

FEBRUARY 2019



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



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This Month:

- **Wicklow County Council hosted highly successful Business Breakfast Briefing in the Druids Glen Hotel – ‘Making Wicklow Great for Business’**
 - *Inaugural meeting of Business Advisory Council held in Druids Glen Hotel on Tuesday 19th February 2019*

- ***Entries are currently being sought for Best Young Entrepreneur Competition for entrepreneurs between the age of 18 and 35 years - Applications can be made online on ibye.ie by 15th March***

- **National All Ireland & Community Awards**
 - Bray win two Silver awards for
 - **Bray Air Display – Best Tourism Initiative** and
 - **Summer in Bray – Best Art/Culture**

 - **Ray of Sunshine after school (Arklow)** win Silver award for Best business working with the Community

 - **The Riverwalk Cafe Culinary Entrepreneurship Programme at Wicklow Enterprise Park** won an award under **the best Education/Training Initiative**

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT

No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP)	4013
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	430
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	1009
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	7
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	10

2. ALLOCATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING

WCC Social Housing (excluding Bray M. D.)	14
Approved Housing Bodies (excluding Bray M. D.)	1

3. SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

4328 tenancies occupied @ 26/01/2019

- › Total weekly rental accrual €235,587.49
- › Minimum rent €24 pw - Maximum rent €275 .50 pw

Arrears at 31st January 2019 - €1,115,410.27

Casual Vacancies/Relets 47

Municipal District	No
Arklow	12
Baltinglass	11
Bray	7
Greystones	7
Wicklow	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 well. The boundary treatment works are almost complete with an anticipated finish date for boundary works of 1st March. Foundations for 10 out of the 12 block units have been poured and blockwork is progressing for the rising walls of the blocks with foundations. Installation of DPM, Radon Barrier and tanking have also commenced. Through the ER, Wicklow County Council have been pursuing the contractor to ensure the roads bordering the site are maintained in a clean condition. To this effect, a tarmac hard standing



has been installed at the site entrance along with a wheel wash station to mitigate against debris from the site getting onto the surrounding roads. A gateman is now permanently employed by the contractor to restrict access to the site and monitor road conditions.

Social Housing Supply Programme

3 schemes completed in 2018	28 Units
7 currently on site in 2019	98 Units
5 further schemes to commence on site in 2019	178 Units
1 PPP Bundle 1 scheme to commence March 2019	<u>51 Units</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	355 Units

Priority List 1 SCHEMES	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
O'Byrne Road Bray	1	Completed October 2018
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated
<i>Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)</i>	17	<i>Completion anticipated April 2019</i>
Kilbride Lane, Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	Completion anticipated February 2020
<i>Druids Brook Kilcoole</i>	2	<i>Completion anticipated November 2019</i>
<i>FCA Hall, Wicklow Town</i>	8	<i>Completion anticipated March 2020</i>
<i>Kilmantan Place, Bray</i>	4	<i>Completion anticipated March 2020</i>
<i>16A Oak Drive, Blessington</i>	1	<i>Completion anticipated September 2019</i>
<i>Sugarloaf View Kilmacanogue</i>	20	<i>Completion anticipated April 2020</i>
Farrenkelly Greystones (Phase 2)	24	Completion anticipated February 2020
Priority List 2 SCHEMES	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
<i>Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)</i>	47	<i>Site start anticipated August 2019</i>
Whitehall Baltinglass RAPID BUILD	34	Completion anticipated November 2019
<i>Rathnew RAPID BUILD</i>	47	<i>Site Start anticipated June 2019</i>
<i>Avondale RAPID BUILD</i>	20	<i>Site Start anticipated March 2020</i>
<i>Ard na Gréine RAPID BUILD</i>	28	<i>Stage 1 Submission March 2019</i>
<i>Carnew RAPID BUILD</i>	30	<i>Site start anticipated September 2019</i>
<i>Ashtown RAPID BUILD</i>	35	<i>Stage 1 Submission March 2019</i>
Cedar Court, Bray RAPID BUILD	30	Stage 1 Submission January 2019
<i>Three Trouts Greystones RAPID BUILD</i>	34	<i>Stage 1 Submission February 2019</i>
<i>Greenhills Road, Wicklow RAPID BUILD</i>	34	<i>Stage 1 Submission January 2019</i>
<i>Mountainview NTMK RAPID BUILD</i>	26	<i>Stage 1 Submission February 2019</i>
<i>Old Fire Station, Arklow</i>	7	<i>Stage 1 Submission March 2019</i>
<i>Greenhills Road, Wicklow RAPID Build</i>	34	<i>Stage 1 Submission March 2019</i>
Cedar Court, Bray RAPID BUILD	30	Stage 1 Submission April 2019

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5. PART V

2019

- 5 units CALF approval. These Part V units are complete and occupied – delivered through CALF by Tuath AHB.
- 2 units - Department approval received. Contracts and replies to legal queries awaited from Developer expected to close Q1/Q2 2019
- 3 units completed and have been allocated.
- 15 units Part V agreed - delivery through CALF by an AHB. Likely delivery Q2/Q3 2019.
- The purchase of 7 Part V units via CALF was completed in December 2018 by Tuath AHB.
- The purchase of 3 Part V units into LA Stock was completed in December 2018.
- The purchase of 8 Part V units via CALF was completed in December 2018 by Tuath AHB.
- 2 Units Part V agreement completed – delivery expected in Q1 2019 (Newtownmountkennedy).
- 16 units (Ashford) negotiations completed. Department approval received – delivery of bulk of units expected 2019.
- 4 units (Kilcoole) Agreement reached delivery expected early Q2 2019 via CALF. 2 further units expected delivery Q3 2019.
- 1 unit (Kilcoole) Agreement reached delivery expected early Q2 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.

