

AUGUST 2019

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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This Month:

- Age Friendly Initiative Launched in Arklow Library by “Dragons Den” star and well-known businessman, Gavin Duffy.

Speaking at the launch, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Irene Winters, said that “*the national Age Friendly programme endeavoured to make age friendly a way of life with older people continuing to be at the heart of the initiative*”.

- Greystones Beach Access Mat - A beach access mat which provides for improved universal access has recently been installed by Greystones Municipal District at South Beach.

The new access mat, which was funded through Wicklow Sports Partnership from the Healthy Ireland Fund and Greystones Municipal District members Discretionary Fund, has been widely welcomed as a positive addition to the beach.

- Rathdrum has been nominated as County Wicklow’s representative for the Bank of Ireland National Enterprising Town Awards in the in the small (less than 2,000) population category.

A Public Information Evening was held recently, kindly hosted by Avon Motors, with speakers from the Bank of Ireland, Arklow Municipal District and Blessington Town Team (Blessington won the Leinster title in 2017), along with Cllr. Pat Kennedy.

- Heritage Week took place from August 17th to the 25th - co-ordinated by the Heritage Council, National Heritage Week has become one of Ireland’s largest cultural events.

Events are taking place at the following locations, in Wicklow: Glendalough, Dunlavin, Baltinglass, Stratford on Slaney, Hollywood, Bray, Arklow, Greystones, Kilcoole, Newcastle, Enniskerry, Delgany, Ashford, Moneystown and Wicklow Town.

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HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Social Housing Support

No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP)	4300
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	390
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	1420
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	8
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	10

2. Allocation of Social Housing

WCC Social Housing (including Bray M. D.)	124
Approved Housing Bodies (including Bray M. D.)	14

3. Social Housing Stock

4367 tenancies occupied @ 27/07/2019

- Total weekly rental accrual €238,292.57
- Minimum rent €24 p.w. - Maximum rent €275.50 p.w.
Arrears at end of July 2019 - €1,114,376.43

Casual Vacancies/Relets 66

Municipal District	No
Arklow	16
Baltinglass	20
Bray	8
Greystones	6
Wicklow	16

4. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Social Housing Supply Programme

3 schemes completed in 2018	28 Units
1 scheme completed 2019 so far	17 units
10 schemes currently on site in 2019	233 Units
2 further schemes to commence on site in 2019	77 Units
9 further schemes to commence on site in 2020	<u>220 Units</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	575 Units

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

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

Construction of the 42 No. social housing units at Kilbride Lane in Bray is progressing well. The carpenters have installed the roof to 5 units in the front of the site facing Kilbride Lane and 2 units at Cloverhill. Blocklayers are currently working on bringing the remaining units up to roof level. The two bungalow house types at the end of Cloverhill estate have the first fix of M & E installed and plastering is to start after the windows are installed. The first delivery of windows and doors are due to the site mid August. The contractor is concentrating their efforts to finish the bungalow units to Cloverhill and the front units first and then work their way back up through the site.

The project delay has been reduced down to 4.5 weeks behind the programme. The contractor is currently reducing the programme delay by 1 week per month. They plan to mitigate the delay further by adding additional crews of blocklayers and expect to be back on programme by December. At present, the project is still due to finish at the agreed completion date.

The site sign has been erected to the front of the site. Groundworkers are installing manholes and the main storm drain down through the site at present. Through the ER, Wicklow County Council has been pursuing the contractor to ensure safe egress from the site onto Kilbride Lane along with daily inspection of road conditions to ensure the road remains clear of mud and debris.

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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.
- 16 units (Ashford) negotiations completed. Department approval received – delivery of 9 units expected Q.3 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.

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 – first units expected to be completed Q3 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

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 due Q3 2019.
- Construction under way on a 40 unit CALF Turnkey in Dunlavin 26 units expected to be delivered in 2019 and 14 in 2020.

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
› Grant funding for social house	€500,000

56 Open Applications to value of €908,000 – full value of the grant available, this figure will be much lower if approved.

Housing Assistance for

Older People (15)	€ 104,000
Mobility Aid Grants (11)	€54,000
Housing Adaptation Grants (30)	€750,000

Approved

15 Mobility Aid Grants	€77,750
11 Housing Adaption Grants	€138,400
8 Housing Aid for Older People	€57,135

House Purchase Loans – Rebuilding Ireland

- 79 received up to 30/06/2019
- 10 approvals.
- 18 declined
- 3 to be assessed.

2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

- 22 applications to 30/06/2019
- 1 sales completed
- 3 declined.

10. Addressing Homelessness

Period 01/07/2019 to 30/07/2019

No. of Presentations	45
No. of Repeat Presentations	2
No. of Households (Families)	27
No. of Adults (Individuals)	22
No. of Children	52
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord Selling	16
Family Circumstances	17
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	4
Sofa Surfing	4
Rough Sleeping	2

Temporary Emergency Accommodation 30/07/2019

Own Door

12 families (17 adults and 26 children)

3 single adults

B & B Accommodation

Families - 7(9 Adults, 14 Children)

5 single adults.

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, 97 households (73 families & 24 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 31st July 2019.

63 homeless cases and 34 prevention cases of which 12 families were residing in emergency accommodation and 4 families in women's refuge accommodation have been assisted by Homeless HAP to date. 40 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.

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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 is currently assessing tenders received for services. It is hoped to appoint the Service Provider for Housing First by October 2019.

11. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Submissions were made by the PPN to WCC SPC Scheme and to WCC Local Property Tax Adjustment Factor.

New PPN members: Blessington Fencing Club; Roundwood Cancer Support; Africa Irish Society; 12th Wicklow Dunlavin Scouts.

Recruitment of PPN reps for Wicklow County Council's new Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC is ongoing.

