

APRIL 2019



# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

---

E N D L E S S O P P O R T U N I T I E S



## Contents

### Housing and Community

1. Social Housing Support
2. Allocation of Social Housing
3. Social Housing Stock
4. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery
5. Part V
6. PPP Social Housing Project (Bundle 1)
7. Approved Housing Bodies (AHB)
8. Housing Schemes Remediation
9. Home Improvement/ Adaptation
10. Addressing Homelessness
11. SICAP
12. Wicklow Library Service
13. Community Awards 2019
14. Funding Schemes Announced
15. County Wicklow Local Sports Partnership

### Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

1. Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWET) Action Plan/LECP (Economic)
  - Retail
  - Town Teams
  - URDF Funding
  - Tourism
  - Maritime
  - Food
2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)
3. Planning and Development
  - Forward Planning
  - Heritage
  - Planning Applications
  - Planning Enforcement
4. Environmental Services
  - Waste Management
  - Dog Licences
  - Caravan Parks
  - Whitestown Remediation Project
  - Ports and Harbours
  - Pollution Control
  - Planning and Development
  - Climate Adaptation Strategy
  - Arklow Flood Relief Scheme
5. Transportation and Roads
  - Public Lighting
  - Parking Income
  - Local Improvement Schemes
  - Winter Maintenance
  - Transportation Statistics
  - Laragh/Glendalough visitor Access
  - Navy Bridge Arklow
6. Emergency Services
  - Fire Service
  - Building Control

### Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. Recruitment
2. Access to Information
3. Press Releases
4. Register of Electors
5. I.C.T. Report

### Financial Accounts

1. Revenue Account
2. Cashflow/Overdraft
3. Capital Account
4. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections
5. General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund
6. Capital Investment Programme 2018 -2020



### This Month:

- **The County Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy 2019-2021 was launched by Minister Andrew Doyle and internationally-known celebrity chef Catherine Fulvio on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April. The Strategy will see County Wicklow continue to develop as a place for high quality food production and a key destination for food lovers.**
  
- Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District Cllr Miriam Murphy presented Ms Anna Keane with the annual “Cathaoirleach’s Special Recognition Award” on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, for her dedication in the running of Arklow Girl Guides and Brigini over many years.
  
- *Children from Sacred Heart National School, Aughrim were on hand to officially launch the new smoke-free initiative ‘Young Lungs at Play’, on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April, which aims to keep playgrounds and parks smoke free.*
  
- **“My Open Library”** was launched in Arklow library on Thursday 18 April – ahead of the Bank Holiday weekend, thus ensuring that students could avail of the service over the Easter period. More than 60 people have availed of the service already and this is set to increase considerably over the coming weeks. Arklow is the 8<sup>th</sup> addition to the service, nationally, since the initial pilot stage, which is due to increase to 23 locations in the coming months.



## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

### 1. SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT

No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP)	4126
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	422
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	1136
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	8
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	10

### 2. ALLOCATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING

<i>WCC Social Housing (excluding Bray M. D.)</i>	32
Approved Housing Bodies (excluding Bray M. D.)	1

### 3. SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

#### **4338 tenancies occupied @ 31/03/2019**

- Total weekly rental accrual €236,342.43
- Minimum rent €24 pw - Maximum rent €275.50 pw

Arrears at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 - €1,033,526.12

#### **Casual Vacancies/Relets 65**

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>No</b>
<i>Arklow</i>	16
<i>Baltinglass</i>	14
<i>Bray</i>	8
<i>Greystones</i>	7
<i>Wicklow</i>	20

### 4. HOUSING SUPPLY – PROGRAMME OF DELIVERY

#### **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. Work to install the DPMs and radon barriers is continuing, while work to connect the drainage branches within each unit to the main site sewers has commenced. Once the drainage is complete this will allow the erection of scaffolding to blocks 1 & 11 (blocks adjacent to Kilbride Lane & Herberton) and the commencement of the blockwork and brickwork to the external walls. It is hoped to erect scaffolding at the end of April.



Through the ER, Wicklow County Council has been pursuing the contractor to ensure safe egress from the site onto Kilbride Lane. As well as a permanent gateman employed for the site, the existing site hoarding is being adjusted to increase visibility splays for drivers. A support structure for a new site sign board has been delivered and is awaiting the delivery of signage prior to the board being erected to Kilbride Lane. All graffiti has been removed from the site hoardings and road conditions are being inspected daily.

## **Social Housing Supply Programme**

<i>3 schemes completed in 2018</i>	<i>28 Units</i>
<i>9 schemes currently on site in 2019</i>	<i>152 Units</i>
<i>3 further schemes to commence on site in 2019</i>	<i>124 Units</i>
<i>1 PPP Bundle 1 Convent Lands on site March 2019</i>	<i>51 Units</i>
<i>5 further schemes to commence on site in 2020</i>	<i>123 Units</i>
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>478 Units</u></b>

<b>Priority List 1 SCHEMES</b>	<b>UNITS</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
O'Byrne Road Bray	1	Completed October 2018
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completion anticipated April 2019
Kilbride Lane, Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	Completion anticipated February 2020
Druids Brook Kilcoole	2	Completion anticipated November 2019
FCA Hall, Wicklow Town	8	Completion anticipated March 2020
Kilmantan Place, Bray	4	Completion anticipated March 2020
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completion anticipated September 2019
Sugarloaf View Kilmacanogue	20	Completion anticipated April 2020
Farrenkelly Greystones (Phase 2)	24	Completion anticipated March 2020
Whitehall Baltinglass RAPID BUILD	34	Completion anticipated November 2019
<b>Priority List 2 SCHEMES</b>	<b>UNITS</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Site start anticipated August 2019
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Site Start anticipated June 2019
Avondale Phase 2 RAPID BUILD	20	Site Start anticipated March 2020
Ard na Gréine RAPID BUILD	30	Site start anticipated March 2020
Carnew RAPID BUILD	30	Site start anticipated September 2019
Ashtown Lane RAPID BUILD	40	Site start anticipated May 2020
Cedar Court, Bray RAPID BUILD	9	Stage 1 Submission May 2019
Three Trouts Greystones RAPID BUILD	32	Stage 1 Submission May 2019
Greenhills Road, Wicklow RAPID BUILD	36	Stage 1 Submission June 2019
Mountainview NTMK RAPID BUILD	26	Site start anticipated May 2020
Old Fire Station, Arklow	7	Site start anticipated July 2020



