

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



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#### This Month:

- > Urban Regeneration Development Fund Over €6.7m allocated for projects in Arklow, Bray and Wicklow
- > River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme wins Engineers Ireland Excellence Award
- ➤ More Success in Pride of Place Awards for Wicklow .....
  - **Rathdrum Town** Overall Winner in category of Town Populations of 1,000 2.000
  - Wicklow Hospice Foundation Special Award for their Initiative and Fund Raising
- **➢** Wicklow Commuter Survey took place 5<sup>th</sup> − 18<sup>th</sup> November



#### **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY**

#### 1. SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT

| No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes | 3941 |
|----------------------------------------------------|------|
| RAS and HAP)                                       |      |
| No. of new applicants 2018                         | 437  |
| No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)     | 437  |
| No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)   | 901  |
| No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation             | 7    |
| No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation            | 10   |

#### 2. ALLOCATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING

| WCC Social Housing (excluding Bray M. D.)      | 75         |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Approved Housing Bodies (excluding Bray M. D.) | 1          |
|                                                | 11 Pending |

#### 3. SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

#### 4313 tenancies occupied @ 27/10/2018

> Total weekly rental accrual €235,031.34 (€12.2m per annum)

>Minimum rent €24 pw - Maximum rent €275 pw

*Arrears at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 €1,090,007.52* 

#### Casual Vacancies/Relets 46

| Municipal District | No |
|--------------------|----|
| Arklow             | 11 |
| Baltinglass        | 10 |
| Bray               | 5  |
| Greystones         | 4  |
| Wicklow            | 16 |

#### 4. HOUSING SUPPLY - PROGRAMME OF DELIVERY

#### Update on Kilbride Lane Social Housing Scheme, Bray, Co Wicklow

Following a number of consultations with Wicklow County Council and others and a number of separate appearances before the High Court over the past number of weeks, MDY Construction Limited exited the Examinership process with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 when the High Court approved the Scheme of Arrangements proposed by the appointed Examiner. This occurrence has facilitated Wicklow County Council in withdrawing the termination notice previously issued to MDY, which in turn will allow MDY to complete the works at the Kilbride Lane 42 Unit Social Housing Development in Bray.



# **Social Housing Supply Programme**

9 schemes on site 2018
8 schemes to commence on site in 2019
1 PPP Bundle 1 scheme to commence on site in 2019
TOTAL
102 Units
222 Units
51 Units
375 Units

| Priority List 1 SCHEMES    | UNITS | CURRENT STATUS                       |
|----------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| O'Byrne Road Bray          | 1     | Completed October 2018               |
| Old Library Arklow         | 7     | Completion anticipated November 2018 |
| Avondale Heights, Rathdrum | 20    | Completion anticipated December 2018 |
| Delany Park, Arklow        | 17    | Completed anticipated December 2018  |
| (Phase 1)                  |       |                                      |
| Kilbride Lane, Bray        | 42    | Commenced April 2018                 |
| (Murphy's Lands)           |       |                                      |
| Druids Brook Kilcoole      | 2     | Commenced October 2018               |
| FCA Hall, Wicklow Town     | 8     | Commenced October 2018               |
| Kilmantan Place, Bray      | 4     | Commenced October 2018               |
| 16A Oak Drive, Blessington | 1     | Commencing November 2018             |
| Sugarloaf View             | 20    | Tender Evaluation October 2018       |
| Kilmacanogue               |       |                                      |
| Farrenkelly Greystones     | 24    | Tender Return October 2018           |
| (Phase 2)                  |       |                                      |
| Ard Na Mara,Kilcoole       | 2     | Tender Return November 2018          |
| Priority List 2 SCHEMES    | UNITS | CURRENT STATUS                       |
|                            | 47    |                                      |
| Delany Park Arklow         | 47    | Stage 3 Submission November 2018     |
| (Phase 2 + 3)              |       |                                      |
| Whitehall Baltinglass      | 34    | Stage 2 & 3 Approval October 2018    |
| RAPID BUILD                |       |                                      |
| Rathnew                    | 47    | Stage 1 Approval August 2018         |
| RAPID BUILD                |       |                                      |
| Avondale                   | 20    | Stage 1 Submission November 2018     |
| RAPID BUILD                |       | <b>3</b>                             |
| Ard na Gréine              | 28    | Stage 1 Submission November 2018     |
| RAPID BUILD                | 20    | Stage 1 Submission November 2010     |
| KAFIU DUILU                |       |                                      |



#### 5. PART V

#### 2018

- 4 units purchased January 2018
- 5 units CALF approval. These Part V units are complete and occupied – delivered through CALF by Tuath AHB.
- 2 units Department approval received.
   Contracts and replies to legal queries awaited from Developer.
- 3 units completed and have been allocated.
- 15 units under negotiation possible delivery through CALF by an AHB. Likely delivery first half 2019.
- 7 Part V units will be delivered through CALF by an AHB-should complete in November.
- 5 agreed- contracts received in Law Department for 3 – snagging complete (on 3) purchase will complete shortly.
- 5 further units in 2 developments should be ready for snagging early November.
- 2 units Part V agreement completed delivery in Q1 2019 (Newtownmountkennedv).
- 17 units (Ashford) negotiations ongoing delivery of bulk of units expected 2019.

#### Potential units

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

- > 98 units approved, planning granted
- > 192 at pre planning stage

#### Turnkey

- 3 turnkey units purchase completed and in the process of being allocated (2 in Tinahely, 1 in Arklow)
- 1 unit currently undergoing snagging and should close in November.
- Remaining 2 units under construction and will complete by Q1 2019, at the latest.
- Construction has commenced on turnkey project at Vale Road, Arklow.

#### 6. PPP SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT

#### [Bundle 1)

Development Site at Convent Lands, Wicklow for 51 Social Housing units. 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. The project is expected to commence on site in December 2018.

#### 7. APPROVED HOUSING BODIES (AHB'S)

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

6 apartments (Abbey St. Wicklow) purchase completed by Tuath AHB.

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. The Contractor is expected to start on site in December 2018. Estimated delivery date of these units is quarter 4 2019. The AHB's are actively pursuing a number of other potential CALF projects and are liasing closely with the Council on a regular basis.

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Purchase has been completed on 3 properties with Dublin Simon under the Capital Assistance Scheme in 2018 and 2 further properties have been agreed with Ark Housing. These properties will be allocated to households experiencing homelessness.

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

#### 8. HOUSING SCHEMES REMEDIATION

Glending, Blessington - Remediation

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

Stage 3 Phase 3B – No. 1 to No. 10 *Glending Square and No. 1 to No. 4 Glending Way* – Contract commenced on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 with internal works to 1-10 Glending Square complete. . External works on these properties substantially complete on 1 – 8 with tenants to re-occupy in the next 2 weeks. Internal and External works on 1-4 Glending Way are substantially complete.

Hillview, Wicklow - Remediation



Works substantially complete, with some outstanding ceiling works ongoing.

#### 9. HOME IMPROVEMENT/ADAPTATION

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

- > Grant funding for private houses €1,266,828.63
- > Grant funding for social houses €650,000

73 Open Applications to value of €148,841.60

#### **Housing Assistance for**

| Older People (70)              | €297,488.91 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Mobility Aid Grants (99)       | €385,162.03 |
| Housing Adaptation Grants (69) | €584,177.69 |

#### **Approved**

| → 31 Mobility Aid Grants        | €111,162.72 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| >23 Housing Adaption Grants     | €329,495.93 |
| 30 Housing Aid for Older People | €178,847.83 |

#### House Purchase Loans - Rebuilding Ireland

- 138 received up to 31/10/2018
- 55 approvals.
- 66 declined
- 6 awaiting further information.
- 11 awaiting a reply from Housing Agency.

