



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



Table of Contents

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY	6
1. Social Housing Support.....	6
2. Allocation of Social Housing	6
3. Social Housing Stock.....	6
4. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery.....	6
5. Part V.....	8
6. PPP Social Housing Project.....	8
7. Approved Housing Bodies (AHB’s).....	9
8. Housing Schemes Remediation	9
9. Home Improvement/Adaptation.....	9
10. Addressing Homelessness	10
11. Local Sports Partnership (LSP)	11
12. Wicklow Library Service.....	12
13. Age Friendly Initiatives.....	12
14. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP).....	12
15. Public Participation Network (PPN).....	13
16. Town & Village Scheme 2019.....	13
17. Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) 2019.....	13
18. Local Community Development Committees (LCDC’s).....	14
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE	15
1. Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Action Plan Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Economic)	15
Film.....	15
Retail.....	15
Town Teams.....	15
Enterprise Town Awards	16



URDF/RRDF Funding.....	17
Tourism.....	17
Glendalough.....	18
Failte Ireland.....	18
Maritime.....	18
Food & Beverages Strategy.....	19
2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO).....	20
3. Planning and Development.....	23
Forward Planning.....	23
County Development Plan Review.....	23
Heritage.....	24
Planning Applications.....	24
Planning Enforcement.....	25
4. Environmental Services.....	26
Waste Management Section.....	26
Whitestown Remediation Project.....	26
Ports and Harbours.....	26
Pollution Control.....	27
Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters.....	27
Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme.....	27
Planning & Development.....	27
Petrol Vapour Recovery.....	27
Well Grants.....	28
Environmental Awareness.....	28
Sustainable Energy.....	29
Arklow Flood Relief Scheme.....	29
5. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services.....	30



Public Lighting.....	30
Transportation Statistics (General).....	31
ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND BIODIVERSITY ACTION	35
1. Climate Action.....	35
2. Climate Adaptation Strategy	35
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS	36
1. Recruitment.....	36
2. Access to Information	36
3. Press Releases.....	36
4. Register of Electors	37
5. I.C.T. Report.....	38
IT Helpdesk.....	38
Customer Service Delivery.....	38
Domain Migration.....	38
iHouse Upgrade.....	38
GIS & Data Collection Systems.....	38
eServices.....	38
Digital Strategy	38
6. Financial	39
Revenue Account.....	39
Cashflow/Overdraft.....	39
Capital Account.....	39
Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections	40
Capital Investment Programme 2019-2021.....	41



THIS MONTH:

FIFTY-FIVE NEW HOMES OPENED IN ARKLOW - Fifty-five new homes were opened in Arklow, in two new developments, by Wicklow County Council. Heatherside is a 38-house development of energy efficient, 2, 3- and 4-bedroom homes while Delaney Park is a 17-house scheme of energy efficient, 2- and 3-bedroom homes.

Over the course of the next two years, the Council's Housing programme is expected to deliver newly constructed homes for more than 400 households on the Council's social housing list.

N11/M11 JUNCTION 4 TO JUNCTION 14 IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – SECOND PUBLIC CONSULTATION - Wicklow County Council, in conjunction with Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, is progressing the development of the N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 improvement scheme.

As part of this important phase of development, a Public Consultation event was held in the Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs, on Tuesday (12th November).

All of the information, drawings of the proposed route options and known constraints are published on the project website at <https://n11m11.ie>

GREYSTONES PUBLIC REALM PLAN – HAVE YOUR SAY - Wicklow County Council and Greystones 2020 have commissioned a team of specialists, to create a plan for the Public Realm in Greystones. The team have conducted a spatial and technical analysis of Greystones and developed an initial Draft Plan for consideration.

The Draft Plan includes a broad range of innovative and bespoke projects to be delivered across the short, medium and longer term that seek to address climatic, demographic and economic change in Greystones. Once finalised, these will be used as the basis for funding applications.

SANTA PARADE & CHRISTMAS LIGHTS -Christmas arrived in County Wicklow last week, when the annual Santa Parade and Christmas lights were turned on throughout the Municipal Districts.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HOLDS JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING IN BALTINGLASS - the purpose of the meeting was to give the community a forum in which they could make their views known, ask questions and share their concerns in relation to the prevention of crime in their area.

Attendees welcomed hearing about the new community policing framework currently being developed which will enhance community engagement and public safety.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Social Housing Support

	Nov 2019	Nov 2018
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP)	4388	3,941
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	369	437
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	1549	901
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	10	7
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	10	10

2. Allocation of Social Housing

	Nov 2019	Nov 2018
WCC Social Housing (including Bray M. D.)	159	75
Approved Housing Bodies (including Bray M. D.)	14	1

3. Social Housing Stock

	Nov 2019	Nov 2018
Tenancies occupied	4,415	4,313
Total weekly rental accrual	€304,464.46	€235,031.34
Arrears	€1,400,887.64	€1,090,007.52

Casual Vacancies/Relets 60

	2019	2018
Municipal District	No	
Arklow	18	11
Baltinglass	19	10
Bray	3	5
Greystones	4	4
Wicklow	16	16

4. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Social Housing Supply Programme

3 schemes completed in 2018	28 Units
3 scheme completed 2019 so far	20 units
10 schemes currently on site in 2019	307 Units
further schemes to commence on site in 2020	<u>220 Units</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	575 Units

NOVEMBER 2019



SCHEMES COMPLETED	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS	PART 8 APPROVAL
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Completed and allocated	Yes
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated	Yes
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated	Yes
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completed and allocated 2019	Yes
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated 2019	Yes
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated 2019	Yes
TOTAL	48		
SCHEMES ON SITE	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS	PART 8 APPROVAL
Whitehall, Baltinglass RAPID BUILD	34	Completion anticipated December 2019	Yes
Kilbride Lane Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	Completion anticipated May 2020	Yes
FCA Hall Wicklow Town	8	Completion anticipated October 2020	Yes
Kilmantan Place Bray	4	Completion anticipated September 2020	Yes
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completion anticipated March 2020	Yes
Sugarloaf View, Kilmacanogue	20	Completion anticipated August 2020	Yes
Convent Lands	51	Completion anticipated August 2020	Yes
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completion anticipated September 2020	Yes
Carnew RAPID BUILD	30	Completion anticipated November 2020	Yes
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completion anticipated April 2021	Yes
TOTAL	307		
PIPELINE SCHEMES	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS	PART 8 APPROVAL
Avondale Phase 2 RAPID BUILD	20	Site start anticipated May 2020	Yes
Ard na Greine RAPID BUILD	30	Site start anticipated May 2020	Yes
Greenhills Road Wicklow RAPID BUILD	36	Site start anticipated June 2020	Part 8 approval by Wicklow M.D. required
Ashtown Lane RAPID BUILD	40	Site start anticipated June 2020	Yes
Mountainview NTMK RAPID BUILD	26	Site start anticipated September 2020	Yes
Old Fire Station Arklow	7	Site start anticipated September 2020	Part 8 approval Arklow M.D. Required.
Cedar Court Bray RAPID BUILD	9	Site start anticipated October 2020	Part 8 approval by Bray M. D. required.
Three Trouts Greystones RAPID BUILD	32	Site start anticipated November 2020	Part 8 approval Gstones M.D.required
Shillelagh RAPID BUILD	20	Site start anticipated November 2020	Yes
TOTAL	220		