County Wicklow PPN had a stand at County Wicklow Show in Tinahely and one is also planned for National Ploughing Championships.

County Wicklow PPN Training Fair Day is scheduled for Saturday 21st September, Brockagh Centre. Workshop topics will include: Funding; Social Media; Charitable Status; Running Effective Meetings; Mental Health & Wellbeing in the Community; GDPR; Good Governance and many more. See Facebook for more information. All welcome.

12. Wicklow Library Service

Wicklow Library and Archives

Minister Eoghan Murphy & Minister Simon Harris formally marked the commencement of works at the new Wicklow town library & archives on August 7. Minister Harris spoke of the importance of libraries today and the diverse roles they play, while Minister Murphy emphasised the importance of the development in the context of URDF projects. Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Irene Winters spoke of the important role of the planned County Archives and the boost this will bring to Wicklow town. The project will take approximately one year to complete, with a likely opening date of autumn 2020 envisaged.

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Dormant Account Grant Aid

Wicklow County Council Library Service has received approval for expenditure of almost €38,000 on social inclusion projects from the Dept of Rural & Community Development (DRCD). 75% of the total amount will be grant aided. Projects include:

“Lexia” literacy programme for those with dyslexia and dyspraxia. This will be rolled out to all primary schools in county Wicklow, which can then be accessed from home or the local library.

Touch-type Read and Spell (TTRS) for teachers is a literacy and digital skills course for targeted pupils and special education school teachers. Students will gain literacy & keyboard skills

“*Story-time at the Library- Sparking an interest in reading*” - a six week story-time and arts based facilitated, interactive learning programme for 24 children 5-8 years from a local after school project and a junior youth group in a disadvantaged area

Computer Training - half day internet skills training for those from disadvantaged areas on online banking, shopping online, booking holidays, using google maps etc.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Sessions for children aged 3-12 years with their parents/care givers.

Toddler time - one hour sessions to encourage parents to read to their children and also use music, movement and rhyme.

Wicklow County Council’s ambitious application has resulted in it being awarded the 6th highest grant amount, nationally, across all local authorities.

13. County Wicklow Local Sports Partnership (LSP)

Colour Run

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership and Wicklow County Council hosted a colour run in aid of the Wicklow Hospice on Sunday 21st July in Wicklow Town. A large crowd gathered for a fun morning with €2000 raised by the event.

Swim Camp

A swim camp was held in Coral Leisure, Wicklow Town on 15th – 20th July for people in Direct Provision within the area. 12 people attended the camp which was funded by Wicklow LSP.

Training and Education

Event	Date & Location	No of attendees
Safeguarding 1 – Child Protection Course	7 th August, Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs	16/16

14. County Wicklow Archives

Wicklow County Archives exhibition marking the 120th anniversary of county councils in Ireland will be held in Wicklow County Buildings, commencing 12th August 2019 and coinciding with Heritage Week starting 17th August 2019. April 2019 marked the 120th anniversary of local democracy in Ireland. This exhibition was compiled and curated by the Local Authority Archivists and Record Managers group and funded by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. Detailing the key local

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government events over the past 120 years, the exhibition is now on display across the country. Items from the Wicklow County Archives will also feature.

15. LCDC

At the Annual General meeting of Wicklow County Council, the number of elected members on the LCDC was increased from 3 to 4, out of a total membership of 19.

The revised membership of the LCDC is as follows:

Public Sector: Councillors Pat Kennedy, Dermot O'Brien, Peir Leonard and Melanie Corrigan. Frank Curran C.E., Vibeke Delahunt LEO, Stephen Fitzgerald DSP, Clare Power Carlow I.T. and Siobhan Fitzpatrick HSE.

Private Sector: Peter Brennan BAP, Brian Carty CWP, Lorraine Hennessy INOU, Pat O'Suilleabhain, (Business), Chris Hill (Farming), and 5 PPN reps (Niamh Wogan/Martina Cronin/Mai Quaid/Richard Webb/Tom Byrne).

The new chairperson of the LCDC for the coming years is Councillor Pat Kennedy and the Vice-Chair is Mai Quaid.

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

Age Friendly Initiatives

On the 30th July, Dragons Den star Gavin Duffy launched the Age friendly business programme in Arklow. Forty one businesses have signed up to being age friendly and have committed to three actions each.

Actions range from providing reading glasses, adjusting volume of music in stores to providing seating.

Look out for the Age friendly logo in store windows around Arklow.

17. County Wicklow Arts Office

One Per Cent for Art

The installation of the Per Cent for Art Commission arising from the River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme took place on 9th August 2019. By artist David Beattie, this will be a permanent feature on the walkway. It will be completed within the coming days and launched with an artist talk on Culture Night September 20th.

Conceived as a reflection on the physicality of sound and our experience of sound in public space, artist David Beattie has created a series of sculptures along the river walk that will highlight and accentuate the flow of the river and the tidal shift of the sea in Bray port. A number of free standing cast terrazzo forms are located along the walkway, arranged and positioned to gather the ambient sounds of the surrounding environment.

The commission was funded by the OPW through the Per Cent for Art Scheme arising from Wicklow County Council's works on the River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme.

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 applying for Regional Enterprise Development funding to develop Wicklow County Campus, as a Screen Content/Film hub providing work space and training facilities to support the industry.

RETAIL

Bray Town Centre (Florentine Centre) is progressing with installation of steel frame and concrete flooring. Expected practical completion is Q4 2019. Interest by potential tenants has been very positive.

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 completed a Tourism Destination Town Audit which details the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities that the town has to offer visitors to Arklow. All destination towns need to offer sufficient things to do and see, a variety of dining experiences and quality retail- enough to keep visitors engagingly occupied for a minimum of two days, during the day and evening.

