

JULY 2019



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



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This Month:

- *Wuerzburg Trip 2019 – a delegation from County Wicklow, including the Chief Executive Frank Curran and the Leas Chathaoirleach, Cllr Pat Kennedy visited Wuerzburg in Germany for the 2019 St Kilian’s Festival, this coincided with the visit of President Michael D Higgins, it marked the 20th anniversary of the partnership of Wicklow with Wuerzburg.*

- *The Glen Beach Cliff Walk in Wicklow was officially re-opened on Friday 26th July, having been closed due to coastal erosion since 2003 - the trail encompasses one of the most spectacular stretches of the Wicklow coastline, offering a unique opportunity to experience nature and to explore local history and archaeology.*

The collaborative approach of officials of Wicklow Municipal District, Wicklow County Council, the Community “Friends of the Murrough” and Wicklow Golf Club, made this re-opening possible.

The final inspection of the Cliff Walk was carried out by Sport Ireland Trails in June 2019 allowing it to be classed as a fully accredited trail to be added to the National Sport Ireland Register.

- *Three projects were awarded funding under the Urban Regional Development Fund, for Wicklow, Arklow Historic Town Core, Wicklow Library/Fitzwilliam Square and Bray Public Transport Bridge.*



HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT

No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP)	4288
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	394
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	1330
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	8
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	10

2. ALLOCATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING

WCC Social Housing (excluding Bray M. D.)	66
Approved Housing Bodies (excluding Bray M. D.)	9

3. SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

4357 tenancies occupied @ 29/06/2019

- Total weekly rental accrual €237,384.47
- Minimum rent €24 pw - Maximum rent €275.50 pw

Arrears at end of June 2019 - €972,262.59

Casual Vacancies/Relets 63

Municipal District	No
Arklow	13
Baltinglass	23
Bray	9
Greystones	5
Wicklow	13

4. HOUSING SUPPLY – PROGRAMME OF DELIVERY

Construction of the 42 No. social housing units at Kilbride Lane in Bray is progressing. The construction of the block and brickwork to the external walls is continuing with 4 of the 11 blocks reaching first floor level. Scaffolding is being erected to allow work beyond this height to continue. Groundworkers are continuing their work to the site drainage along with the recommencement of boundary treatment works.

The work is currently 6 weeks behind programme. This is in part due to a lack of availability of skilled workers. This delay is to be mitigated through the acceleration of later aspects of the project and through



the continued efforts to recruit additional workers. At present, there is no change to the projected completion date.

A site sign is to be affixed to the scaffolding being erected along the Kilbride Lane. Safety at the site remains a priority. Through the ER, Wicklow County Council has been pursuing the contractor to ensure safe egress from the site onto Kilbride Lane along with daily inspection of road conditions to ensure the road remains clear of mud and debris

Social Housing Supply Programme

3 schemes completed in 2018	28 Units
10 schemes currently on site in 2019	250 Units
3 further schemes to commence on site in 2019	77 Units
9 further schemes to commence on site in 2020	<u>220 Units</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	575 Units

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



5. PART V

2019

- 2 units (Rathdrum) - Department approval received. Acquisition into Council stock completed 12th March 2019.
- 2 Units Part V (Newtownmountkennedy) Acquisition completed into Council stock 28th June 2019.
- 2 Units (Rathnew) Acquisition completed into Council stock 20th June 2019.
- 7 units (Greystones) Acquisition completed via CALF 14th June 2019. 4 further units expected delivery Q4 2019.
- 16 units (Ashford) negotiations completed. Department approval received – delivery of 9 units expected Q.3 2019 via CALF.
- 4 units (Kilcoole) Acquisition completed via CALF 8th April 2019. 2 further units expected delivery Q4 2019.
- 1 unit (Kilcoole) Agreement reached delivery expected Q3 2019.
- 1 Part V Unit (Ashford) acquisition into Council stock completed 28th 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)
- 2 turnkey units purchase completed and have been allocated in Rathnew.
- 1 turnkey unit (Tinahely) closed December 2018 and allocated.
- 1 turnkey unit (Tinahely) acquisition into Council stock completed 29th March 2019.
- Remaining 1 turnkey unit Tinahely completed and purchased into Council stock on 5th April, 2019.
- (Construction is ongoing on turnkey project at Vale Road, Arklow – 10 units acquired into Council stock in June 2019 with a further 10 units to be acquired in July. 18 more units to be completed before the end of 2019.