5. Part V

2019

- 2 units (Rathdrum) - Department approval received. Acquisition into Council stock completed 12th March 2019.
- 2 Units Part V (Newtownmountkennedy) Acquisition completed into Council stock 28th June 2019.
- 2 Units (Rathnew) Acquisition completed into Council stock 20th June 2019.
- 7 units (Greystones) Acquisition completed via CALF 14th June 2019. 4 further units expected delivery Q4 2019.
- 4 units (Greystones) Acquisition completed via CALF 2nd October 2019.
- 16 units (Ashford) negotiations completed. Department approval received – delivery of 9 units expected Q.4 2019 via CALF.
- 4 units (Kilcoole) Acquisition completed via CALF 8th April 2019. 2 further units expected delivery Q4 2019.
- 1 unit (Kilcoole) Agreement purchase into Council stock completed 19th July 2019.
- 1 Part V Unit (Ashford) acquisition into Council stock completed 28th March 2019.
- 4 Part V Units in Rathdrum acquisition by AHB via CALF due Q 3 2019.
- 2 Part V units in Greystones due to close November into Council stock

Potential units

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

Turnkey

- 2 turnkey units purchase completed and have been allocated in Rathnew.
- 1 turnkey unit (Tinahely) acquisition into Council stock completed 29th March 2019.
- Remaining 1 turnkey unit Tinahely completed and purchased into Council stock on 5th April, 2019.
- (Construction is ongoing on turnkey project at Vale Road, Arklow – 10 units acquired into Council stock in June 2019 -10 further units purchased into Council stock in July 2019. 18 more units to be completed before the end of 2019.
- Construction ongoing on a turnkey project at Bollarney Woods, Wicklow – 14 units purchased into Council stock by 31st October 2019.
- Negotiations are ongoing with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units

6. PPP Social Housing Project

[Bundle 1]

Development Site at Convent Lands, Wicklow for 51 Social Housing units commenced on site in March 2019. The project is progressing well and is currently on programme. The Department of Housing has dedicated €300 million towards delivery of housing through the public, private partnership model in the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan. The Convent Lands site in Wicklow has been included as a project in Bundle 1.



7. Approved Housing Bodies (AHB's)

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

The Approved Housing Bodies are actively pursuing a number of potential CALF projects and are liaising closely with the Council on a regular basis. The members will be kept updated.

- Acquisition by AHB of 73 turnkey units via CALF in Rathnew completed 9th October 2019.
- CALF application for the remaining 56 units with SHCEP and Housing Agency.
- Construction ongoing on a 40 unit CALF Turnkey in Dunlavin .

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Wicklow County Council is continuing to support acquisitions under the Capital Assistance Scheme with Dublin Simon, Circle Housing, Ark Housing and Peter McVerry Trust.

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

8. Housing Schemes Remediation

Glending, Blessington – Remediation

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

Stage 3 Phase 3B – Glending phase 3b is complete as of 18th December 2018.

Phase 4 - to commence by end Q.2 2019

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 - €1,768,217 (€1,313,140.80 spent to date)
- › Grant funding for social house - € 500,000 (€516,532.81 spent to date)

House Purchase Loans – Rebuilding Ireland

- 123 received up to 31/10/2019
- 29 approvals.
- 37 declined
- 28 to be assessed.
- 29 either incomplete, withdrawn.

2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

- 56 applications to 31/10/2019
- 4 sale completed
- 11 declined.
- 41 remaining various stages – incomplete, with L.A., withdrawn.



10. Addressing Homelessness

Period 01/10/2019 to 31/10/2019

No. of Presentations	83
No. of Repeat Presentations	8
No. of Households (Families)	43
No. of Adults (Individuals)	100
No. of Children	71
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord	19
Selling	1
Family Circumstances	34
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	4
Sofa Surfing	13
Rough Sleeping	1

Temporary Emergency Accommodation 31/10/2019

Own Door

12 families (24 adults and 26 children)
4 single adults

B & B Accommodation

Families - 13(20 Adults, 20 Children)
5 single adults.

Cold Weather Initiative

The Cold Weather Initiative, a partnership arrangement between the Council and the Dublin Simon Community, with the assistance of Five Loaves Homeless Services, opened on 14th November, in Bray to provide emergency night shelter for homeless individuals.

Referral protocol is through Wicklow County Council, Dublin Simon, Five Loaves and the Gardai.

Homeless HAP

The Homeless HAP Placefinder provides assistance in:

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



To date, 162 households (120 families & 42 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 31st October 2019.

88 homeless cases and 74 prevention cases to date. 61 properties were sourced by WCC.

Sonas Facility, Wicklow - Transition to Family Homeless Hub.

Following the advice that Sonas was withdrawing services from Wicklow, the operation of the facility was tendered out to Approved Housing Bodies to operate and manage the facility as a Family Homeless Hub.

The successful tenderer was Dublin Simon Community, who will be in a position to commence operations and management of the facility pending finalisation of the legal handover.

Refurbishment work is scheduled to commence before the end of 2019.

Other Temporary Supported Accommodation

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 22 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. There has been a significant number of move ons from these properties, signalling the success of this model.

Housing First

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

Peter McVerry Trust has been appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid East Region and Wicklow County Council is committed to working with them to achieve the targets identified in the programme. Properties will be provided by both Wicklow County Council and Peter McVerry Trust for the programme.

11. Local Sports Partnership (LSP)

ARKLOW JUNIOR PARKRUN

Arklow Junior Parkrun began on Sunday 3rd November with 130 participants. This project is funded through the Sports Partnership and Healthy Wicklow. This free 2km timed run for kids aged from 4 to 14 years will take place every Sunday morning at 9.30 a.m.



12. Wicklow Library Service

BALTINGLASS LIBRARY

An application was made under Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) 2019 for a number of projects in Baltinglass. The application was successful, with approval being granted on 7th November, 2019. One of the approved projects sees €437,000 for the restoration and refurbishment of Baltinglass Courthouse. It is envisaged that the adult library (currently located in the Heritage Centre part of the building) will relocate to the brighter, more inviting courtroom. The building will also host a Digihub & co-working area, while the Heritage Exhibition will be further enhanced – including the development of the prison cells, as a tourist attraction. Following the tender process, the project work will be carried out in 2020. 75% of this and the other project areas will be grant aided, with Wicklow County Council providing funding for the remaining 25%.

13. Age Friendly Initiatives

OLDER PERSON'S COUNCIL

The County Wicklow Older Persons Council Annual Seminar takes place in the Glendalough Hotel on the 28th November 2019.

AGE FRIENDLY TOWN

Arklow was launched as an Age Friendly Town on the 13th November 2019 at a sitting of the Arklow Municipal District Council meeting.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

The Comhairle Youth Summit takes place in the Parkview Hotel on the 15th November 2019.

