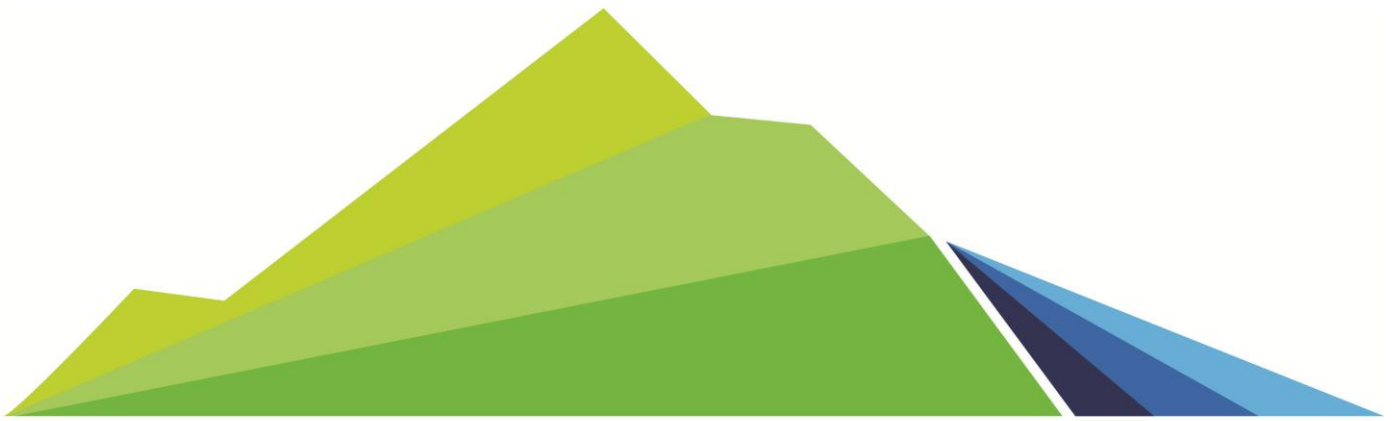


OCTOBER 2018



# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Report



W I C K L O W

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## **This Month:**

### **7 Wicklow Towns to benefit from the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme**

*€518,005 funding to Blessington, Hollywood, Newcastle, Newtown, Rathdrum and Tinahely*

***Wicklow Tourism Strategy Launched by Minister Simon Harris at the Brockagh Centre, Laragh***

### **All Inclusive Playground in Greystones opened by Minister Simon Harris**

***National Womens Enterprise Day took place in Powerscourt House – Guest Speaker Sarah Slazenger***

***‘This Crowded House’ features Wicklow County Council’s Loans Officer conducting an interview with a Rebuilding Ireland Loan applicant – due to air 7<sup>th</sup> November.***



## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

The #HousingFocus campaign ran successfully from October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 5<sup>th</sup> and positively promoted the work and progress of Wicklow County Council on housing.

The campaign showcased the delivery of the Council's delivery programme and social housing solutions. The week-long campaign had five themes:

- Housing in progress
- Housing delivered
- Building communities
- Quality and Innovation
- The housing context

### 1. SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT

<i>No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP)</i>	3886
No. of new applicants 2018	382
<i>No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)</i>	438
<i>No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)</i>	841
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	7
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	10

### 2. ALLOCATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING

<i>WCC Social Housing (excluding Bray M. D.)</i>	58
<i>Approved Housing Bodies (excluding Bray M. D.)</i>	1
	11 Pending

### 3. SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

**4314 tenancies occupied @ 29/09/2018**

**Casual Vacancies/Relets 55**

Municipal District	No
Arklow	9
Baltinglass	15
Bray	9
Greystones	5
Wicklow	17

› Total weekly rental accrual €235,366.32 (€12.2m per annum)

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



## 4. HOUSING SUPPLY – PROGRAMME OF DELIVERY

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

The situation regarding MDY Construction Limited, the contracting firm engaged to construct the 42 Social Housing units at Kilbride Lane in Bray is complicated from a legal and procurement perspective.

Wicklow County Council is obtaining advice from their legal team on how best to proceed to continue with the development of this project and further updates will be provided when more clarity on the situation is known. *The Examiner already appointed by the High Court for MDY Construction is due back before the Court on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.* In the meantime, Wicklow County Council is providing 24 hour security at the site.

### Social Housing Supply Programme

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

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



## 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 October.
- 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 (Newtownmountkennedy).
- 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  
> 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. 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 liaising 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

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

› Grant funding for private houses - €901,776.47

› Grant funding for social houses - €650,000

132 Open Applications to value of  
€464,408.78

### Housing Assistance for

Older People (59)	€216,569.19
Mobility Aid Grants (85)	€291,716.73
Housing Adaptation Grants (58)	€393,490.55

### Approved

› 18 Mobility Aid Grants	€65,535.66
› 10 Housing Adaption Grants	€85,380.04
› 4 Housing Aid for Older People	€19,697.88

### House Purchase Loans – Rebuilding Ireland

- 126 received up to 30/09/2018
- 49 approvals.
- 59 declined
- 7 awaiting further information.
- 10 awaiting a reply from Housing Agency.
- 1 Appeal
- 

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 is from Bray and is living at home to save for a mortgage but also wants to explore the Rebuilding Ireland loan and how to apply etc.

*This episode is scheduled to air on  
Wednesday November 7<sup>th</sup>.*

### 2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

- 38 applications to 30/09/2018
- 7 sales completed

## 10. ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

**Period - 01/01/2018 to 30/09/2018**

No of Presentations	382
No. of Repeat Presentations	61
No. of Households (Families)	231
No. Of Adults (Individuals)	149
No. Of Children	405
NTQ/Asked to leave/Landlord selling	57
Family Circumstances	73
Leaving prison/hospital/care	1
Sofa Surfing	25
Rough Sleeping	5

### 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 move-ons from these properties, signalling the success of this model.

### **Housing First**

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

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 negotiations are underway to secure this property.

## **12. SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (SICAP)**

### **SICAP:**

Local Community Development Committees have submitted their 2018 Case studies to Pobal and LCDC based on work to date. These reports currently under review by Pobal and LCDC.

