a preview of the web-portal and the brand at the Business Breakfast on 26<sup>th</sup> January it is intended to re-launch the brand in tandem with the launch of the new portal, in the coming weeks .

#### 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.

Further information has been submitted in respect of the Ashford Studios planning application

#### 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
  - Demolition of the façade of No.5 Main Street.
- At the Wicklow County Council meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> January the members voted in favour of disposing of





the site to the developer Navybrook. It is anticipated that the contract will be signed in the coming weeks and that development will commence in quarter 2, 2018. The intention is to have the development available for December 2019.

## 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 Town.

Teams have made applications for LEADER funding for a variety of projects.

Arklow Municipal District with input from Arklow Town Team, has been awarded €40,000 funding by the Department of Justice for the installation of CCTV at 11 locations around the Main Street area. The aim of this project is to deter illegal and anti-social behaviour and to make Arklow a safer and more attractive place for shoppers and for businesses.

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. A kick start meeting is due to

be held in Blessington on 30<sup>th</sup> January and in Rathdrum shortly thereafter.

## WEB PORTAL PROJECT

The web-portal project is at the roll out and testing stage. The 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. The web portal was previewed at the business breakfast on 26<sup>th</sup> January and will be formally launched in the coming weeks.

## 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

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.



As part of the EU China Lightbridge Project Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Tourism are working with Powerscourt House to light up Powerscourt House on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. This is the final event of Chinese New Year, known as the Lantern Festival. It is proposed to launch the Mandarin version of the Wicklow brochure at this event which will be attended by members of the Chinese community and the Chinese media.

A group of 20 educationalists from Lower Franconia will be spending a week in County Wicklow as part of an Erasmus programme. In addition to touring Wicklow and Dublin the group will be meeting educationalists in County Wicklow and visiting Wicklow County Campus.

## MARITIME

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 major offshore wind energy projects. The council has appointed consultants to prepare a vision strategy for Bray Harbour and will shortly commence procurement of consultants to prepare an overall 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.

## BREAKFAST BRIEFING

As part of its ongoing commitment to economic development, Wicklow County Council hosted the

2018 Breakfast Briefing and Workshop attended by key County Wicklow business stakeholders. There were over 100 participants representing all sectors of the business community from across the County.

The theme of the event was: “What can Wicklow County Council, State Agencies and Business Leaders do to enhance business opportunities in the county?”

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the participants; he said that it is clear that the business community needs a direct line into the Council as well as access to key decision makers. He encouraged more collaboration, communication and co-operation between the County Council, business and the wider community.

Addressing the delegates the Chief Executive said: *“I believe that County Wicklow’s unique attributes and proximity to the Dublin market, excellent quality of life, human capital, tourism, landscape, agriculture, marine and forestry resource makes it the best location in Ireland for Industry and Enterprise”,* adding that *“the Council looks forward to working in partnership with the Business Community to deliver on the key objectives discussed.”*

The guest speaker at the event was Rachel Doyle, founder of the Arboretum.

The delegates participated in a workshop facilitated by Wicklow County Council management. The explored a number of themes about how best to develop and grow business and innovation in the County.

## 3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2017	2018	2017
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b>			
- 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			



<b>METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers	75	75	75
Management Development Programme Participant numbers (commences September)	21	18	20
Business Skills Training Courses Participant Numbers	217	200	197
Business IT Training Courses Participant numbers	163	150	162
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	5
Seminars participant numbers	366	400	460

<b>METRICS: Business Advice &amp; Mentoring</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Number of new clients added to database *criteria has been amended for this metric	590	450*	590
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings	363	350	364
Businesses assigned a Mentor	79 *includes once off SECC Initiative	60	79 *inc SECC Initiative
Businesses assigned a MFI pre-application mentor	9	10	9
Businesses assigned a MFI post-approval mentor	7	10	7

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

## January 2018 Activities

- *Trading Online Voucher Seminar 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018*
- *Wicklow hosted the Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE) Regional Final (Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow & Kilkenny) in Tinakilly House on 25<sup>th</sup> January.*
  - › *Kate Dempsey, Irish Mussel Seed Company, Arklow won Best Business Idea*
  - › *Maurice Sheehy, Fleet of Wicklow won the best Start Up Category and*
  - › *Eoin Treacy of Glanway Limited, Kilkenny won the Best Established Business category*
- *Start Your Own Business Rathnew, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018*



## 4. Planning and Development

### FORWARD PLANNING:

#### Local Area Plan 2018

The Chief Executive's report on the submissions to the proposed Material Alterations to the plan is with the Members for consideration.

#### Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan 2018

The Chief Executive's report issued to the Members for consideration 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

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

#### Planning Applications:

A total of 120 applications were received during December, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	38
Housing Developments	15
Agricultural Structures	5
Commercial	22
Other Developments	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>

To the end of December 2017, a total of 1,544 applications were received, compared to 1,465 applications for the same period in 2016. This represents the continuous increase in applications received during 2017, compared to 2016.

## 5. Water and Environmental Services

### BLUE FLAGS

4 Blue Flag applications made to An Taisce in December 2017 for the following beaches

- Bray South Promenade
- Greystones South Beach
- Brittas Bay south Beach
- Brittas Bay North Beach

### Arklow and Environs

Decisions issued in respect of 59 applications in December, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	3
Individual Houses	11
Other Developments	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>

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

	31/12/2017	31/12/2016
Total Number of decisions issued	1027	949
Total Number of decisions to grant	839	738
% grant rate	82%	78%

### PLANNING ENFORCEMENT:

Details of activity during December:

- 9 New files were opened
- 7 Advisory letters issued
- 13 Warning Letters issued
- 1 Enforcement Notices served
- 0 Files was referred for legal action
- 1 Files have been closed

4 court hearings were held in December, none of which concluded and are set for further hearings.

#### Derelict Sites:

No inspections were carried out or statutory notices issued during December.



## DANGEROUS SITES

2 Dangerous Site inspections carried out in December

## WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTION – DECEMBER 2017

No. of Complaints Opened	125
No of Litter Fines Issued	38
No. of Waste Management Files Open	6
No. of Warning Letters Issued	6
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	4
No. of Burning Applications Granted	4
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	5
No. of Cases brought to Court under Litter Pollution Act	0
No. of Cases brought to Court under the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	81
Income from Litter Fines	€4,450.00

## HARBOURS AND PORT

In December funding approved under the National Strategy for Angling Development Fund 2017 for access ladders in the sum of €30,801.00 for Arklow, Wicklow and Bray Harbours.

- No certificate application for dry cleaner installation was received for assessment and report.
- 14 certificate applications for vehicle refinisher installations were assessed and reported on in 2017.

## POLLUTION CONTROL

### Licensed Discharges to Waters

- 3 discharge applications were assessed and reported on in 2017.
- 242 samples of licensed discharges to water were analysed in 2017.
- 23 proprietors were compliant with discharge licences in 2017.
- 30 proprietors were non-compliant with discharge licences in 2017 and were required to undertake investigations and improvements

### Solvents

- 6 certificate applications for dry cleaner installations were assessed and reported on in 2017.

### Septic tanks

- 26 septic tank inspections were undertaken in 2017.
- 4 septic tanks were non-compliant in 2017.

### Private Water Supplies

In its role as supervisory authority for private water supply serving a commercial or public activity or population of 50 or more, 142 regulated private water supplies were monitored in 2017.

- 67 samples were taken for analysis in 2017.
- 97.4 % samples were compliant for e.coli.
- 97.7 % samples were compliant for enterococci.
- 88.6 % samples were compliant for coliform bacteria.
- 70.8 % samples were compliant for PH.



- 100 % samples were compliant for Nitrate (135 samples).
- 8 boil water notices were issued to private water supplies in 2017.
- 1 improvement direction was issued to a private water supply in 2017.
- 21 boil water notices were lifted from private water supplies in 2017.
- 19 water suppliers installed treatment/disinfection facilities to improve their private water supplies in 2017.

- 3 water suppliers connected to public mains to improve their water supplies in 2017.

## Water Framework Directive

## National Monitoring Programme

- 636 samples were taken from rivers for analysis in 2017.
- 488 samples were taken from lakes for analysis in 2017.