Comhairle members are guest speakers at the Bray Drugs Awareness Forum Annual Conference on the 27th November 2019.

14. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership submitted their 2020 Annual Plans by 15th November 2019.

SICAP targets for 2020 in Co. Wicklow will include supporting 890 disadvantaged Individuals and 40 local community groups.

The Budget for 2020 is to be finalised by Department in December 2019.

Achievements to date this year: 753 Individuals and 38 local community groups have been supported by SICAP



15. Public Participation Network (PPN)

New members: Wicklow Town Team, Roundwood Men's Shed, Tinahely Toastmasters Club, Alzheimer Society of Ireland Wicklow Services.

Meetings were held in Kilcoole and Baltinglass on developing a Policing, Safety & Security network.

Environment nominees have been secured for Housing & Corporate Estate SPC and Community, Cultural & Social Development SPC.

PPN Housing Seminar took place on 20th November 2019 in the Taylor Centre, Bray. The facilitator will be Colette Bennett, Social Justice Ireland.

A County Development Plan Review Meeting for PPN Members will be held on 4th December 2019.

16. Town & Village Scheme 2019

Wicklow County Council was successful in receiving funding for the following Town & Village projects. This will be 25% match funded by the Council.

Area	Overview of Proposal	Funding Received
Redcross	Streetscape works	€80,000
Aughrim	Recreational amenity and age friendly works	€95,600
Dunlavin	Healthcheck plus public realm works	€20,973
Coolkenno	Public lights and rails	€24,000
Delgany	Community plan	€29,600

17. Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) 2019

Wicklow County Council was successful in securing funding of €2.675million for Baltinglass, which will be match funded by Wicklow County Council to bring the overall fund to €3.5 million. Proposed works include public realm enhancements, traffic management measures, lighting and paving as well as the refurbishment of the Courthouse as a Library space, Digihub and Heritage Exhibition which will form the jumping off point for the development of Baltinglass as a Smart Town.



18. Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's)

Town & Village Scheme 2019

Wicklow County Council was successful in receiving funding for the following Town & Village projects. This will be 25% match funded by the Council.

Area	Overview of Proposal	Funding Received
Redcross	Streetscape works	€80,000
Aughrim	Recreational amenity and age friendly works	€95,600
Dunlavin	Healthcheck plus public realm works	€20,973
Coolkenno	Public lights and rails	€24,000
Delgany	Community plan	€29,600

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund 2019

Wicklow County Council was successful in securing funding of €2.675million for Baltinglass, which will be match funded by Wicklow County Council to bring the overall fund to €3.5 million. Proposed works include public realm enhancements, traffic management measures, lighting and paving as well as the refurbishment of the Courthouse as a Library space, Digihub and Heritage Exhibition which will form the jumping off point for the development of Baltinglass as a Smart Town.



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 has applied through the Regional Enterprise Development Fund to develop a Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus. This development would provide 10,000 sq. ft of private and co-working spaces in a dynamic and synergetic environment for creative/media cross-fertilisation. It will offer specialised and customised, sector specific business supports that drive start-ups, growth and the internationalisation of the Irish content creation sector in the Mid East and surrounding regions.

A comprehensive application was compiled and submitted in September. Senior management from Wicklow County Council were joined by two leading film industry representatives in making a presentation to a judging panel during October. *An announcement on successful applications is expected by the end of the year.*

Retail

Bray Town Centre

Bray Town Centre is progressing well. Interest by potential tenants has been very positive; negotiations with anchor tenants are ongoing.

Town Teams

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

Arklow Town Team has identified new projects to work on in 2020. The Arklow, Ireland Ancient Town Project is progressing well. The panels in the library have been installed and the official launch is expected by the end of the year.

The fifth annual Christmas Festival in Arklow Town takes place on 23rd November with Santa being escorted by the Arklow Pipe Band from Bridgewater Shopping Centre to the Main Street car park. Local entertainment groups will perform and there will be a fireworks display for all to enjoy. The Golden Ticket Draw will return again this year to encourage people to shop local. The Best Christmas Window Display Competition will once again feature adding a wonderful atmosphere in the town. Free parking in public car parks has been arranged from 2nd December to 2nd January.

NOVEMBER 2019



Blessington Town Team is progressing the Town Health Check, along with Future Analytics. A Public Consultation Workshop was held in November with a good attendance. The workshop highlighted the strengths, weaknesses and threats facing Blessington. An online survey is also available for those who could not attend the workshop

At the November meeting, Blessington Town Team held a detailed discussion on the Wicklow County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 and the importance of attending one of the public information evenings and making a detailed submission for consideration.

As part of the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, work on the development of a sensory garden started this month.

Bray Town Team continue to progress the Town Centre Health Check with a presentation to the Bray MD Members. The next step is to form a Steering Group to look at how the ideas and actions can come to fruition, and what the best structure or organisation may be to support its implementation. It is envisaged that three task forces could be set up immediately to deliver the key actions of this report:

- Town Centre Retail
- Traffic and Mobility Plan for Schools and Town Centre
- Town Centre Environment

Greystones 2020 celebrated the arrival of Santa and the switching on of the Christmas lights with a family friendly event in Burnaby Park. Entertainment was provided by the Colaiste Chraobh Abhann School choir and special twinning visitors from the Holyhead Male Voice Choir. The efforts of Greystones 2020 can be appreciated through over 1km of icicle lights and two Christmas trees with over 3,000 lights on each at the Main Street and Marina.

Wicklow Town Team is sponsoring a Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition in the lead up to the festive season. The winner and runner-up will receive a Christmas Hamper and Wicklow Town Vouchers. It is hoped that entries will enhance the shop local experience this Christmas.

Wicklow Town Team welcomed the promotion of Parking Tag, a cashless mobile parking payment system in Wicklow, making parking faster and easier in the town. The system also allows users to top up their parking without having to return to their vehicle.

Backlighting of historical sites around Wicklow is progressing, with some civil works carried out. Wicklow Town Team is working in conjunction with Wicklow Municipal District to complete this project.

Enterprise Town Awards

The Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards (NETA) 2019 has been launched. With a prize fund of over €193,000 the competition provides towns and villages with a chance to promote their area and demonstrate the various enterprises located there.

Ashford and Rathdrum participated in NETA 2019. The aim of this national competition is to promote enterprise in an area by bringing business and community groups together to showcase the spirit of enterprise in their town. The results will be announced at an awards ceremony on 5th December 2019.



URDF/RRDF Funding

In 2018 Wicklow County Council applied for funding for nine projects under the Urban Regional Development Fund. The following three projects were awarded funding in the first round; Arklow Historic Town Core €1,645,000, Wicklow Library/Fitzwilliam Square €1,626,000, Bray Public Transport Bridge €3,450,000. Final approval has now been received from the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government to proceed with these projects and arrangements for reporting and drawdown are in place.

Work on Wicklow Library is underway and Council officials are engaging with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in advance of awarding contracts for the remaining projects.

6th August 2019 was the closing date for the next round of Category 1 proposals under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Wicklow County Council applied for funding for three projects – Regenerating Gateways to Glendalough, Blessington eGreenway Enrichment Project and Making Baltinglass the Hub for South West Wicklow.