Wicklow County Council's Loans Officer conducted a Rebuilding Ireland Loan Application with a client for RTE 2's TV programme 'This Crowded House'. The series is presented by Brendan Courtney and helps adults who are living at home with their parents to get on track to move out.

The applicant was from Bray and living at home to save for a mortgage but also wanted to explore the Rebuilding Ireland loan and how to apply.

This episode was shown in November.

#### 2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

- 42 applications to 31/10/2018
- 9 sales completed

#### 10. Addressing Homelessness

Period - 01/10/2018 to 31/10/2018

| No of Presentations                 | 546 |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| No. of Repeat Presentations         | 64  |
| No. of Households (Families)        | 315 |
| No. Of Adults (Individuals)         | 229 |
| No. Of Children                     | 584 |
| NTQ/Asked to leave/Landlord selling | 90  |
| Family Circumstances                | 89  |
| Leaving prison/hospital/care        | 0   |
| Sofa Surfing                        | 36  |
| Rough Sleeping                      | 9   |

#### **Homeless HAP**

The recent appointment in October of the Homeless HAP Placefinder is seen as a welcome and necessary addition to the Homeless Team.

The Homeless HAP Placefinder will provide assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- ➤ liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.

Two rental properties have been identified and tenancies completed to date in October through the Homeless HAP Placefinder service.

# Sonas Facility, Wicklow (Domestic Violence)

6 Adult (Female) & 10 children.

Sonas has advised that it is withdrawing services from Wicklow. The operation of the facility is being tendered out to Approved Housing Bodies to operate the facility as a Family Homeless Hub. Current residents will be assisted into alternative accommodation with a dedicated support worker being assigned to this project.

#### **Other Temporary Supported Accommodation**

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide



22 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. There has been a significant number of moveons from these properties, signalling the success of this model.

#### **Housing First**

With Housing First, the priority is to support a person who has experienced homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible, without any preconditions around sobriety or mental health treatment. Then, continue working intensively with them on these issues once they are housed. Housing First recognises that a stable home provides the basis for recovery in other areas.

The National Implementation Plan for Housing First 2018-2021 was published in September 2018. It commits to the rollout of Housing First in every county in Ireland and sets annual targets for each local authority. It also highlights the need for local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies to work together on increasing the supply of single person housing. The alignment of housing and health supports means that Housing First is very much a joint initiative of the Department, the Department of Health, local authorities, HSE and NGO providers.

Wicklow County Council is committed to implementing the Housing First model and is currently liaising with Kildare and Meath County Councils to prepare tender for services.

In advance of this and to ensure robustness of numbers, an analysis of rough sleepers in County Wicklow is being undertaken which will inform the plan.

#### **Cold Weather Initiative**

A property in North Wicklow has been identified as suitable to implement a Cold Weather Initiative and it is intended to have the facility ready to receive clients in early December.

# 11. SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (SICAP)

i) Wicklow's two SICAP implementers Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership have completed their 2019 Annual Plans (ii) A support meeting took place between Pobal and the SICAP Sub-group to discuss progress in 2018 and to look ahead to developments in 2019.

(iii) Local County Development Committee (LCDC) support meetings took place with both Partnerships to review progress on their 2018 Annual Plans and to discuss actions for 2019. A full review of 2018 will take place in early 2019.

#### **Public Participation Network (PPN):**

The Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) has agreed to part-fund an additional PPN Assistant post from 2019 onwards in each county. Wicklow County Council is to provide the necessary match-funding to Wicklow PPN to enable this development.

#### 12. County Wicklow Library Service

#### **Sharing Our Stories**

The first in a series called SHARING OUR STORIES hosted by Wicklow County Council library services in Blessington, developed by Blessington library staff local, Paul O Connor took place in Blessington Library on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

SHARING OUR STORIES is a series of public interviews with local people who have stories to tell that might inspire us, move us, educate us, or entertain us.

Fr Kevin Lyon, though he was born in Dublin, is archdeacon of Glendalough, living in the parochial house in Crosschapel, Blessington, Co Wicklow, and previously parish priest of Blessington, Dunlavin and curate in Donard and Avoca; so an honorary Wicklow man. He is a keen photographer, a published author, a community innovator, and a great friend to many people.

It was lovely community evening of casual chat and great stories from a rich and exemplary life, in front a very receptive and engaged audience.

Blessington Library recorded this interview and it is available on soundcloud, details for access can be had from the library staff at 045 891740.

#### 13. Ronnie Delany Sculpture

An internationally renowned sculptor Paul Ferriter has been commissioned to produce a Ronnie



Delany sculpture for Arklow Town. The recently signed contract for this sculpture was in the sum of €85,000. It will take approximately nine months to make this sculpture.

# 14. Funding Application for Blessington Greenway

Under Strategy for future Development of National and Regional Greenway a funding application was made to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, for the Blessington Greenway project. This application will seek funding for the second phase of Blessington Greenway, which will extend the Greenway to a length of 42 km including loop walks through the villages of Lacken and Ballyknockan. The cost of this Greenway Project is in the region of €8.5 million. The submission date for the application is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

#### 15. PRIDE OF PLACE 2018

At the Pride of Place Awards ceremony held in Cork City Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018, there were two Wicklow County winners. Rathdrum Town was the overall winner in the town population category of 1000 to 2000. The judges of this year's Pride of Place in Wicklow County, Tom Dowling and Maurice Inglis, felt there was a great future for this warm and welcoming town. The Wicklow Hospice Foundation was awarded a special award for their initiative and fundraising to provide a hospice and palliative care hub in Wicklow County.

# 16. COUNTY WICKLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (LSP)

#### Fun - Fit - Family Day

As part of Healthy Ireland Funding County Wicklow Partnership ran a fun, fit, family day in the Bridgewater Shopping Centre, Arklow on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 from 11am to 4pm. It consisted of an enjoyable and fun insight into physical exercise and healthy eating that all the family could get involved in for free and almost 1,000 people benefitted from this event. Included on the day were demonstrations of light exercise routines, guided health orientated walks accompanied by Arklow's Mary Hickey from "Lap of the Map", Healthy Food and Eating Activities, Health Information and Face

painting. Wicklow Local Sports Partnership was present on the day to support the event.

#### **Learn 2 Cycle Programme**

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership is running a Learn 2 Cycle Programme which commenced on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Shoreline Leisure, Greystones from 3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. The Learn 2 Cycle 6 week Programme for children with additional needs works on the fundamentals of cycling with the aim to teach children to learn to cycle independently. There are 10 children benefitting from this Programme and due to popular demand Wicklow Local Sports Partnership will be rolling out more Learn 2 Cycle Programme's next year.

#### **Buggyfit Programme**

Buggyfit came to Bray on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Wicklow Local Sports Partnership is rolling out a fun exercise Programme where mums can bring their baby along to their workout sessions. This is a 6 week Programme taking place 2 mornings a week i.e. Monday and Wednesday from 10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. in the Northern Car Park, on Bray Sea Front.

#### **Weight Lifting Programme**

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership have organised a 6 week Weight Lifting Programme targeting transition year girls from Dominican College, Wicklow Town. The first day of the Programme was on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and is being instructed by Holly Hodgins from Crossfit, Wicklow Town. 12 transition year girls are benefitting from this Weight Lifting Programme.

#### **Walking Football Programme**

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership in conjunction with FAI is holding a 4 week Walking Football Programme which commenced on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 from 11.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in Wicklow Rovers for Wicklow Town and the surrounding areas.

#### **Tug of War Blitz**

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership is holding their annual schools Tug of War Blitz for  $3^{\rm rd}$  and  $4^{\rm th}$  class



pupils on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 from 9.00 a.m.- 2.00 p.m. in Shoreline Leisure Greystones.