## 5. PART V

### 2019

- 2 units (Rathdrum) - Department approval received. Acquisition into Council stock completed 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- The purchase of 7 Part V units (Wicklow) via CALF was completed in December 2018 by Tuath AHB.
- The purchase of 3 Part V units (Rathnew) into LA Stock was completed in December 2018.
- The purchase of 8 Part v units (Greystones) via CALF was completed in December 2018 by Tuath AHB.
- 2 Units Part V agreement completed – delivery expected in Q2 2019 (Newtownmountkennedy).
- 16 units (Ashford) negotiations completed. Department approval received – delivery of 9 units expected Q.2 2019 via CALF.
- 4 units (Kilcoole) Agreement reached delivery expected early April 2019 via CALF.2 further units expected delivery Q4 2019.
- 1 unit (Kilcoole) Agreement reached delivery expected early Q2 2019.
- *1 Part V Unit (Ashford) acquisition into Council stock completed 28<sup>th</sup> March 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

- 3 turnkey units purchase completed and have been allocated (2 in Tinahely, 1 in Arklow)
- 1 turnkey unit (Tinahely) closed December 2018 and allocated.
- *1 turnkey unit (Tinahely) acquisition into Council stock completed 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019.*
- Remaining 1 turnkey unit (Tinahely) under construction and will complete by Q2 2019.
- Construction is ongoing on turnkey project at Vale Road, Arklow.
- *Construction ongoing on a turnkey project at Bollarney Woods, Wicklow.*

- 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 Department of Housing has dedicated €300 million towards delivery of housing through the public, private partnership model in the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan. Wicklow has been included as a project in Bundle 1.

## 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.*

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

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

## 8. HOUSING SCHEMES REMEDIATION

### Glending, Blessington – Remediation

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

**Stage 3 Phase 3B** – 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 - €1,266,829.00
- › Grant funding for social house - € 650,000.00
- 61 Open Applications to value of € 376,148.54

### Housing Assistance for

Older People (22)	€ 108,487.68
Mobility Aid Grants (22)	€ 68,755.86
Housing Adaptation Grants (17)	€ 198,905.00

### Approved

11 Mobility Aid Grants	€ 50,755.86
1 Housing Adaption Grants	€ 18,905.00
8 Housing Aid for Older People	€ 52,487.68

### House Purchase Loans – Rebuilding Ireland

- 44 received up to 31/03/2019
- 8 approvals.
- 13 declined
- 9 awaiting further information.
- 14 awaiting a reply from Housing Agency.

### 2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

- 12 applications to 31/03/2019
- 1 sales completed

## 10. ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

### Period 01/03/2019 to 31/03/2019

No. of Presentations	47
No. of Repeat Presentations	7
No. of Households (Families)	33
No. of Adults (Individuals)	14
No. of Children	62
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord	
Selling	19
Family Circumstances	9
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	0
Sofa Surfing	6
Rough Sleeping	2
Squatting	0

### Temporary Emergency Accommodation 31/03/2019

#### Own Door

13 families (19 adults and 34 children)  
5 single adults

#### B & B Accommodation

Families - 11(13 Adults, 20 Children)  
7 single adults.

#### **Homeless HAP**

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

The Homeless HAP Placefinder will provide assistance in:

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

To date, 52 (42 families & 10 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council. This includes 31 families and 5 singles from the inception on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.

Of these 18 properties were sourced by WCC. 6 families were residing in Emergency Accommodation, 3 families in women's refuge accommodation, 24 homeless cases and 15 prevention cases.

**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 from early 2019.

The Council has provided a support worker under a service level agreement with Dublin Simon Community to assist the families to transition to alternative, suitable accommodation.

### **Other Temporary Supported Accommodation**

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

### **Housing First**

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

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

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

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

### **Cold Weather Initiative**

A property in Bray was identified as suitable to implement a Cold Weather Initiative and the facility opened its doors to homeless individuals in December. The initiative is a partnership arrangement between Dublin Simon Community, Wicklow County Council and the Five Loaves Homeless Services. The initiative commenced on the night of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 with a capacity of 12 beds – 10 male and 2 female.

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

Project completed in the monitoring of 2018 European Social Funds (ESF) allocated to Wicklow for SICAP. This to be a new annual responsibility for LCDCs.

### **Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership received their Q2 SICAP funding allocations – €178,023 for Bray Area Partnership and €150,556 for Co. Wicklow Partnership.**

*To date this year the local development companies have supported and worked with over 250 disadvantaged individuals and 26 local community groups.*

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)**

County Wicklow PPN held a workshop event in Newcastle Community Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> April to further the development of a Social Inclusion Network for the County.

*From late April through to mid-May Wicklow PPN will be facilitating “Meet the Candidate” events at locations throughout the county. This will give members of the public an opportunity to meet the election candidates running in their area. See Wicklow PPN Facebook page for more information.*

### **SYRIAN REFUGEE PROJECT**

Wicklow County Council has submitted a funding application to the Department of Justice & Equality to facilitate the running of this project over an





18 month period. The project will be put out to tender in due course.

Ongoing Interagency Working Group meetings took place in March and April.

### 12. WICKLOW LIBRARY SERVICE

#### MY OPEN LIBRARY (MOL)

MOL is due to commence in Arklow library on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April. This service will enable the public to use all the library's facilities from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., 365 days a year. The service was piloted in Tullamore and Banagher, County Offaly together with Tubbercurry, County Sligo and is now being rolled out nationwide. The opening date is timely, as it will enable the public to access the service over the long Easter weekend. This will be particularly beneficial for students, as exam time approaches.