Funding of €2,675,226 was announced in November for the Baltinglass project which will restore and redevelop Baltinglass Courthouse for use as a new library and heritage hub, converting the old library into a Digihub, as well as deliver significant public realm improvements to the wider town centre area. The regeneration of these key sites and the improved townscape will deliver greater activity in the town centre.

Tourism

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

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

The Key Priorities are:

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

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

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

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

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

Representatives from Wicklow County Council attended the launch of Fáilte Ireland's plans for 2020 at an industry event held in Croke Park in November.



Glendalough

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

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

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

Failte Ireland

Platforms for Growth

Failte Ireland announced a new funding stream for large scale capital projects, Platforms for Growth. The first round of funding focuses on 'Immersive Heritage and Cultural Attractions'. Wicklow County Council has applied for funding for two projects:

An immersive augmented reality experience telling the story of Coolattin House, an important stately home in Co. Wicklow; re-imagining life as it was through the eyes of both residents and servants; and the emigration of 6,000 tenants who left the Estate for a new life in Canada.

The development of Arklow Pottery and Heritage Museum on a site beside the old Abbey grounds, just off the Main Street. This is central to the proposed regeneration of the Abbey Quarter and the town of Arklow. The aim of the project is to tell the story around the production of the pottery, the lives of the workers at the time and life in an industrial town.

These applications were submitted on 7th August 2019 and an announcement is expected before the end of the year.

Destination Towns

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

Wicklow County Council submitted an application for Bray which looks at the restoration of Victorian seafront pavilions on the promenade while also improving wayfinding in Bray which will enhance the visitor experience and increase dwell time by visitors to the area.

Maritime

Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow

The Strategic Review will identify ways in which the economic base of County Wicklow could be strengthened through its ports and harbours and formulate recommendation for Wicklow County Council.



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

The final version of the Maritime Strategic Review was presented to the MBDG in November and will be considered by the elected members thereafter.

Maritime Business Development Group

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

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

NORRI have been appointed to carry out a feasibility study for the Oyster Reef Restoration project in line with the FLAG funding received. This first phase of the project will include examination of sustainable sourcing of native Irish seed, consultation with stakeholders, and environmental impact/displacement of habitats.

Food & Beverages Strategy

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

County Wicklow Partnership with the support of Wicklow County Council, have been awarded LEADER funding for the implementation of the Food & Beverage Strategy. Following a procurement process, Jonathan Birnie Associates (JBA) were awarded the contract and have since met twice with the Food & Beverage Steering Group.

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

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

An enhanced Wicklow Food Ambassador programme is also being arranged, through Birnie Associates and the Steering Group. The consultants JBA are currently engaging with stakeholders in order to deliver the actions identified.

Members of the Steering Group representing the Food & Beverage sector have worked with brand specialists to develop the Wicklow Food Brand – this will be launched in the New Year.



2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives
<p>To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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
	2018	2019	2019
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 24/€476,558.50 - 14/€26,219.06	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	22/€507,599.62 07/€8,927
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
	2018	2019	2019
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	52	52	37
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	72	70	73
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	876	850	649
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	5 (as at 31/10/19)

NOVEMBER 2019



METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2018	2019	2019
Number of new clients added to database *criteria has been amended for this metric	623	470*	539
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	446	430	364

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2017/2018	2018/2019	Year to Date
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1606	1150	1152

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2018	2019	Year to Date 2019
Number of Applications	N/A	44	57

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2018	2019	Year to Date 2019
Trading Online Vouchers	66	50	30

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2018	2019	2019
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	7	8	11



October 2019 Activities

The LEO continues to assist Wicklow based businesses with their Brexit preparations.

One to One Brexit mentoring clinics were held on Monday 11th November in the Local Enterprise Offices in Rathnew. A Brexit Essentials Seminar was held in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy on Friday 25th October. The Seminar was well attended with over 40 participants including guest speakers, Moira Creedon, Artemis Consulting, Tom McGrath, BDO Ireland and John Madigan, Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland.

Some of the course held since the last report included Public Procurement for SMEs (13 attendees), Design your own Social Media for Beginners (11 attendees) and Bookkeeping for small businesses a two day course (15 attendees).

Certificates were awarded to 14 participants who successfully completed the 10 week Start Your Own Business Course in Clermont House.

Upcoming activities November:

During the month of November the Local Enterprise Office will be hosting the following Courses:-

- ✚ Accessing Finance for Your Business – Wednesday 27th November in Clermont House, Rathnew.
- ✚ Prepare Your Business for Customs Workshop will take place in Clermont House on Monday 18th November.
- ✚ Design Your Own Social Media Campaign – Intermediate level – Friday 22nd November in Clermont House, Rathnew.
- ✚ Bookkeeping using Excel – Thursday 28th November in Clermont House, Rathnew.

The student Enterprise Programme is in full swing in Secondary schools across county Wicklow, the LEO Wicklow Student Enterprise programme co-ordinator is continuing her schedule to school visits to help students develop their business ideas.



3. Planning and Development

Forward Planning

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

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

On 07 August 2019, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government issued the EMRA with a Notice of Intent to issue a Direction under Section 31A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), relating to the RSES as the Minister had formed the provisional opinion that -

- (i) The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly in making the RSES has ignored or has not taken sufficient account of the submissions made by the Minister on 23 January and 12 April 2019, and
- (ii) the RSES is not in compliance with the requirements of sections 23(7)(a) and 23(7)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The draft Direction was on display between 20 August and 02 September, during which period submissions were invited. The Director of the Regional Assembly prepared a report on submissions received and submitted this to the Minister in late September 2019.

The Minister has considered this report, as well as submissions made directly to him, has determined that further investigation is necessary and therefore he appointed an inspector to review this matter and report back to him by 01 November 2019 and it is understood that this report is currently with the Minister.

Only those parts of the adopted RSES that are the subject of the draft Direction shall be taken as not having come into effect until the Section 31A procedure has completed. All other aspects of the RSES are considered to have been made as of 28th June 2019.

County Development Plan Review

Within 26 weeks of the making of the new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, in accordance with Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) each Planning Authority shall either give notice of a development plan variations or a development plan review.

In this regard, the review of the current Wicklow County Development Plan commenced on 06 November 2019. Public information evenings were held in Greystones and Baltinglass on the 13th and 14th of November respectively. Public information evenings will be held between 4 and 7.30pm at Bray MD Office on the 20th November, County Hall Wicklow on the 21st November, Arklow MD Office on the 27th November, Blessington Library on the 28th November and Tinahely Courthouse Arts Centre on the 4th December. Submissions may be made up to 5pm on Friday 10th January 2020.

Local Plans

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



Heritage

Biodiversity Plan Actions:

- Brittas Bay Biodiversity project: trial area mowed, and community invasive species mapping workshop took place on 2nd November. 12 participants mapped the extent of Sea Buckthorn and New Zealand flax. Report due end of November.
- A County Swift survey for Wicklow complete.
- People + Nature programme @ East Coast Nature Reserve with BWI; Garden Bird Workshop 13th Oct, Winter Migrants 17th November.
- Sustainable Gardening Course for community representatives in Bray area (five weeks commencing 29th Sept – 27th October). 53 participants.