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

#### **OLDER PERSON'S COUNCIL (OPC)**

The National Convention of Older Person's Councils took place in the Druids Glen on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November. The convention was enjoyed by all. Feedback included "impressed with the content, information, hospitality and the opportunity for reflection and networking", "the time spent in Druids Glen was a wonderful opportunity to experience what Wicklow has to offer".

The County Wicklow Older Person's Council Seminar is taking place in the Glendalough Hotel on

the 30<sup>th</sup> November. An internet survey was part of the day with guest speakers including Valerie Cox, Tina Koumarianos and Michael Nicholson.

#### Comhairle na nÓg

The AGM of the Comhairle is taking place on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in the Parkview Hotel. Over 100 young people are scheduled to attend and a lively day will be enjoyed.

The National Comhairle Showcase is taking place on the 30<sup>th</sup> November in Croke Park. This event allows each Comhairle to show what they have done, what they hope to do and it is a fantastic learning opportunity and a chance to network. It is a day-long event with guests invited in the middle of the event to experience the best of Comhairle.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

# 1. WICKLOW ECONOMIC THINK TANK (CWETT) ACTION PLAN/LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) (ECONOMIC)

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

#### **FILM**

Wicklow County Council is in the process of developing a Masterplan for Wicklow County Campus, to develop the site as a creative Content/Film hub.

An application has been submitted to Enterprise Ireland under Stream One of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund. The project team made a comprehensive presentation to Enterprise Ireland in September. Funding announcements will be made in November.

#### **RETAIL**

#### **The Florentine Centre**

Work is well underway on the Florentine Site development. Wicklow County Council/Bray Municipal District has arranged alternative free town centre parking for the duration of the works. The pace of construction work has accelerated over the last month the basement frame is well underway, piling and temporary works are complete the project will see a rapid change in the coming weeks. The contractor and developer continue to liaise with local residents and adjacent businesses.

#### **TOWN TEAMS**

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

Arklow Town Team were delighted to have been shortlisted in the annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, under the Outstanding Initiative through the Municipal Districts category. The fourth annual Christmas Festival in Arklow Town takes place at the end of November



with Santa being escorted by the Arklow Pipe Band and a fireworks display for all to enjoy.

Blessington Town Team has received the results of the Town Centre Health Check as funded under Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Work has recommenced on the application for funding for CCTV following the resolution of an issue at national level. The funding application for Blessington Greenway is complete and ready for submission. A Heritage and Culture working group of Blessington Town Team held their first public meeting aiming to further develop and coordinate the culture and heritage of the town and surrounding countryside.

Greystones 2020 has been working with Greystones Municipal District on the Christmas Lights festivities. A day of family entertainment has been organised and Santa's arrival by Fire Brigade will be the highlight on 24<sup>th</sup> November. The new Greystones 2020 website will be launched before the end of the year.

Wicklow Town Team has been working with Wicklow Municipal District in preparation for the switching on of the Christmas lights this month. Wicklow Pipe Band and the Community Choir will be on hand to welcome Santa and all families. In conjunction with this, there will be a competition for the Best Dress Window, ensuring that everyone enters into the Christmas spirit.

Bray Municipal District and Bray Chamber of Commerce have been working closely to reinvigorate the membership of Bray Town Team and prioritise objectives for the coming year. Christmas preparations are finalised with Bray sparkling to life on 24<sup>th</sup> November with the Big Switch On of Christmas lights. Free parking has been arranged in Wicklow County Council car parks every weekend in December throughout Bray.

#### **TOURISM**

#### **Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022**

The County Wicklow Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan was launched by Minister Simon Harris. The Strategy aims to make Wicklow the number one choice for visitors seeking an idyllic escape and promotes the a wide range of outdoor pursuits in County Wicklow's world-class natural

arena, while driving job creation in the local economy.

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

#### The Key Priorities are

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

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

#### Glendalough

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

## **MARITIME**

#### **National Marine Planning Framework**

Marine spatial planning is a process that brings together multiple users of the ocean to make informed and coordinated decisions about how to use marine resources sustainably. It is a process by which the relevant public authorities analyse and organise human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives.

Members of the Wicklow County Council Maritime Business Development Group will meet in December to consider a submission by the group under the public consultation process for the development of National Marine Planning Framework.

#### **Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow**

Tenders have been received for consultants to develop a Maritime Strategic Review and are currently being examined.

The intent of the strategic review is to provide nonstatutory guidance for uses and activities within the



marine area and to assist Wicklow County Council and other statutory agencies with their policy formulation process as well as providing Wicklow County Council with a clear picture of its maritime area so that it is in a position to respond and provide input to higher level policy, where necessary. The Strategic Review will identify ways the economic base of County Wicklow could be strengthened through its ports and harbours and formulate recommendation for Wicklow County Council.

**COMMUTER SURVEY** 

A Commuter Survey was carried out during the first two weeks of November with the aim of capturing the current level of commuting and the opinion of those commuters. Wicklow County Council will use this information to encourage the development of facilities such as enterprise hubs, co-working spaces and second sites, to attract further investment into the county. As the Survey was targeting commuters, online and social media advertising was used to encourage a greater response, especially among those using public transport, who could complete the survey while undertaking their journey. For drivers, signs were erected along the M11 advising motorists to log on to the Wicklow.ie website to have their say.

Over 6,800 responses were received, with some additional constructive feedback. The responses will now be collated and analysed along with the POWSCAR data from the Central Statistics Office. Gamma Consultants will produce a report in the next month. By identifying the skills and expertise of commuters, it is hoped that Wicklow County Council can encourage investment in our county to reduce commuting times and facilitate a greater work/life balance for our citizens.

### 2. LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

#### **LEO Objectives**

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

- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.
- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.
- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.
- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.
- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland
- Acting as a First Stop Shop for business information and referral

| METRICS: Grants                                              | HISTORICAL       | TARGETS       | YEAR TO DATE                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                              | 2017             | 2018          | 2018                               |
| Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1                  | - 25/€520,084.90 | - Meet Demand | 22/6/6/ 150 50                     |
| - Measure 1<br>- Technical Assistance for Micro<br>Exporters | - 17/€27,664.03  | - Meet Demand | - 22/€454,158.50<br>- 7/€13,550.16 |

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      | 42           |
| Management Development Programme Participant numbers (commences September) | 21         | 18      | 20           |
| Business Skills Training Courses Participant Numbers                       | 217        | 200     | 115          |
| Business IT Training Courses Participant numbers                           | 163        | 150     | 94           |
| Women in Business Network Number of Meetings                               | 6          | 6       | 5            |
| Seminars participant numbers                                               | 366        | 400     | 376          |

| 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*    | 548          |
| Number of One to One Business<br>Advice meetings                                   | 363                                         | 350     | 297          |
| Businesses assigned a Mentor                                                       | 79<br>*includes once off<br>SECC Initiative | 91      | 69           |

| METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes             | HISTORICAL | TARG      | ETS                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Academic Year                                      | 2017/2018  | 2018/2019 | Year to Date                          |
| No. of Senior Cycle Secondary Student Participants | 1,302      | 1,200     | Figures available in December/January |

#### **November 2018 Activities**

On November 9<sup>th</sup> The Local Enterprise
Office ran a series of one to one BREXIT
Mentoring sessions. Six Wicklow based
businesses currently trading with the UK
availed of the expertise of Enterprise Ireland

mentor Hugh Kelly to help them with their business strategy in preparation for BREXIT.

 All LEO Wicklow Clients are encouraged to complete the BREXIT scorecard on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow to help them

identify areas of their business that may be impacted by BREXIT. The report produced when clients complete the questionnaire signposts them to a range of supports, resources and information available via the local Enterprise Office.