County Wicklow Partnership is currently filling a new Enterprise & Employment Officer position which will enhance the delivery of these services in the Wicklow, Arklow and Baltinglass MD Areas.

Qtr 4 funding has been released to both LDC's totalling €328,264.

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

The PPN National Conference took place on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October in Athlone. Wicklow was well represented and the Wicklow PPN Resource Worker was a guest presenter. The development of "Community Well-Being" statements for each Wicklow MD area is continuing. See Wicklow PPN website for more details.

Wicklow PPN now has 230 registered groups.

Wicklow County Council staff are reminded to contact Helen Howes at the PPN to publicise all WCC information of relevance to the general public or in relation to any public consultations/requests for submissions.



## 13. WICKLOW LIBRARY SERVICE

Autumn is the busiest time of year in Wicklow County Council Library Service. Children are back at school and everyone gets back into their routines. For many, this means attending events at their local library. This month, we have decided to showcase just some of the events that occur, at just some of our 13 libraries!

### Bray – Eglinton Road

- Creative Writing (Thursday evening)
- Knitting Circle (Tuesday evening)
- Toddler story time (Tuesday morning)
- “Rereading the classics” book club (monthly) Also 2 regular book clubs
- Mindfulness for Mums (monthly)
- Conclusion of Summer Stars programme was celebrated with a puppet show for all who participated in the event
- Culture Night (September 21) – “Music & Me” – Little Bray / South Bray Resource Centres

### Wicklow

- Storytime + arts and crafts (Saturday mornings)
- Teenage book club – first Saturday of each month
- Book club for adults – monthly on Wednesday evenings
- Active Ageing Week (1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Oct) – talk on home and personal security by Community Garda
- Healthy Ireland (Phase 2) – Irish Heart Foundation Tue 16<sup>th</sup> October
- CAO talk for Leaving Cert students on Wed 17<sup>th</sup> October at 7PM
- Rock decorating – Halloween at 11AM

### Greystones

- Summer stars Award Ceremony (1<sup>st</sup> September) – 90 children present for receipt of certificates, followed by traditional story teller, Niall de Burca
- Camino de Santiago talk – 13<sup>th</sup> September

- Culture Night 21<sup>st</sup> Sept) with Karl Henry – talk based on his new book “The Healthy Living Handbook”
- National Network of Migrant Women Living in Ireland (24<sup>th</sup> Sept) – knowledge sharing tea and coffee morning
- Workshop for parents on Young People, Drugs and Alcohol – East Wicklow Youth Service and Wicklow Travellers’ Group, in conjunction with Cross Care
- German conversation group each Saturday morning
- Poetry group meet monthly
- 4 book clubs

### Enniskerry

Culture Night in Enniskerry Library kicked off with the showcasing of a “Yarn Bomb” Installation in the library garden. The knitting project was the conception of The Enniskerry Knitters, who meet monthly in the library, and all members of the local community contributed. Later on there was music in the library by local singer Mary Fogarty and fiddle player John Cleere. The whole day was a huge success and there are plans for an even bigger yarn bomb next year!

### Blessington

- Summer Stars Grand Finale - Joe Daly magician entertained children and parents to a fun filled morning of magic and mischief.
- Cuidiú Breastfeeding Group meets every Tuesday morning 10-12 noon.
- Music Generation – children busy borrowing instruments and starting lessons.
- Storytimes every Wednesday and Saturday.
- Launching ‘Reading Role Models’ where local people in the neighbourhood read to children in the library – first up is Garda Shaun.
- Culture Night – Catherine Fulvio with a bit of Food Culture.





- Poetry Group – ‘Poula Poetry’ first Tuesday of the month.
- Crafty Hookers – Knitting and Crochet group, every Wednesday.
- Children’s Book Clubs 3<sup>RD</sup> 9- 10 year olds Tuesday of the month at 7 pm and 11-12 year olds 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday evening at 7 p.m.
- All Class Visits back after Summer Holidays.
- Baby Booktime 10 a.m. Friday mornings.
- Toddlertime 11 a.m. Friday mornings.
- Citizen’s information every Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning.
- Free Legal Aid 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.
- Jackie Burke author of Grindlewood Series entertained 2 classes.
- Age Action one-to one computer classes every Thursday main library.
- Children’s Book Festival – lots of extra events organised.
- Fighting Words – Creative writing for students from Blessington Community College. Fridays at 1 p.m.

## Arklow

- Presentation of Summer Stars certificates + entertainment from “Giggles” the clown (Sept 1)
- Singalong Mondays with Becky – story time, play and singing with parents and toddlers each Monday
- Twice weekly Polish language classes hosted by Monika Kosta
- In association with County Wicklow Partnership, Fáilte Isteach are hosting English Language classes for non English speakers every Tuesday morning from October through December
- Irish Sign Language tuition takes place in the Community Room every Wednesday morning 10-11am
- The HSE began a weekly parenting skills course which will run from October

to December 2018. The class of 12 participants is held in the library community room.

- In September, Arklow Library Gallery hosted an exhibition of abstract landscapes by Kilkenny Artist Claire Mulcahy.
- The annual exhibition of work by Arklow Camera club is on view for the month of October
- World Mental Health Day (10<sup>th</sup> October) – Dr. Pat Loughran spoke to an audience of more than 80 people on “Understanding Childhood Anxiety”
- A highlight of Children’s Book Festival will be the visit of Wicklow author, Jackie Burke on October 24
- Arklow library & Arklow Municipal Council have launched a Ghost Story writing competition for Halloween. Author, Paul Howard will judge the entries and present prizes on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

## 14. COUNTY WICKLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (LSP)

### Physical Activity Leaders Workshop (PAL’s)

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership in conjunction with Go for Life are holding a series of PAL’s workshops for older people who are interested in organising physical activities with members of their groups/clubs/organisations. The first workshop took place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in The Brockagh Centre in Laragh and will continue every Wednesday for 8 weeks.

### School Programmes

#### One Million Step Challenge

Wicklow LSP has challenged primary school students to compete against their teachers to reach ONE MILLION STEPS each in one week! This is a very good educational tool for schools to use to highlight the importance of reaching 10,000 steps per day. Ashford National School

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and Gaelscoil Chill Mhantain have undertaken the challenge so far.