Arklow Town Team has had an initial meeting with the artist who is commissioned to carry out works on the Arklow, Ireland Ancient Town Project. The project is to present the heritage in the evolution of the town from its inception as a Viking camp to its current modern status of an urban town.

The CCTV project for Arklow is progressing and it is anticipated that installation of the cameras should commence in the coming weeks. These works are expected to be completed in September. Arklow Town Team is exploring other funding options to have the CCTV system extended to other areas in the town. Options to incorporate an Outdoor Digital Advertising Screen in the town are also being explored.

A Funding application is being prepared at present through LEADER for the Refurbishment of the Running Track in Seaview Avenue.

Blessington Town Team is finalising preparations for the second annual Dame Ninette de Valois festival, being held in September. A promotional stall was displayed at the Hollywood Fair in August with lots of interest from locals and visitors alike.

Bray Town Team through Bray Municipal District has engaged a consultant to prepare a Town Centre Health Check. It is hoped that a draft report will be available in September. The Health Check should

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reflect that a number of initiatives have taken place over a sustained period led by the Council and the business community. The report is expected to identify possibilities and pathways for further development of the town.

Greystones 2020 have signed the contract for the Public Realm Plan which is made possible through funding from LEADER in the amount of €29,000 and balance sourced from Wicklow County Council, Tidy Towns and Greystones 2020, bringing the total project cost to €38,000. Paul Hogarth Company were the winning tender and initial meetings with the steering committee have commenced with completion expected by November. There will be a number of opportunities for stakeholder engagement throughout the process.

Wicklow Town Team have been progressing work on the back lighting of historical sites around the town. The contractor, consultant, Town Team members & engineering staff of Wicklow Municipal District met on site to review requirements and work carried out. Work on the historic trail is also progressing.

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 have been nominated for the NETA 2019. Judging will take place on the 30th of September and preparations are underway. 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.

Work continues in preparation for the competition. A public information evening was held in Rathdrum on 22nd August to update the local community on the proposed outline of the project and garner support for judging day. The community of Ashford have been working together to ensure that everyone puts their best foot forward for September.

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 the Library has commenced and is expected to commence on the other projects in the coming weeks.

Arklow Courthouse - A contractor is in the process of being appointed to carry out the refurbishment works on the courthouse. We expect that he will be formally appointed by mid-September with a view to commencing works in October 2019. The works will take approximately 5 months to complete.

Parade Ground Public Realm- The detailed design process is ongoing. A couple of technical issues have arisen since the design started and this is likely to lengthen the detailed design period. We are hopeful that the detailed design will be completed by the end of Q4 2019 or early in Q1 2020.

The 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.

It is expected that a call for Category 2 proposals will be announced before the end of the year.

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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.

The Towns as Visitor Hubs group are working closely with each of the Town Teams to carry out an assessment of the towns in line with the Tourism Destination Town Guidelines, as set out by Failte Ireland. Even where the town may not meet the criteria for funding, the results will inform the team on how best to plan for each town in becoming a destination town with particular focus on the capacity to attract visitors to stay overnight. The Accommodation group are awaiting the results of a county-wide audit of the tourism accommodation in Wicklow which is being produced by Failte Ireland.

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.

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Failte Ireland

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 application was submitted on 7th August 2019.

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.

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 up to two 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 is currently considering proposals from the towns which best match the Failte Ireland criteria. The closing date for applications is 19th September 2019.

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. Two days of public consultation were held in Wicklow and Arklow and were well attended. The first draft of the Strategic Review is being finalised with a view to putting the final Strategic Review before the Maritime Business Development Group in September.

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.

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FOOD

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.

Following a procurement process County Wicklow Partnership with the support of Wicklow County Council, has submitted an application for funding for consultants to implement the County Wicklow Food Strategy. It is anticipated that Wicklow County Council will contribute 50% of the costs of this project subject to LEADER and the Department of Rural & Community Development funding.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

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

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	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	19/€414,796.62 03/€3041
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	24
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	72	70	44
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	876	850	393
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	4 (as at 31/07/19)

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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*	379
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	446	430	314

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	23

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

August 2019 Activities

LEO Wicklow staff members continued to assist Clients concerned by the impact of Brexit by providing information and assisting with client specific queries and will continue to offer Brexit Supports during the Autumn / Winter Training programme.

Preparations are currently being finalised for the 2019 Autumn / Winter Training Programme which will commence in September. All courses are scheduled to go live for booking on 16th August and 3000 brochures will be posted to clients and circulated to other agencies and stakeholders.

On Friday 12th July, LEO Wicklow was represented at the 'SME and Entrepreneurship Strategy Conference' held at the Aviva Stadium, at which an Taoiseach Leo Varadkar spoke, and which was

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hosted by Minister Heather Humphreys and Minister Pat Breen. At this Conference a new Productivity Voucher Scheme was launched by the Government.

On August 14th LEO Wicklow ran a Food Starter course for Wicklow based entrepreneurs interested in starting up a food business.

Applications are now being accepted from Wicklow Businesses for the Autumn 2019 Food Academy Programme. The aim of Food Academy is to provide small food businesses with a solid foundation to progress confidently onto retail shelves. Crucially SuperValu also provide successful participants with the opportunity to trial their product in their local stores for a period of 12 weeks. Further Details and application form are available on the LEO Wicklow website www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow Closing date for applications is 16th September 2019.

2. Planning and Development

Forward Planning

Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly - The new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region came into effect on the Friday 28th June 2019.

The new Regional Assembly held their Annual General Meeting on 12 July 2019. Cllr Eamon Dooley of Offaly was elected Cathaoirleach, with Cllr Padraig McEvoy of Kildare elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

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, it is intended to commence a review of the current Wicklow County Development Plan before the end of 2019. This review will commence with a period of public consultation including public consultation meetings, which will be widely advertised.