- The Local Enterprise Office flagship Management Development training programme is ongoing in the Glenview Hotel with 20 businesses participating. During November the course has been focused on the financial aspects of business and outlining strategies to improve performance.
- LEO Wicklow LEAN for Micro Programme is ongoing with 9 companies undergoing one to one LEAN training with specialist LEAN consultants.
- The Business Advice Clinics continued throughout November. Clinics take place on Tuesdays and Thursday in Wicklow County Campus, in the Glenview Hotel on Monday

## 3. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

#### **FORWARD PLANNING**

#### Newtownmountkennedy LAP

The preparation of the Draft Plan, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Local Transport Plan continues at present.

# National Planning Framework (NPF) & Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES)

The NPF was adopted by the Government in February 2018 and the plan was formally adopted on 29 May 2018.

The Regional Assembly executive is in the process of preparing a draft RSES. Early working draft chapters have been circulated and we have engaged closely with the RSES term to provide feedback. The proposed draft RSES is due to be issued to the members of the Assembly for their approval in October 2018.

#### **Vacant Site Levy:**



evening and in Blessington civic offices on the first Thursday every month depending on demand.

- The Student Enterprise Programme is well underway in schools throughout the County with student busy finalising their products and preparing for Christmas fairs etc.
- The Evaluations Committee met on 20<sup>th</sup>
   November to review 1 Feasibility Study grant funding application for Wicklow based businesses.
- The Autumn Winter 2018 Training Programme continued throughout November with the following:
- 'Retail relations and Export Potential for Design and Craft Businesses' Course took place on 25 October.
- A 'Trading Online Seminar' took place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November with guest speaker Noel Davidson and 45 participants attended.

Ongoing investigation of regeneration sites throughout the County.

1 no. appeal to the Valuations Tribunal as a result of Section 12 Valuation Notices.

33 no. sites now stand on the Register. 09 no. sites are currently on appeal to ABP.

#### **HERITAGE**

BHIS & SRF: Building conservation projects inspected, grant payments made to applicants, and recoupment submitted to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Total Structures at Risk Fund €24,000, Built Heritage Investment Scheme €50,000. Projects supported: Russborough House; Ballyarthur House; RIC Barracks Laragh; Corner House, Netwownmountkennedy; Christ Church, Delgany; and Hollywood Church.

#### Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) projects:

Co-ordination of x 3 projects under the Wicklow BAP with funding support from NPWS. Rathdown



Biodiversity Report - the drafting of an agreed biodiversity management plan for the area in association with Greystones Tidy Towns and Greystones Municipal District; Brittas Bay management prescriptions for the Council owned land incorporating the car parks and taking account of conservation objectives for the Natura site. Phase 1 Swift survey for Wicklow to gather baseline information of the locations of nesting colonies in towns and villages of this amber listed bird species.

**Wicklow Trails Heritage Recording Project:** Project underway, public information meeting held at Woodenbridge on 18<sup>th</sup> October. Final outputs to be displayed at public seminar 'Sharing Our Stories' on Sat 24<sup>th</sup> November in Brockagh Centre Laragh.

Centenary of Votes for Women: Co-ordination of an event on 25<sup>th</sup> October to commemorate a suffragette protest at Greystones harbour involving a re-enactment with local St. Brigids N.S pupils and Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society, and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by Greystones Municipal District. Co-ordination of a campaign sourcing content from the public on the theme 'Our Wicklow Women' as part of an upcoming exhibition in Wicklow and as participation in a National exhibition in the Museum of Country Life, Castlebar.

#### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

A total of 144 applications were received during October, these include applications as follows:

| Type of Development     | Number Received |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Individual Houses       | 44              |
| Housing Developments    | 3               |
| Agricultural Structures | 7               |
| Commercial              | 19              |
| Other Developments      | 71              |
| Total                   | 144             |

Decisions issued in respect of 70 applications in October, being:

| Type of Development | Number of Decisions |
|---------------------|---------------------|
|                     |                     |

| Housing Developments | 1  |
|----------------------|----|
| Individual Houses    | 17 |
| Other Developments   | 52 |
| Total                | 70 |

In relation to decisions issued between January to October 2018, in comparison to the same period for 2017, the details are as follows:

|                                    | 31/10/2017 | 31/10/2018 |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Total Number of decisions issued   | 863        | 837        |
| Total Number of decisions to grant | 708        | 699        |
| % grant rate                       | 82%        | 83%        |

#### **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT**

#### **Details of activity during October:**

- 17 New files were opened
- 47 Advisory letters issued
- 11 Warning Letters issued
- 06 Enforcement Notices served
- 01 File was referred for legal action
- 23 Files have been closed

One case came before the District Court.
One case came before the Circuit Court where
Attachment & Committal Order was granted to the
Council with a stay till 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

#### **Derelict Sites Activity October:**

No. of sites on Register 8 No. of Inspections 1

#### **Derelict Sites Levy October**

The sum of €21,100 was received in respect of a property at 4 Old Court, Bray.



#### 4. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

#### **WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTION – AUGUST 2018**

|                                                                    | October   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                                                    |           |
| No. of Complaints Opened                                           | 215       |
| No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed                         | 364       |
| No of Litter Fines Issued                                          | 69        |
| No. of Waste Management Files Opened                               | 7         |
| No. of Warning Letters Issued                                      | 5         |
| No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued                                 | 6         |
| No. of Burning Applications Granted                                | 18        |
| No. of Temporary Signs Granted                                     | 4         |
| No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act | 0         |
| No. of Cases in Court under Litter Pollution Act                   | 1         |
| No. Of Cases in Court under Waste Management Act                   | 2         |
|                                                                    |           |
| Income - Litter Fines                                              | €9,161.25 |
| Income- Waste Management                                           | €4,210.80 |

#### Anti Dumping Initiative - 2018

The Anti Dumping Initiative funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment has successfully concluded for 2018. Six projects were implemented that targeted dumping in housing estates in Bray, littering at costal and forestry sites, roadside littering from vehicles and dumping at bottle-banks. There was also engagement with transition year students with the aim of increasing awareness of the issues surrounding dumping and littering in County Wicklow and how enforcement is carried out. The use of technology was also a key component of the initiative with the deployment of fixed and covert CCTV cameras in most projects. A total of 85 litter fines attributed to the initiative were issued.

## WHITESTOWN REMEDIATION PROJECT

Wicklow County Council have employed Fehily Timoney Company, Environmental Consultants, to advise on the remediation of the site at Whitestown, in accordance with the judgments of Mr Justice Humphreys. Topographical and Geophysical survey work has been completed on site and the results of these surveys will feed into the requirements of the site investigation. The Consultants are holding a workshop this week to finalise the scope of the site investigation contract and this tender will be advertised before end of Q4. Initial contact has been made with the neighboring landowners to keep them up to date of the progress.

A tender for the provision of a Strategic Review of the Maritime in Co. Wicklow was advertised in 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 with a closing date of the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

4 number of marine notices issued during October 2018.

#### **WICKLOW HARBOUR**

 Two new ladders have been installed in Wicklow Port. Project is funded by Inland Fisheries Ireland.



- 15 cargo ships berthed in Wicklow during October 2018 with approximately 25,000 tonnes of materials imported / exported.
- Process of putting together Bye Laws sanctioning the importation of Explosives through Wicklow Harbour commenced mid October. The byelaws will be drafted in consultation with the Dept. Of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.
- The warning lantern at the end of the North / New Pier Wicklow converted to solar and LED in line with a move towards reducing carbon emissions and reducing energy consumption.