Heritage Plan Programme:

Heritage forum meeting 17th September.

Glendalough Community Archaeology Project in collaboration with UCD School of Archaeology. Final report complete Baltinglass Hillfort Archaeology Project: Research excavation completed and funded by the Baltinglass Municipal District. Programme of outreach events held for Heritage Week. Final report complete.

New ICAN Network for Wicklow: People and Place project supported by Wicklow's Creative Ireland programme. Redevelopment of Wicklow's online community heritage archive to facilitate six additional local community archives in the new multi platform site. Groups are; Delgany Tidy Towns, Glens Of Lead, Greystones Tidy Towns, Medieval Bray Project, Glendalough Heritage Forum, The Glen/ Donard Heritage Group. Due by end of year.

Our Wicklow Women: Exhibition hosted in Baltinglass library in October.

Protected Structures Grants: All projects completed and funding recoupments of €42,000 under Historic Structures Fund and €48,671 under the BHIS made to DCHG for county Wicklow.

Planning Applications

A total of 123 applications were received during October, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	39
Housing Developments	9
Agricultural Structures	6
Commercial	8
Other Developments*	61
Total	123

*Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger sign post, wash plant, change of use, scaffolding, reconfiguration of existing shared entrance, extend the appropriate period of permission, various amendments to previous planning permission, conversion, retention, canopy, removal of security fencing, vehicular entrance, addition of roof lights, garden studio, porch, bay window.

NOVEMBER 2019



Decisions issued in respect of 90 applications in October, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	4
Individual Houses	22
Other Developments	64
Other Developments Requiring EIA	0
Total	90

In relation to decisions issued between January to October 2019, in comparison to the same period for 2018, the details are as follows:

	31/10/2018	31/10/2019
Total Number of decisions issued	837	814
Total Number of decisions to grant	699	692
% Grant Rate	83%	85%

No. of Applications withdrawn

October 13

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

Planning Enforcement

Vacant Sites - October

32 no. sites now stand on the Register.

06 no. sites are currently on appeal to ABP.

No Notice of Intent issued

Valuations to be carried out on a further 9 sites.

1 site referred to Law Department for Debt Collection proceedings.

Derelict Sites - October

04 No. of sites on Register

00 No. of Inspections

00 No. of Notices issued

00 Site removed from the register

Enforcement - October

15 New files opened

31 Advisory letters issued

15 Warning letters issued

04 Enforcement notices served

31 files have been closed

01 Files referred for legal action

Court Activity – October

2 Cases in the District Court – one struck out and one adjourned to December 2019

7 Cases listed for hearing in November in Circuit Court



4. Environmental Services

Waste Management Section

No. of Complaints Opened	212
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	196
No of Litter Fines Issued	49
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	5
No. of Warning Letters Issued	3
No. of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	23
No. of Burning Applications Granted	3
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	6
No. of Notices issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	4
No. of files prepared for Court included in Court lists	45
Income – Litter	€1,950
Income – Waste Management	€8,340

Whitestown Remediation Project

Wicklow County Council have employed Fehily Timoney & Company to advise on the remediation of the site at Whitestown, in accordance with the judgments of Mr. Justice Humphreys.

- Priority Geotechnical Limited completed site Investigation on Friday 13th September and factual report is awaited- results of the site investigation will inform the proposed remediation plan which is scheduled for completion in May 2020.
- Website is up and running and regular updates will be made to keep the Public and Members informed of progress.
- The works is up for mention in front of Judge Humphreys on Monday 18th November

Ports and Harbours

3 Marine Notices issued in October.

Wicklow

During October 6 ships berthed and discharged cargo at Wicklow Port. Of these ships, 4 had a single transaction i.e. either an import or an export of cargo while 2 had two transactions i.e. an import and an export of cargo from the same ship. The exports consisted of pulp while the imports consisted of logs from Scotland and timber from Sweden.

Draft Wicklow County Council (Wicklow Port) Explosives Bye-Laws 2020 are scheduled to go in display during November.

On the 09th October a representative from Innogy Renewables updated the staff from the Harbour on the Dublin Array Wind Farm.

On the 21st October staff from Wicklow Harbour gave a presentation to members of Wicklow Municipal District on the operation of Wicklow Harbour.



Pollution Control

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants - Ambient Monitoring

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

Pollution Response & Investigation

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

Private Water Supplies

- 33 Private water supplies were sampled.
- 4 Private water supplies were sampled and deemed non-compliant with microbiological parameters.
- 4 boil water notices were issued on private water supplies.
- 8 letters were issued to private water suppliers to address minor issues.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2019

- 1 domestic wastewater treatment system was inspected and deemed non-compliant with advisory notice issued requiring remedial action.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters

- 11 licensed wastewater discharge to river were monitored of which were non-compliant with key parameters and were required to improve treatment performance.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 2 Lakes were monitored involving 11 samples were taken for analysis for the purposes of WFD/River Management Plan.
- 38 Rivers were monitored involving 72 samples for analysis for the purposes of the WFD/River Management Plan.

National River Management Plan – Priority Area

Executive Scientist of Pollution Control Team attended the community information and engagement evening meeting hosted with LAWPRO (LA Water Programme Office) regarding the Derry/Rosnastraw/Coolboy Rivers Priority Area for Action held in Shillelagh on 7th November.

Planning & Development

15 Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerned agricultural, commercial and forestry development.

Petrol Vapour Recovery

2 assessments of petrol filling station are underway by approved assessors appointed by Wicklow County Council under European union (stage 11 Petrol Vapour Recovery during refuelling of motor vehicles at service stations) regulation 2011.

1 assessment of petrol filling station has been completed and application for certification will be submitted.



Well Grants

17 Inspections carried out in respect of water grant applications

- Number of Applications 16
- Number of New Wells 6
- Number of New Pumps 10
- Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) 9

The Department has stated that it is hoped that the new Regulations would be available in July which will increase the grant to 90%.

On receipt of Circular, it will be put up on the Web and details circulated.

Environmental Awareness

72 applications were received for the Community Environment Action Fund, formerly known as the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund a large increase on previous years. It was advertised through the PPN, local papers and radio and on social media. Consideration was given to Climate Action and Biodiversity in assessing applications this year. 29 projects were selected for funding, submitted to the DCCAE who have now approved them for payment.

Wicklow County Council developed a new competition for secondary school students focusing on fashion called ReLove Fashion and worked with four neighbouring local authorities and the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun to roll it out to mark National Reuse Month in October. The competition involves students taking an older item of clothing and upcycling it using repair, alterations or remaking of the garment. The closing date was the 21st of October and entries were judged with three outfits selected to go through to the final in the Rediscovery Centre, Ballymun, competing against entries from the four local authorities.

A claim was submitted to the DCCAE for the anti-litter grant. Projects funded this year included promotion of the National Spring Clean campaign, support and supplies for clean up events, a Tidy Towns and tidy estates competition, a dog fouling campaign, a roadside litter advertising campaign and Leave No Trace workshops for schools.