- Remaining 2 units (Tinahely) under construction and will complete by end Q1 2019.
- Construction is ongoing on turnkey project at Vale Road, Arklow.
- 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. The Department of Housing has dedicated €300 million towards delivery of housing through the public, private partnership model in the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan. Wicklow has been included as a project in Bundle 1. The Part 8 was passed by the members at the Council Meeting of 3rd July 2017. The project is expected to commence on site in March 2019.

7. APPROVED HOUSING BODIES (AHB'S)

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

6 apartments (Abbey St. Wicklow) purchase not yet completed. Tuath AHB working to complete purchase as soon as possible.

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.

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.

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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.

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
› Grant funding for social house - € 650,000
32 Open Applications to value of € 403,136

Housing Assistance for

Older People (14) € 106,636
Mobility Aid Grants (10) € 56,500
Housing Adaptation Grants (8) € 240,000

Approved

› 5 Mobility Aid Grants € 26,500
› 0 Housing Adaption Grants € 0
› 3 Housing Aid for Older People € 18,636

House Purchase Loans – Rebuilding Ireland

- 12 received up to 31/01/2019
- 1 approvals.
- 2 declined
- 3 awaiting further information.
- 6 awaiting a reply from Housing Agency.

2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

- 6 applications to 31/01/2019
- 0 sales completed

10. ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

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

No. of Presentations	68
No. of Repeat Presentations	3
No. of Households (Families)	38
No. of Adults (Individuals)	30

No. of Children	71
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord	
Selling	23
Family Circumstances	15
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	1
Sofa Surfing	5
Rough Sleeping	6
Squatting	0

Temporary Emergency Accommodation 31/01/2019

9 families (12 adults and 26 children)
3 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, 22 (18 families & 4 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council. This includes 17 families from the inception on the 1st October 2018 to 31st December 2018 and 5 families for the month of January thus far.

Of these 8 properties were sourced by WCC, whilst the remainder was sourced by the clients themselves. 5 families were residing in Emergency Accommodation, 2 rough sleeping, 1 family in a women's refuge and the majority of remaining cases prevention - as the clients were on Notice to Quit in PRA.



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 17th December 2018 with a capacity of 12 beds – 10 male and 2 female. *The CWI is operating successfully with a recent increase in hours to facilitate clients during the cold weather experienced during January.*

11. SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (SICAP)

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) SICAP Sub-group held separate meetings with Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership on 12th February 2019 to assess their implementation of the SICAP Programme during 2018.

Both Partnerships were found to have achieved their key performance indicators in relation to the numbers of Local Community Groups and Individuals worked with. In total, 35 Local Community Groups and 708 Individuals throughout Co. Wicklow were supported through the SICAP Programme in 2018. All aspects pertaining to SICAP finances and budgets were also found to be in order.

At the LCDC meeting on 20th February 2019 a recommendation was made to the LCDC to approve the End of Year Reports for both Partnerships.

Pobal hosted a national event in Dublin on 21st February 2019 focused on SICAP models of best practice. Wicklow LCDC members, local authority staff and Partnership staff were in attendance.

12. WICKLOW LIBRARY SERVICE

WICKLOW LIBRARY & ARCHIVE

Tender is now in place for a lead firm to carry out construction works at the new Wicklow Library and Archive. Latest date for receipt of tenders is Friday



8th March 2019. It is anticipated that the appointed company will be on site by May 2019, with a 12 month project anticipated.

RATHDRUM LIBRARY

Wicklow County Council Law Department is currently receiving and inspecting contracts and plans for the proposed new library at Market Square, Rathdrum. Subject to all documentation being in order, Wicklow County Council intends to authorise the construction of a new, purpose-built library for the village.

“MY OPEN LIBRARY” ARKLOW

The new Arklow library has been chosen to be Wicklow County Council’s pilot for the “My Open Library” project. It will be one of 23 such libraries, nationwide. The library has been visited by Ms. Aoife Cashman, Wicklow County Council Health & Safety Officer who believes the plan to introduce the service with a security presence, is a major benefit and will safeguard against many issues.

Engineers are to return to the site on week beginning 24th February 2019, to ensure all technology is in place and working effectively.

Ideally, the aim is to introduce the service on the St Patrick’s Day weekend, should all issues be addressed ahead of that date.

Works between now and then will include

- Devising a My Open Library policy
- Staff training
- Introductory / familiarisation talk for the public
- Appointment of firm to carry out security and cleaning duties. Tenders for this close on Friday 22nd February 2019.