Local Plans -The County Development Plan includes the 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.

Vacant Site Levy – July

- 32 no. sites now stand on the Register.
- 06 no. sites are currently on appeal to ABP.
- No Notice of Intent issued

Heritage

Biodiversity Actions: The Heritage Officer is co-ordinating a number of biodiversity related actions as part of the Heritage Plan implementation programme. These include;

- A County Swift survey for Wicklow
- People + Nature programme of free public events
- A survey of biodiversity along the Avonmore River catchment.

Heritage Plan: Glendalough Community Heritage Project in collaboration with UCD School of Archaeology is due to take place 6th-16th August.

Baltinglass Hillfort Archaeology Project: The Heritage Office is co-ordinating further research on the hillforts with community outreach events planned for Heritage Week 17th 25th Aug.

Wicklow Heritage Week Event Guide produced and circulated. 60+ events scheduled in 15+ locations.

Protected Structures Grants: Funding allocations have been made to 9 projects under the BHIS and 2 projects under the HSF. All applicants have been notified; projects will be monitored and are due to be completed by end Oct 2019.

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Our Wicklow Heritage: Redevelopment of Wicklow's online community heritage archive is underway with expressions of interest received from seven additional communities to participate in the new network of sites.

Planning Applications

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

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	48
Housing Developments	9
Agricultural Structures	0
Commercial	14
Other Developments	73
Total	144

Decisions issued in respect of 74 applications in July, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	3
Individual Houses	21
Other Developments	50
Other Developments Requiring EIA	0
Total	74

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

	31/07/2018	31/07/2019
Total Number of decisions issued	603	577
Total Number of decisions to grant	498	490
% grant rate	82%	85%

No. of Applications withdrawn

July 17

*Withdrawals may not have been lodged in the month of June

Planning Enforcement

Details of Activity during July

- 12 new files were opened
- 22 Advisory Letters issued
- 5 Warning Letters issued
- 5 Enforcement Notices served
- 18 files closed
- No files referred for legal action in July and no cases were heard.

Derelict Sites Activity July

- 04 No. of sites on Register
- 01 No. of Inspections
- 00 No. of Notices issued
- 01 Site removed from the register

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3. Environmental Services

WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTION – JUNE 2019

No. of Complaints Opened	300
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	239
No of Litter Fines Issued	127
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	11
No. of Warning Letters Issued	4
No. of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	17
No. of Burning Applications Granted	6
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	6
No. of Notices issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	7
No. of files prepared for Court action	32
No. of files referred to Law Dept for legal advice	2
No. of cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	1
Income – Litter	€450.00
Income – Waste Management	€1,020.00

BLUE FLAG BEACHES

Wicklow County Council has 4 Blue Flags for beaches in Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South, Greystones South and Bray. A Green Flag is in place in Arklow. The blue flag season commenced on the 1st June 2019 with lifeguards on a number of beaches in the county.

Water sampling is taken at sixteen locations on the east coast of Wicklow by the HSE, on behalf of Wicklow County Council, to ensure excellent water quality for swimming on our beaches for the season. All four Blue Flag Beaches have retained their excellent standard through the summer season.

On the weekend of 10th/11th August 2019 the Leinster Surf Rescue held their Regional Nipper, Openwater Championship on Brittas Bay South Beach. It was an honour for this to take place in Brittas Bay South as this was one of only three locations selected in Ireland.

DOG LICENCES

July marked the one year anniversary of An Post taking over the issuing of dog licences. An Post now send out the reminders for these licences. Prior to this the renewal letters were sent by Wicklow County Council. A number of people have contacted this office once receiving their renewals to state their dog has passed away. The dog wardens will continue to patrol the county to ensure all dogs are licenced.

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 have been appointed as Site Investigation contractor and have commenced on site and final report on the site investigation is due in November 2019
- Website is up and running and regular updates will be made to keep the Public and Members informed of progress.

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PORTS AND HARBOURS

The Strategic Review of the Maritime for County Wicklow is ongoing with stakeholder engagement held in Aklow on the 09th July 2019. It is envisaged that the draft report should be completed by September 2019.

Number of Marine Notices issued during July - 4.

Wicklow During July 12 ships berthed and discharged cargo at Wicklow Port. Of these ships, 10 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, scrap metal, woodchips and wood pallets while the imports consisted of logs from Scotland and timber from Sweden. In accordance with Regulations (EC) No. 725/2004 port security assessments and port facility security assessments on Wicklow Port commenced in July 2019 and could be completed by September 2019.

A plaque commemorating the 50th anniversary of the tragic deaths on the 3rd August 1969 of James Mulvaney, Mary Wilson and Michael Wilson was unveiled by Cllr. Paul beside the Castle Street car park on the 3rd August 2019 in front of a crowd of approximately 100 to 150 people. During the unveiling Pat Brennan recited a poem he wrote about the accident and prayers for those who died and their families were read by local clergy. Sea Diving Contractors together with staff from Wicklow Port recovered and redeployed the Wendy Raft to her Chartered Position in early July after it came away from its mooring.

Arklow It is planned to hold a consultation evening at the end of August with active commercial fishermen regarding the proposed fishermen storage facilities planned for the South Quay. Invitations will be issued to current container licence holders.

Pollution Control

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants - Ambient Monitoring

- 7 River/Lake samples were taken and analysed upstream and downstream of discharges of public wastewater treatment plants involving 121 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

- 10 Private water supplies were sampled and 2 supplies were non-compliant with microbiological parameters, 1 for ph and 1 for Iron.
- 1 Private water supply was sampled and deemed non-compliant with microbiological parameters.
- 2 boil water notices were issued on private water supplies.
- 2 letters were issued on private water supplies

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2019

- 4 domestic wastewater treatment systems were inspected and deemed compliant.
- 4 compliance certificates were issued in respect of domestic wastewater treatment systems deemed compliant after remedial actions were taken.