#### SIGN LANGUAGE

Library staff member, David Wilcoxson, has recently completed a Sign Language course (QQI Level 4). Prior to this, David started a sign language club in Arklow library. This is a conversation group through sign language with deaf, hearing and hard of hearing people participating. One event that followed included an interpreter working with poet, Moya Cannon, to facilitate discussion.

#### “WAY WITH WORDS WICKLOW”

"Way With Words Wicklow" commenced in 2018. It was such a success, that it was repeated in April 2019. Arklow and Blessington libraries have just completed a fortnight of literary events. John Banville was the highlight author, with enlightening discussions to audiences at both locations. Blessington Men's Shed received a literary visit, which was a great success. The festival is run as part of Wicklow County Council's Creative Ireland programme.

### 13. COMMUNITY AWARDS 2019

#### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Award Ceremonies have been arranged in each of the municipal districts as follows:

Arklow MD – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 6.00 p.m. in the Community Room of Arklow Library **(access via Arklow Municipal District Offices' entrance at Castlepark).**

Greystones MD – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 5.40 p.m. in Greystones Civic Offices.

Bray MD – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in Bray Town Hall.

Baltinglass MD – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 6.30 p.m. in Germaines' Hotel, Baltinglass.

Wicklow MD – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 5.30 p.m. in Wicklow County Buildings.

### 14. FUNDING SCHEMES ANNOUNCED

#### COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2019

**The 2019 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) was launched on 27<sup>th</sup> March by Minister Ring TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development at an event in Granard, Co.Longford. County Wicklow has received an allocation of €141,343 and this will be considered at the next LCDC meeting.**



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

### IRISH FEDERATION OF SPORT AWARD NOMINATION

Wicklow Warriors Inclusive camp has been nominated as Sports partnership initiative of the year 2019 by the Federation of Irish Sport.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

Wicklow Sports Partnership has begun the development of a new 3 year strategic plan. Public consultations on the plan will be held throughout April and May.

### TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership provided two Safeguarding 1 Child Protection Courses on the 10th and 17th of April and one Safeguarding 2, Club Children's Officer on the 24th April. These courses were held in the Glenview Hotel with 48 people benefiting from these courses.

### BIKE WEEK

**The Department has examined and considered all the applications received based on previous years' experiences, events planned for Bike Week 2019 along with the Local Authority's contribution and has allocated €11,000 to Wicklow County Council. Bike week will run from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June.**

### AVONDALE PARK RUN

Avondale Park Run has been a huge success and it celebrates its first Anniversary on Saturday 27th April 2019.

### BASKETBALL BLITZ

Wicklow Sports Partnership organised a Mini 3v3 Tournament for East Wicklow Primary Schools on Wednesday 10th April in Shoreline Leisure Greystones. Over 50 children took part in this tournament. Jason Killeen, Basketball Ireland National Development Officer and Lorcan Murphy International Basketball Player were in attendance on the day. This tournament will also run for West Wicklow Primary Schools on Wednesday 22nd May in Scoil Chonglais, Baltinglass.

### OLDER ADULTS – GO FOR LIFE

Go for Life follow up games day were held in Arús Lorcaín, Arklow on Wednesday 17th April. Out of the follow-up games day, a team was chosen to represent County Wicklow at the National Games Day on Saturday 8th June 2019 in DCU.

### HEALTHY ESTATES

This is a 4 week programme that commenced Tuesday 2nd April in Hawthorn Drive, Rathdrum. This programme includes all age groups and covers the following;

- Week 1 – Covers Multi Sport
- Week 2 – Held in conjunction with FAI
- Week 3 – Held in conjunction with Tug of War, Ireland
- Week 4 – Held in conjunction with Leinster Rugby.



## 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).

Wicklow County Council is in the process of developing a Masterplan for Wicklow County Campus, to complement its use as a Screen Content/Film hub.

#### FILM

Wicklow County Council is in the process of applying for 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

Visitors to Bray can see the progress being made on the construction of Bray Town Centre, at the Florentine Site, with the steel structure now visible on the skyline.

##### 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** are planning a Spring Clean event on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Pearses Park, Vale Road, Arklow.

The community based CCTV Scheme has been launched and signed. Visiconnex are currently

working on site surveys in regard to CCTV points, a Health & Safety Plan, Insulation Plan and ESB networks.

Arklow Town Team will continue to enhance and improve the image of Arklow's Main Street with the Flower Basket Scheme 2019. One hundred and twenty businesses have applied for the Scheme which will contribute to making Arklow bloom for 2019. The baskets have been ordered and will be delivered on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**Blessington Town Team** are eagerly awaiting an announcement on funding for the proposed e-Greenway around Blessington Lakes. In the meantime, work continues on various projects for which funding was secured under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

An application for CCTV for Blessington has been prepared by Blessington Town Team and public consultation has been sought for the project, with local advertising commencing in March.

**Bray Town Team** is preparing a brief to carry out a health check for the town. Discussions are ongoing with Bray Chamber of Commerce on how best to involve the business community in the Town Team process. The free public access WiFi project for Bray is still at an early stage.

**Greystones 2020** continue to work with Greystones Tidy Towns on progressing a Public Realm Plan for the area. Greystones.ie was launched in March and is a new dedicated website promoting all the attractions of Greystones.

**Wicklow Town Team** has finalised a programme of events for Feile Chill Mhantain which will take place from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of May

Following on from the iReach Report the Retail Team have completed a report on Parking and Traffic Flow Recommendations.

The Tourism Team have welcomed the launch of the bus link Route 183 Local Link Glendalough to Wicklow.



## URDF Funding

Wicklow 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. Each of these projects has planning approval and will start as early as possible in 2019.