#### **Arklow Harbour**

- Quotes currently been sought for the removal of five wrecks from Arklow Harbour following the public of a notice under Section 57 of the Harbours Act 1946, as amended.
- Two new ladders have been installed in Arklow Harbour. Project is funded by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

#### **Bray Harbour**

 Two new ladders have been installed in Bray Harbour. Project is funded by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

#### **POLLUTION CONTROL**

# Section 4 Licensed Discharges to Waters (Surface & Ground)

- **15** Licences inspected, 10 samples taken and analysis completed
- 4 proprietors with discharge licences were inspected and determined compliant.
- 6 proprietors with discharge licences were inspected and determined non-compliant and were required to take investigative and remedial action.
- 5 Licences inspected but unable to get samples

#### Section 16 Licensed Discharges to Waters (Sewers)

- 6 licences inspected
- **3** proprietors with discharge licences were inspected and determined compliant.
- 1 proprietor with discharge licences was inspected and determined non-compliant.
- 2 site inspection with no discharge at time of visit.

#### Pollution Response & Investigation

- 2 Water pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 1 Oil Pollution complaint was received and investigated.
- 1 Farm survey conducted.

#### Septic tanks

- **2** Re-inspections undertaken and certificates of compliance issued to both.
- Meeting held with Department to review proposed national septic tank grant aid schemes for within river catchments designated Priority and High Status.

## 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, 129 regulated private water supplies will be monitored in 2018.
- 32 private water supplies were monitored and 3 were requested to investigate noncompliant results and to carry out remedial actions.
- 11 private water supplies are on boil water notices restrictions.
- 1 boil notice lifted from private water supply following improvement works and compliant sample results.
- 2 group water schemes were issued with reminder boil water notices and were requested to investigate non-compliant results and to carry out remedial actions.



#### **Well Grants**

| Well Grants                            |    |
|----------------------------------------|----|
| Number of Applications                 | 15 |
| • •                                    | 10 |
| Number of New Wells                    | 8  |
| Number of New Pumps                    | 13 |
| Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) | 6  |

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 69 River sample locations were visited and 137 Samples taken for analysis.
- 12 samples were taken from lakes for analysis.
- As previously advised a public information and consultation meeting will be held in the GAA Centre of Excellence on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in advance of local

catchment assessments by regional catchment assessment teams in the Potters River and Three Mile Water Rivers in the coming months as part of implementation of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021.

#### **Solvents**

3 inspections of vehicle refinisher installations were carried out.

#### **Planning & Development**

 11 environmental reports on referred planning applications were completed.

#### 5. TRANSPORTATION & ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

#### **PUBLIC LIGHTING**

|                                | 01 October 2018 | 22 October 2018 | 30 October 2018 | 19 November 2018 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Access Issues (Attend)         | 16              | 15              | 14              | 14               |
| Cable Fault (Attend)           | 10              | 11              | 9               | 9                |
| ESB Required (Attended)        | 39              | 32              | 27              | 19               |
| Knock Down (Attended           | 2               | 3               | 3               | 4                |
| Materials required             | 11              | 10              | 13              | 14               |
| No Supply                      | 10              | 9               | 2               | 2                |
| On Hold                        | 2               | 5               | 3               | 3                |
| Submitted                      | 296             | 396             | 370             | 391              |
| Traffic Management<br>Required | 41              | 39              | 40              | 32               |
| TOTAL                          | 427             | 520             | 481             | 488              |



|                             | ARKLOW<br>MD | BALTINGLASS<br>MD | BRAY<br>MD | GREYSTONES<br>MD | WICKLOW<br>MD | Grand<br>Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Access Issues (Attended)    | 1            |                   | 1          | 2                | 9             | 13             |
| Cable Fault (Attend)        | 1            |                   | 2          | 3                | 3             | 9              |
| ESB<br>Required(Attended)   | 2            |                   | 10         | 5                | 2             | 19             |
| Knock Down<br>(Attended     | 1            |                   | 1          |                  | 2             | 4              |
| Materials required          | 1            | 1                 | 5          | 2                | 5             | 14             |
| No Supply                   | 1            |                   |            |                  | 1             | 2              |
| On Hold                     |              | 3                 |            |                  |               | 3              |
| Submitted                   | 69           | 52                | 93         | 88               | 87            | 389            |
| Traffic Management Required | 2            | 1                 | 9          | 6                | 14            | 32             |
| <b>Grand Total</b>          |              | 2                 |            |                  |               | 2              |
|                             | 78           | 59                | 121        | 106              | 124           | 488            |

| Parking Income by Municipal District Jan-Oct. 2018 | EURO      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                                    | 400.000   |
| Income Florence Road Carpark Bray MD               | 132,238   |
| Income Herbert Road Carpark Bray MD                | 165,307   |
| Income North Beach Car Park - Strand Road Bray MD  | 33,406    |
| Income Restricted Parking Bray MD                  | 621,754   |
| Income Parking Fines Bray MD                       | 154,424   |
| Income Residential/Special Parking Discs Bray MD   | 37,985    |
| Bray Municipal District                            | 1,145,114 |
| Income Greystones Pay Parking Scheme               | 391,686   |
| Greystones Municipal District                      | 391,686   |
| Income Parking Charges Wicklow MD                  | 295,632   |
| Income Residential Parking Disk Wicklow MD         | 5,625     |
| Income Traffic Fines Wicklow MD                    | 39,041    |
| Wicklow Municipal District                         | 340,298   |
| Income Parking Traffic Fines Arklow MD             | 27,714    |
| Income Pay Parking Fees And Permits Arklow MD      | 209,353   |
| Arklow Municipal District                          | 237,067   |
| Wicklow County Council                             | 1,905,453 |



#### **SCHEMES ON THE N81**

#### • N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The main Archaeological dig & excavation works are complete. Tender Documents are currently being assessed and a contractor will be appointed for the main works contract before Christmas and works to commence in 2019.

# • N81 Baltinglass Town Centre Surfacing Works

Progress continuing on design of layout for the N81/R747 junction. The current programme for the surfacing works at this location includes surfacing works in Section 2 (500 metre length on Main Street, either side of R747 junction). Plazamount completed the resurfacing works by the end of October.

#### • N81 Small Scale Projects

- N81 Whitestown Lower Realignment Scheme Phase O Scope and Pre-Appraisal
- N81 Irishtown West Phase O Scope and Pre-Appraisal
- N81 Tuckmill Realignment Scheme -Phase O Scope and Pre-Appraisal
- N81 Hangman's Bend Realignment Scheme - Phase O Scope and Pre-Appraisal

Approval has been granted by TII by letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November to progress these four schemes in accordance with Phases 1 to 4 of the TII Project Management guidelines.

#### N81 2018 Pavement Works including Surface Restoration

(i) Resurfacing at the combined site of Mullycagh and Tuckmill were completed by Kllsaran in October.

(ii) Arkil Contracting have completed the pavement works at Hempstown to Kilteel and Rathattin to Athgreaney.

#### SCHEMES ON THE M11 AND N11

• N11/M11 Improvements between Junction 4 and Junction 14

Consultant Engineers Ove Arup & Partners have been appointed by Wicklow County Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to progress the improvement scheme for the N11/M11 between Junction 4 (M50/M11) to Junction 14 (Coynes Cross).

The scheme is in a number of phases including:

- Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility
- Phase 2 Options Selection
- Phase 3 Design and Environment Evaluation and
- Phase 4 Statutory Processes, of TII Project Management Guidelines

The project will be subject to various stages of planning, design and approval as well as public consultation. A Public Information Day planned for December 11<sup>th</sup> to be held in the Glenview Hotel between 12 noon and 8.00pm.

#### • N11 Kilmacanoge Parallel Service Road

Tender documents will be issued to contractors for the works on the construction of the new parallel service road in Kilmacanoge in December and the works are anticipated to commence during the first quarter in 2019.