## FIRE SERVICE

### Operational Fire Statistics December 2017

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baitinglass	Carenew	Tinahely
Callsign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
<b>Two Stations Mobilised</b>											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	2			1		1					
Fire Domestic	12	2	2	2	2			1	1	1	1
Fire Industrial	4			2	1	1					
Road Traffic Collision	31	3	5	6	4	2	2	3	2	2	2
Railway Incident	2	1	1								
Fire Bus / Coach	2	1	1								
<b>One Station Mobilised</b>											
Fire Small/bin/skip	9	6	1	2							
Fire Chimney	6	1	2	2				1			
Fire Alarm Activation	11	3	4	2			2				
Fire Car	6	3	1	2							
Ambulance Assist	8	2	2	1		3					
Alarm Carbon Monoxide	3	1		1		1					
Make Scene Safe	1		1								
False Alarm, Good Intent	2			1	1						
Fire Gorse	3	1		2							
Gas Leak	1			1							
Make scene safe	1		1								
Flooding	1					1					
Electrical	1					1					
<b>Times Stations mobilised</b>	<b>106</b>	24	21	25	8	10	4	5	3	3	3

14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Meeting with Principal Response Agencies in County Buildings chaired by Chief Executive

5<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Hosted meetings of Regional Major Emergency Management Groups





## Sample Serious Incidents (December 2017)

- 01/12/17 Man hit by train in tunnel (tunnel nearest Greystones)  
One man dead.  
Crews from Greystones & Bray assisted with casualty recovery.
- 09/12/17 3 car RTC on the N81 south of Baltinglass.  
Baltinglass crew supported by crews from Carlow removed side of car to remove casualty with neck and back pain.
- 22/12/17 Fire at the vacant Veba factory in Wicklow Town. The incident resulted in multiple calls as a plume of black smoke could be seen throughout the town. A large amount of black plastic was burning in the building but was vented and extinguished with minor damage to the building.  
Crews from Wicklow Town, Arklow and Rathdrum were initially mobilised but the incident was dealt with by Wicklow Town.
- 27/12/17 1 car RTC at the Blessington bridge. Vehicle crashed and overturned into a field.  
Blessington crew assisted with casualty care and carrying the casualty to the waiting ambulance on the road.
- 29/12/17 14 metal sheeting panels blown off Lidl in Greystones  
Greystones crew secured area and recovered sheets
- 30/12/17 3 car RTC in County Wexford  
Crews from Carnew, Tinahely and Gorey in attendance assisting with casualty care

## **Incidents mobilised outside county Wicklow (December 2017):**

- |          |              |                      |                           |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 03/12/17 | RTC          | Barnhill, Carlow     | Baltinglass Crew 06/12/17 |
|          | RTC          | Ballyellis, Wexford  | Carnew Crew               |
| 15/12/17 | Chimney fire | Calverstown, Kildare | Dunlavin Crew             |

## Fire Prevention Statistics December 2017

Application type	Received	Requested additional information	Validate BCMS /liaise with Building Control	Inspection of works	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	4	3			5
Regularisation Certificates	2	2			2
Visual inspection of works				2	
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice	5				7
General Query			8		
Disability Access Certificates	13	1			2

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

### **General**

- Meeting with consultants 1
- Follow up inspections 1
- General 'fire prevention' queries 3



## 6. Transportation & Roads Infrastructure

### Funding announced for 2018 National Roads Allocation (29.12.17)

<i>TII</i>	<i>2018 Allocation</i>
<b>2018 NATIONAL ROADS ALLOCATION</b>	
<b>National Primary</b>	
<b>HD15 &amp; HD17 Minor Works</b>	
N11 Kilmacanogue Parallel Service Road	€100,000
<b>National Secondary (Minor Works)</b>	
N81 Hangmans Bend Realignment Scheme	€10,000
N81 Irishtown	€10,000
N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment Scheme	€2,500,000
N81 Tuckmill	€10,000
N81 Whitestown Lower	€10,000
<b>National Secondary (Pavement)</b>	
HD28 NS Pavement Renewals 2018	€700,000
<b>Both NP &amp; NS</b>	
Local Authority Support (Improvement) 2018 WW	€100,000
<b>Maintenance</b>	
<b>National Primary</b>	
NP Motorway MMarC Lighting 2018	€115,941
<b>National Secondary</b>	
NS Ordinary Maintenance 2018	€46,548
NS Winter Maintenance 2018	€81,509
NS Route Lighting 2018	€10,279
<b>Both NP &amp; NS</b>	
Support (Maintenance) 2018	€15,200
Support (Winter Maintenance) 2018	€10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€3,719,477</b>