BOOK OF KELLS LAUNCHED AT ARKLOW LIBRARY

A magnificently produced replica of the famous Book of Kells is now on display to the public at Arklow Library.

Thanks to the Ashford Heritage Centre and the generosity of one of their benefactors, Mr. John de Paor, Wicklow County Council will display the replica first at Arklow Library and in 2020 at the new Wicklow Town library.

The replica on show in Arklow is one of only 1,480 copies commissioned by Trinity College in 1990 and

produced by Swiss fine art publishing company, Faksimile Verlag. It is so accurate that it reproduces tiny holes in the vellum, allowing people to see the extraordinary work which has been so carefully protected at Trinity College.

The launch was performed by Cllr. Pat Vance, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, while Professor Ciaran Brady, History Department, Trinity College, Dublin, gave a colourful history of the Book of Kells

The work is proving to be very popular and creating great interest from visitors to Arklow library.

13. ARKLOW HERITAGE & POTTERY CENTRE

The Part VIII planning application for the development of a Heritage and Pottery Centre at Abbey Lane, Arklow, Co. Wicklow was considered by Arklow District Municipal Members at the meeting of 13th February 2019. The members unanimously voted to approve this planning permission.

14. COUNTY WICKLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (LSP)

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership provided two Safeguarding 1 Child Protection Courses in February. They were held on Monday 4th February 2019 in Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew and Wednesday 13th February 2019 in the Glenview Hotel. 34 people benefitted from these two Courses. There was also a sold out “Autism in Sport” Workshop ran on Thursday 7th February and a “Cycle Right” Tutor Course on Tuesday 12th February. 26 people participated in these two courses. Wicklow Local Sports Partnership Sports Development Officer Denise O’Shea provided a talk in Wicklow Library on Thursday 21st February 2019 on walking trails, local sporting clubs and local physical activity programmes in Wicklow Town.

WALKING FOOTBALL

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership in conjunction with FAI is holding a free 4 week Walking Football Programme which commenced on Thursday 21st February from 10.00 a.m.– 11.00 a.m. Arklow Football Club for Arklow Town and the surrounding areas.



GO FOR LIFE GAMES

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership has invited teams to attend a Go for Life Games Day on Wednesday 27th February, from 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. in Newcastle Community Centre. Out of this day a team will be picked to represent County Wicklow in the National Games Day scheduled for Saturday 8th June 2019 in Dublin City University (DCU).

TEENAGE GIRLS BOXING PROGRAMME

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership are providing a 6 week Teenage Girls Boxing Programme in Coláiste Chill Mhantain commencing 27th February from 9.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

ONE MILLION STEP CHALLENGE

St John's Senior National School in Arklow took part in the One Million Step Challenge for the month of February. Over 250 children took part in this Programme.

HEALTHY ESTATES

As part of Healthy Ireland Funding Phase 2 Wicklow Local Sports Partnership along with Tug of War Ireland and Leinster Rugby are rolling out a Get Active on Your Green Programme which encourages children of all ages to use the Green Area in their estates for natural play. The first Programme commenced in Glending Estate Blessington on Thursday 21st February from 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME FOR ARKLOW REHAB PROGRAMME

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership Sports Development Officer Denise O'Shea provided a 4 week Physical Activity Programme for Arklow Rehab Centre. Over 8 participants took part each week using the outdoor gym equipment and the 400 metre track in Arklow. This Programme was completed on Tuesday 19th February 2019.

15. LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) (COMMUNITY)

LECP

The Advisory Group is continuing to monitor the implementation of the LECP, both the community and the economic actions, and to ensure the integration of economic and community actions.



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.

RETAIL

Bray Town Centre

Works continue on the development of Bray Town Centre at the Florentine Site. While construction works continue, the majority of the excavation works are coming to an end. The steel components of the structure are due to arrive to site in February and the installation of this will require an additional crane to site.

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 is progressing the community based CCTV and the contract for the scheme has issued.

Preparations are underway for International Women's Day on the 8th March when Arklow Town Team will host their second annual ladies lunch. Guest speakers include Journalist Valerie Cox, Deirdre Burns, County Wicklow Heritage Officer and students from St. Mary's College, Arklow. A raffle will be held on the day and all proceeds will go to C.E.A.R.T women's group who do amazing work in County Wicklow.

Blessington Town Team launched their Culture & Heritage calendar in February. This locally produced calendar features all arts, culture and heritage activities in the town and is supported by a constantly updated online calendar.

The Town Team are preparing for an assessment by the Department on the proposed Greenway, as part of the application for funding made.

Bray Town Team has released a Bray Celtic Camino Coastal Route Brochure in partnership with the Camino Society of Ireland. The route will see walkers covering the 25km from Bray to St James Church in James Street, Dublin, collecting their compostela 'Camino stamp' along the way.

The Town Team have also been busy progressing a project which will see free Wifi being made available in the town centre and Seafront areas and examining a pilot scheme for wayfinding for tourist accommodation providers in Bray.