#### WINTER MAINTENANCE

The Winter Maintenance 2018/2019 Season commenced on 16<sup>th</sup> October. During October, 23 call outs were made and approximately 103 tonnes of salt was used over the 9 individual routes across the County.



#### **LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

Wicklow County Council have been allocated a further €358,000 in funding for Local Improvement Schemes in 2018

#### **STORM DAMAGE**

A total of €550,000 has been allocated by Transportation Infrastructure Ireland to repair roads in County Council following storm damage caused during Storm Emma, and the following amounts have been allocated to each Municipal District.

| Arklow MD      | €126,500 |
|----------------|----------|
| Wicklow MD     | €93,500  |
| Bray MD        | €71,500  |
| Greystones MD  | €60,500  |
| Baltinglass MD | €198,000 |

#### 6. EMERGENCY SERVICES

#### **FIRE SERVICE**

#### **Operational Fire Statistics October 2018**

|                                | тотаг | Bray | Greystones | Wicklow | Rathdrum | Arklow | Blessington | Dunlavin | Baltinglass | Carnew | Tinahely |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|------------|---------|----------|--------|-------------|----------|-------------|--------|----------|
| Callsign                       |       | 1.1  | 1.2        | 1.3     | 1.4      | 1.5    | 1.6         | 1.7      | 1.8         | 1.9    | 2.1      |
| Two Stations Mobilised         |       |      |            |         |          |        |             |          |             |        |          |
| Fire Domestic Persons Reported | 4     | 1    | 1          |         |          |        |             | 1        | 1           |        |          |
| Fire Domestic                  | 2     | 1    | 1          |         |          |        |             |          |             |        |          |
| Fire Institutional             | 2     | 1    | 1          |         |          |        |             |          |             |        |          |
| Fire Industrial                | 6     |      |            | 3       |          | 3      |             |          |             |        |          |
| Road Traffic Collision 13      |       | 2    | 3          | 4       | 1        | 3      |             | 2        | 2           |        |          |
| Major Gorse / Forest Fire      | 4     | 1    | 2          |         | 1        |        |             |          |             |        |          |
| Single Station Mobilised       |       |      |            |         |          |        |             |          |             |        |          |
| Fire Grass / Gorse / Trees     | 95    | 40   | 22         | 16      | 6        | 4      | 3           | 2        | 1           |        | 1        |
| Fire Alarm or CO2 Activation   | 16    | 5    | 3          | 5       |          | 3      |             |          |             |        |          |
| Fire Vehicle                   | 7     | 1    | 1          | 3       |          | 1      | 1           |          |             |        |          |
| Fire Chimney                   | 7     | 2    |            | 1       |          |        |             | 1        |             | 1      | 2        |
| Fire Shed                      | 1     |      |            |         |          |        |             |          |             |        | 1        |
| Trees Down                     | 1     |      |            |         |          |        | 1           |          |             |        |          |
| Electrical incident            | 1     |      |            |         |          | 1      |             |          |             |        |          |
| Ambulance Assist               | 6     |      | 2          | 1       |          | 2      | 1           |          |             |        |          |
| Times Stations mobilised       | 169   | 54   | 36         | 33      | 8        | 17     | 6           | 6        | 4           | 1      | 4        |

#### Sample Incidents (October 2018)

The month included two fatal incidents, a woman died in a fire in Bray and a man died in an RTC in the Glen of Imaal. It was also characterised by bonfires and malicious outdoor fires mainly in Bray, Greystones and Wicklow Town which made up 50% of the months activity. Annually this month is associated with many fires in open areas in the run up to Halloween. There was in addition a considerable amount of illegal burning in rural areas particularly on the Sugarloaf and Calary / Ballyremon areas.



| • | 03/10/18<br>04/10/18 | Illegal burning of gorse on the Sugarloaf trapped walkers above the fire who could not find a way off the mountain. 2 Fire Crews and mountain rescue were mobilised to assist. Arklow and Wicklow Town crews were mobilised to a garage on fire at Blainroe. The                                                                                                                                              |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • | 04/10/16             | building and the vehicles inside were on fire.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| • | 05/10/18             | Bray and Greystones Fire Crews attended a Fire in the Bray Lakers on Seapoint Road, Bray at 2 am. There was extensive damage to the building and the vehicles inside.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| • | 21/10/18             | Baltinglass and Dunlavin Fire Crew supported by Hacketstown in Carlow responded to an apartment fire at The Mill, Baltinglass. Fire was contained to the room of origin, one casualty was taken from the building, the apartment block was evacuated. Fire was extinguished, one room badly damaged, one apartment badly smoke damaged. All other residents were able to return to the building the same day. |
| • | 21/10/18             | Baltinglass and Dunlavin Fire Crews were alerted to a fatal RTC at Davidstown in the Glen of Imaal, Donard. One male fatality.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| • | 24/10/18             | Bray and Greystones Fire Crews responded to a fatal fire at Esmonde Terrace, Bray. One lady was found deceased in the property.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

#### Incidents mobilised outside county Wicklow (October 2018):

#### Kildare

| • | 02/10/18 | Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to a Chimney Fire in Brannockstown.                               |
|---|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • | 22/10/18 | Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to a Fire Alarm Activation in the Lakelands Estate             |
|   |          | in Naas.                                                                                            |
| • | 27/10/18 | Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to support the Fire Crew from Naas at a 2-car RTC              |
|   |          | at Greenmount, Rathmore where one person was trapped.                                               |
| • | 30/10/18 | Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to a small outdoor fire at Lackan View, Naas East (Halloween). |

#### Incidents assisted by Fire Stations from neighbouring counties (October 2018):

04/10/18 Gorey Fire Crew supported Arklow at a car fire on the motorway South of Arklow.

#### <u>General</u>

- The Fire Service maintains a Twitter account which has 650 followers.
- Fire Stations were involved in a number of initiatives during Fire Safety Week from 1<sup>st</sup> October.
- A number of Breathing Apparatus Training nights were arranged to maintain competence in this important area.
- A confined space exercise took place at the ESB dam and hydro electric station in Poulaphouca.
- Minister Simon Harris unveiled a defibrillator at Greystones Fire Station purchased by the fire crew from donations received from the public.
- Officers met in Bray to discuss advancements in "Positive Pressure Ventilation" and how this might be applicable to Wicklow Fire Service.

#### **Fire Prevention Statistics October 2018**

| Application type               | Received | Deemed<br>Invalid | Requested additional information | Validate BCMS /liaise with Building Control | Recommended<br>Grant |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Fire Safety<br>Certificates    | 4        | 2                 | 5                                |                                             | 16                   |
| Regularisation<br>Certificates | 3        | 0                 | 1                                |                                             | 0                    |



| FSC as part of 7 Day Notice       | 5  | 0 | 3 | 5 |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| Disability Access<br>Certificates | 13 | 0 | 0 | 6 |

| Licensing | Received,<br>acknowledged | Inspected | Requested further info | No<br>Objection<br>letter | Not raising<br>an<br>objection |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| District  | 3                         | 2         | 0                      | 4                         |                                |
| Circuit   |                           |           |                        |                           |                                |

#### General

- 8 responding to queries from members of the public.
- 4 requests to inspect and copy files
- 3 meetings with fire safety consultants about proposed projects

Pre event meeting held with organisers of Barn Dance Festival, Glendalough House

#### **CIVIL DEFENCE**

The Minister for Defence, Deputy Paul Kehoe will on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November present three members of Wicklow Civil Defence with Drone Pilots Licences. This qualification is issued by the Irish Aviation Authority.