A review of the Litter Management Plan was completed following on from public consultation earlier in the year.

LAPN funding from the EPA was secured to fund the installation of four bottle filling water stations in secondary schools. Nine schools requested machines so additional funding was allocated through Wicklow County Council's waste prevention budget to install machines in all nine schools. The machines have refill counters so that schools can monitor the impact of choosing to refill. This project builds on a pilot in 2018 when three schools received machines. One schools reported usage of 48,000 times in its first six months following installation. Schools were also given a survey to undertake which looks at attitudes and behaviours with relation to carrying and using a refillable bottle.

Drinking glasses have been made available across Wicklow County Council's buildings in order to displace single use plastic cups. Stocks of cups in water fountains have been allowed to run down and will not be restocked.

A new project was developed for the Community Foods Initiative called "Save the Pumpkin" which involved a pumpkin carving competition for Halloween accompanied by information on food waste prevention and healthy eating. A cookery demonstration using pumpkin accompanied the carving competition for children and parents. The event was held in Arklow with 40 families and Fassaroe, Bray with 50 families.

Talks on topics including waste prevention, Climate Change and food waste were given to the Irish Farm Women's group, the Ashford ICA and several schools.



Sustainable Energy

WCC's Better Energy Communities programme was successfully completed by the deadline of 14th October. Work on approx. 40 projects across 11 WCC buildings and 6 LA houses and associated extensive documentation were completed and returned to SEAI and we anticipate that we will receive the full grant. Significant lessons learned have been noted and as a learning exercise, we will be much better placed for future energy works.

4 Sustainable Energy Communities have now been approved by SEAI for grant support totalling €65,000 to develop Energy Masterplans. WCC is leading all 4 applications and 3 Counties Energy Agency will be carrying out the Masterplans.

The 4 communities are:

- Glendalough/Laragh
- Glenmalure
- Greystones/Delgany
- Newtown

Two additional SEC applications have been received from:

- Wicklow Town
- Blessington

WCC appointed 3Counties Energy Agency for Energy Services consultancy to support delivery of the above, work has commenced and an action plan has been agreed.

Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

The Office of Public Works (OPW) and Wicklow County Council have commissioned Byrne Looby PH McCarthy (BLP) and Arup to undertake engineering and environmental studies respectively to assess and develop a viable, cost effective and sustainable Flood Relief Scheme for the Avoca River, Arklow.

The process of identifying a preferred scheme to address fluvial and coastal flooding in Arklow includes a detailed assessment of a range of flood risk management measures to determine their technical, economic, social and environmental viability.

Following a detailed scheme options assessment process, the series of measures that will make up the emerging preferred flood relief scheme for the Avoca River, Arklow have now been identified.

A number of questions have arisen regarding the affect of the flood defences on the hydrology of the Arklow Marsh and a study of the water levels in the marsh is now being carried out. A report on this study will be finalised by the end of November 2019.

A second study on the Hydro-geomorphology of the river was completed by Gavin Doherty Geosolutions. This has identified that removing the pinch point would have negligible effect on the silt deposition in the area and hence the proposal to remove the pinch point has been reversed. Public realm drawings are presently being updated to reflect this.

Site investigation which includes an archaeological investigation is on-going at the 19 arches bridge. Bad weather and high river levels have delayed the completion of this work. Following the work at the bridge site investigation work will commence in the Marsh.

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

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



5. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Public Lighting

	7 October 2019	14 October 2019	21 October 2019	29 October 2019	1 November 2019
Access Issues (Attended)	14	15	14	14	16
Cable Fault (Attend)	10	11	41	45	42
ESB Required (Attended)	19	18	20	23	24
Knock Down (Attended)	3	2	3	3	3
Materials required	4	4	5	5	5
No Supply	27	22	27	27	27
On Hold	2	2	2	2	2
Submitted	287	307	335	398	407
Traffic Management Required	12	13	14	13	13
TOTAL	378	394	461	530	539

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	4		6	2	4	16
Cable Fault (Attend)	9		2	7	24	42
ESB Required(Attended)	1		6	1	16	24
Knock Down (Attended)	1				2	3
Materials required			3		2	5
No Supply	4	3	3	11	6	27
On Hold		2				2
Submitted	55	116	72	36	128	407
Traffic Management Required	3	1	3	4	2	13
Grand Total	77	122	95	61	184	539

NOVEMBER 2019



Transportation Statistics (General)

	September 2019	October 2019
Solicitors Queries	77	58
Road Closure Applications	2	2
Road Opening Licences	101	105
Abnormal Load Applications	4 single 1 quarterly and 1 annual permit	2 Single 1 quarterly

Winter Maintenance

The winter maintenance programme commenced on the 1st October 2019 and monitors conditions for the winter season of October 2019 to April 2020.

Operational Fire Statistics October 2019

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Callsign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	2			1		1					
Fire Domestic	15	3	4	4	2	2					
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	30	3	8	7	3	1	3	3	2		
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	0										
Fire Institutional	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	2	1	1								
Single Station Mobilised											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	16	6	4	2	2	1	1				
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	7	2	2	3							
Fire Chimney	1	1									
Fire Small / bin / skip	31	17	3	8		3					
Fire Vehicle	6	2	1	1	2						
Fire Shed	2			1					1		
Flooding	1	1									
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	3		1				1	1			
Ambulance Assist	5	4		1							
Garda Assist	1						1				
Electrical Incident	2	2									
Gas Leak	0										
River Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	1					1					
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	1		1								
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Malicious False Alarm	0										
Mobilised into other County	6						3	2		1	
Times Stations mobilised	132	42	25	28	9	9	9	6	3	1	0

There were **107 incidents** attended during the month of October 2019. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on



a total of **132 occasions**. On no occasion during the month did an Incident Commander request an additional crew above what has been predetermined for the incident type.

Operational activity for the month October was **up 19%** on the preceding month (September – 111 mobilisations). Activity for the month was **down 22%** of October 2018, mainly due to a reduction in the number of “outdoor fires” including bonfires in 2019 – heavy rain at Halloween appears to have reduced the number of alerts at what would normally be a busier time of the year.

Sample Incidents (October 2019)

- 05/10/2019 Arklow and Rathdrum crews attended a 2 car RTC at Coates Bridge, Woodenbridge – 1 casualty trapped.
- 09/10/2019 Greystones and Wicklow Town crews attended at 3-car RTC with 3 persons injured at Newtown Mount Kennedy.
- 10/10/2019 Wicklow Town and Arklow attended a domestic fire Main Street Arklow. It was reported that there was a fire in an apartment with someone inside. Entry was forced and fire extinguished, no occupant present.
- 14/10/2019 Wicklow Town and Rathdrum attended an RTC where a car had hit a tree and went down an embankment – smoke coming from engine. All casualties safely removed.
- 14/10/2019 Bray and Greystones attended an industrial fire in Trinity Biotech – dehumidifier overheated.
- 20/10/2019 Dunlavin and Baltinglass were mobilised to a 2 car RTC in Donard, casualties with serious injuries reported.
- 29/10/2019 Arklow and Wicklow Town were called to a domestic fire in a sitting room in Griffith Street, Arklow.