### Tug of War

Wicklow LSP provided a Tug of War taster for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class in Brittas Bay National School. 40 children benefitted from this. Also a Tug of War taster will be provided for St Patrick's National School Wicklow Town on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

### Schools Cross Country

Wicklow LSP facilitated a Schools Cross Country Event in Avondale Forest Park on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018. This was a very successful event with 700 children taking part.

### Katie Taylor Bursary 2018/2019

The Katie Taylor Bursary scholarship interviews took place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Wicklow LSP has 16 participants for the interview phase.

### Sports Capital Funding

The deadline for Sports Capital Funding was Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Wicklow LSP made applications on behalf of 5 different clubs/organisations in County Wicklow which totals 8 applications altogether.

## 14. County Wicklow Arts Office

### CREATIVE IRELAND PROGRAMME

Ministers Josepha Madigan and Eoghan Murphy together with an Taoiseach Leo Varadkar launched the new Creative Ireland County Plans at the Irish Architecture Archive in Merrion Square. In an unprecedented Government line up for local cultural development these came together to herald further investment in the creative sector until 2022. In 2018 Wicklow County Council received from the Departments of Housing, Community & Local Government and Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the amount of €111,000 for the Creative Ireland Wicklow Programme. The minimum investment for this programme in 2019 will be €116,000.

### CREATIVE YOUTH IRELAND PROGRAMME

An application was made to the Creative Ireland new Creative Youth Programme fund for a pilot investment of 100,000 in 2019. The application was a joint application of the Local Authority and KWETB which will be managed by KWETB if we are one of three successful applicants to the scheme. The programme would see the investment of €60,000 in capacity and programme building cultural measures for children and young people in our selected West Wicklow (Baltinglass MD) area.

### CULTURE NIGHT 2018

2,500 people attended as audience and participants the WCC Culture Night Programme coordinated by the Arts Office on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Wicklow County Council coordinated some 16 events throughout the county featuring music, film, readings, literature, and workshops.

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

### Community Enhancement Programme 2018

Wicklow County Council has been allocated €350,530 which will be paid to the recipients during November.

### Community Enhancement Programme 2018 (Men's Shed Funding)

Wicklow County Council has been allocated €17,391 which will be paid to the recipients during November.

### OLDER PERSON'S COUNCIL (OPC)

Preparation is ongoing for the national Older Persons convention to be held in the Druids Glen on the 8<sup>th</sup> November.

### PLAYGROUNDS

Following the tender process, 3 playground contracts have been sealed in October 2018.

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Annacurragh, Laragh and Roundwood are the 3 new playground sites.

## Opening of All-Inclusive Playground in Greystones

In Greystones, an all – inclusive playground was officially opened by Minister of Health, Simon Harris TD on the 08<sup>th</sup> of October 2018. The South Beach playground represents an investment of over €300,000. The playground was mainly funded by Wicklow County Council and the Greystones South Beach Playground Committee who raised an unprecedented level of funds for this project. There was also a generous contribution made by a local Greystones resident and a contribution from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The design of the playground equipment includes a musical play area, an ability swing, a sensory path, a toddler play area, a wheelchair-accessible sand factory, zip lines and a large activity set. This playground is designed for children to be together, play together and learn together.

This playground project was shortlisted by Engineers Ireland, for the 2018 Local Authority Engineering Initiative Award. The winner will be announced at the Engineers Ireland Excellence Awards on Friday, 9 November 2018.

## TOWN AND VILLAGE SCHEME 2018

The following projects were submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development for funding under the Town & Village Scheme 2018. The Department make the final decision on the successful projects. The decision is as follows:

Funded	Funding Applied for
Hollywood – upgrade footpath & pilgrim path	€29,756
Newcastle – health check and	€29,700

walkway	
Blessington – Public realm enhancements	€100,000
Tinahely – relocation and upgrade community recycling centre & upgrade trails	€76,000
Rathdrum – Public lighting upgrade	€68,000
Delgany – public realm and green route	€26,560
Newtownmountkennedy – public realm enhancement	€120,488
Wicklow – lighting monuments	€120,000
Enniskerry – clock restoration and public square upgrade	€78,400
14 villages – memory trail	€20,800

## URBAN REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND 2018

### Funding Applied for in September 2018

Proposal	Bray Harbour
Summary	Regeneration of Bray Harbour: Marine works; amenity and public realm enhancement; promenade board-walk; cycle bridge; relocation of boat storage
Proposal	Development of Fassaroe
Summary	Key infrastructure provision to facilitate major development (4,000 residential plus commercial, education and community facilities) at Fassaroe. They are: The Ballyman Link Road; A District Park; Cycle/Pedestrian Bridge
Proposal	Bray – Dublin Road Improvement
Summary	Upgrade existing Dublin Road in Bray to include public transport, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure

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	to improve traffic congestion and cater for future development – in partnership with DLRC To be associated with Bray Bridge application below
Proposal	Bray Bridge
Summary	Public transport bridge across River Dargle linking Bray Golf lands to Bray Town Centre Funding combined with Dublin Road Improvement application above
Proposal	Wicklow Town Centre Renewal
Summary	Acquiring and upgrading a number of under-utilised buildings for commercial and residential use and improvements to 500m2 of streetscape
Proposal	Wicklow Town Centre Renewal
Summary	Fitzwilliam Square upgrade and street improvement: Pedestrianise part of Fitzwilliam square, enhance the public realm and make Bridge Street one-way Relocate Wicklow town library therefore necessitating refurbishment of building
Proposal	Abbey Quarter Regeneration – Arklow town
Summary	Provision of a Pottery Centre in order to (i) build on the heritage of Arklow Pottery and (ii) stimulate economic activity in the area in terms of creative and artisan enterprises
Proposal	Arklow Transport Plan
Summary	Transport Plan to address urgent traffic and accessibility issues and guide the development of Arklow town over the next 20 years
Proposal	Arklow Historic Quarter regeneration

Summary	Parade Ground Public Realm and Plaza development Renovate existing courthouse to provide remodelled court service area and a digital hub/hot desk
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## RURAL REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND 2018

### Funding Applied for in September 2018

Proposal	Baltinglass Renewal
Summary	Public Realm Enhancement in town centre: regularisation of parking; creation of defined public spaces; upgrade of public pavements; hard and soft landscaping
Proposal	Rathdrum Regeneration
Summary	Technical assistance for the provision of an up to date community & enterprise centre in Rathdrum, and the purchase of land for the centre Funding Sought: €146,250 (Year 1). (Total project estimated cost €1,788,837)
Proposal	Kilcoole Regeneration
Summary	The procurement of services for the development of a plan for Kilcoole that will cover (i) a public realm plan for the town centre, (ii) the linkages between Kilcoole and the neighbouring towns/villages through walkways and cycle ways and links to future Greenways.