Bray Town Team have been working in conjunction with Bray Historical Society on a historical walking tour of Bray. This will be produced in both brochure form and via a webpage on bray.ie.

Greystones 2020 have now finalised their new website which will be officially launched in early March. The team are meeting with developers to progress an art work feature in the harbour area. Greystones Tidy Towns are working with the Greystones 2020 to fund the services of a Quantity Surveyor for the Public Realm Plan which has gone out to tender.

Wicklow Town Team are awaiting decisions on LEADER funding applications for an Irish Festival and The Festival of Light.

The Town Team are preparing plans to develop the Ashtown Lane Roundabout to recognise the achievements of the Olympian Peter O'Connor.



Following the recent Retail Survey, the Town Team are working on recommendations in relation to parking in Wicklow Town as this was raised as a pillar in the iReach Insights report.

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.

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 /Developing a common narrative
- 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.

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.

A number of tenders have been received and are currently being assessed. A consultant will be appointed by early March.

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

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BIM in February under the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) Programme 2016 – 2023. The application is being assessed at present .

BUSINESS BREAKFAST BRIEFING 2019

*Wicklow County Council hosted a Business Breakfast Briefing on 1st February 2019. The theme of the event – held in the Druids Glen Hotel & Golf Resort was: “**Making Wicklow Great for Business.**” This annual event aims to engage with the business stakeholders within the County in order to drive economic activity and increase employment in collaboration with local business, state agencies and the Local Enterprise Office. With over 120 people in attendance, it is clear from the high level of engagement that the business community of County Wicklow is extremely interested in working with Wicklow County Council.*

BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Following on from the successful annual Business Breakfast Briefing, a high level Business Advisory Council has been established with key business leaders from throughout the county. This group will meet a number of times a year to advise on developing and promoting our economy. A plenary meeting was held on 19th February and a number of useful actions were proposed for consideration.

ALL IRELAND COMMUNITY & COUNCIL AWARDS 2019

Wicklow County Council was nominated as Council of the Year in the All Ireland Community & Council Awards 2019. There were a number of nominations made including

- *Moments in Time – Best community Health Initiative (Arklow)*
- *Bray.ie – Best Connected Council (Bray)*
- *Bray Air Display – Best Tourism Initiative (Bray)*
- *Summer in Bray – Best Art/Culture (Bray)*

- *Multi agency emergency Response Bray Head – Emergency Response Person/ Team (Bray)*
- *The Volvo Round Ireland Yacht Race in the category - Best Tourism Initiative (Wicklow)*
- *Marine House Hospitality Training Centre, The Murrough in the category – Best Educational Building (Wicklow)*
- *Vartry Trails Project in the category – Best Community Health Initiative (Wicklow)*
- *Wicklow Enterprise Park/KWETB Riverwalk Cafe Culinary Entrepreneurship in the category – Best Education/Training Initiative (Wicklow)*
- *Vartry Trails Project in the category – Best Tourism Initiative (Wicklow)*
- *Ray of Sunshine after school – Best business working with the Community*
- *Back in 5 Campaign – Best Disability Access & Inclusion Initiative*

Bray received two silver awards for Summer in Bray under the Best Arts/Culture Festival or Event and Bray Air Display under the Best Tourism Initiative.

The Riverwalk Cafe Culinary Entrepreneurship Programme at Wicklow Enterprise Park won an award under the best Education/Training Initiative

The Ray of Sunshine after school programme won a silver award for – Best business working with the Community.

County Wicklow was well represented in these prestigious awards and congratulations to all the worthy nominees in each category.



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"> - 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	6/€139,674.12
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	22
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	72	70	14
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	876	850	70
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	0

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2017	2018	2018
Number of new clients added to database *criteria has been amended for this metric	623	470*	76
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings	446	430	33
Businesses assigned a Mentor	2017	2018	2018



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

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

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2018	2019	Year to Date 2019
Trading Online Vouchers	66	45	0

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	

February 2019 Activities

Following active promotion via social media, poster and Radio (10 day advertising campaign and Radio interview on the Morning show) entries continue to stream in for the Ireland Best Young Entrepreneur Competition. Entries are sought from Entrepreneurs aged between 18 and 35 years. There are three categories, Best Idea (Pre trading), Best Startup Business (trading for under 18 months) and Best Established Business (18 months Plus). A prize fund of €50,000 is up for grabs in County Wicklow and applications can be made online at www.ibye.ie.

In February, The Local Enterprise office approved priming grant and business expansion grant aid in the amount of €139,674.12 in support of 6 Wicklow based micro enterprises.

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 in February to cope with the demand.

FEBRUARY 2019



On Thursday 7th February the first Social Media Beginners Course took place in the Arklow Business Enterprise Centre (ABEC) with 12 participants booked on.

Minister Heather Humphreys launched the Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan on 7th February in Kildare.

On 14th February Minister Heather Humphreys announced 3656 jobs were created by LEO supported companies in 2018. 74 were created through LEO Wicklow supported companies.

On Friday 22nd the Search Engine Optimisation course will take place in ABEC, 8 participants are booked on.

LEO Wicklow staff members in January and February 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.