- Construction ongoing on a turnkey project at Bollarney Woods, Wicklow – first units expected to be completed Q3 2019.
- Negotiations are ongoing with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units

6. PPP SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT

[Bundle 1)

Development Site at Convent Lands, Wicklow for 51 Social Housing units commenced on site in March 2019. The 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.*
- *Construction under way on a 40 unit CALF Turnkey in Dunlavin 26 units expected to be delivered in 2019 and 14 in 2020.*

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) 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 - €1,768,217
 Grant funding for social house - €500,000
 56 Open Applications to value of €908,000 – (full value of the grant available, this figure will be much lower if approved)

Housing Assistance for

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

Approved

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

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme

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

2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

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

10. ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

Period 01/06/2019 to 30/06/2019

No. of Presentations	50
No. of Repeat Presentations	4
No. of Households (Families)	21
No. of Adults (Individuals)	31
No. of Children	48
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord	
Selling	19
Family Circumstances	16
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	1
Sofa Surfing	7
Rough Sleeping	2

Temporary Emergency Accommodation 30/06/2019

Own Door

13 families (19 adults and 33 children)
 3 single adults

B & B Accommodation

Families – 6 (14 Adults, 11 Children)
 7 single adults.

Homeless HAP

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, 97 households (73 families & 24 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 30th June 2019.

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



Sonas Facility, Wicklow - Transition to Family Homeless Hub.

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

The successful tenderer was Dublin Simon Community, who will be in a position to commence operations and management of the facility from mid 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.



11. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

- i. SICAP Sub-group met with Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership to discuss 2019 SICAP Mid-Year Reports and provide feedback.
- ii. Sufficient progress has been made to date and so both Reports will be approved.
- iii. SICAP funding for August and September due to be processed. €118,674 to Bray Area Partnership and €99,548 to Co. Wicklow Partnership.
- iv. To date this year the SICAP Programme has supported and worked with 504 disadvantaged individuals and 38 local community groups in Co. Wicklow.

12. Public Participation Network (PPN)

- i. Recruitment of new member groups: Ashford Development Association Ltd, Thorndale Residents Association, Arklow Golden Circle Group
- ii. Organised “Let’s Talk about Climate Change” event, an opportunity to inform people about WCC’s Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and compile PPN submission
- iii. Joint Policing Committee PPN reps exploring feasibility of a Safety & Security Network
- iv. Upcoming policy consultations: Wicklow Local Property Tax; WCC Draft SPC scheme; Wicklow Maritime Strategic Review; East Coast Erosion Study Consultation; WCC Draft Noise Action

Plan 2018 – 2023; Carlow Tourism Strategy; River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027; National Climate Action Forum; PPN Insurance Impact Assessment.

13. Wicklow Library Service

WICKLOW LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Contracts for construction of the new Wicklow Library & Archives were signed with the successful construction firm, Byrne and Byrne Ltd., on 1st July 2019. The official “sod turning” is set for 7th August 2019 when both Ministers - Simon Harris and Eoghan Murphy - will make an official visit to Wicklow. In addition to capital input from Wicklow County Council, funding of €4 million+ is being met by the Department of Rural & Community Development and through the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government’s Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF).