## Funding announced for 2018 Regional & Local Roads Allocation (26.1.18)

Restoration Improvement	€4,460,000
Restoration Maintenance	€767,000
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€348,500
Discretionary Grant	€1,586,500
Bridge Rehabilitation	€200,000
Safety Improvement Works	€295,000
Specific Improvement Grants	€650,000
Speed Limits	€104,175
Training Grant	€38,500
Drainage Works	€233,000
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>€8,682,675</b>
<b>2018 Specific Improvement Grant</b>	
R755 Calary Road Realignment	€650,000

<b>2018 Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional &amp; Local Roads</b>	
Killabeg Bridge, Coolkenna L-7525	€25,000
Rathdrum Bridge, Rathdrum R-752	€50,000
White Bridge, Avoca, L-6155	€50,000
Liffey Bridge Upper, Kippure R-759	€20,000
Beechdale Bridge, Kilcoole L-50462	€20,000
Tinnehinch Bridge, Enniskerry R-760	€20,000
Knockrath Bridge, Knockrath R-755	€15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€200,000</b>

<b>2018 Safety Improvement Works on Regional &amp; Local Roads</b>	
Delgany Wood Avenue from its junction with the R762 Church Road to the L-1027 Convent and Chapel Roads L-1025	€150,000
Coolgreaney Road, Arklow L-2190-100	€30,000
Vale Road, Arklow R747	€30,000
Dublin Road, Arklow R772	€30,000
Lackereagh, Baltinglass R747	€55,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€295,000</b>



## Public lighting

	18-Dec-17	16-Jan-18	29-Jan-18
<i>Access Issues (Attended)</i>	17	21	15
<i>Cable Fault (Attend)</i>	6	6	4
<i>ESB Required (Attended)</i>	61	53	49
<i>Knock Down (Attended)</i>	1	1	1
<i>Materials required</i>	47	34	26
<i>No Supply</i>	5	5	6
<i>On Hold</i>	21	19	17
<i>Submitted</i>	398	455	235
<i>Traffic Management Required</i>	21	21	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>372</b>

Row Labels	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attend)	3		2	4	6	15
Cable Fault (Attend)			1	2	1	4
ESB Required (Attended)	13		14	14	8	49
Knock Down (Attended)	1					1
Materials required	4		8	4	10	26
No Supply	1	1	1	3		6
On Hold	6		1	8	2	17
Submitted	44	39	53	37	62	235
TMR	2	1	5	4	7	19
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>372</b>



Parking Income by Municipal District - Jan - Dec 2017	€
Income Florence Road Carpark Bray	254,365
Income Herbert Road Carpark Bray	147,725
Income North Beach Car Park - Strand Road Bray	43,310
Income Restricted Parking Bray	523,897
Income Parking Fines Bray	51,588
Income Residential/Special Parking Discs Bray	25,228
<b>Bray Municipal District</b>	<b>1,046,113</b>
Income Greystones Pay Parking Scheme	454,747
<b>Greystones Municipal District</b>	<b>454,747</b>
Income Parking Charges Wicklow	354,445
Income Residential Parking Disk Wicklow	6,665
Income Traffic Fines Wicklow	62,302
<b>Wicklow Municipal District</b>	<b>423,412</b>
Income Parking Traffic Fines Arklow	40,510
Income Pay Parking Fees And Permits Arklow	237,928
<b>Arklow Municipal District</b>	<b>278,438</b>
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	<b>2,202,711</b>

## Winter Maintenance

The 2017/2018 winter maintenance programme continued during December with 163 call outs made and approximately 950 tonnes of salt used over 9 individual gritting routes across the county. Salt stocks were replenished with delivery of 1000 tonnes of salt to depots at Avoca, Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew, Kiladreenan and Roundwood during the last week in November and throughout December.

- **N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment**

- 

Archer Heritage Planning is the Contractor for the Archaeological Works Contract. The Archaeological dig is currently in progress with completion scheduled for May 2018. Invitation of tenders for construction works is projected for May also. A grant allocation of €2.5m has been notified by TII for 2018.