Preparations are underway for Local Enterprise Week which takes place from 4-8th March. Events and seminars are organised for each day.

3. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FORWARD PLANNING

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

The draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy was published on 05 November 2018 with submissions invited until 23 January 2019.

Presentations on the Draft RSES were made to the Elected Members of Wicklow County Council at the ordinary meeting of the Council held on the 14 January 2019 and to the LCDC on 16 January 2019.

The Elected Members and the Chief Executive made submissions to the Draft RSES on the 22 January 2019 which are currently being considered by the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly.

Vacant Site Levy

Assessment of regeneration sites throughout the County is ongoing

- 8 no. Section 15 Notices 'Demand for payment' issued in January 2019
- 2 no. Letters of Intent issued
- 1 no. valuation has been appealed to the Valuations Tribunal – hearing scheduled for scheduled for April 2019
- 30 no. sites now stand on the Register.
- 07 no. sites are currently on appeal to ABP.

HERITAGE

Heritage 2030 – National Heritage Plan public consultation process announced by Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Consultation document circulated to members of Wicklow Heritage Forum for input and discussed at meeting on 5th Dec. Public information session organised for 29th January in County Buildings where members of the public can find out more about the process and how to get involved. Closing date for submissions end of Feb 2019.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structures Fund (HSF): The council has advertised grant funding under each of these schemes with closing dates 25th Jan and 31st Jan 2019 respectively. Owners of protected structures and other relevant buildings are eligible to apply. The allocation for County Wicklow under the BHIS is €60,000, while the HSF is a competitive process with €1.8m made available nationally.

River Liffey Stories Film Night *The official screening of a series of short films to highlight the rich natural and cultural heritage and folklore of the River Liffey as it flows from the Wicklow Mountains to Dublin City. Commissioned jointly by the Heritage Offices of Wicklow, Kildare and South Dublin county councils and supported through the Creative Ireland programme. The event is being timed to coincide with World Wetlands Day on 2nd*

FEBRUARY 2019



February, at 7 pm in the Band hall, Ballymore Eustace.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A total of 92 applications were received during January, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	19
Housing Developments	5
Agricultural Structures	2
Commercial	9
Other Developments	57
Total	92

Decisions issued in respect of 87 applications in January, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	2
Individual Houses	18
Other Developments	66
Other Developments Requiring EIA	1
Total	87

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

	01/01/2018	01/01/2019
Total Number of decisions issued	73	87
Total Number of decisions to grant	64	70
% grant rate	88%	81%

No. of Applications withdrawn

January 17

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

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Details of activity during January:

- 21 New files were opened
- 45 Advisory letters issued
- 13 Warning Letters issued
- 01 Enforcement Notices served
- 03 File was referred for legal action
- 26 Files have been closed

Court Cases

- 2 Judgements delivered in High Court

Derelict Sites Activity January:

- No. of sites on Register 8
- No. of Inspections 5
- No. of Notices issued 3

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTION – JANUARY 2019

	January
No. of Complaints Opened	273
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	255
No. of Litter Fines Issued	38
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	12
No. of Warning Letters Issued	2
No. of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	7
No. of Burning Applications Granted	10
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1



No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	1
No. Of Cases in Court under Waste Management Act	3
Income - Litter Fines	€ 2,690.00
Income- Waste Management	€20,285.83

DOG LICENCES

All dog owners must have a current dog license for each pet. Licenses are available from any post office at a cost of €20. Since July 2018 dog licences and lifetime dog licences, at a cost of €140, can also be purchased on **Licences.ie**. General Dog Licences (€400) are only available from Environment Section, Wicklow County Council.

There has been an increase in the purchasing of dog licences since the launch of Licences.ie website.

For the period 1st December to 31st December 2018 - 197 dogs were licensed.

For the same period in 2017 - 148 were issued

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.

- Topographical, Geophysical and Drone Surveys are now complete.
- 56 No. Trial Pits complete.
- Site Investigation contract – Closing date for tenders 28th February 2019.
- Second round of water sampling of Carrigower River complete. Results show excellent water quality in the river.
- Website is up and running and regular updates will be made to keep the Public and Members informed of progress.

PORTS AND HARBOURS

Tenders were invited for the provision of a Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow in early January 2019 with a closing date of the 8th February

2019. 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.

A debt management process for the collection and management of unpaid harbour dues commenced in November 2018 is still ongoing. It is anticipated that legal action will be instigated in a number of cases.

Wicklow Port & Harbour

There were 11 ships in total berthed in Wicklow for month of January; of the 11 ships, 9 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 and SRF while the imports consisted of logs and timber.

One marine notice was issued during January

The installation of a new automated security gate and CCTV equipment at the North Quay, Wicklow commenced during January 2019. The expected completion date is February 2019.

Quotations for the provision of security drills and exercises in accordance with the Wicklow Port Security Plan were sought in January 2019.

Pavement repairs to the surface of the Packet Pier, Wicklow commence January 2019 with completion expected by February 2019.

Arklow Harbour

Three of the five wrecks in Arklow Harbour were removed during January 2019. It is anticipated that a



further two wrecks will be removed in February 2019.