SUMMER STARS 2019

The national “Summer Stars” reading programme, co-ordinated by LGMA, is proving to be extremely popular again in Wicklow libraries. 2,500+ children have already signed up to this year’s programme, suggesting that the 3,000 target will be surpassed. Wicklow County Council had the third largest uptake, per head of population, in 2018, so this may even be bettered in the current year. The initiative encourages children to read during the summer holidays. In September, there will be award ceremonies at each location. Congrats to all branch library staff for making this such a success!



BALTINGLASS LIBRARY AND COURTHOUSE

Baltinglass library & courthouse will form part of a submission to the Department of Rural & Community Development for funding through their Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). An architectural survey of the courthouse building has been carried out. Restorative works in the courthouse building will form a major part of the Baltinglass RRDF application. It is anticipated that this beautiful 1840 structure and the current library, will be developed into a combination of library, co-working and heritage unit.

14. County Wicklow Local Sports Partnership (LSP)

Bike Week

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership received funding of €11,000 for Bike Week that took place on the 22nd – 30th June 2019 and applications were invited to apply for grants to those hosting a bike event. 19 schools participated and benefited from Bike Week Events promoting cycling safety, skills and maintenance. There were also 7 community Bike Week events supported by Wicklow LSP;

- Wicklow Mountain Bike Club
- Biking.ie, Ballinastoe
- Dunlavin District Forum
- Sports Room Family Cycle, Wicklow Town
- AAA Family Fun Day, Greystones
- South East Road Club Grass Cycling Event, Arklow
- 'Get Back on your Bike' hosted by The Sports Room, Wicklow Town.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Event	Date & Location	No of attendees
Safeguarding 2 - Club Children's Officer Course	10th July, Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs	8/16
Safeguarding 1 – Child Protection Course	17th July, Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs	17/17

15. Community Enhancement Programme

Men's Shed Funding

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) has allocated €0.5m to fund capital equipment or minor capital works in Men's Sheds.

This is a ring-fenced fund, under the existing Community Enhancement Programme. The application process is being administered by Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's).

All Men's Sheds in Ireland that are affiliated with the Irish Men's Shed Association are eligible to apply, application forms were emailed to affiliated clubs in June with a closing date of 31st July 2019.

Women's Sheds are also eligible to apply subject to qualification guidelines, as issued by the DRCD.



Town & Village Applications 2019

The following projects were submitted to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019, following a public call for Expressions of Interest.

It is anticipated that the final project selection will be made by the Department in September 2019.

Area	Overview of Proposal	Funding Sought
Redcross	Streetscape	€80,000
Aughrim	Recreational amenity	€95,000
Avoca	Public realm and recreational enhancement	€125,600
Dunlavin	Development Plan for Dunlavin plus public realm works	€20,973
Coolkenno	Public Realm enhancements - lights and rails	€24,000
Delgany	Development Plan for Delgany	€29,600
Laragh	Smart Village	€30,560
Barndarrig	Footpath and friendship tree	€50,000
Kilcoole	Community building enhancement	€60,000
Shillelagh	Development Plan for Shillelagh; Business Plan for Cultural and Heritage Hub	€72,000
Roundwood	Development Plan for Roundwood; Looped walk incorporating Deralossory Cemetery	€148,000

BLESSINGTON E-GREENWAY

Wicklow County Council, in conjunction with major stakeholders, Blessington Community Group and the ESB, has secured funding of €5m under the National and Regional Greenway fund for the Blessington E-Greenway Project.

The Blessington E-Greenway will cover 42.4kms of walking and cycling trails mostly through the forest and woodlands taking in some spectacular scenery adjacent to the shoreline of the Blessington lakes.

The project will see significant job creation in the area as it is estimated that for every €1m of tourism revenue supports 27 jobs in the locality. In addition, it will cater for the growing tourist market for outdoor activities for both local residents and tourists alike.

It is envisaged that the project will take around two years to complete. The Greenway development is an exciting and distinctive project for County Wicklow and the region and will become Ireland's first "E" destination.



The E-Greenway encircles the Poulaphouca Reservoir - a major sustainable source of electricity generation. It will offer E Bikes as a major attraction with charging points along the route and forms part of a wider countywide project to promote E Cycling.