Section 4 Licensed Discharges

- 3 letters were issued in respect of monitored discharges to waters and were deemed compliant.
- 2 letters were issued in respect of monitored discharges to waters and were deemed non-compliant and requested to undertake remedial action.

Well Grants

Number of Inspections carried out in respect of water grant applications - 18

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Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 4 Lakes were monitored involving 14 samples were taken for analysis for the purposes of WFD/River Management Plan.
- 14 Rivers were monitored involving 21 samples for analysis for the purposes of the WFD/River Management Plan.

Bathing Water Monitoring Programme

- 4 Blue Flags awarded to beaches in Bray (1), Greystones (1) and Brittas Bay (2).
- 32 samples were taken from 6 Identified (designated) bathing waters and 7 non-designated bathing water for analysis.

Planning & Development

6 environmental reports on referred planning applications were completed concerned agricultural, commercial and forestry development.

Petrol Vapour Recovery

Wicklow County Council appointed two companies as approved assessors under European union (stage 11 Petrol Vapour Recovery during refuelling of motor vehicles at service stations)regulation 2011 on 13th June 2019. All petrol station owners in the county written to and advised of their responsibilities under current legislation.

Well Grants

- | | |
|--|----|
| • Number of Applications | 26 |
| • Number of New Wells | 5 |
| • Number of New Pumps | 23 |
| • Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) | 12 |

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

A new talk on taking action to eliminate plastics was developed and delivered to four classes in Greystones Educate Together.

A new project involving a programme of community education on eating healthy is being developed as part of the healthy food initiative. It will involve a talk on food waste with the messaging linking to work being done by MABS to address the cost of shopping.

Twenty seven Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Grants were completed by the end of April with reports submitted. Second and final instalments of grants were paid out to all participants. The 2019/20 grants are expected to be announced in September.

Twenty Five schools have collected their Green schools award

Funding of €12,024 was granted by the EPA for the development of two projects under the National Waste prevention programme. The first project will focus on supporting the promotion of the Refill.ie campaign to promote reusable drink bottles and access to drinking water for refills. The second project will look at the cost of convenience in household cleaning projects which generate significant waste, most notably in the form of cleaning wipes, a synthetic single use item.

The annual Tidy Towns, Estates and Environmental Awareness Awards were announced. Several new awards have been created to strengthen focus in the awards on Climate Change and Biodiversity in recognition of the declared Climate and Biodiversity emergency but also to reflect the increased activity of community groups on environmental issues over the last year.

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Climate Adaptation Strategy

Wicklow County Council is statutorily obliged to have a Climate Adaptation Strategy adopted by 30th September 2019. The adoption of the Climate Adaptation Strategy is a reserved function of the members of Wicklow County Council

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

The draft strategy has been prepared and SEA and AA screening reports are complete..

Public Consultation ended on 5th July 2019 and 95 submissions were received

These submissions are being considered at present and any amendments resulting from the submissions will be screened before being appended to the strategy. The strategy will be before the members of Wicklow County Council at their monthly meeting to be held on 2nd September 2019.

Sustainable Energy

WCC's Better Energy Communities Grant application to SEAI was successful and a letter of offer for c. €180,000 grant (30%) has been received. Work on approx. 40 projects has commenced across 11 WCC buildings and 6 LA houses.

4 Sustainable Energy Communities have submitted applications to SEAI for support in developing Energy Masterplans. WCC is leading all 4 applications.

The first grant award letter has been received from SEAI for €15, 000.

WCC tendered for Energy Services consultancy to support delivery of the above and 3 Counties Energy Agency have now been appointed and commenced this work.

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 second study, which is also ongoing, is a Hydro-geomorphology Study being carried out by Gavin Doherty Geosolutions. Following the confirmation of the preferred flood relief scheme an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared and submitted to An Bord Pleanala.

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

4. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Public Lighting

	26 June 2019	1 July 2019	8 July 2019	22 July 2019	29 July 2019
Access Issues (Attended)	22	22	22	20	15
Cable Fault (Attend)	15	16	18	15	16
ESB Required (Attended)	17	17	17	9	10
Knock Down (Attended)	5	5	5	4	4
Materials required	11	11	11	6	5
No Supply	23	23	23	20	30
On Hold	4	4	4	4	4
Submitted	231	222	255	247	219
Traffic Management Required	27	27	36	36	35
TOTAL	355	347	391	361	338

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	4	3	5		3	15
Cable Fault (Attend)	3		6	3	4	16
ESB Required(Attended)	1		4		5	10
Knock Down (Attended)	1				3	4
Materials required			3		2	5
No Supply	13	3	2	5	7	30
On Hold		4				4
Submitted	31	30	50	14	94	219
Traffic Management Required	5	1	11	11	7	35
Grand Total	58	41	81	33	125	338

Transportation Statistics (General)

	June 2019	July 2019
Solicitors Queries	55	78
Road Closure Applications	5	1
Road Opening Licences	131	134
Abnormal Load Applications	1 single journey permit	0

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N11 Kilmacanoge Parallel Service Road - Tenders for the main construction works have been received they are currently being assessed and the awarding of the contract is expected in late August/Early September.

€2,150,000 has been allocated funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland for the Safety Scheme in 2019.

N11 M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme - Arup Consulting Engineers were appointed in November 2018. The scheme is currently at Phase 2 of the Planning and Design Process. Traffic Modelling and development of the Constraints Study is under way. €1,000,000 has been allocated by Transport Infrastructure Ireland in 2019 towards the project.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment - The preferred contractor will sign contracts during the summer, and the Site Supervision contract will also be awarded at the same time. The works on site are expected to commence in September. €3,600,000 has been allocated by Transport Infrastructure Ireland in 2019 towards the project.