#### **BUILDING CONTROL**

#### Commencement Notices - October 2018

- 43 Commencement Notices Of which:
- 16 were Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 10 were Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents (3 invalid)
- 4 Seven day Notice
- 13 Opt Out Declarations
- 30.23% of commencement notices are opt out.
- 16 % inspection rate on all notices
- 125 new build units
- 10 of which are one off houses

# <u>Completion Certificates – October 2018</u>

 13 completion certificates validated (27 housing units)

Building Control are not notified of the completion of opt out houses

#### Non compliance issues (on going)

- 3 pre validation of commencement notices
- 40 post validation of commencement notices based on construction and completion stage site inspections.



## **Organisational Development and Financial Matters**

#### 1. RECRUITMENT

Competitions for the following posts were held in November 2018:

Project Liaison Officer for N11, Preliminary Interviews for Clerical Officer, Burial Ground Registrars, Sustainable Transportation Engineer

#### **Employee Numbers**

|                        | Q1<br>2018 | Q2<br>2018 | Q3<br>2018 |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Managerial/            | 246        | 263        | 280        |
| Administrative         |            |            |            |
| Professional/Technical | 119        | 105        | 105        |
| Outdoor                | 317        | 306        | 313        |
| Temporary/Seasonal     | 41         | 79         | 54         |
| Non DOECLG             | 13         | 8          | 8          |
| Total                  | 736        | 761        | 752        |

#### (Excludes figures for Firefighters)

|                        | Q1<br>2017 | Q2<br>2017 | Q3<br>2017 |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Managerial/            | 246        | 245        | 246        |
| Administrative         |            |            |            |
| Professional/Technical | 103        | 109        | 109        |
| Outdoor                | 305        | 311        | 311        |
| Temporary/Seasonal     | 47         | 58         | 58         |
| Non DOECLG             | 45         | 14         | 14         |
| Total                  | 746        | 737        | 738        |

#### (Excludes figures for Firefighters)

#### 2. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

#### No. of FOI REQUESTS

| October 2018 16  |     | October 2017     | 14  |
|------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Jan to Oct. 2018 | 115 | Jan to Oct. 2017 | 119 |

#### No. of Ombudsman Requests

| October 2018     | 1  | October 2017     | 1 |
|------------------|----|------------------|---|
| Jan to Oct. 2018 | 11 | Jan to Oct. 2017 | 7 |

#### 3. REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Presidential Referendum together with the Referendum for the 37<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution took place on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Wicklow County Council produced its largest ever Supplement electorate for both electoral events that took place in 2018 at 6213. The previous largest Supplement was in 2016 for the General Election at 1,600 approximately. It should be noted that Wicklow polled the highest turnout in the country in both the May Referendum and in the Presidential Election/Referendum which is an excellent representation of how accurate Wicklow County Council's Register of Electors is.

It has been a particularly busy time for the Franchise Section due to the Electoral Events and having to produce the 2019/2020 Draft Register 5 days after the 26th October polling day. Wicklow County Council met their statutory deadline of having the Draft Register of Electors produced both in hard copy and on the <a href="www.checktheregister.ie">www.checktheregister.ie</a> website by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018.

The Draft Register was circulated to all relevant parties including Elected Council Members.

The Franchise Department will be actively using social and print media as part of a publicity campaign from now to ensure that all eligible Electors who wish to register to vote will have ample opportunity to do so. We will also be contacting Schools, Youth Groups, Nursing Homes and other relevant groups in the New Year to provide them with details and forms of how to register to vote.

#### 4. PRESS RELEASES

October 2018 - 13 Press Releases



# 5. I.C.T. REPORT

#### **IT HELPDESK**

- Workflow analysis of IT Helpdesk function was used to develop a working model for customer care & case management processes. Cloud based open source platform was customised by Technical Support Function
- Tickets handled by this system have reached 7,450 in the year to date and analysis of support issues has built a knowledge database which is in daily use.
- The Asset Management Module was implemented to allow performance monitoring across the network and prepare strategic deployment model for ICT Infrastructure. This allowed identification of final list of PC's with a virtual xp client and a plan was developed for appropriate upgrade and replacement
- The updated Mobile Device Management (MDM) system is in place for all new mobile devices since Summer 2018. Roll out to existing estate has commenced and will continue through to end of year.

#### **CUSTOMER RELATIONS MANAGEMENT (CRM)**

- Business Process Modelling in the Housing & Environmental Services Department was used for preparation and development of customer care unit proof of concept.
- A pilot implementation of Office 365 is in place and a "Sandbox" has been created on Wicklow's Cloud Tenancy. This platform will be used for in-house development and testing purposes and development of cloud strategy
- A number of Dynamics licences have been provided to facilitate the next phase of deployment in Wicklow CoCo and cloud based systems are used in HR & Road Transportation directorates.

#### MANAGED PRINT SERVICE (MPS)

- Renewal of MPS is complete following vendor neutral print audit and RFT of December 2017.
- Project roll-out plan was completed in Q1 2018 and all new devices are now in place
- Second Quarterly cycle is now complete and quarterly review with the supplier is underway
- Managed Print Service policy is in place for all departments & MD's

#### **UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS**

- Voice over IP phone solution has been extended to most Council sites across Wicklow. This includes Municipal Districts and other sites such as Clermont Campus, Fire HQ and Library HQ.
- The VOIP system will underpin county wide communications, improved customer services and unified communications.

#### **CORE NETWORK**

- Procurement of core and edge network hardware refresh is complete and Phase 1 of LAN upgrade was implemented in Q1 2018. Extension to other sites including Bray MD, Fire HQ, Library HQ, Clermont was completed during Q2 2018.
- A fully updated core network is now in place.
- Business case for connection to government networks and government cloud networks is underway
- Network traffic analysis and identification of bottlenecks and load balancing informed update of virtual infrastructure and connections to core network. This work is on-going.

#### **DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS**

- Data collection systems using mobile devices are currently in place for Register of Electors Fieldworkers. Currently 94.25% of Electors have an assigned EIRCODE.
- Projects in Housing, Roads and Environmental Services departments are on-going and integration to CRM systems is being developed.
- A new project to update and edit Wicklow's Storm Water Network more effectively is underway and includes off site data collection.
- Revenue Collectors Handhelds have been upgraded to Tablets to allow more efficient data transfers to the financial management system.
- Offsite data collections systems have been consolidated and applied to Housing Condition Surveys, Health & Safety Audits, CCTV surveys etc.
- Microworks which is an integrated GISenabled water quality and environmental management solution allows high quality services management and ensures compliance with national and EU Regulations.