Pride of Place 2019

This is the seventeenth year of this competition, the purpose of which is to acknowledge the fantastic work being done every day by communities all over the Island of Ireland. There are twelve categories and this year Wicklow County Council entered two groups in the competition under two different Categories:

- Category 3- population over 5000 – nomination is Blessington Town
- Category 8 – Age Friendly Initiative – nomination is Tinahely Resource Centre

On the 17th of July 2019, two Pride of Place judges visited Blessington and Tinahely and they assessed these two nominations. Both nominations demonstrated a strong partnership with both the Council and all sectors of their communities. The award ceremony will take place in Kilkenny on the 30th November 2019.

Age Friendly Initiatives

The Arklow Age friendly business programme launch took place in July. A number of businesses have signed up and committed to being age friendly

16. County Wicklow Arts Office

Culture Night

Funding of €4,500 was confirmed for Culture Night 2019 and a whole county programme of events will be delivered. Wicklow County Council must match fund this programme as a condition of the award. In the region of 3,000 County Wicklow people participate in Culture Night annually.

One Per Cent For Art

The Per Cent for Art Scheme from the River Dargle Flood defence initiative in Bray will be completed in July. It is proposed that it will be sited in the first week in August.

New Arts Strategy for County Wicklow

The new Arts Strategy is at draft stage and consultation will now take place for this in September 2019.

Strategic Projects

A call for Strategic Projects took place in July with a closing date in August 2019 for projects which will take place in 2020.

Community Choral Project Website

The community choral project website is being completed and choral singing projects and network meetings are being planned for September.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1. WICKLOW ECONOMIC THINK TANK (CWETT) ACTION PLAN/LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) (ECONOMIC)

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). Many of the 142 actions listed in the LECP have come from the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Action Plan. The CWETT which was initiated in 2013 was a collaborative project initiated by Wicklow County Council and involved the business community from across the county and the County Enterprise Board (now LEO Wicklow).

FILM

Wicklow County Council is in the process of applying for 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

Progress continues to be made on site. It is anticipated that the new Bray Town Centre will be completed on time.

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 currently undertaking an audit of Arklow as a tourist destination, following the development guidelines as set out by Fáilte Ireland. In conjunction with this, a working group has been established to explore an application for Purple Flag status for the town. Purple flag is an accreditation scheme that recognises excellence in the evening and night time economy.

Arklow Town Team have been awarded €15,000 grant under the Community Enhancement Programme 2019 to purchase bus shelters. The emphasis of this year's awards was in respect of

age friendly initiatives. The design and location of the bus shelters will be agreed with Arklow Municipal District.

An application has been submitted to the Charities Regulator for charity status for Arklow Town Team.

Blessington Town Team were delighted to welcome the judges for Pride of Place to Blessington on Wednesday 17th July 2019 and showcase all that Blessington has to offer. The judges started their visit in Russborough House followed by stops at Blessington Men's Shed, meeting the Tidy Towns Committee, Blessington and District Forum, Baltinglass Municipal District, the Main Street area, local Gardai and finishing in the Avon Hotel. We wish Blessington every success in the Pride Of Place awards which takes place in November.

Bray Town Team had an initial meeting with Future Analytics in relation to carrying out a Health Check on the town. Stakeholder consultation is key to this process and will take place in early September.

Bray Town Team is preparing a Bray Historical Information Leaflet to encourage visitors to explore on foot some historical sites of interest in Bray.

Greystones 2020 has secured funding from LEADER for a Public Realm Plan for Greystones. Following a very competitive procurement process, the Paul Hogarth Company was approved. The project will be completed by the end of the year and will form the basis of excellence in design for the core centre of Greystones. Public Consultation will be an integral part of this process.

Greystones Town Team, has been awarded €15,000 for the Community Enhancement Programme 2019 (phase 1). This will deliver additional bus shelters in Greystones in areas where older people, in particular, use public transport.