## 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 CCTV committee has progressed the Community CCTV project to tender award stage. Grants have been awarded to 26 retailers in Arklow, under the Retail Painting Grant Scheme (subsidised by AMD, Dulux and Topline Bolands). The Lightship Lantern has been placed at the Roundabout at Junction 20. All 8 Roundabouts are now sponsored by local businesses. Arklow Town Team has been shortlisted in the annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. Plans are well underway for the second Spook - Tacular Halloween Festival in Arklow Town*

*Blessington Town Team will receive the results and recommendations of the Town Centre Health Check (funded under Town and Village Renewal Grants) at the November meeting. Work has been done to progress the application for funding for CCTV. This project has paused temporarily pending the resolution of an issue at national level. The funding application for Blessington Greenway has been the focus of the tourism group within Blessington Town Team.*

*Greystones 2020 is working with Greystones Municipal District on the Christmas Lights and the Christmas promotion which will be launched on 24<sup>th</sup> November. The Greystones 2020 website will be launched before the end of the year. An application for LEADER funding has been made in respect of a Public Realm Plan for Greystones.*

*Wicklow Town has been awarded Town and Village Renewal Funding for the lighting up of landmarks around the town. Wicklow Municipal District provided funding to engage a lighting designer to develop the design and the tender documents. A committee representing the Municipal District and the Town Team has been set up to drive this project forward*

*The membership of Bray Town Team is under review; Bray MD is liaising with Bray Chamber in this regard. The Bray Business Guide aimed at attracting new business to the town and assisting existing businesses has been launched. This is*



available online also. A Business Guide, using the Bray model, will be developed for the other towns in conjunction with the Town Teams. A free public wifi project for Bray is being progressed at present this will be launched in 2019.

## TOURISM

### Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

Our vision is to make Wicklow the number one choice for visitors seeking an idyllic escape that harmonises 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 vision of what can be achieved in Wicklow, with clear priorities and a series of detailed actions and next steps to ensure the County is realising its potential 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**

It is anticipated that these five actions identified above will help Wicklow push on to 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.

Ireland's National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) will be the key consideration for decision

makers on all marine consents. All applications for activity or development in Ireland's marine area will be considered in terms of its consistency with the objectives of the plan. It will therefore create the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence-based and secures a sustainable future for the marine area. Through extensive public involvement, it will offer everyone with an interest in our seas and coasts the opportunity to have a say in how their marine area is managed.

Officials from Wicklow County Council attended the regional launch of the National Marine Planning Baseline Report. The Baseline Report sets out the context for the development of National Marine Planning Framework. The public consultation process is open until **midday on 18<sup>th</sup> December**., All those interested in maritime activities are encouraged to engage with the process.

### Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow

Wicklow County Council has recently advertised on e-tenders for consultants to develop a Maritime Strategic Review. The intent of the strategic review is to provide non-statutory 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

From Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November Gamma Consultants will conduct a Commuter Survey on behalf of Wicklow County Council. Our objective is to capture 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.

One of the aims of the Commuter Survey is to establish where the citizens of Wicklow are commuting to, what skill sets they possess and what



level of educational attainment they have. Another aim is to reduce carbon emissions created by increased commuting levels and become more environmentally friendly and sustainable. The ultimate aim will be to enhance the quality of life for citizens of Wicklow through a reduction in commuting, a better work/life balance and the provision of employment locally. The results of the Commuter Survey will be included in marketing

material for the promotion of Wicklow as the best place to do business.

The Commuter Survey will be widely publicised over the coming weeks. Commuters can complete the survey online at [Wicklow.ie](http://Wicklow.ie)

## 2. LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.</li> <li>- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.</li> <li>- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.</li> <li>- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.</li> <li>- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland</li> <li>- Acting as a First Stop Shop for business information and referral</li> </ul>			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2017	2018	2018
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 25/€520,084.90 - 17/€27,664.03	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	- 22/€454,158.50 - 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	93
Business IT Training Courses Participant numbers	163	150	76
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	5
Seminars participant numbers	366	400	307



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*	426
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings	363	350	271
Businesses assigned a Mentor	79 *includes once off SECC Initiative	91	54

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
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

## October 2018 Activities

- LEO 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 October in Wicklow County Campus On Tuesdays and Thursday, in the Glenview Hotel on Monday evening and in Blessington civic offices on the first Thursday every month depending on demand.
  - The Student Enterprise Programme is underway in schools throughout the County.
  - The Autumn Winter 2018 Training Programme is continuing throughout October with the following:
    - ‘Social Media Beginners’ Course took place on 3 October in ABEC, Arklow
    - ‘Tax & Vat for Start Up businesses’ Course was held on 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October at Wicklow County Campus.
  - ‘The Search Engine Optimisation Beginners Course’ took place in ABEC, Arklow on 11 October.
  - The LEO Wicklow National Womens Enterprise Day event took place on 18 October in Powerscourt House with guest speaker Sarah Slazenger.
  - The Local Enterprise Office flagship Management Development training programme commenced on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September in the Glenview Hotel. 22 participants have signed up for the 20 week programme.
  - The Evaluations Committee met on 26<sup>th</sup> September to review 8 Priming and Business Expansion grant funding applications for Wicklow based businesses.
- Upcoming events:**
- ‘Retail relations and Export Potential for Design and Craft Businesses’ Course will take place on 25 October.