A project team has been established and will work in conjunction with the relevant Municipal District Engineers to progress each scheme. Guidance on drawing down funds is expected from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government in the coming weeks.

A steering group has met to discuss preparation of applications under the next round of funding which is anticipated in the coming months.

## 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 is being 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.

*Failte Ireland launched new guidelines for enhancing towns as visitor hubs in March which will be a useful tool for the working groups.*

## Glendalough

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

## MARITIME

### National Marine Planning Framework

Wicklow County Council and the members of the Maritime Business Development Group made a submission to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in respect of a Marine Spatial Plan for Ireland.

The next stage in the process will be the development of a full draft plan for publication in 2019 with a further consultation process running until end 2019.

### Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow

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

*Work has begun by Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions who were awarded the contract to prepare the Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow.*



**Maritime Business Development Group**

The MBDG continues to meet on a regular basis. In January, an Aquaculture working group was 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 announcement on funding allocations is expected in the coming weeks.

**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 at Killruddery at the first Wicklow Producer's Showcase. The implementation of the strategy will be industry led. It is hoped that with support from County Wicklow Partnership a Food Development Executive will be engaged to roll out the strategy and that plans will be developed to support food production facilities in the county

**2. LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)**

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.</li> <li>- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.</li> <li>- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.</li> <li>- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.</li> <li>- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland</li> <li>- Acting as a First Stop Shop for business information and referral</li> </ul>			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2018	2019	2019
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 24/€476,558.50 - 14/€26,219.06	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	6/€139,674.12
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			



<b>METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	52	52	22
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	72	70	13
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	876	850	198
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	2

<b>METRICS: Business Advice &amp; Mentoring</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2018</b>
Number of new clients added to database *criteria has been amended for this metric	623	470*	128
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings	446	430	74

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

<b>METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Year to Date 2019</b>
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	13

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	





## **March 2019 Activities**

Local Enterprise Week took place from 4<sup>th</sup> till 8<sup>th</sup> March with a large number of events taking place during the week. LEW started with a Human Resource Management workshop on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March with 15 participants. Digital marketing clinics took place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> with 7 clients availing of the opportunity to get one to one advice from a digital marketing expert.

The Work Smarter in Business using Tech seminar was attended by 38 LEO clients and in the evening the Start Your Own Business Course started with 14 participants.

On Thursday Terry Harmer delivered the 'How to Increase Sales in your Business' course to 8 participants.

Following a proactive 5 month (Press, digital media, radio and poster campaign) campaign for the Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur competition, LEO Wicklow received a record 57 entries across the three categories, Best Idea (Pre trading), Best Startup Business (trading for under 18 months) and Best Established Business (18 months Plus). All applicants are invited to a free half day training in Druids Glen on 30<sup>th</sup> March after which applicants will be shortlisted as finalists.

The Business Advice Clinics continue to run every Tuesdays and Thursday in Wicklow County Campus, in the Glenview Hotel on Monday evening and in Blessington civic offices on the first Thursday

every month depending on demand. Extra Afternoon clinics were added once again in March to cope with the demand.

The Student Enterprise Programme county final took place in Wicklow County Campus on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Since September 2018, **17** Schools, **33** Teachers and **1152** Students have participated in the Student Enterprise Programme. Over 140 Pupils representing 15 schools attended the County Final where 18 prizes were awarded. The overall winners in the senior category were Shane Brown and Robert Davey from Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew with their project The Chop. The Overall Winner in the intermediate category was Ross Byrne, from C.B.S. Arklow with his enterprise The Wood Whisperer and the winner in the Junior category was Holly Eager from Coláiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole with her enterprise Handmade by Holly. All three winners will represent Wicklow at the National Finals of the Student Enterprise Programme in Croke Park in May.

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March the Trading Online Seminar took place with guest speaker Noel Davidson and 22 participants.

LEO Wicklow staff members continued to assist Clients concerned by the impact of Brexit by providing information regarding the new online resource the Customs Insights Course <https://www.prepareforbrexit.com/customs-insights-course/> and assisting with client specific queries throughout March and will continue to offer Brexit supports.

## **3. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **FORWARD PLANNING**

#### ***Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midlands Region***

The proposed material amendments to the draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy were published on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and submissions invited until 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

#### ***Vacant Site Levy - March***

*Assessment of regeneration sites throughout the County is ongoing*

- *1 no. valuation has been appealed to the Valuations Tribunal – hearing scheduled for scheduled for April 2019*
- *32 no. sites now stand on the Register.*
- *07 no. sites are currently on appeal to ABP.*



## HERITAGE

**Funding has been approved by Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht to Wicklow County Council for Built Heritage Conservation Grants for 2019:** The council has received an approved allocation of €60,000 under the BHIS for 9 applicants.

Grants allocated vary from €2500 to €10,000 per applicant and represent a 50% match fund. There were two successful projects under the HSF; St. Saviours Church, Coolgreany Road and St Peters & Mary's Church, Arklow received allocations of €22,000 and €20,000 respectively to carry out specified conservation projects to maintain these protected structures.

The Heritage Office is working with the Municipal Districts and community groups to promote the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. As part of this work **'Managed For Wildlife Signs'** are being placed in open spaces, verges and other areas actively managed for the benefit of biodiversity and pollinating insects.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A total of 117 applications were received during March, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	22
Housing Developments	7
Agricultural Structures	3
Commercial	13
Other Developments	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>

Decisions issued in respect of 80 applications in March, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	1

Individual Houses	18
Other Developments	61
Other Developments Requiring EIA	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>

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

	31/03/2018	31/03/2019
Total Number of decisions issued	236	256
Total Number of decisions to grant	191	220
% grant rate	81%	86%

## No. of Applications withdrawn

February 8

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

## PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

### Details of activity during March:

- 05 New files were opened
- 41 Advisory letters issued
- 08 Warning Letters issued
- 08 Enforcement Notices served
- 01 File was referred for legal action
- 21 Files have been closed