Wicklow Town Team have been progressing a number of important projects for the town. The contract for the Backlighting of Wicklow's Historical Sites has been awarded and some civil works have already commenced. To compliment this, the Black



Castle Story Board is complete and will be erected on site in the coming weeks.

The Park & Ride facility at the Beehive has commenced. Over 200 survey respondents had indicated that they would use the service which will prove invaluable to the many people travelling to and from Dublin on a daily basis.

Enterprise Town Awards

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

Ashford and Rathdrum have been nominated for the NETA 2019. Judging will take place on the 30th of September and preparations are underway. The aim of this national competition is to promote enterprise in an area by bringing business and community groups together to showcase the spirit of enterprise in their town.

A Regional Workshop was held on 3rd July to help each entry prepare for the competition. The workshop was attended by officers of Wicklow County Council who will feed back the information to each of the committees.

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 was received from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government in June, with the project team meeting to ensure all works are progressed.

A steering group has met to discuss preparation of applications under the next round of funding. A second call for proposals under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund was announced in April, with a closing date of 6th August 2019 for Category 1 proposals. It is expected that a call for Category 2 proposals will be announced later in the year.

Work is well underway in preparing the application forms under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. A public meeting was held on 22nd July in the Brockagh Resource Centre in Laragh to focus on the proposed application for Laragh & Glendalough, with links to Roundwood, Rathdrum and Hollywood.

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.

The Towns as Visitor Hubs group are working closely with each of the Town Teams to carry out an assessment of the towns in line with the Tourism



Destination Town Guidelines, as set out by Failte Ireland. Even where the town may not meet the criteria for funding, the results will inform the team on how best to plan for each town in becoming a destination town with particular focus on the capacity to attract visitors to stay overnight.

The Accommodation group are awaiting the results of a county-wide audit of the tourism accommodation in Wicklow which is being produced by Failte Ireland.

Glendalough

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

Failte Ireland

Failte Ireland announced a new funding stream for large scale capital projects, Platforms for Growth. The first round of funding focuses on 'Immersive Heritage and Cultural Attractions'. Officers of Wicklow County Council have attended workshops to learn more about this funding and how best to approach the application process.

Expressions of interest were submitted on 17th July 2019. Those successful through this initial stage must prepare a full application form for submission by 7th August.

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.

The first day of public consultation was held in June at the Assembly Hall in Wicklow town. A further evening session was held in early July. Any groups/organisations with an interest in County Wicklow's coastline were invited to share their views on the plan. The public consultation phase has now ended.

Maritime Business Development Group

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

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

A meeting was held in July to receive proposals for the development of the Oyster Reef Restoration project and consider possible funding opportunities.

FOOD

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

Wicklow Food Producer's Showcase. The implementation of the strategy will be industry led.



Wicklow County Council will work with County Wicklow Partnership to source funding for a Food Development Advisor who will be engaged to help implement the objectives of the strategy.

Following a tender process, a company has been selected to implement the Food Strategy. This will be subject to a funding application through LEADER and the Department of Rural & Community Development.

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	- 24/€476,558.50	- Meet Demand	14/€291,566.62
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 14/€26,219.06	- Meet Demand	01/€331
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			

METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2018	2019	2019
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	52	52	24
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	72	70	44
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	876	850	393
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	3 (as at 30/6/19)



METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2017	2018	2019
Number of new clients added to database *criteria has been amended for this metric	623	470*	364
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	446	430	256

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

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

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2018	2019	Year to Date 2019
Trading Online Vouchers	66	50	23

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



JUNE 2019 Activities

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

The workshop 'Prepare your Business for Customs', developed by Enterprise Ireland and delivered by BDO Ireland, took place at Wicklow County Campus on Wed 26th June with 25 participants.

2 Days of Brexit Mentoring took place for Wicklow based companies on June 10th and June 21st. 12 businesses participated in the one to one sessions.