N81 Capital Maintenance Projects - Wicklow County Council has received approval from Transport Infrastructure Ireland for –resurfacing works which commenced along the N81 during July, beginning with at Knockroe Bend and then on to Mullycagh and Ballylion, other sites include, pavement works North of Blessington to the Dublin Border have commenced in July and expected to be completed within 6/7 weeks, again dependant on weather.

€1,600,000 has been allocated by Transport Infrastructure Ireland in 2019 towards the capital maintenance projects.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District - July 2019	EURO
INCOME FLORENCE ROAD CARPARK BRAY MD	36,836
INCOME HERBERT ROAD CARPARK BRAY MD	151,765
INCOME NORTH BEACH CAR PARK - STRAND ROAD BRAY MD	24,551
INCOME RESTRICTED PARKING BRAY MD	445,828
INCOME PARKING FINES BRAY MD	111,369
INCOME RESIDENTIAL/SPECIAL PARKING DISCS BRAY MD	37,680
BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	808,029
INCOME GREYSTONES PAY PARKING SCHEME	256,932
GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	256,932
INCOME PARKING CHARGES WICKLOW MD	190,277
INCOME RESIDENTIAL PARKING DISK WICKLOW MD	2,500
INCOME TRAFFIC FINES WICKLOW MD	11,049
WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	203,826
INCOME PARKING TRAFFIC FINES ARKLOW MD	8,620
INCOME PAY PARKING FEES AND PERMITS ARKLOW MD	144,385
ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	153,005
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL	1,421,793

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5. Emergency Services

Fire Services

Operational Fire Statistics July 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	10	1	1	3	2	1				1	1
Fire Caravan	2			1		1					
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	22		2	8	3	2				3	4
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	2			1		1					
Fire Institutional	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	2			1	1						
Single Station Mobilised											
Fire Alarm or CO2 Activation	22	8	6	4	1	1	2				
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	16	2	3	4	1	3	2	1			
Fire Chimney	0										
Fire Small / bin / skip	8	3	1	3					1		
Fire Vehicle	8	3	2	1			1	1			
Fire Shed	1								1		
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1		1								
Ambulance Assist	6	2				3		1			
Garda Assist	2		1			1					
Electrical Incident	1									1	
Gas Leak	0										
River Rescue	1								1		
Animal Rescue	2	1		1							
Entrapment / Rescue	2	1	1								
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	2		2								
Malicious False Alarm	0										
Mobilised into other County	3						1	1	1		
Times Stations mobilised	115	21	21	28	8	13	6	4	4	5	5

There were 75 incidents attended during the month of July 2019. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of 115 occasions. On one occasion during the month an Incident Commander requested an additional crew above what has been predetermined for the incident type. Greystones mobilised a third crew to a house fire.

Operational activity for the month of July was similar to the preceding month (June). Activity for July 2019 was 40% of July 2018, due to the large number of gorse fires in 2018.

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Sample Incidents (July 2019)

- 08/07/2019 - Wicklow Town Fire Crew responded to 2 cars on fire beside the mast on Ballynerrin.
- 14/07/2019 - Bray Fire Crew used their SKED stretcher to carry a casualty with a leg injury down from Bray Head.
- 14/07/2019 - Rathdrum and Wicklow Town Fire Crews attended a single car RTC. The car came to rest on its side and the roof had to be removed to extricate the casualty.
- 15/07/2019 - Arklow Fire Crew's timely intervention prevented a well developed fire in a covered passageway from spreading to the two neighbouring houses.
- 19/07/2019 - Carnew and Tinahely Crews attended a single vehicle RTC at Coolatin.
- 30/07/2019 - Baltinglass Fire Crew responded to an overturned jeep on the southbound off ramp off the Crookstown exit of the M9.

Incidents mobilised outside County Wicklow (July 2019):

Kildare (2-incidents)

06/07/19 – Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to support a fire crew from Naas at a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) near Wolfestown, County Kildare.

10/07/19 - Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to support fire crews from Naas and Newbridge at a 2 car Road Traffic Collision (RTC) near Kilcullen.

Carlow (1-incident)

30/07/19 - Baltinglass Fire Crew were mobilised to support a fire crew from Carlow Town at a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) on the M9 at Junction 4.

Incidents where crews from neighbouring counties were mobilised to assist in County Wicklow (July 2019):

03/07/2019 - Tinahely and Carnew Fire Crews supported by Hacketstown Crew from Carlow attended a 2-car RTC in Knockatomcoyle, Tinahely.

05/07/2019 - Tinahely Fire Crew supported by Hacketstown Crew from Carlow attended a 2-car RTC in a remote area of Ballyteigue in the Wicklow Mountains.

12/07/2019 -Tinahely and Carnew Fire Crews supported by Hacketstown Crew from Carlow attended a domestic house fire in Tinahely.

General

- i. A 2-week nationally accredited "Unit 1" Course for Sub-Station Officers was run in Bray ensuring the availability of a pool of suitably qualified personnel to fulfil command roles at operational incidents.
- ii. A combined Wildland Firefighting exercise took place at Lough Dan on 9th July in conjunction with the Irish Air Corps, Coillte, National Parks and Wildlife Service. The event received widespread coverage including both the 6 pm and 9 pm news on RTE television.
- iii. The inter-agency debrief on the 3-day Kaleidoscope Festival which took place at Russborough from 28th – 30th June took place on 10th July.
- iv. BAM Construction presented a number of safety ropes to Wicklow County Fire Service in recognition of a Tower Crane Exercise that took place in June.
- v. Meetings and site visits took place in relation to the Knockanstockan Festival which took place over 3-days from 19th to 21st July.