### Court Cases

- County Registrar's Call over 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### Derelict Sites Activity March:

- No. of sites on Register 8
- No. of Inspections 3
- No. of Notices issued 0



## 4. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTION – MARCH 2019

	<b>March</b>
<i>No. of Complaints Opened</i>	236
<i>No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed</i>	259
<i>No of Litter Fines Issued</i>	46
<i>No. of Waste Management Files Opened</i>	5
<i>No. of Warning Letters Issued</i>	3
<i>No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued</i>	5
<i>No. of Burning Applications Granted</i>	13
<i>No. of Temporary Signs Granted</i>	6
<i>No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act</i>	2
<i>No. Of Cases in Court under Waste Management Act</i>	1
<b>Income - Litter Fines</b>	<b>€ 6,840.00</b>

### DOG LICENCES

#### Control of Dogs Act 1986-2010.

During February a campaign was launched by Wicklow County Council in conjunction with The Irish Farmer's Association to encourage responsible dog ownership and prevent attacks on sheep by dogs. Posters have been sent to pet shops, veterinary practices, libraries and municipal district offices in county Wicklow for display. In conjunction with this a radio add was also ran on East Coast FM.

#### CARAVAN PARKS

Application forms have been sent out to all caravan parks in County Wicklow. 24 parks renewed their licence in 2018. There are three new parks coming on stream in County Wicklow in 2019.

#### 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.

- Appointment of Site Investigation contractor is currently in the standstill period and expected to be finalised in early May.
- Website is up and running and regular updates will be made to keep the Public and Members informed of progress.

### PORTS AND HARBOURS

Four applications for grant aid / funding were submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine DAFM under the Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2019 in February. Notification has been received from the DAFM approving funding for two projects.

A grant of up to €90,000 has been approved for pontoon style structure in Wicklow and €45,000 a ship mooring bollard, intermediate bollards and recessed ladders. The funding is 75% of qualifying project costs subject to the grant limit with the balance financed by Wicklow County Council.



## Wicklow Port & Harbour

There were 11 ships in total berthed in Wicklow for month of March of the 11 ships, 8 had a single transaction i.e. either an import or an export of cargo while 3 had two transactions i.e. an import and an export of cargo from the same ship. The exports consisted of pulp and scrap metal while the imports consisted of logs, sand and timber.

Two marine notices were issued during March.

The gate known as the "02<sup>nd</sup> Gate" situated between two warehouses on the North Quay was replaced with a new more secure gate in accordance with the recommendation of the Marine Office following a security audit.

The green handrail on the New or North Pier was replaced with a new galvanised handrail. The previous handrail has been in place in situ for approximately fifty years.

Resurfacing works to sections of the packet pier which commenced in January were completed by Wicklow County Council Direct Labour Crew in March. The spend on this project is in the region of €85,000 (accounts still to be finalised)

A contract for the provision of security drills and exercises in accordance with the Wicklow Port Security Plan which was awarded during February 2019 commenced in March with the first quarterly drill.

Infill works to make good the area previously occupied by the redundant weighbridge on the North Quay commenced in March and should be completed by the end of April.

## Bray Harbour

Following an engineering inspection of Bray Harbour in January 2019 the Wicklow County Council Direct labour Crew commenced repair works in the harbour area during February. This works were completed in March. The works completed include:

- Removal of damaged stairs handrail to make area safe
- Installation of bollards at sailing club
- Cobbles replaced on North Pier
- Surface repair works North Pier

## POLLUTION CONTROL

### Section 16 Licensed Discharges to Sewers)

- 3 S16 licensed discharges to sewers involving 6 individual analyses was monitored by licensee.

### Pollution Response & Investigation

- 7 Water pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 4 Air Pollution complaints were received.
- 1 Noise complaint was received.

### Private Water Supplies

- 36 Private water supplies were sampled.
  - Of 26 sample results available 2 samples were not compliant with enterococci and 2 for pH.

### Solvents

- 2 inspections of vehicle refinisher installations were carried out.

### Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2019

- 14 domestic wastewater treatment systems were inspected and deemed compliant.
- 3 domestic wastewater treatment systems were inspected and deemed non-compliant and advisory notices were issued requiring remedial action.

### Well Grants

- Number of Applications 20
- Number of New Wells 2
- Number of New Pumps 16
- Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) 13



## **Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme.**

- 5 Lakes were monitored involving 12 samples were taken for analysis for the purposes of WFD/River Management Plan.
- 28 Rivers were monitored involving 66 samples for analysis for the purposes of the WFD/River Management Plan.

## **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

7 environmental reports on referred planning applications were completed

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**

Twenty six schools hoping to renew their Green Flags received a renewal. Numbers are up from twenty two last year.

A seminar for Tidy Towns groups hosted by Blessington Tidy Towns in The Avon resort was attended by twenty seven people from eight Tidy Towns groups. Presentations on waste prevention, biodiversity, climate change, invasive species, funding opportunities from Wicklow County Council and Leader and the Wicklow PPN were given. Wicklow County Council provided lunch for participants.

A four week course called the Stop Food Waste Challenge was given in Baltinglass in collaboration with Baltinglass Fair Trade. The launch of Grangecon Going Greener was also attended.

An exhibition on food waste was displayed as part of the Healthy Foods Initiative Family Day in Rathdrum for students and parents from the three primary schools in the town. Several hundred people attended.

An application for funding was submitted to the EPA under LAPN (Local Authority Prevention Network). Funding of €19,135 was sought to cover two projects. The first project aims to promote the refill.ie

campaign to displace single use plastic bottles. The second project aims to promote awareness on the environmental and financial costs of single use cleaning products including wipes and sprays.

The Litter Management Plan 2019 - 2024 is out for public consultation after a presentation was made to members of Wicklow County Council with the last date for receipt of submission being 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019

The annual National Spring Clean campaign has been launched and groups undertaking litter cleanups are being supported with the provision of bags, litter pickers, gloves and collections following events.