Preparations are currently being finalised for the 2019 Autumn / Winter Training Programme which will commence in September.

On Friday 12th July, LEO Wicklow was represented at the 'SME and Entrepreneurship Strategy Conference' held at the Aviva Stadium, at which an Taoiseach Leo Varadkar spoke, and which was hosted by Minister Heather Humphreys and Minister Pat Breen. At this Conference a new Productivity Voucher Scheme was launched by the Government.



3. Planning and Development

Forward Planning

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

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

County Development Plan review

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

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

Local Plans

The County Development Plan includes the local plans for the towns of Ashford, Auhgrim, Baltinglass Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely, Avoca, Donard, Newcastle Roundwood, Shillelagh and Laragh-Glendalough. The County Development Plan review will therefore include a review of the plans for all of these settlements.

The Municipal District of Bray (which includes the settlements of Bray, Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue), as well as the settlements of Arklow, Blessington, Greystones – Delgany, Kilcoole, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum and Wicklow – Rathnew all have their own 'Local Area Plans' which do not form part of the County Development Plan; these plans will be reviewed after the new County Development Plan is adopted.

Vacant Site Levy – June

Assessment of regeneration sites throughout the County is ongoing

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

June - Payment of €75,000 received 14th June for site at 39B Quinnsborough Road - Junction of Adelaide Road and Florence Road, Bray, Co.

Wicklow (former Cash and Carry site)
€81,0000 invoiced 10th June – Former Heiton Buckley Site Bray.

1 site referred to Law Department for Debt Collection proceedings.

Heritage

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

A County Swift survey for Wicklow . The aim is to establish a baseline population figure for this threatened bird and to increase awareness generally about the requirements of this species. Two community workshops were held, in Bray on 9th May and in Baltinglass on the 10th May. Also a publication 'Saving Swifts' produced jointly by Local Authority Heritage Officers and Birdwatch Ireland has been produced and is being made widely available. The survey is taking place throughout the summer and members of the public are encouraged to report sightings to the local co-ordinator.

People + Nature programme of free public events launched for county Wicklow. This includes monthly themed events in East Coast Nature Reserve in association with Birdwatch Ireland, forest schools and workshops and various other talks, events throughout the year.

A survey of biodiversity along the Avonmore River catchment is underway, co-ordinated through the Heritage Office as an action of the BAP. A public talk on this survey is scheduled for 22nd May as part of National Biodiversity Week.



Crinniu na nÓg: As part of the Culture Team the Heritage Office is supporting events for Crinniu na nÓg on June 15th including Forest Schools, Willow workshops and Swift Stands.

Heritage Plan: Glendalough Community Heritage Project in collaboration with UCD School of Archaeology is due to take place throughout August 2019. Bookings to be launched by end of May for the two week community excavation taking place 6th-16th August.

Baltinglass Hillfort Archaeology Project: The Heritage Office is co-ordinating further research on the hillforts with community outreach events planned for end of year.

Heritage Week 17th 25th Aug registration now open, all events registered by end of May for inclusion in National printed guide.

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

Our Wicklow Heritage: Wicklow's online community heritage archive and upcoming opportunities for increased community involvement will form the theme for the County Wicklow PPN Plenary meeting on June 20th.

Planning Applications

A total of 106 applications were received during June, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	31
Housing Developments	4
Agricultural Structures	2
Commercial	8
Other Developments	60
Total	106

Decisions issued in respect of 81 applications in June, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	1
Individual Houses	16
Other Developments	64
Other Developments Requiring EIA	0
Total	81

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

	30/06/2018	30/06/2019
Total Number of decisions issued	496	503
Total Number of decisions to grant	415	422
% grant rate	84%	84%

No. of Applications withdrawn

June 10

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

Planning Enforcement

Details of Activity during June

- 09 New Files were opened
- 34 Advisory letters issued
- 10 Warning letters issued
- 10 Enforcement Notices served
- 24 Files have been closed
- 00 files referred for legal action