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- vi. Fire Service personnel from around the county attended two separate days of training with the Irish Air Corps in Baldonnel in relation to ejector seat familiarisation and practical aircraft firefighting exercises in preparation for the Bray Air Display.
- vii. Two fire crews attended both days of the Bray Air Display on the 27th and 28th July.
- viii. A series of regional Major Emergency Management meetings were attended in South Dublin County Council, on 30th July.

Fire Prevention Statistics July 2019

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	7		1		8
Regularisation Certificates	1		7		6
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice	0				2
Disability Access Certificates	5				1

Licensing	Received/ Acknowledged	Inspected	Further info. Requested	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District	3				
Circuit				1	

Building Control

Commencement Notices

51 Commencement Notices, of which:

- 15 were Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 4 were Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 1 Seven day Notice
- 31 Opt Out Declarations
- 61 % of commencement notices are opt-out.
- 22 % inspection rate on all notices
- 238 new build units
- 22 of which are one-off houses

Completion Certificates

- 30 completion certificates validated (72 housing units)
We are not notified of the completion of opt-out houses

Non compliance issues (on-going)

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

AUGUST 2019

Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. Recruitment

Competitions for the following posts were held in July 2019:

- Staff Officer
- Temporary Clerical Officers
- Executive Librarian
- Field Workers – Register of Electors

Employee Numbers

	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
Managerial/ Administrative	280	278	280	288
Professional/ Technical	105	104	104	106
Outdoor	313	312	316	320
Temporary/ Seasonal	54	38	65	93
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	8
Total	752	740	773	815

	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018
Managerial/ Administrative	246	250	246	263
Professional/ Technical	109	119	119	105
Outdoor	311	317	317	306
Temporary/ Seasonal	58	41	41	79
Non DOHPLG	14	13	13	8
Total	738	740	736	761

(Excludes figures for Fire-fighters)

2. Access to Information

No. of F.O.I. Requests

July 2019: 6	July 2018: 12
Jan to July 2019: 82	Jan to July 2018: 69

No. of Ombudsman Requests

July 2019: 2	July 2018: 3
Jan to July 2019: 13	Jan to July 2018: 9

3. Press Releases

July 2019 – 4 Press Releases

AUGUST 2019

4. Register of Electors

All 36 fieldworkers are out making their house-to-house calls. We are receiving completed RFA application forms in the post daily that include a large amount of new additions to our register. These additions are made up of people moving to Wicklow from other Counties and also a lot of people turning 18.

We are hopeful that our deadline of September 20th, for receipt of fieldworker workbooks will be achieved, however it's likely that our newer fieldworkers will be granted a deadline of September 27th as they were appointed a couple of weeks after our original fieldworkers.

5. I.C.T. Report

IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with 611 tickets closed in the past 7 weeks. The “Frequently Asked Questions” knowledge database improves case tracking and responses and is being used as a model for workflow mapping in other business areas.

Email Archiving

- Since October 2018, all email has been archived and all personal folders have been added to the archive. All staff has access through a link in their email.
- Since its completion, IT have been able to tidy up the exchange servers and apply retention policies to make the servers more efficient in preparation for domain migration.
- This solution will enhance the search capabilities on email and will greatly assist discovery orders and GDPR requests.

Customer Service Delivery

- Customer Relations Management (CRM) System – Business process and workflow modelling for all departments are being accessed and where necessary, redeveloped in preparation for the new Customer Service Unit.
- Service Catalogue – in line with the LGMA’s Service Catalogue Project Team, IT are assisting in the formation of this national catalogue. The services of Housing, Environment and Planning have already been visited and Roads and Transportation has been scheduled for the end of August.
- Quality Customer Service Network – together with Corporate Services, IT are attending this network and bringing ideas back to implement in the new Customer Service Unit.

Unified Communications

- The Voice over IP phone solution is due a major upgrade to its software over the summer months. This will allow us to focus on call routing, customer care & management of total costs and ensure readiness of call handling systems during roll of the customer care unit.

Core Network

- A fully updated core network is now in place.
- The Business case for connection to government networks and government cloud networks has been advanced and should be complete during 2019 to support customer care systems.

GIS & Data Collection Systems

- Parallel projects in Housing, Roads and Environmental Services departments are on-going and integration to CRM and GIS systems are being developed.
- The GIS team are currently assisting Environment in the Anti Dumping Campaign. Survey collections have been developed via Survey 123 and integrate the EIRCODE layers to pin point locations.

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. The project will proceed over the course of the summer and autumn and facilitate a full audit of servers, users and devices to allow completion of forest migration and cloud computing strategies. The Planning department is complete and Environment is nearing completion.

eServices

- A new Online Consultation Hub has been added to the Wicklow.ie website. During August, 7 different topics were up for consultation and all received a number of submission via the website. The variation rate on the LPT and Strategically Planning for the Arts are currently active.
- Current campaigns on facebook are the events running as part of Heritage Week.

AUGUST 2019

Open Data

- Wicklow County Council is adding to its datasets on Ireland's Open Data Portal www.data.gov.ie which promotes innovation and transparency through the publication of Irish Public Sector data in open, free and reusable formats. There are currently 34 datasets uploaded.

Broadband Development

- Wicklow Digital Strategy is to be completed by the end of the summer after final meetings with the management team/ steering group, with presentations to the Elected Members in October 2019.
- National Broadband Plan – State Intervention, Procurement has entered its final stage and contracts are due to be signed in Oct. 2019 by the Minister Dept. CCAE – Richard Bruton. NBI (National Broadband Ireland) will be the new company building over a 7 year period to 542,000 rural premises national wide, ~14,500 in Co. Wicklow (22.3% premises) form a investment commitment of 57 million.
- A Broadband Awareness Campaign to promote the benefits and positive quality of life aspects of high speed broadband infrastructure and a digitally enabled society will commence in September 2019.