Bray Harbour

An engineering inspection of Bray Harbour took place in January 2019 with remedial works to commence in February 2019.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Section 4 Licensed Discharges to Waters (Surface & Ground)

- 18 S4 licensed discharges to waters were involving 216 individual analyses were monitored and 16 letters issued recognised good or requiring improved performance of wastewater treatment plants.

Section 16 Licensed Discharges to Sewers)

- 3 S16 licensed discharges to sewers involving 36 individual analyses were monitored on behalf of Irish Water.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants - Ambient Monitoring

- 31 River samples were taken and analysed upstream and downstream of discharges of public wastewater treatment plants involving 248 individual analyses were monitored on behalf of Irish Water.

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 3 Water pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 2 Oil pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 2 Air Pollution complaints were received.
- 1 section 12 notice issued regarding leak from oil tank.

Private Water Supplies

- Private water sampling programme 2019 prepared.
- 127 private supplies involving 4129 analyses will be monitored in 2019.
- 15 letters were issued to obtain updated information on status, treatment and access for private water supplies register.

Solvents

- 3 inspections of vehicle refinisher installations were carried out.
- 1 fixed penalty notice of €500 issued for operating installation without a certificate.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2019

- 16 domestic wastewater treatment systems scheduled for inspection in February with households given advance notice and advice.

Well Grants

Number of Applications	19
Number of New Wells	45
Number of New Pumps	15
Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.)	8

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 14 River sample locations were visited and 54 Samples taken for analysis.
- 9 Lake samples were taken from the Pollaphuca and Vartry Reservoirs for analysis for the purposes of WFD/River Management Plan.
- 19 River samples were taken for analysis for the purposes of the WFD/River Management Plan.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

14 environmental reports on referred planning applications were completed
planning applications were completed

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

It is anticipated that the plan will be advertised for public consultation in 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

	17 December 2018	7 January 2019	16 January 2019	21 January 2019
	13	21	9	10
Access Issues (Attended)	8	8	8	8
Cable Fault (Attend)	14	14	7	8
ESB Required (Attended)	4	4	4	4
Knock Down (Attended)	13	17	14	14
Materials required	2	1	4	5
No Supply	3	3	4	4
On Hold	295	247	297	279
Submitted	24	28	28	26
Traffic Management Required	376	343	375	358

	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	3	8
ESB Required(Attended)	1		2	4	1	8
Knock Down (Attended)	1		3		2	6
Materials required	1	1	4	3	5	14
No Supply	5	3	1		1	10

FEBRUARY 2019



On Hold		4				4
Submitted	45	50	23	36	82	236
Traffic Management Required	2	1	11	10	6	30
Grand Total		2				2
	35	118	62	48	95	358

Parking Income by Municipal District January 2019	EURO
Income Florence Road Carpark Bray MD	4,342
Income Herbert Road Carpark Bray MD	19,030
Income North Beach Car Park - Strand Road Bray MD	2,755
Income Restricted Parking Bray MD	53,584
Income Parking Fines Bray MD	19,010
Income Residential/Special Parking Discs Bray MD	12,820
Bray Municipal District	111,540
Income Greystones Pay Parking Scheme	35,445
Greystones Municipal District	35,445
Income Parking Charges Wicklow MD	15,341
Income Residential Parking Disk Wicklow MD	345
Income Traffic Fines Wicklow MD	2,800
Wicklow Municipal District	18,486
Income Parking Traffic Fines Arklow MD	1,580
Income Pay Parking Fees And Permits Arklow MD	17,853
Arklow Municipal District	19,433
Wicklow County Council	184,905

NATIONAL PRIMARY AND NATIONAL SECONDARY

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport have allocated funding in the sum of €9,276,390 as the 2019 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations.

The main allocations are as follows:

Restoration Improvement	€4,892,500
Restoration & Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€1,251,000
Discretionary Grant	€1,736,000

FEBRUARY 2019



Community Involvement Scheme

€257,890

Applications are invited for the Community Involvement Scheme; the closing date is the 6th March 2019.

WINTER MAINTENANCE

The Winter Maintenance 2018/2019 Season commenced on 16th October, 2018. For the month of January there were 167 callouts during that period when 686 tonnes of salt were used over the 9 routes. Significant gritting took place twice a day in around the week commencing 21st January during the period of cold weather and snow event.

Transportation Statistics (General) (January 2019)

Solicitors Queries	51
Road Closure Applications	7
Road Opening Licences	153
Abnormal Load Applications	1 single journey permit & 1 quarterly permit

7. EMERGENCY SERVICES

FIRE SERVICE

Operational Fire Statistics December 2018

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Callsign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Domestic	10	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	17	3	5	4	2	0	1	0	0	1	1
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Industrial / Commercial	14	5	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Single Station Mobilised											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	13	7	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	11	3	1	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Fire Chimney	12	2	2	3	1	1	0	0	3	0	0
Fire Small / bin / skip	7	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Vehicle	5	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Flooding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ambulance Assist	4	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Garda Assist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electrical Incident	3	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gas Leak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rescue from Lift	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Entrapment / Rescue	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malicious False Alarm	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mobilised into other County	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	0
Times Stations mobilised	107	29	23	19	9	6	6	4	7	2	2

FEBRUARY 2019



There were **86 incidents** attended during the month of January 2019. Two stations were mobilised in accordance with adopted procedures to potentially serious incidents and individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **107 occasions**. On 1 occasion during the month an Incident Commander requested additional resources above what has been predetermined for the incident type.