- **N81 Baltinglass Town Centre Surfacing Works**

The current programme envisages:

- (I) Installation of ducts and relocation of services within remainder of Section 2 during 2018.
- (II) Construction and surfacing works in Section 2 during 2018.

- **N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue**

- 

Sanction has been given to proceed with appointment of Consultant Engineers for the above scheme.



## Organisational Development and Financial Matters

### 1. Recruitment

Competitions for the posts of Temporary Assistant Planner, Temporary Graduate Planner and Technician Grade 1 were held in January.

	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017
<b>Managerial/Administrative</b>	246	245	246	250
<b>Professional/Technical</b>	103	109	109	119
<b>Outdoor</b>	305	311	311	317
<b>Temporary/Seasonal</b>	47	58	46	41
<b>Non DOECLG</b>	45	14	14	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>740</b>

*(Excludes figures for Firefighters)*

### 2. Access to Information

#### No. of FOI requests

December – 8

Jan to Dec 2017 – 140

#### No. of Ombudsman Requests

December – 2

Jan to Dec 2017 – 12

### 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. *All returned letters and forms received from voters still resident in Wicklow and for new constituents have been now been keyed onto the eReg system.*

*A further 1,200 letters that had been returned marked as “gone away” or “not known at this address” by An Post will have had another letter issued in January 2018 to give one last opportunity to either remain on the register in Wicklow or to provide a new address elsewhere. It is anticipated that in the region of 400 replies will be received.*

*The compiling of the Postal and Special Voters list is fully completed following voters being contacted to see if they wish to remain on or be removed from this list. A number of voters on this list will be removed due to change in circumstances or no longer requiring a postal or special vote. There has been an increase in the amount of army personnel on the Wicklow Register of Electors.*

*A complete re-run of the draft register took place on the 17th January 2018. This re-run will form the basis of the Live 2018/2019 Register.*

*Wicklow County Council expect to meet the statutory deadline of having the 2018/2019 Register of Electors published on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018. It should also be noted that Wicklow County Council have 95% coverage of Eircodes on properties on the eReg system as per Circular issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.*

### 4. Press Releases

December – 5 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 from January 2018





## Managed Print Service (MPS)

- Renewal of MPS is progressing. Vendor neutral audit of print requirement complete and request for tenders were published with closing date of December.
- *Tender evaluation is complete, project roll-out plan is nearing completion and new devices will be in place before expiry of current agreement in February.*

## 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. Consolidation of a number of installations will be complete when CORE network upgrade has been finalised.

## CORE Network

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

## Data Collection Systems

- *Data collection systems using mobile devices have been used for the Register of Electors.*
- Projects in Housing and Roads departments are on-going.
- Housing Condition Survey is live while other project including Health & Safety audit and CCTV survey are underway.



## 1. Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST DECEMBER 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	17,630,068	17,165,654	103	22,416,511	21,679,785	103	-4,786,443
B - Road Transport & Safety	18,597,216	18,159,414	102	11,284,800	10,499,393	107	7,312,416
C - Water Services	5,371,416	6,327,118	85	6,611,674	7,449,560	89	-1,240,258
D - Development Management	8,093,004	9,293,470	87	4,046,545	4,739,275	85	4,046,459
E - Environmental Services	10,402,926	10,110,290	103	1,858,452	1,721,900	108	8,544,474
F - Recreation and Amenity	6,069,346	6,108,501	99	715,627	464,910	154	5,353,719
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,130,848	1,329,599	85	715,756	717,428	100	415,092
H - Miscellaneous Services	12,645,547	11,551,758	109	7,556,634	6,945,323	109	5,088,913
J - Central Management Charges	15,666,206	15,165,742	103	1,026,201	1,209,411	85	14,640,005
LG - Local Government Fund				11,958,513	11,958,514	100	-11,958,513
PL - Pension Levy				-	-		0
RA - Commercial Rates				27,745,901	27,976,047	99	-27,745,901
	<b>95,606,577</b>	<b>95,211,546</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(95,936,614)</b>	<b>(95,361,546)</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>-330,037</b>