Incidents mobilised outside county Wicklow (October 2019):

Kildare (4-incidents)

- 06/10/19 Blessington and Dunlavin Fire Crews were mobilised to an RTC at Silverhills, Poulaphouca, for what was a fatal accident between a motorbike and a jeep. A second casualty was taken from the scene by Air Corps helicopter.
- 13/10/19 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to a carbon monoxide alarm activation at Timolin, Ballytore.
- 13/10/19 Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to support Newbridge Fire Crews at a 2-car RTC at Beggars End Cross Roads – 6 casualties / patients.
- 29/10/19 Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to support Newbridge and Naas Fire Stations at a fire reported at Naas hospital. It turned out to be a false alarm (good intent).

Wexford (1-incident)

- 18/10/19 Carnew Fire Crew were mobilised to support Gorey Crews at an RTC at Ballytarsna, Askamore.

General

- Fire Safety Week was marked by events in all Fire Stations and through the Fire Service Twitter account.
- To mark Fire Safety Week and the 4-year anniversary of the Carrickmines fire tragedy Fire Service personnel visited every Council managed Traveller site in the county. Smoke detectors, carbon dioxide detectors, fire blankets, fire extinguishers were all checked and upgraded if necessary. Fire Safety advice was given and residents were instructed on how to operate fire extinguishers. All of this was made possible by the work and facilitation of Caroline Bennett of the Housing Section.
- Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS) training took place for personnel from all Fire Stations.
- Hazardous Materials training took place for personnel from all Fire Stations.

- A national 2-week Station Officers training course took place in Bray Fire Station including 2 Wicklow students.

Fire Prevention Statistics October 2019

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

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District		2	12	12	
Circuit	1				

General

Chief Fire Officer was forwarded 14 planning files during the month.
Chief Fire Officer made recommendations on 9 of the files.

Meetings with consultants	1
Queries	6
Assistance to Building Control Section	2
Attended Regional Building Control Meeting	1
Attended Wicklow County Council H&S brief	1

Building Control

October 2019

- **Commencement Notices**

42 Commencement Notices

Of which:

- 14 were Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 02 were Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 03 Seven day Notice
- 23 Opt Out Declarations

NOVEMBER 2019



Statistics

Opt Out rate => 55% of Commencement Notices for period

18 % inspection rate on all notices

80 new build units

17 of which are one off houses

- **Certificates of Compliance on Completion**

- 17 completion certificates validated

(65 housing units)

BCA not notified on completion of opt out development

- **Non-Compliances**

- 5 Identified at pre-validation of commencement notices, this period
- 3 identified post validation of commencement notices by site inspection, this period

Parking Income by Municipal District October 2019	EURO
INCOME FLORENCE ROAD CARPARK BRAY MD	40,439
INCOME HERBERT ROAD CARPARK BRAY MD	223,807
INCOME NORTH BEACH CAR PARK - STRAND ROAD BRAY MD	36,270
INCOME RESTRICTED PARKING BRAY MD	641,007
INCOME PARKING FINES BRAY MD	204,534
INCOME RESIDENTIAL/SPECIAL PARKING DISCS BRAY MD	55,025
BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	1,201,081
INCOME GREYSTONES PAY PARKING SCHEME	359,210
GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	359,210
INCOME PARKING CHARGES WICKLOW MD	295,412
INCOME RESIDENTIAL PARKING DISK WICKLOW MD	2,520
INCOME TRAFFIC FINES WICKLOW MD	11,931
WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	309,863
INCOME PARKING TRAFFIC FINES ARKLOW MD	8,680
INCOME PAY PARKING FEES AND PERMITS ARKLOW MD	208,583
ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	217,263
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL	2,087,418



Environment Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity Action

1. Climate Action

The CCMA signed up local authorities to a new Climate Charter. The Charter agreed with government set up a framework for local government to play a key role in delivering the National Climate Action Plan published in June. It provides a shared vision of the role of local government to deliver on Climate Adaptation and Climate Mitigation.

2. Climate Adaptation Strategy

A presentation on the Climate Adaptation Strategy was made at the first meeting of the Climate and Biodiversity SPC.

The County Development Plan is currently being reviewed. A meeting was held between staff working on the plan and environment to consider how to incorporate the adaptation strategy and wider Climate Action measures into the review of the plan. All chapters of the County Development Plan are being reviewed taking account of Climate Action.

Climate adaptation involves taking steps to adjust our operational systems and planning processes in response to existing and anticipated Climate Change. The completed strategy will allow us to mainstream adaptation over time into the plans and policies of Wicklow County Council. It will provide a strategy to ensure corporate activities are climate proofed.

Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. Recruitment

Competitions for the following posts were held in October 2019:

Temporary substitute school traffic warden

Assistant Staff Officer short-listing

Assistant Engineer

Employee Numbers

	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019
Managerial/ Administrative	278	280	272	280
Professional/ Technical	104	104	98	103
Outdoor	312	316	318	318
Temporary/ Seasonal	38	65	88	62
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	8
Total	740	773	784	771

	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018
Managerial/ Administrative	250	246	263	280
Professional/ Technical	119	119	105	105
Outdoor	317	317	306	313
Temporary/ Seasonal	41	41	79	54
Non DOHPLG	13	13	8	8
Total	740	736	761	752

(Excludes figures for Fire-fighters)

2. Access to Information

No. of F.O.I. Requests

October 2019: 8	October 2018: 16
Jan to October 2019: 110	Jan to October 2018: 108

No. of Ombudsman Requests

October 2019: 7	October 2018: 1
Jan to October 2019: 22	Jan to October 2018: 11

3. Press Releases

October 2019 – 10 Press Releases



4. Register of Electors

The 2020/2021 Draft Register was published by Wicklow County Council on the statutory publication date of 1st November 2019 both in hard copy and online on www.checktheregister.ie. There are 100,079 electors on the Draft Register. Approximately 3500 letters were issued to electors who the Franchise Department were unable to establish as still resident, or deleted as moved away. The Franchise Department are currently working on those letters that have returned, to add them to the Register, amend their details or forward on their new addresses to other local authorities for addition there.

Advertisements were placed in print and social media, strongly advising electors to ensure that they are included on the Draft Register, as the onus is on the elector to ensure they are registered to vote. The closing date for receipt of additions, amendments or deletions on the Draft Register is Monday 25th November 2019.



5. I.C.T. Report

IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 23 tickets a day.

Customer Service Delivery

- Customer Relations Management (CRM) System – Business process and workflow modelling for all departments are being assessed and where necessary, redeveloped in preparation for the new Customer Service Unit. 87 teams have been identified in the organisation and work continues on the business process mapping.

Domain Migration

- Wicklow County Council is currently undertaking a domain migration project which includes the replacement of historic domain controllers and the migration of all users and servers to the new infrastructure. 300 plus, users and pcs are now migrated.

iHouse Upgrade

- The iHouse application and database servers have been migrated and iHouse has been upgrade from version 3.4.1 to 3.5 in line with the Forest Domain Migration Project.