No legal cases in June

Derelict Sites Activity June

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



4. Environmental Services

WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTION – JUNE 2019

No. of Complaints Opened	275
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	271
No of Litter Fines Issued	53
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	5
No. of Warning Letters Issued	5
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	16
No. of Burning Applications Granted	11
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No of files prepared for Court action	29
No of files referred to Law Dept for legal advice	26
No of cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	1
Income – Litter	€6,920.00
Income – Waste Management	€2,388.10

BLUE FLAG BEACHES

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

Water sampling is taken at sixteen locations on the east coast of Wicklow by the HSE, on behalf of Wicklow County Council, to ensure excellent water quality for swimming on our beaches for the season.

LIFEGUARDS

23 life guards were appointed following an interview process held in May 2019. There are lifeguard stations in at our Blue Flag beaches in Bray, Greystones South Beach, Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South which operate from 1st June until 15th September. The lifeguards in Wicklow Harbour operate from 1st June to 1st September and in Arklow South Beach from 1st July to 1st September. The lifeguard service is managed by the Water Safety Development Officer, Robert Kelly.

DOG LICENCES

July will mark the one year anniversary of An Post taking over the issuing of dog licences. From this month reminders will also be sent by An Post. The dog wardens will continue to patrol the county to ensure all dogs are licenced.

WHITESTOWN REMEDIATION PROJECT

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

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

PORTS AND HARBOURS

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

Wicklow Port & Harbour

During June 13 ships berthed and discharged cargo at Wicklow Port. Of these ships, 8 had a single transaction i.e. either an import or an export of cargo while 5 had two transactions i.e. an import and an export of cargo from the same ship. The exports consisted of pulp, scrap metal, woodchips and wood pallets while the imports consisted of logs from Scotland and timber from Sweden.

Pollution Control

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants - Ambient Monitoring

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



plants involving 121 individual analyses were monitored on behalf of Irish Water.

Pollution Response & Investigation

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

Private Water Supplies

- 14 Private water supplies were sampled and deemed compliant with microbiological parameters.
- 1 Private water supply was sampled and deemed non-compliant with microbiological parameters.
- 1 Boil water issued to a Caravan Park
- 2 Private water supplies were inspected.

Solvents

- 1 letter issued in respect of cessation of vehicle refinisher installation.
- 2 inspections of vehicle refinisher installations.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2019

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

Section 4 Licensed Discharges

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

Well Grants

Number of Inspections carried out in respect of water grant applications 31

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 2 Lakes were monitored involving 9 samples were taken for analysis for the purposes of WFD/River Management Plan.
- 14 Rivers were monitored involving 19 samples for analysis for the purposes of the WFD/River Management Plan.

Bathing Water Monitoring Programme

- 4 Blue Flags awarded to beaches in Bray(1), Greystones(1) and Brittas Bay(2).
- 25 samples were taken from 6 Identified (designated) bathing waters and 7 non-designated bathing water for analysis.
- Almost all bathing water results indicated excellent or good quality except for sufficient quality at South of Bray Harbour on 17th June.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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

Petrol Vapour Recovery

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

Well Grants

- Number of Applications 16
- Number of New Wells 2
- Number of New Pumps 12
- Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) 8

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

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



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

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

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

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

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

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

Climate Adaptation Strategy

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

Climate adaptation involves taking steps to adjust our operational systems and planning processes in

response to existing and anticipated Climate Change. The completed strategy will allow us to mainstream adaptation over time into the plans and policies of Wicklow County Council. It will provide a strategy to ensure corporate activities are climate proofed

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

Public Consultation ended on 5th July 2019 and 105 submissions were received

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

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

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

4 Sustainable Energy Communities have submitted applications to SEAI for support in developing Energy Masterplans. WCC is leading all 4 applications. The first grant award letter has been received from SEAI for €15, 000.