AUGUST 2019

Financial Accounts

1. Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST JULY 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	11,107,963	19,892,855	56	(13,306,680)	(24,370,271)	55	(2,198,717)
B - Road Transport & Safety	11,592,237	20,449,070	57	(7,005,143)	(13,354,096)	52	4,587,094
C - Water Services	2,944,065	5,818,773	51	(3,394,658)	(6,759,744)	50	(450,593)
D - Development Management	5,362,766	9,868,577	54	(3,182,215)	(5,501,133)	58	2,180,551
E - Environmental Services	6,104,533	10,987,633	56	(882,841)	(1,971,500)	45	5,221,692
F - Recreation and Amenity	3,885,964	6,990,426	56	(311,561)	(894,778)	35	3,574,403
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	856,581	1,541,865	56	(436,966)	(812,728)	54	419,615
H - Miscellaneous Services	6,131,019	11,098,626	55	(4,364,308)	(8,257,821)	53	1,766,711
J - Central Management Charges	9,094,157	16,052,449	57	(623,672)	(1,005,217)	62	8,470,485
LG - Local Government Fund				(6,990,331)	(11,983,425)	58	(6,990,331)
PL - Pension Levy				-			-
RA - Commercial Rates				(16,291,068)	(27,939,561)	58	(16,291,068)
	57,079,285	102,700,274	56	56,789,443	102,850,274	55	289,842

2. Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st July 2019 to 31st July 2019.

3. Capital Account

	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	23,666,606	29,224,744	(28,572,386)	63,634	24,382,598
Road Transport & Safety	(39,057,744)	2,271,532	(5,566,096)	(130,614)	(42,482,922)
Water Services	(10,100,125)	90,452	(705,973)	0	(10,715,646)
Development Management	(9,430,657)	186,870	(649,878)	(69,280)	(9,962,945)
Environmental Services	322,578	2,007,360	(1,848,547)	(131,261)	350,130
Recreation and Amenity	(237,760)	742,412	(1,711,319)	(53,750)	(1,260,417)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(929,822)	321,643	0	(76,250)	(684,429)
Miscellaneous Services	(14,953,999)	2,129,712	(1,123,900)	206,536	(13,741,651)
	(50,720,923)	36,974,725	(40,178,099)	(190,985)	(54,115,282)

AUGUST 2019

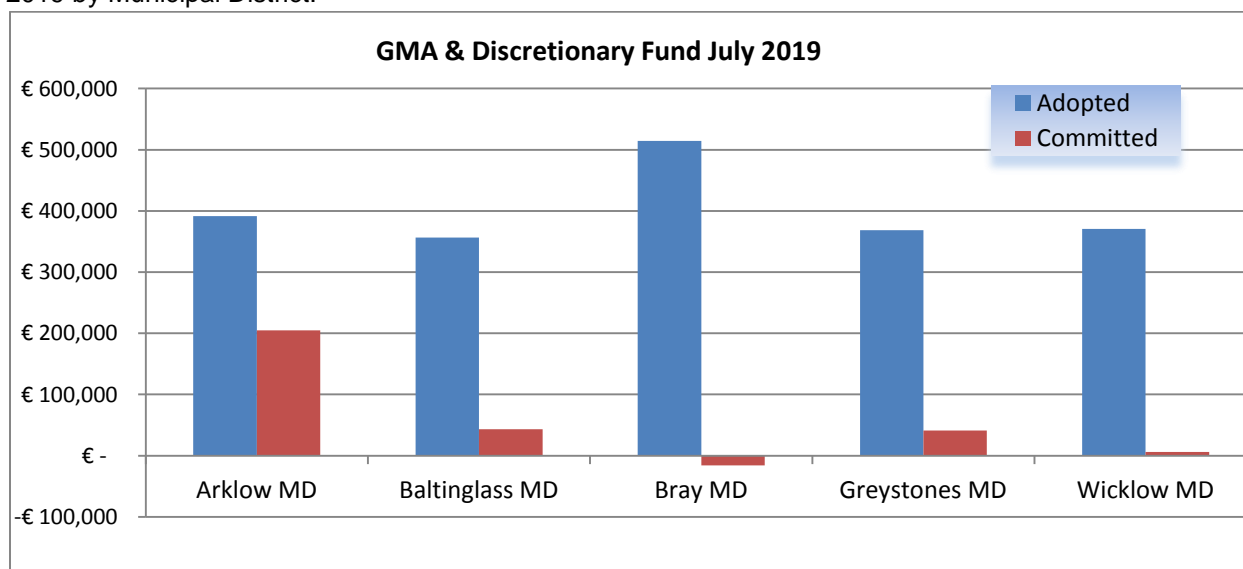
4. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

JULY									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2019	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/07/2019	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates *	6,804,584	27,927,240	(1,240)		34,733,064	17,052,657	17,680,407		49%
Rents & Annuities	1,470,372	8,004,543		(2,709)	9,472,206	7,846,186	1,626,020		83%
Housing Loans *	399,710	887,423			1,287,133	969,051	318,082		75%

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.

5. 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.



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Municipal District	C/F from 2018	Adopted	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	101,350	391,750	306,429	186,671
Baltinglass MD	269,230	356,750	312,518	313,462
Bray MD	168,672	514,500	152,925	530,247
Greystones MD	-6,637	368,750	34,458	327,655
Wicklow MD	188,759	370,750	195,026	364,483
Total	721,374	2,002,500	1,001,356	1,722,518

6. 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 & 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 & 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

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