- 'Accessing Finance for your Business' workshop will be on 30 October.
- There will be a 'Trading Online Seminar' taking place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November with guest speaker Noel Davidson.
- The LEO will facilitate an additional day of one to one mentoring regarding Brexit for 6 Wicklow businesses on 9<sup>th</sup> November.
- The 'Search Engine Optimisation Intermediate' Course will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> November in Wicklow County Campus.
- The LEO will facilitate a 'Digital Marketing Clinic' on 14<sup>th</sup> November.
- The 'Bookkeeping for Small Businesses' course will be on Thursday 15 & 22<sup>nd</sup> November.
- The 'Social Media Intermediate' course will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November.
- The 'Bookkeeping using Excel' course will take place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

## 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:

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

*Building Conservation Projects: All projects allocated funding by Wicklow County Council under the*

*Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Structures at Risk Fund (SRF) are underway. The heritage office is overseeing the completion of approved conservation works on eight projects. **The allocations for county Wicklow are €50,000 (BHIS) and €24,000 (SRF) which will be recouped by the end of the year.***

*The Heritage office in association with the Wicklow PPN hosted a public event on the theme of Coastal Communities in Wicklow Town on 13<sup>th</sup> September. The event highlighted projects being co-ordinated by the Heritage Office through the Local Biodiversity Action Plan fund, including the Brittas Bay Management Report and related initiatives such as the Coastwatch Survey, activities of the LAWCO office and opportunities for funding under the Flag programme.*

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

*A total of 95 applications were received during September, these include applications as follows:*

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	22
Housing Developments	5
Agricultural Structures	5
Commercial	6
Other Developments	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>

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Decisions issued in respect of 78 applications in September, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	1
Individual Houses	14
Other Developments	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>

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

	30/09/2017	30/09/2018
Total Number of decisions issued	776	767
Total Number of decisions to grant	635	639
% grant rate	82%	83%

## PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Details of activity during September:

- 06 New files were opened
- 36 Advisory letters issued
- 16 Warning Letters issued
- 05 Enforcement Notices served
- 0 Files was referred for legal action
- 22 Files have been closed

One case came before the District Court. Next sitting of Circuit Court is in October.

### Derelict Sites Activity September:

No. of sites on Register	8
No. of Inspections	0

### Derelict Sites Levy September

In September the sum of €21,600 was received in respect of 2 properties at 16 Mill Road Greystones and The Old Rectory, Rathdrum.

It is anticipated that a further sum of €21,100 will be received in respect of a property at 4 Old Court, Bray, by the end of September.

## 4. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTION – AUGUST 2018

	September
No. of Complaints Opened	254
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	140
No of Litter Fines Issued	58
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	13
No. of Warning Letters Issued	9
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	10
No. of Burning Applications Granted	12
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	7
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	1
No. of Cases in Court under Litter Pollution Act	1
No. Of Cases in Court under Waste Management Act	2
<b>Income - Litter Fines</b>	<b>€3,286.25</b>
<b>Income- Waste Management</b>	<b>€1.823.79</b>

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## Avoca Recycling Centre

### Pakman Awards Finalist 2018

Congratulations to the Avoca Recycling Centre on being shortlisted as one of 2018 finalists in the Community Recycling Project of the Year category for the Pakman Awards 2018. The Pakman Awards was launched in 2015 by Repak and are national awards that recognise excellence in waste management and recycling among businesses, organisations, community groups and initiatives in Ireland.

## WHITESTOWN REMEDIATION PROJECT

Wicklow County Council have now employed Fehily Timoney Company to advise on the remediation of the site at Whitestown, in accordance with the judgments of Mr Justice Humphreys. They are independent experienced Environmental Consultants. An initial meeting has taken place with the consultants and a steering committee has been formed to monitor progress on the remediation project.

## PORTS & HARBOURS

Improvements have continued in Wicklow & Arklow Harbours over the summer. Fendering works have been carried out along the quay walls in both harbours. A new engineer is expected at the start of September and she will progress other projects such as improvements to the upper deck of the East Pier and importantly replacing the mooring bollard on the Packet Pier in Wicklow. In Arklow, Arklow Marina Ltd. won the franchise to operate the 16 berth marina in Arklow.

### Wicklow Harbour

- Following on from works in 2017 Phase 2 Repairs to Harbour Wall at South Quay commenced Mid September and were completed the first week of October. The cost of the works was in the region of €80,000 incl. VAT. Works funded by DAFM.
- Discussions are ongoing with tenders / contractors regarding the installation of a new bollard for tying up ships on the Packet Pier.
- New safety signage to be erected on the East Pier, Wicklow.

- Works to install two new ladders due to commenced in October. Project is funded by Inland Fisheries Ireland. Approximate cost €4,000 Ex. VAT.
- Swim Buoys were successfully removed from Wicklow Harbour on the 04/10/2018 and the Wendy Raft was taken out on the 18/10/2018.
- 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.

### Arklow Harbour

- Notice regarding 6 wrecks / un-seaworthy vessels in Arklow Harbour published in Wicklow and Wexford People in September 2018. Owners were given 14 days to remove their vessels. One vessel was removed. Quotes currently been sought for the removal of five remaining vessels.
- Works to install two new ladders due to commenced in October. Project is funded by Inland Fisheries Ireland. Approximate cost €4,000 Ex. VAT.
- Annual Environmental Report for DaS Permit for Arklow Dredging Project submitted to EPA. Report completed by Hydrographic Surveys Ltd.

### Bray Harbour

- Pontoon successfully removed from Bray Harbour 29/09/2018 and is now in storage.
- Works to install two new ladders due to commenced in October. Project is funded by Inland Fisheries Ireland. Approximate cost €4,000 Ex. VAT.

## POLLUTION CONTROL

### BATHING WATERS

- The Bathing Water season closed on 15<sup>th</sup> September.
- Of the 60 samples taken from the 6 identified bathing waters, which include 4 blue flag beaches at Bray South, Greystones South, Brittas Bay North and



Brittas Bay South, 57 were excellent and 3 were good.

- Of the 44 samples taken from the 7 non-identified bathing waters, 38 were excellent, 3 good, 1 sufficient and 2 poor.
- There were 3 prohibition notices issued for Wicklow Harbour during the season due to elevated bacterial levels and oily water.

## Licensed Discharges to Waters

- 5 proprietors with discharge licences were inspected and determined compliant.
- 4 proprietors with discharge licences were inspected and determined non-compliant and were required to take investigative and remedial action.