The month was characterised by commercial fires in Bray in particular the Florentine Bar which received extensive press coverage.

Call numbers are consistent with the previous month and with the equivalent month in 2018. Year on year the following trends can be identified:

- Domestic fires remain constant at about 6% of overall activity.
- Road Traffic Collisions remain constant at 9% of overall activity.
- Fire Alarm activations accounted for 12% (1:8) of total activity.
- Nuisance fires (gorse, bins etc.) represented 17% of incidents.
- Chimney fires were 11% and vehicle fires were 5%.

Sample Incidents (January 2019)

- 04/01/19 Bray and Greystones crews responded to a fire at the Florentine Bar, Main Street Bray. It was a long duration incident with 4 different crews attending. The site was visited on a number of occasions to ensure there was no re-ignite of the fire.
- 07/01/19 Bray and Greystones crews responded to a fire in a pizza takeaway on Main Street Bray.
- 20/01/19 Bray and Greystones attended a smouldering fire in Jim Doyle's Pub on Strand Road, Bray.
- 28/01/19 Bray and Greystones crews attended an apartment fire on Green Park Road, Bray. Building severely damaged.
- 30/01/19 Crews from Wicklow and Rathdrum rescue a single occupant from an overturned car.
- 30/01/19 Crews from Wicklow and Greystones rescued two casualties from an overturned car.

Incidents mobilised outside County Wicklow (January 2019)

Kildare (5-incidents, there were two crews mobilised on 08/01/19)

- 08/01/19 Baltinglass and Dunlavin Fire Crews were mobilised to a fire at Ark Recycling Centre, Sheriff Hill, Co. Kildare – Gardai in attendance.
- 08/01/19 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to an Ambulance Assist at Calverstown, Co. Kildare – casualty trapped.
- 09/01/19 Baltinglass Fire Crew supported Athy Crew at a fire at Ark Recycling Centre, Sheriff Hill, Co. Kildare.
- 09/01/19 Dunlavin Fire Crew supported Athy Crew at a fire at Ark Recycling Centre, Sheriff Hill, Co. Kildare.
- 22/01/19 Blessington Fire Crew a fire alarm activation in Ballymore Eustace Health Centre, Co. Kildare. False Alarm.

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

Kildare (1-incident)

- 06/01/19 Naas Fire Crew assisted Blessington at an RTC on the Dublin Road Blessington.



General

- The Fire Service maintains a Twitter account which has 810 followers.
- 6 recently recruited personnel successfully completed a 2-week Breathing Apparatus Course in Dundalk.
- Regional Major Emergency Management meetings were attended in Dublin's Phoenix Park.

Fire Prevention Statistics January 2019

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Validate BCMS /liaise with Building Control	Recommended Grant
<i>Fire Safety Certificates</i>	3	1	7		9
<i>Regularisation Certificates</i>	3		2		1
<i>FSC as part of 7 Day Notice</i>					
<i>Disability Access Certificates</i>	8		1		10

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

BUILDING CONTROL

Commencement Notices – January 2019

23 Commencement Notices

Of which:

- 4 were Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 3 were Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 1 Seven day Notice
- 15 Opt Out Declarations
- 65% of commencement notices are opt out.
- 50 % inspection rate on all notices
- 48 new build units
- 5 of which are one off houses
- Completion Certificates

Completion Certificates – January 2019

- 8 completion certificates validated
- (29 housing units)

we are not notified of the completion of opt out houses

Non compliance issues (on going)

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



Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. RECRUITMENT

Competitions for the following posts were held in February 2019:

Executive Engineer, Clerk of Works

Employee Numbers

	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018
Managerial/ Administrative	246	263	280	278
Professional/ Technical	119	105	105	104
Outdoor	317	306	313	312
Temporary/ Seasonal	41	79	54	38
Non DOECLG	13	8	8	8
Total	736	761	752	740

	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017
Managerial/ Administrative	246	245	246	250
Professional/ Technical	103	109	109	119
Outdoor	305	311	311	317
Temporary/ Seasonal	47	58	58	41
Non DOECLG	45	14	14	13
Total	746	737	738	740

(Excludes figures for Firefighters)

2. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

No. of FOI REQUESTS

January 2019	10	January 2018	10
Jan to Jan 2019	10	Jan to Jan 2018	10

No. of OMBUDSMAN REQUESTS

January 2019	0	January 2018	1
Jan to Jan 2019	0	Jan to Jan 2018	1

4. PRESS RELEASES

January 2019 – 8 Press Releases

5. REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The 2019/2020 Register of Electors was published on 1st February 2019 and came into force on 15th February 2019. There are 97,228 electors in total on the Register of Electors. As a result of the increase in electors, there are 12 new polling stations bringing the total no of ballot boxes for the upcoming Local, European Elections and Referendum to 202 in Wicklow. The changes to the Bray MD area as per the Boundary Commission Report have been implemented on the 2019/2020 Register of Electors.