## 2. 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 December 2017 to 31st December 2017.

## 3. Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st DECEMBER 2017				
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2017	Actual Expenditure	Actual income	Closing Balance at 31/12/2017
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	15,538,901	17,125,651	(5,897,267)	26,767,285
Road Transport & Safety	-33,175,607	5,432,919	(6,061,037)	-33,803,725
Water Services	-7,079,808	434,915	(1,801,330)	-8,446,223
Development Management	-8,973,752	747,121	(838,705)	-9,065,336
Environmental Services	877,533	16,004,462	(15,068,375)	1,813,620
Recreation and Amenity	2,162,143	2,376,213	(3,618,766)	919,590
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-483,714	492,956	(577,760)	-568,518
Miscellaneous Services	-11,596,917	3,330,639	(3,889,709)	-12,155,987
	<b>-42,731,221</b>	<b>45,944,876</b>	<b>(37,752,949)</b>	<b>-34,539,294</b>



## 4. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

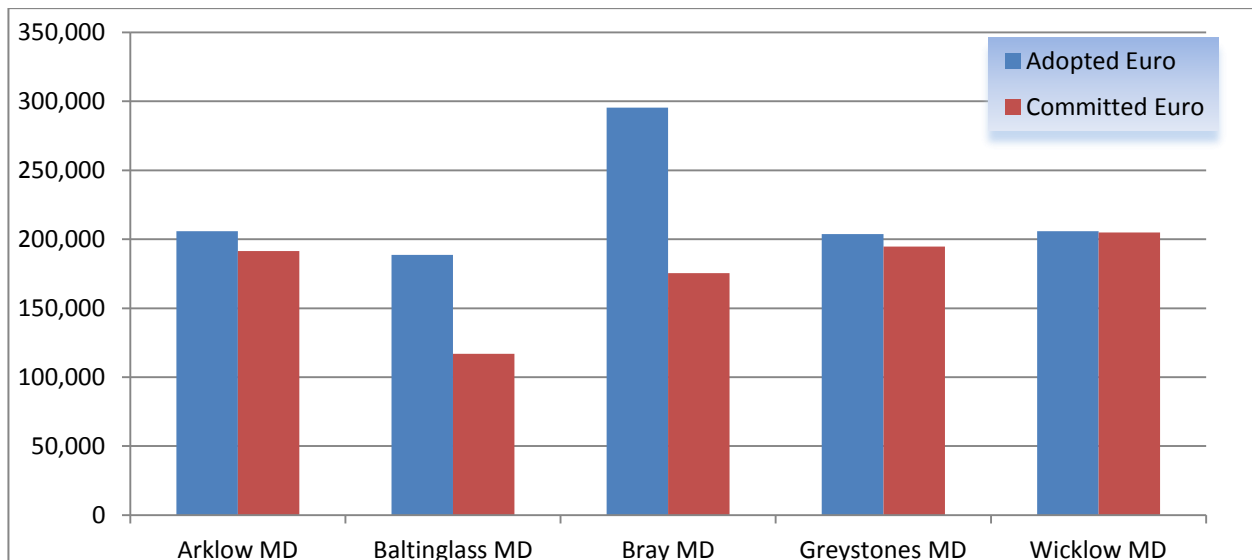
SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2017									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2017	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/12/2017	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	8,307,373	27,744,077		(12,888)	36,064,338	23,713,329	12,351,009		66%
Rents & Annuities	1,407,659	13,764,518		(644)	15,172,821	13,631,608	1,541,213		90%
Housing Loans	398,441	1,249,867			1,648,308	1,235,180	413,128		75%

**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.

## General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2017

Adopted Estimate 2017 €1,099,500.

Graph outlining adopted budget and committed expenditure up to 31st December 2017.



Municipal District	C/F from 2016	Adopted	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	(30,746)	205,750	191,373	14,377
Baltinglass MD	(20,339)	188,750	116,826	71,924
Bray MD	(126,929)	295,500	175,459	120,041
Greystones MD	(15,205)	203,750	194,785	8,965
Wicklow MD	(87,198)	205,750	204,983	767
<b>Total</b>	<b>(280,417)</b>	<b>1,099,500</b>	<b>883,427</b>	<b>216,073</b>

**January 2018**