## Pollution Response & Investigation

- 5 water pollution complaints were received.
- 3 noise pollution complaints were received.

## Septic tanks

- 1 advisory notice to address a non-compliant septic tank/domestic waste water treatment system was complied with.

## 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.
- 13 private water supplies are on boil water notices restrictions.

## Solvents

- 8 certificate applications for vehicle refinisher installation were assessed and reported on.
- 7 vehicle refinisher installations were issued non-compliance letters.

## Well Grants

Well Grants	
Number of Applications	19
Number of New Wells	12
Number of New Pumps	15
Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.)	9

## WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

### NATIONAL MONITORING PROGRAMME

- 25 samples were taken from rivers for analysis.
- 12 samples were taken from lakes for analysis.
- As part of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, the catchment team based in Dublin and Tullamore continue to work on desk studies to schedule assessment tasks in the prioritized areas for improvement. The first catchments being selected are the Potters River and Three Mile Water River. A public information and consultation meeting will be held in the GAA Centre of Excellence on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- WCC continue to meet with the operational and management committees in both the South East and Midlands East Regions to progress actions.

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- In September there were 14 environmental reports on referred planning applications.



## 5. TRANSPORTATION & ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

### PUBLIC LIGHTING

	03 September 2018	11 September 2018	24 September 2018	01 October 2018
Access Issues (Attend)	18	17	20	16
Cable Fault (Attend)	9	10	10	10
ESB Required (Attended)	33	33	30	39
Knock Down (Attended)	2	2	2	2
Materials required	10	10	10	11
No Supply	11	11	10	10
On Hold	2	2	2	2
Submitted	304	272	262	296
Traffic Management Required	39	41	41	41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>427</b>

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	1		5	2	8	16
Cable Fault (Attend)			4	2	4	10
ESB Required (Attended)	2		24	9	4	39
Knock Down (Attended)			1		1	2
Materials required	1	2	3	2	3	11
No Supply	2	1	2	4	1	10
On Hold	1				1	2
Submitted	44	70	81	42	59	296
Traffic Management Required	5	1	10	7	16	39
<b>Grand Total</b>		2				2
	<b>56</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>427</b>



Parking Income by Municipal District Jan-Sept. 2018	EURO
Income Florence Road Carpark Bray MD	126,311
Income Herbert Road Carpark Bray MD	147,284
Income North Beach Car Park - Strand Road Bray MD	30,344
Income Restricted Parking Bray MD	562,905
Income Parking Fines Bray MD	139,407
Income Residential/Special Parking Discs Bray MD	33,260
<b>Bray Municipal District</b>	<b>1,039,511</b>
Income Greystones Pay Parking Scheme	352,104
<b>Greystones Municipal District</b>	<b>352,104</b>
Income Parking Charges Wicklow MD	267,975
Income Residential Parking Disk Wicklow MD	5,125
Income Traffic Fines Wicklow MD	34,533
<b>Wicklow Municipal District</b>	<b>307,634</b>
Income Parking Traffic Fines Arklow MD	25,116
Income Pay Parking Fees And Permits Arklow MD	181,088
<b>Arklow Municipal District</b>	<b>206,204</b>
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	<b>1,905,453</b>
	126,311

## EAST COAST GREENWAY TASK FORCE MEETING

Minister Simon Harris, who opened up the proceedings, was responsible for inviting senior executives and all relevant bodies to the meeting. The Wicklow TD outlined his support for the project and commitment to seeing it through to a successful outcome. Mr. Frank Curran also expressed his support and commitment to fulfilling the crucially important project.

The meeting was attended by The Wicklow County Council, Irish Rail, National Parks and Wildlife, OPW, Fáilte Ireland, Wicklow Tourism, Sports Council, and the Chief Engineer from the consultancy firm WS Atkins – who have begun work on the feasibility study required to begin the project.

WS Atkins outlined the scope of work involved and expect to have their report by end of December for our next meeting in early January.

The ARUP consultancy firm, who were hired by Irish Rail, have begun work on the coastal defense plan that will provide the basis for the project.

The ARUP report is expected to be completed by August 2019.

The East Coast Greenway Group have expressed their gratitude to all who attended the meeting and look forward to working with them in the months ahead.



## SCHEMES ON THE N81

- **N81 Annalecky and Poulaphuca Crash Barriers**

RPS Consulting are the Design Consultants for this commission. They have been appointed PSDP + Design for the works. The works involve the provision of a Crash Barrier at Annalecky Bend which has no crash barrier and the provision of a replacement barrier on the Wicklow side of the Poulaphuca Bridge. Barrier repairs along the N81 between the Wicklow County Council/Carlow County Council border and the Wicklow County Council/South Dublin County Council border are included. RPS is collating information supplied by Wicklow on barrier defects at this time. A tender competition for all of the works should be held later in the year. All information required has been transferred from Wicklow County Council to RPS Consulting.

- **N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment**

The main Archaeological dig & excavation works are complete. Tender Documents are to be published at the beginning of October.

- **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) to be commenced at the end of September 2018.

- **N81 Small Scale Projects**

(i) Grant funding of €10k each has been allocated to progress schemes at Hangman's Bend, Irishtown, Tuckmill and Whitestown Lower for 2018. Revised submissions will be issued to TII early October for approval to progress the schemes.

- **N81 2018 Pavement Works including Surface Restoration**

- (i) Resurfacing at the combined site of Mullycagh and Tuckmill will commence at the end of September, waiting on Kilsaran to finalise starting date.
- (ii) Arkil Contracting have completed the pavement works at Hempstown to Killeel and Rathattin to Athgreaney, some relining has to be completed.

## 6. WATER

### Targeted Leakage Reduction Programme

Co. Wicklow is part of a nationwide programme for reduction in Water Leakage.