The Franchise Department are currently working on printing the Register and distributing same to post offices, Garda stations and libraries. Letters issued to 1607 Potential European electors to enable them to change their status on the Register of Electors to European Voters in order to be able to vote in the European Elections.

We are entering a very busy period on the Register of Electors with the upcoming Local Elections and Referendum for the end of May.

6. 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.

6. 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 2019 expenditure figures in the normal format at this time. This situation will be regularised during the Quarter 1 period. The below table outlines the 2019 adopted budget by service division

REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION 2019			
	EXPENDITURE	INCOME	NET
	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Full Year Budget	
	€	€	€
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
	102,700,276	102,850,276	150,000

7. CASHFLOW/OVERDRAFT

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

8. CAPITAL ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST JANUARY 2019					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2019	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers To/From Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/01/2019
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	23,021,552	1,344,747	(204,827)	0	24,161,472
Road Transport & Safety	(38,014,408)	157,567	(214,726)	0	(38,071,567)
Water Services	(10,190,957)	2,952	(23,283)	0	(10,211,288)
Development Management	(9,465,542)	(12,293)	(1,774)	5,720	(9,473,889)
Environmental Services	239,532	422,499	(170,343)	0	491,688
Recreation and Amenity	(1,060,667)	63,251	(49,271)	0	(1,046,687)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(929,822)	(5,138)	0	0	(934,960)
Miscellaneous Services	(13,891,385)	4,123	(5,794)	0	(13,893,056)
	(50,291,697)	1,977,708	(670,018)	5,720	(48,978,287)



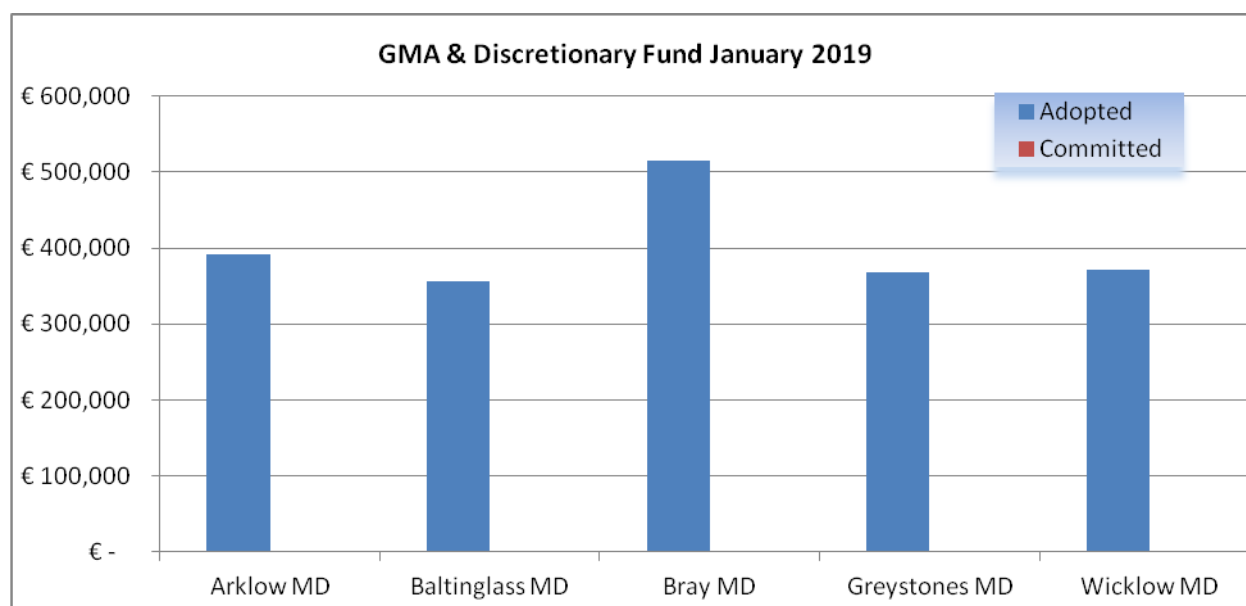
9. COMMERCIAL RATES, RENTS AND LOAN COLLECTIONS

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST JANUARY 2019									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2019	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/01/2019	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates *									
Rents & Annuities	1,470,372	1,281,798			2,752,170	1,090,834	1,661,336		40%
Housing Loans *									

N.B. The commercial rates figures will be populated after the 2019 rate demands are issued
 The updated 2019 housing loan figures will be available in next month's report.
 The rent collection percentage is 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.

10. GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION AND DISCRETIONARY FUND 2018

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



Municipal District	Adopted
	€
Arklow MD	391,750
Baltinglass MD	356,750
Bray MD	514,500
Greystones MD	368,750
Wicklow MD	370,750
Total	2,002,500



11. CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2018 - 2020

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

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

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