500 trees distributed to 47 groups to mark National Tree Week 31<sup>st</sup> of March to 6<sup>th</sup> of April.

## **CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY**

Wicklow County Council is statutorily obliged to have a Climate Adaptation Strategy adopted by 30<sup>th</sup> 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 strategy is at an advanced stage of preparation with draft actions sent to environmental consultants for SEA and AA screening.

The Transportation, Water and Environmental Services SPC approved that the Climate Adaptation Strategy go on public display at their meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019. It is planned to present the draft strategy to the full Council at their meeting to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019





## 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.

## 5. TRANSPORTATION & ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

### PUBLIC LIGHTING

	4 March 2019	11 March 2019	19 March 2019	25 March 2019	1 April 2019	8 April 2019
Access Issues (Attended)	11	11	10	10	11	11
Cable Fault (Attend)	9	9	9	9	9	9
ESB Required (Attended)	9	9	8	8	10	10
Knock Down (Attended)	6	6	6	6	6	6
Materials required	13	12	12	12	12	12
No Supply	15	15	17	15	15	15
On Hold	4	4	4	4	4	4
Submitted	200	262	243	282	213	236
Traffic Management Required	26	23	22	22	23	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>326</b>



	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	1	3		1	6	11
Cable Fault (Attend)	1		2	2	4	9
ESB Required(Attended)	1		2	5	2	10
Knock Down (Attended)	1		2		3	6
Materials required		1	4	2	5	12
No Supply	5	3	1	5	1	15
On Hold		4				4
Submitted	44	40	34	24	94	236
Traffic Management Required	2		9	6	6	23
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>326</b>

Parking Income by Municipal District January 2019	EURO
Income Florence Road Carpark Bray MD	14,761
Income Herbert Road Carpark Bray MD	62,905
Income North Beach Car Park - Strand Road Bray MD	9,640
Income Restricted Parking Bray MD	182,984
Income Parking Fines Bray MD	53,289
Income Residential/Special Parking Discs Bray MD	25,060
<b>Bray Municipal District</b>	<b>348,638</b>
Income Greystones Pay Parking Scheme	109,817
<b>Greystones Municipal District</b>	<b>109,817</b>
Income Parking Charges Wicklow MD	69,507
Income Residential Parking Disk Wicklow MD	1,560
Income Traffic Fines Wicklow MD	7,619
<b>Wicklow Municipal District</b>	<b>78,686</b>
Income Parking Traffic Fines Arklow MD	5,258
Income Pay Parking Fees And Permits Arklow MD	53,028
<b>Arklow Municipal District</b>	<b>58,286</b>
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	<b>595,427</b>





## Local Improvement Scheme 2019

*The Department of Rural and Community Development have allocated €282,494 for 2019.*

- *11 schemes have been allocated for 2019.*

## Winter Maintenance

The Winter Maintenance 2018/2019 Season commenced on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2018. *The weather in March was relatively mild although there were some cold spells. In total, 51 call outs were made and 273 tonnes of salt were used over the 9 routes within the County.*

## Transportation Statistics (General) March 2019

	February 2019	March 2019
Solicitors Queries	63	44
Road Closure Applications	1	3
Road Opening Licences	144	177
Abnormal Load Applications	3	2

### Laragh/Glendalough Visitor Access Part VIII Planning Register Reference 19/363

Part VIII documentation was lodged with the Planning Department on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed developments can be made to the Transportation, Water and Emergency Services, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow on or before 12 noon on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

The proposed development consists of improvement works at eight locations and conforms with and supports the policies and objectives of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016 – 2022 and the supplementary Laragh- Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan.

### Navy Bridge, Arklow

On the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, installation of a replacement steel pedestrian bridge at the Navy Bridge in Arklow started, which will match the design and dimensions of the existing one.



7. EMERGENCY SERVICES

FIRE SERVICE

Operational Fire Statistics February 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
<b>Two Stations Mobilised</b>											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	4	1	1	1		1					
Fire Domestic	6	1	2	2	1						
Fire Caravan	2	1		1							
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	23	2	2	6	5	2		2	1	1	2
Fire Vehicle (HGV/motorway)	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	0										
<b>Single Station Mobilised</b>											
Fire Alarm or CO <sub>2</sub> Activation	14	2	5	5	1	1					
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	23	3	5	9	4	1					1
Fire Chimney	7	3				3				1	
Fire Small / bin / skip	12	1		5	4	1	1				
Fire Vehicle	3	3									
Fire Shed	0										
Flooding	1		1								
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	3	1		1		1					
Ambulance Assist	6	1	2	1	1					1	
Garda Assist	1			1							
Electrical Incident	2		1						1		
Gas Leak	0										
Rescue from Lift	0										
Rescue from water / flooding	0										
Entrapment / Rescue	1	1									
Hazardous Materials	0										
Malicious False Alarm	2		1	1							
<b>Mobilised into other County</b>	<b>2</b>							1	1		
<b>Times Stations mobilised</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

There were **94 incidents** attended during the month of March 2019. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incidents, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **112 occasions**. On no occasion during the month did an Incident Commander request additional resources above what has been predetermined for the incident type.

The month was characterised by gorse fires which accounted for 21% of overall activity, Road Traffic Collisions (21%), small nuisance fires (11%), alarm activations (13%).

Call numbers are generally consistent with the previous month and with the equivalent month in 2018.



## Sample Incidents (March 2019)

- 4/03/19 Arklow and Wicklow Town attended an RTC at the Beehive involving a bus with a number of injured passengers.
- 04/03/19 Bray and Greystones attended an overturned lorry on the roundabout on the Bray side of Junction 5, M11.
- 14/03/19 Wicklow Town and Rathdrum attended an RTC involving a single vehicle which had overturned on the M11 at Junction 18.
- 17/03/19 Carnew and Tinahely attended a 2 car RTC with 4 casualties on the Bunclody Road.
- 26/03/19 Arklow and Wicklow Town attended a domestic fire (persons reported) where a female occupant had to be treated for smoke inhalation.