# 6. Revenue Account

| REVENUE ACCOUNT                              |                                                                         |               |             |              |              |          |              |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------|--------------|--|--|
| INCOME AND E                                 | INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST OCTOBER 2018 |               |             |              |              |          |              |  |  |
| INCOME AND EX                                | AF LINDII OILL 3                                                        | OWNAKT BT 3ET | VICE DIVISI | ON A1 3131 O | CTOBER 2010  |          |              |  |  |
|                                              |                                                                         | EXPENDITURE   |             |              | INCOME       |          | NET          |  |  |
|                                              | Actual                                                                  | Adopted Full  | % Budget    | Actual       | Adopted Full | % Budget |              |  |  |
|                                              | Expenditure                                                             | Year Budget   | Spent to    | income       | Year Budget  | Spent to |              |  |  |
|                                              |                                                                         |               | date        |              |              | date     |              |  |  |
|                                              |                                                                         |               |             |              |              |          |              |  |  |
|                                              | €                                                                       | €             | %           | €            | €            | %        | €            |  |  |
| A - Housing and Building                     | 13,338,302                                                              | 17,210,674    | 78          | (17,064,329) | (22,083,086) | 77       | (3,726,027)  |  |  |
| B - Road Transport & Safety                  | 15,818,939                                                              | 18,214,957    | 87          | (10,059,361) | (10,808,946) | 93       | 5,759,578    |  |  |
| C - Water Services                           | 4,926,482                                                               | 5,732,213     | 86          | (5,786,271)  | (6,649,630)  | 87       | (859,789)    |  |  |
| D - Development Management                   | 7,527,850                                                               | 9,233,906     | 82          | (4,052,294)  | (4,909,183)  | 83       | 3,475,556    |  |  |
| E - Environmental Services                   | 9,946,838                                                               | 10,751,474    | 93          | (1,920,782)  | (1,918,500)  | 100      | 8,026,056    |  |  |
| F - Recreation and Amenity                   | 5,303,699                                                               | 6,403,014     | 83          | (494,425)    | (520,600)    | 95       | 4,809,274    |  |  |
| G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 1,150,384                                                               | 1,511,045     | 76          | (576,517)    | (745,228)    | 77       | 573,867      |  |  |
| H - Miscellaneous Services                   | 9,020,510                                                               | 11,086,145    | 81          | (6,372,972)  | (7,505,975)  | 85       | 2,647,538    |  |  |
| J - Central Management Charges               | 13,035,295                                                              | 15,405,007    | 85          | (896,239)    | (955,217)    | 94       | 12,139,056   |  |  |
| LG - Local Government Fund                   |                                                                         |               |             | (9,688,851)  | (11,971,634) | 81       | (9,688,851)  |  |  |
| PL - Pension Levy                            |                                                                         |               |             | -            |              |          | -            |  |  |
| RA - Commercial Rates                        |                                                                         |               |             | (23,276,716) | (27,630,436) | 84       | (23,276,716) |  |  |
|                                              | 80,068,299                                                              | 95,548,435    | 84          | 80,188,757   | 95,698,435   | 84       | (120,458)    |  |  |

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st October 2018 to 31st October 2018.

## 1. Capital Account

| 1. Capital Account                       |                                                                         |                       |                  |                                  |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| INCOME AND EXPEND                        | INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st October 2018 |                       |                  |                                  |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                          |                                                                         |                       |                  |                                  |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                          | Opening<br>Balance at<br>01/01/2018                                     | Actual<br>Expenditure | Actual<br>Income | Transfers<br>To/From<br>Reserves | Closing Balance<br>at 31/10/2018 |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                          | €                                                                       | €                     | €                | €                                | €                                |  |  |  |  |  |
| Housing and Building                     | 19,982,975                                                              | 31,375,784            | (25,399,249)     | 545,577                          | 26,505,087                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| Road Transport & Safety                  | -34,490,964                                                             | 2,596,209             | (6,673,985)      | (506,000)                        | (39,074,740)                     |  |  |  |  |  |
| Water Services                           | -9,503,006                                                              | 1,500,506             | (2,033,428)      | 0                                | (10,035,928)                     |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development Management                   | -9,163,993                                                              | 562,099               | (121,101)        | (829,001)                        | (9,551,996)                      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Environmental Services                   | 1,744,994                                                               | 4,038,628             | (5,327,874)      | (664,783)                        | (209,035)                        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Recreation and Amenity                   | 179,527                                                                 | 819,088               | (1,709,582)      | (101,788)                        | (812,755)                        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | -1,042,916                                                              | 337,958               | (832)            | (96,289)                         | (802,079)                        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Miscellaneous Services                   | -12,936,991                                                             | 2,857,692             | (3,171,210)      | (70,299)                         | (13,320,808)                     |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                          | -45,230,374                                                             | 44,087,964            | (44,437,261)     | (1,722,583)                      | (47,302,254)                     |  |  |  |  |  |

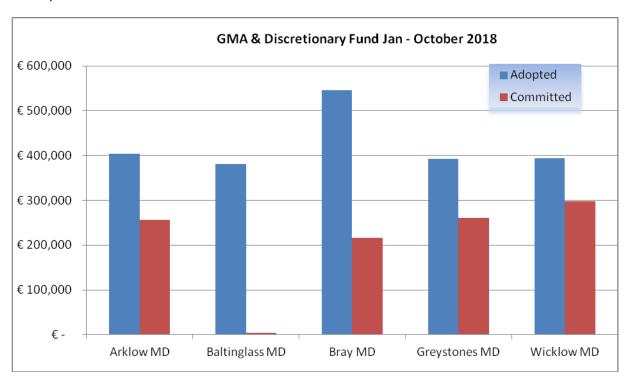


# 9. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

|                              | SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2018 |            |                                    |            |                         |            |                                  |                                 |              |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Income<br>Collection<br>Area | Opening<br>Balance<br>01/01/2018                  | Accrued    | Vacancy<br>Property<br>Adjustments | Write Offs | Total for<br>Collection | Collected  | Closing<br>Arrears<br>31/10/2018 | Specific<br>Doubtful<br>Arrears | % Collection |
|                              |                                                   |            |                                    |            |                         |            |                                  |                                 |              |
| Rates                        | 7,477,320                                         | 27,932,359 |                                    |            | 35,409,679              | 21,653,145 | 13,756,534                       |                                 | 61%          |
| Rents &<br>Annuities         | 1,539,925                                         | 11,355,427 |                                    | 8,358      | 12,886,994              | 11,250,582 | 1,636,412                        |                                 | 87%          |
| Housing<br>Loans *           | 413,129                                           | 1,032,916  |                                    | -1,120     | 1,447,165               | 1,060,071  | 387,094                          |                                 | 73%          |

# 10. General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2018

Discretionary Budget 2018 €2,117,500. The graph and table below outline the discretionary budget for 2018 by Municipal District.



| Municipal District | C/F from 2017 | Adopted   | Committed | Balance to<br>Expend |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
|                    | €             | €         | €         | €                    |
| Arklow MD          | (60,226)      | 404,250   | 316,887   | 147,589              |
| Baltinglass MD     | (138,525)     | 380,250   | 142,511   | 376,264              |
| Bray MD            | (108,084)     | 546,500   | 323,941   | 330,643              |
| Greystones MD      | (14,475)      | 392,250   | 275,693   | 131,032              |
| Wicklow MD         | (33,041)      | 394,250   | 331,003   | 96,288               |
| Total              | (354,351)     | 2,117,500 | 1,390,035 | 1,081,816            |



# 11. Capital Investment Programme 2018-2020

The Capital Investment Programme 2018-2020 for Wicklow County Coucil which details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was approved by the Members at the Ordinary Council meeting of March 12<sup>th</sup> 2018.

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

| PROGRAMME GROUP                                  | Proposed Expenditure |             |             |             |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|--|--|--|
|                                                  | 2018                 | 2019        | 2020        | TOTAL       |  |  |  |  |
|                                                  | €                    | €           | €           | €           |  |  |  |  |
| HOUSING AND BUILDING                             | 53,300,000           | 87,000,000  | 87,300,000  | 227,600,000 |  |  |  |  |
| ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY                          | 4,300,000            | 1,800,000   | 2,500,000   | 8,600,000   |  |  |  |  |
| WATER SERVICES                                   | 433,000              | 150,000     | 150,000     | 733,000     |  |  |  |  |
| ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT -<br>DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT | 3,070,000            | 2,150,000   | 1,900,000   | 7,120,000   |  |  |  |  |
| ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES                           | 150,000              | 100,000     | 1,600,000   | 1,850,000   |  |  |  |  |
| RECREATION AND AMENITY                           | 5,072,000            | 6,160,000   | 3,515,000   | 14,747,000  |  |  |  |  |
| AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION,<br>HEALTH & WELFARE     | 2,500,000            | 6,800,000   | 10,550,000  | 19,850,000  |  |  |  |  |
| OVERALL TOTAL                                    | 68,825,000           | 104,160,000 | 107,515,000 | 280,500,000 |  |  |  |  |