The Key performance Indicator statistics show that the unaccounted for water in Wicklow has achieved plus 90% showing that the targeted leakage reduction programme is working. This quarter (July-September) the highest score was reached with a quarterly end score of 97.7%

## 7. EMERGENCY SERVICES

### FIRE SERVICE

#### Operational Fire Statistics September 2018

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Callsign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
<b>Two Stations Mobilised</b>											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	7	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		
Fire Haybarn	2			1	1						
Fire Industrial	2	1	1								
Road Traffic Collision	10	3	3	1		1	1	1			
Vehicle Fire on Motorway	4	2	2								
Major Gorse / Forest Fire	2	1	1								
<b>Single Station Mobilised</b>											
Fire Grass / Gorse / Trees	30	5	11	6	3	3	1			1	
Fire Alarm or CO2 Activation	10	2	2	2		1	2			1	
Fire Vehicle	5	1	1	1				1	1		
Fire Chimney	2	1	1								
Fire Caravan	1			1							
Fire Small/bin/skip	35	18	3	4	3	2	3		2		
Trees Down	2	1			1						
Gas Leak	1		1								
Electrical incident	1					1					
Ambulance Assist	6	5			1						
Make Scene Safe / Oil spill	1	1									
<b>Times Stations mobilised</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Sample Incidents (September 2018)

The month was characterised by small bonfires / outdoor fires (29%), gorse / forest fires (26%), alarm activations (8%), car fires (7%) assisting the ambulance service (5%). Serious incidents were RTCs (8%) and domestic fires (6%). Fire crews removed combustible material, Gardai put on extra patrols and Bray Municipal District did a general area clean up.

- 02/09/18 Blessington and Dunlavin Crews attended an RTC where a single occupant was trapped in a van that had left the road near Manor Kilbride.
- 08/09/18 Bray and Greystones crews attended an RTC on the Scalp Road where a car had struck a wall.
- 14/09/18 Arklow were called to assist at the scene of a single car RTC on the Vale Road where a car had overturned with two occupants.
- 14/09/18 Dunlavin and Baltinglass attended a house fire on the N81, the fire was contained to the attic.
- 17/09/18 Bray and Greystones crews attended an RTC involving a car and a motorbike on Main Street Bray.
- 24/09/18 Blessington Crew supported by crew from Naas attended a smouldering fire in a shed at The Glen, Burgage More.



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- 27/09/18 Arklow and Rathdrum Crews attended a fire in a garage at Kilcarra East, Arklow.

## Incidents mobilised outside county Wicklow (September 2018) 2 in total:

### Kildare

- 01/09/18 Dunlavin Crew mobilised to Calverstown, Kilcullen to deal with an outdoor fire.
- 08/09/18 Dunlavin Crew mobilised to Ballyshannon National School for a fire alarm activation.
- 18/09/18 Dunlavin Crew mobilised to Brannockstown to a garage fire. They were supported by a fire crew from Naas.
- 18/09/18 Blessington Crew mobilised to Tipper South Naas to deal with a domestic fire supported by crews from Naas and Newbridge. Extractor fan on fire all occupants out.

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

17/09/18 A crew from Naas assisted Blessington Fire Crew at a domestic fire at 1 St Joseph's Road, Blessington Demense.

### General

- The Fire Service maintains a Twitter account which has 636 followers.
- A number of Breathing Apparatus training nights were arranged during the month to maintain necessary skills among firefighters.
- A confined space exercise took place at the ESB dam and hydro electric station in Poulaphouca.
- CFO attended regional MEM meetings at St Mary's Hospital Phoenix Park with Gardai, HSE and local authorities.
- Officers attended a Garda MEM Table Top exercise based on a terrorist incident.

## Fire Prevention Statistics September 2018

<b>Application type</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Deemed Invalid</b>	<b>Requested additional information</b>	<b>Validate BCMS /liaise with Building Control</b>	<b>Recommended Grant</b>
Fire Safety Certificates	15	0	2		3
Regularisation Certificates	1	0	0		1
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice	2	0	1		0
Disability Access Certificates	10	0	0		2

<b>Licensing</b>	<b>Received, acknowledged</b>	<b>Inspected</b>	<b>Requested further info</b>	<b>No Objection letter</b>	<b>Not raising an objection</b>
District	23	75	7	68	
Circuit	1				



## **General**

- 1 detailed inspection as part of the regularisation process took place.
- 59 requests to view FSC application files
- 4 queries were dealt with

## **CIVIL DEFENCE**

Civil Defence recruited five new members during September; these members are currently attending induction training

## **BUILDING CONTROL**

### **29 Commencement Notices**

Of which:

- 8 were Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents ( 1 invalid)
- 3 were Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 2 Seven day Notice
- 10 Opt Out Declarations
- 34.5% of commencement notices are opt out.
- 36% inspection rate on all notices
- 38 new build units
- 10 of which are one off houses
- 

### **Completion Certificates**

- 17 completion certificates validated
- ( 45 housing units)

Wicklow County Council are not notified of the completion of opt out houses

### **Non compliance issues (ongoing)**

- 4 pre validation of commencement notices
- 52 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 October 2018:

#### **Retained Firefighters**

#### Employee Numbers

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

*(Excludes figures for Firefighters)*

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

*(Excludes figures for Firefighters)*

### 2. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

#### No. of FOI REQUESTS

September 2018	20	September 2017	16
Jan to Sept. 2018	99	Jan to Sept. 2017	105

#### No. of OMBUDSMAN REQUESTS

September 2018	0	September 2017	1
Jan to Sept. 2018	10	Jan Sept. 2017	6

### 3. REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Presidential Referendum together with the Referendum for an amendment to the Constitution took place on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018. **The Total Referendum Electorate including Postal & Special Ballot Box was 96,313 as follows:**

Total Referendum Electorate = 90,100

Total Supplement Electorate = 6,213

### 4. PRESS RELEASES

September 2018 - 3 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 processes.
- Tickets handled by IT Support have reached almost 6,945 in the year to date
- Asset Management Module has been implemented to allow performance monitoring across the network and prepare strategic deployment model for ICT Infrastructure. *This was deployed to in identification of final list of PC's with a virtual xp client*
- Updated Mobile Device Management (MDM) system is being deployed for all mobile devices. *Roll out to existing estate will commence in October*

#### CUSTOMER RELATIONS MANAGEMENT (CRM)

- Business Process Modelling is underway in the Housing & Environmental Services Departments *in preparation for development of customer care unit*
- A Pilot of Office 365 is underway and a "Sandbox" has been created on Wicklow's Cloud Tenancy. This platform will be used



for in-house development and testing purposes

- 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 Review is now 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*
- Ongoing Network traffic analysis will allow identification of bottlenecks and load balancing.