## Incidents mobilised outside County Wicklow (March 2019):

### Kildare (2-incidents)

- 12/03/19 Baltinglass Fire Crew were mobilised to a car fire at Corballis, Castledermot, County Kildare.  
 31/03/19 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to a domestic fire in Brannockstown, County Kildare to support crews from Newbridge.

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

### General

- A meeting of Sub-Station Officers was held on 1<sup>st</sup> March. This is a new initiative to ensure wider consultation and exchange of information.
- Female officers attended a new initiative in Athlone in relation to women in the fire service.
- Officers and Fire Crews attended a 1-day event with Coillte in Avonmore House which was covered by RTE television news.
- A set of national SOGs were completed and handed over to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management.

## Fire Prevention Statistics March 2019

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	10	2	4		5
Regularisation Certificates			4	2	1
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice	2		2		
Disability Access Certificates	11				8



Licensing	Received, acknowledged	Inspected	Requested further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
<i>District</i>					
<i>Circuit</i>	2		1		

**Building Control - March 2019**

**Commencement Notices**

37 Commencement Notices of which:

- 12 were Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 3 were Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 2 Seven day Notice
- 20 Opt Out Declarations
- 54 % of commencements notices are opt out.
- 15 % inspection rate on all notices
- 184 new build units
- 7 of which are one off houses

**Completion Certificates**

- 20 completion certificates validated ( 54 housing units)

*Building Control is not notified of the completion of opt out houses*

**Non compliance issues (on going)**

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

**General**

*Staff attended regional Building Control meeting*

*In conjunction with Building Control staff visited sites in Dublin*

*General queries from the public – 12.*

*Other inspections – 3.*



## Organisational Development and Financial Matters

### 1. RECRUITMENT

Competitions for the following posts were held in March 2019:

#### General Operatives

#### Employee Numbers

	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
Managerial/ Administrative	263	280	278	280
Professional/ Technical	105	105	104	104
Outdoor	306	313	312	316
Temporary/ Seasonal	79	54	38	65
Non DOECLG	8	8	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>773</b>

	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018
Managerial/ Administrative	245	246	250	246
Professional/ Technical	109	109	119	119
Outdoor	311	311	317	317
Temporary/ Seasonal	58	58	41	41
Non DOECLG	14	14	13	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>736</b>

*(Excludes figures for Firefighters)*

### 2. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

#### No. of FOI REQUESTS

February 2019	17	February 2018	6
Jan to Feb 2019	27	Jan to Feb 2018	16

#### No. of OMBUDSMAN REQUESTS

February 2019	2	February 2018	1
Jan to Feb 2019	2	Jan to Feb 2018	2

### 3. PRESS RELEASES

March 2019 – 10 Press Releases

### 4. REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Register has now been printed and issued to the Elected Members by pen drive. Hard copies have been distributed to post offices, Garda stations and libraries.

### 5. I.C.T. REPORT

#### IT HELPDESK

- Workflow analysis of the IT Helpdesk function facilitated development of a proof of concept for customer care & case management systems. The initial deployment was a cloud based open source platform customised by staff in the Technical Support Unit. During 2018 more than 8,000 tickets were handled by the system. Heat mapping of issues arising has allowed development of a knowledge database which is in daily use and allows tracking of most frequently arising issues. This model will form basis for extension to other customer care type systems.
- During 2018 the Asset Management Module of the ticketing system was deployed to allow performance monitoring across the network and prepare a strategic deployment model for ICT Infrastructure. This allowed preparation of an upgrade schedule for the PC estate and allowed review of software licensing requirements. *During 2019 this model will extend to planning for operating system upgrades and preparation of cloud computing strategy.*
- A Mobile Device Management (MDM) system is in place for all new mobile devices since Summer 2018. Roll out to existing estate commenced at that stage and continued through to the end of year. This system facilitates focus on data and information security and GDPR compliance.

#### CUSTOMER RELATIONS MANAGEMENT (CRM)

- Business Process Modelling in the Housing & Environmental Services Departments were used for preparation and development of customer care unit proofs of concept.



- An initial implementation of Office 365 is in place and a “Sandbox” was created on Wicklow’s Cloud Tenancy. This platform will be used for in-house development and testing purposes and will form the basis for development of organisational cloud strategy.
- Microsoft Dynamics has been used to develop customer care initiatives in a number of departments and will be used to integrate to mobile data collection systems in HR, Transportation and Environmental Services directorates. The CRM system deployed will facilitate improvements in customer care and will aid development of a customer care unit.

### MANAGED PRINT SERVICE (MPS)

- Renewal of MPS is complete following vendor neutral print audit and RFT of December 2017.
- Project roll-out plan was completed in 2018 and all new devices have completed two full quarterly cycles.
- Full device utilisation and support centre analysis took place with the supplier in Q4 2018 with a view to ensuring continuous review and strategic management of all devices. The current printer estate will be reviewed during Q3 of 2019.
- The Managed Print Service policy is in place for all departments & MD’s and allows planned development of printing facilities and services.

### UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS

- Voice over IP phone solution has been extended to most Council sites across Wicklow. This includes Municipal Districts and other sites such as Clermont Campus, Fire HQ and Library HQ.
- The VOIP system will underpin county wide communications, improved customer services and unified communications and during 2019 will be used to focus on call routing, customer care & management of total costs. Software upgrade is scheduled to take place at end of Quarter 1.

### CORE NETWORK

- Procurement of core and edge network hardware refresh is complete and Phase 1 of LAN upgrade was implemented in Q1 2018. Extension to other sites including Bray MD, Fire HQ, Library HQ, Clermont was completed during Q2 2018.
- A fully updated core network is now in place.