GIS & Data Collection Systems

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

eServices

- The Online Consultation Hub is working well on the Wicklow.ie website. There is currently 1 item up for consultation; Have your say in the County Development Plan 2021-2027 Issue Paper.

Digital Strategy

- The Digital Strategy was presented to the Elected Members on the 7th October 2019. Queries relating to the Digital Strategy should be directed to BDO@wicklowcoco.ie



6. Financial

Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST OCTOBER 2019							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to date	Actual income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to date	
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
A - Housing and Building	15,983,796	19,892,855	80	(19,754,020)	(24,370,271)	81	(3,770,224)
B - Road Transport & Safety	17,186,169	20,449,070	84	(10,937,352)	(13,354,096)	82	6,248,817
C - Water Services	4,727,027	5,818,773	81	(5,372,171)	(6,759,744)	79	(645,144)
D - Development Management	7,814,103	9,868,577	79	(4,420,576)	(5,501,133)	80	3,393,527
E - Environmental Services	9,313,425	10,987,633	85	(1,556,520)	(1,971,500)	79	7,756,905
F - Recreation and Amenity	5,662,212	6,990,426	81	(587,790)	(894,778)	66	5,074,422
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,298,251	1,541,865	84	(651,204)	(812,728)	80	647,047
H - Miscellaneous Services	8,752,862	11,098,626	79	(6,356,308)	(8,257,821)	77	2,396,554
J - Central Management Charges	13,141,696	16,052,449	82	(906,063)	(1,005,217)	90	12,235,633
LG - Local Government Fund				(9,986,188)	(11,983,425)	83	(9,986,188)
PL - Pension Levy				-			-
RA - Commercial Rates				(23,272,954)	(27,939,561)	83	(23,272,954)
	83,879,541	102,700,274	82	83,801,146	102,850,274	81	78,395

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 October 2019 to 31st October 2019.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST OCTOBER 2019					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2019	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers To/From Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/10/2019
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	23,666,606	60,875,542	(50,414,087)	(740,366)	33,387,695
Road Transport & Safety	(39,057,744)	4,911,265	(6,903,179)	(454,010)	(41,503,668)
Water Services	(10,100,125)	333,119	(778,912)	0	(10,545,918)
Development Management	(9,430,657)	308,205	(803,682)	(219,280)	(10,145,414)
Environmental Services	322,578	3,757,197	(2,740,232)	(375,011)	964,532
Recreation and Amenity	(237,760)	1,589,621	(2,121,010)	(161,250)	(930,399)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(929,822)	151,494	0	(228,750)	(1,007,078)
Miscellaneous Services	(14,953,999)	2,635,422	(2,181,984)	135,499	(14,365,062)
	(50,720,923)	74,561,865	(65,943,086)	(2,043,168)	(44,145,312)



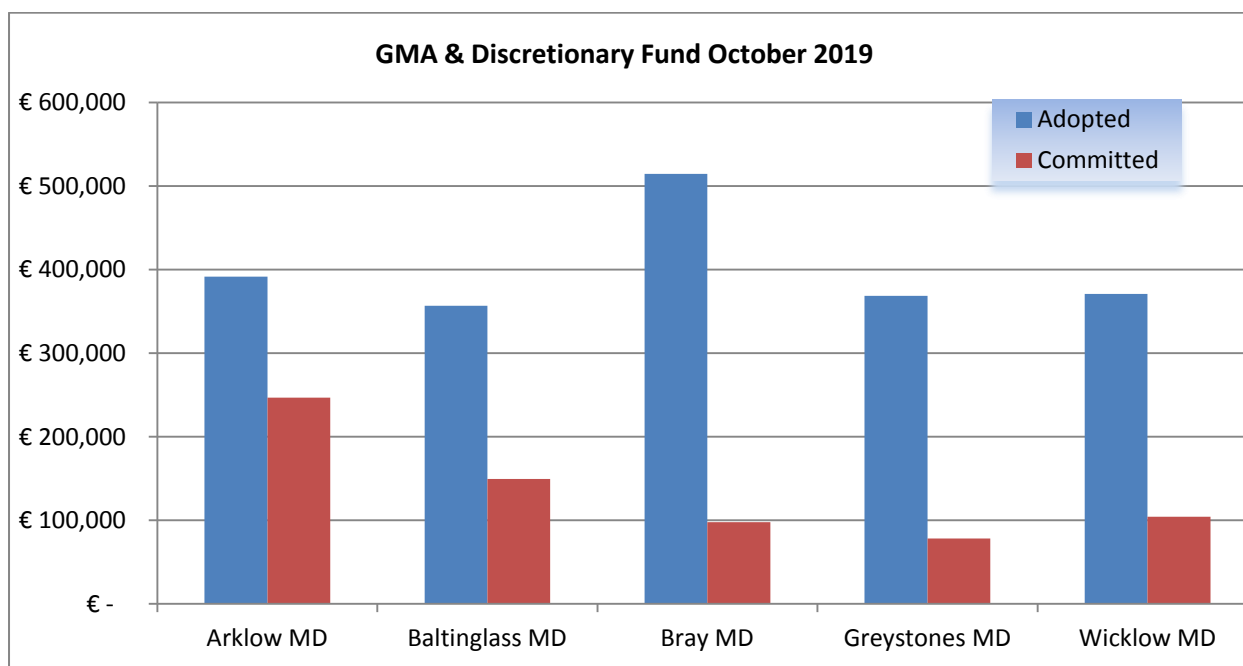
Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

OCTOBER									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2019	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/10/2019	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates *	6,804,584	27,927,240	(1,240)		34,733,064	21,477,396	13,255,668		67%
Rents & Annuities	1,470,372	12,058,500		(132)	13,529,004	11,600,007	1,928,997		87%
Housing Loans *	399,710	1,162,475			1,562,185	1,305,454	256,731		84%

N.B. The rent and rates collection percentages are below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2019

Discretionary Budget 2019 €2,002,500. The graph and table below outline the discretionary budget for 2019 by Municipal District.



Municipal District	C/F from 2018	Adopted	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	101,350	391,750	348,110	144,990
Baltinglass MD	269,230	356,750	418,467	207,513
Bray MD	168,672	514,500	266,215	416,957
Greystones MD	-6,637	368,750	71,370	290,743
Wicklow MD	188,759	370,750	293,126	266,383
Total	721,374	2,002,500	1,397,288	1,326,586



Capital Investment Programme 2019-2021

The Capital Investment Programme 2019-2021 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 4th 2019.

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

PROGRAMME GROUP	Proposed Expenditure			
	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	71,127,000	119,392,000	146,372,000	336,891,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	17,201,600	24,692,200	31,043,000	72,936,800
WATER SERVICES	150,000	150,000	150,000	450,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	2,015,000	3,945,981	2,130,000	8,090,981
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	720,000	2,675,000	2,175,000	5,570,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	7,439,000	17,950,000	9,988,000	35,377,000
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	2,200,000	7,300,000	11,050,000	20,550,000
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	1,975,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,975,000
OVERALL TOTAL	102,827,600	177,105,181	203,908,000	483,840,781