## 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 GIS-enabled 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 EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2018							
	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	12,275,358	17,210,674	71	(14,872,759)	(22,083,086)	67	(2,597,401)
B - Road Transport & Safety	13,984,389	18,214,957	77	(8,918,004)	(10,808,946)	83	5,066,385
C - Water Services	4,431,402	5,732,213	77	(5,127,954)	(6,649,630)	77	(696,552)
D - Development Management	6,558,655	9,233,906	71	(3,252,636)	(4,909,183)	66	3,306,019
E - Environmental Services	9,098,142	10,751,474	85	(1,787,607)	(1,918,500)	93	7,310,535
F - Recreation and Amenity	4,598,323	6,403,014	72	(579,797)	(520,600)	111	4,018,526
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,022,531	1,511,045	68	(465,922)	(745,228)	63	556,609
H - Miscellaneous Services	8,117,359	11,086,145	73	(5,658,595)	(7,505,975)	75	2,458,764
J - Central Management Charges	11,272,602	15,405,007	73	(809,395)	(955,217)	85	10,463,207
LG - Local Government Fund				(8,978,851)	(11,971,634)	75	(8,978,851)
PL - Pension Levy				-			-
RA - Commercial Rates				(20,949,044)	(27,630,436)	76	(20,949,044)
	<b>71,358,761</b>	<b>95,548,435</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>71,400,564</b>	<b>95,698,435</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>(41,803)</b>

## 7. Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st September 2018 to 30th September 2018.

## 8. Capital Account

	Opening Balance at 01/01/2018	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers To/From Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/09/2018
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	19,982,975	29,138,480	(22,977,303)	545,577	26,689,729
Road Transport & Safety	-32,722,106	2,379,015	(6,280,962)	(506,000)	(37,130,053)
Water Services	-8,338,872	1,500,403	(2,070,215)	0	(8,908,684)
Development Management	-8,835,423	509,854	(117,826)	(809,001)	(9,252,396)
Environmental Services	1,744,994	3,181,837	(3,817,572)	(664,783)	444,476
Recreation and Amenity	549,701	707,827	(1,635,769)	(101,788)	(480,029)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-1,042,916	229,063	(832)	(96,289)	(910,974)
Miscellaneous Services	-12,936,991	2,788,419	(3,170,960)	(70,299)	(13,389,831)
	<b>-41,598,638</b>	<b>40,434,898</b>	<b>(40,071,439)</b>	<b>(1,702,583)</b>	<b>(42,937,762)</b>

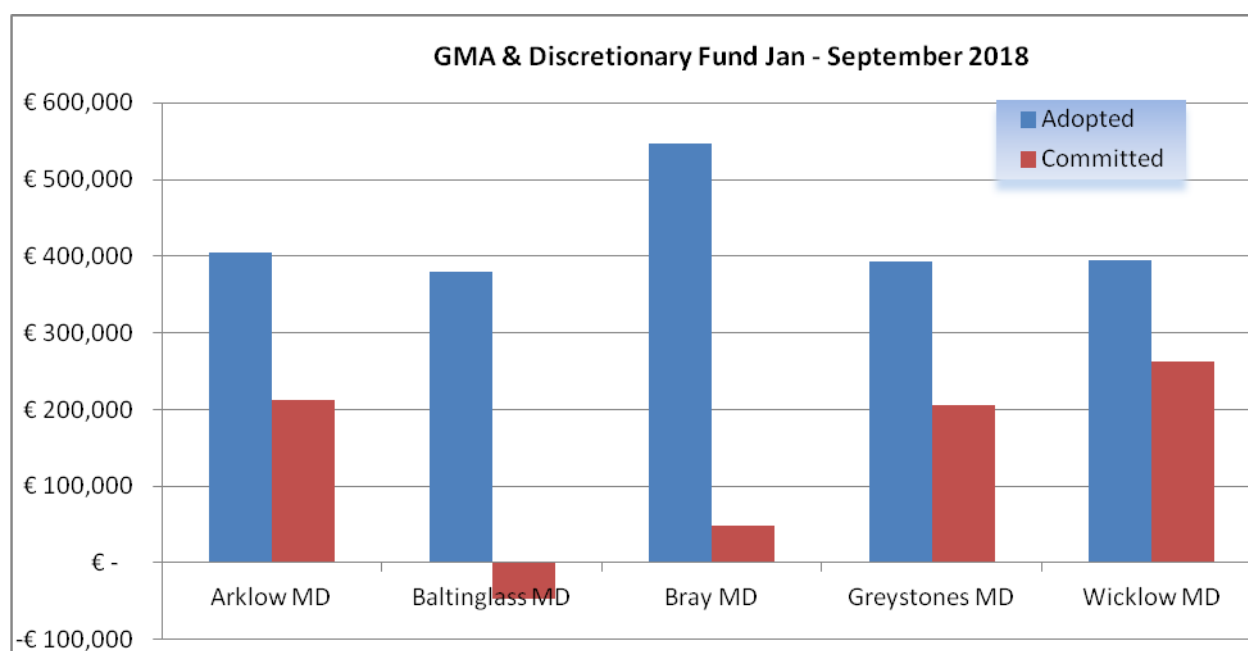


## 9. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30th September 2018									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2018	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/09/2018	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	7,477,320	27,932,359			35,409,679	20,468,410	14,941,269		58%
Rents & Annuities	1,539,925	10,070,655		7,612	11,602,968	10,130,897	1,472,071		87%
Housing Loans *	413,129	929,505		-1,120	1,343,754	911,661	432,093		68%

## 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 Expend
	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	(60,226)	404,250	211,834	192,416
Baltinglass MD	(138,525)	380,250	(46,356)	426,606
Bray MD	(108,084)	546,500	48,956	497,544
Greystones MD	(14,475)	392,250	205,377	186,873
Wicklow MD	(33,041)	394,250	262,702	131,548
<b>Total</b>	<b>(354,351)</b>	<b>2,117,500</b>	<b>682,513</b>	<b>1,434,987</b>



## 11. Capital Investment Programme 2018-2020

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

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

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