- Network traffic analysis and load balancing has informed update of virtual infrastructure and change from copper to fibre for connections to core network. This work is on-going.
- *Business case for connection to government networks and government cloud networks is underway and will be advanced during Q1 2019.*

### DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

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



**1. Revenue Account**

Due to year-end adjustments that are currently being carried out as part of the 2018 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) process, we are not in a position to provide January - March 2019 expenditure figures in the normal format at this time. This situation will be regularised after the Quarter 1 period. The below table outlines the 2019 adopted budget by service division

<b>REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION 2019</b>			
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>NET</b>
	<b>Adopted Full Year Budget</b>	<b>Adopted Full Year Budget</b>	
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
A - Housing and Building	23,452,721	24,546,757	1,094,036
B - Road Transport & Safety	23,849,758	13,556,479	-10,293,279
C - Water Services	7,529,295	6,907,582	-621,713
D - Development Management	12,030,058	5,640,454	-6,389,604
E - Environmental Services	12,753,729	2,106,574	-10,647,155
F - Recreation and Amenity	8,567,535	1,005,332	-7,562,203
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,767,266	832,487	-934,779
H - Miscellaneous Services	12,749,914	8,331,622	-4,418,292
LG - Local Government Fund		11,983,425	11,983,425
RA - Commercial Rates		27,939,564	27,939,564
		0	0
	<b>102,700,276</b>	<b>102,850,276</b>	<b>150,000</b>

**2. Cashflow/Overdraft**

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

**3. Capital Account**

<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st MARCH 2019</b>					
	<b>Opening Balance at 01/01/2019</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>Transfers To/From Reserves</b>	<b>Closing Balance at 31/03/2019</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Housing and Building	23,666,606	4,628,969	(7,431,532)	465,634	21,329,677
Road Transport & Safety	(39,057,744)	829,685	(1,387,745)	0	(39,615,804)
Water Services	(10,100,125)	158,004	(124,993)	0	(10,067,114)
Development Management	(9,430,657)	35,817	(3,973)	5,720	(9,393,093)
Environmental Services	322,578	694,850	(702,586)	0	314,842
Recreation and Amenity	(237,760)	404,965	(319,415)	0	(152,210)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(929,822)	42,733	0	0	(887,089)
Miscellaneous Services	(14,953,999)	1,394,082	(320,112)	255,740	(13,880,029)
	<b>(50,720,923)</b>	<b>8,189,105</b>	<b>(10,290,356)</b>	<b>727,094</b>	<b>(52,095,080)</b>





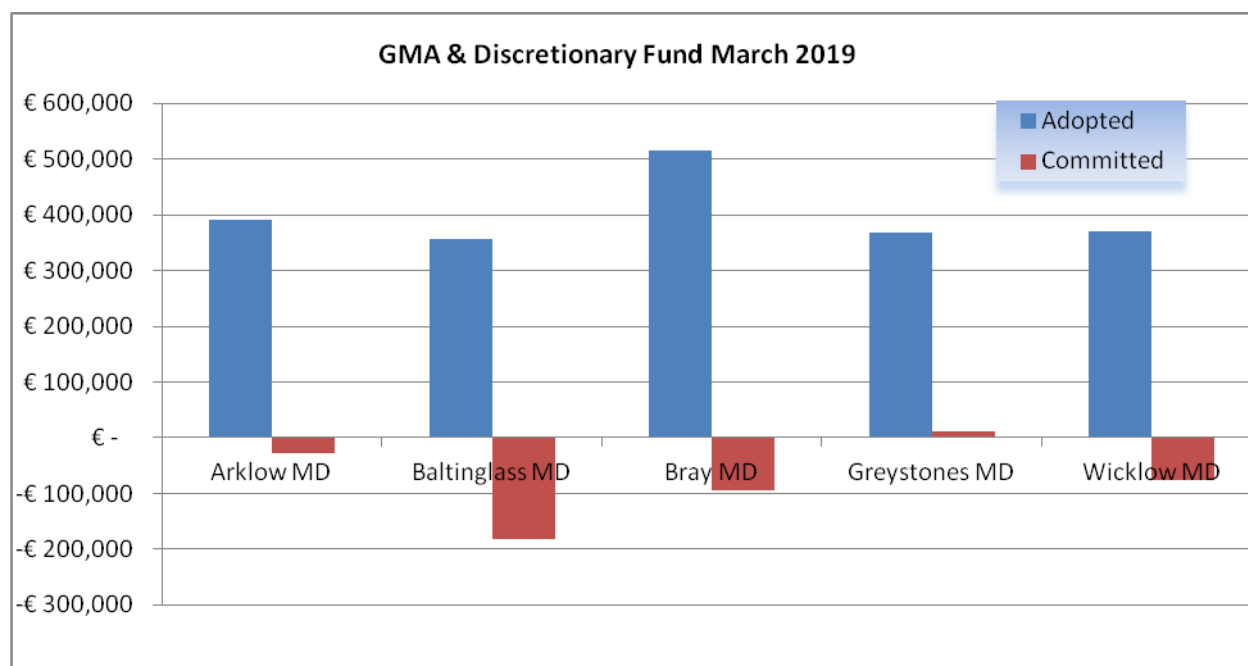
## 4. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

MARCH									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2019	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/03/2019	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates *	6,804,584	27,927,545			34,732,129	3,088,636	31,643,493		9%
Rents & Annuities	1,470,372	2,323,036		(1,117)	4,833,251	3,281,247	1,552,004		68%
Housing Loans *	399,710	238,501			759,974	372,724	387,250		49%

**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.



Municipal District	C/F from 2018	Adopted	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	101,350	391,750	72,666	420,434
Baltinglass MD	269,230	356,750	87,682	538,298
Bray MD	168,672	514,500	73,708	609,464
Greystones MD	-6,637	368,750	4,460	357,653
Wicklow MD	188,759	370,750	112,595	446,914
<b>Total</b>	<b>721,374</b>	<b>2,002,500</b>	<b>351,112</b>	<b>2,372,762</b>



**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 4<sup>th</sup> 2019.

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

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