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

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Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

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

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

Following a detailed scheme options assessment process, the series of measures that will make up the emerging preferred flood relief scheme for the Avoca River, Arklow have now been identified. A number of questions have arisen regarding the affect of the flood defences on the hydrology of the Arklow Marsh and a study of the water levels in the marsh is now being carried out. A second study,

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

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

2019 Green Flag Awards

In 2015, the Green Flag Award Scheme was introduced in Ireland. This is the benchmark standard for parks and green spaces Each site submitted for inclusion in the Green Flag Awards Scheme is judged on its own merits and suitability to the community it serves Green Flag Award applications are judged against eight key criteria

- **A welcoming place**
- **Healthy, safe and secure**
- **Clean and well maintained**
- **Sustainability**
- **Conservation and heritage**
- **Community involvement**
- **Marketing**
- **Management**

Glendalough Graveyard has been awarded its first Green Flag being the first Green Flag for County Wicklow and also the first Graveyard in the Republic of Ireland to receive a Green Flag.



5. TRANSPORTATION, WATER & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Public Lighting

	4 June 2019	10 June 2019	17 June 2019	26 June 2019	1 July 2019	8 July 2019
Access Issues (Attended)	18	19	18	22	22	22
Cable Fault (Attend)	15	15	15	15	16	18
ESB Required (Attended)	12	12	17	17	17	17
Knock Down (Attended)	6	6	5	5	5	5
Materials required	12	11	11	11	11	11
No Supply	22	21	21	23	23	23
On Hold	4	4	4	4	4	4
Submitted	199	216	253	231	222	255
Traffic Management Required	21	22	21	27	27	36
TOTAL	309	326	365	355	347	391

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	7	3	5		7	22
Cable Fault (Attend)	3		5	3	7	18
ESB Required (Attended)	1		4	5	7	17
Knock Down (Attended)	1		1		3	5
Materials required			5	1	5	11
No Supply	3	3	2	5	10	23
On Hold		4				4
Submitted	43	70	34	23	85	255
Traffic Management Required	5	1	15	11	4	36
Grand Total	63	81	71	48	128	391



Parking Income by Municipal District June 2019	EURO
INCOME FLORENCE ROAD CARPARK BRAY MD	€ 31,661.86
INCOME HERBERT ROAD CARPARK BRAY MD	€ 129,999.09
INCOME NORTH BEACH CAR PARK - STRAND ROAD BRAY MD	€ 20,370.40
INCOME RESTRICTED PARKING BRAY MD	€ 367,909.44
INCOME PARKING FINES BRAY MD	€ 86,785.37
INCOME RESIDENTIAL/SPECIAL PARKING DISCS BRAY MD	€ 32,150.00
BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	€ 668,876.16
INCOME GREYSTONES PAY PARKING SCHEME	€ 217,891.76
GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	€ 217,891.76
INCOME PARKING CHARGES WICKLOW MD	€ 151,910.67
INCOME RESIDENTIAL PARKING DISK WICKLOW MD	€ 2,500.00
INCOME TRAFFIC FINES WICKLOW MD	€ 10,766.21
WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	€ 165,176.88
INCOME PARKING TRAFFIC FINES ARKLOW MD	€ 8,620.00
INCOME PAY PARKING FEES AND PERMITS ARKLOW MD	€ 119,510.50
ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	€ 128,130.50
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL	€ 1,180,075.30

Transportation Statistics (General)

	May 2019	June 2019
Solicitors Queries	81	55
Road Closure Applications	12	5
Road Opening Licences	147	131
Abnormal Load Applications	4 abnormal load permits 3 single journey permits 1 half yearly permit	1 single journey permit



N11 Kilmacanoge Parallel Service Road

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

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

N11 M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme

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

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

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

N81 Capital Maintenance Projects

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

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

Machinery Yard & Stocked Stores – Wicklow County Council

A full and detailed review of operations of Council run machinery yard and stocked stores was carried out in the latter end of 2018 and early 2019.

Following an Internal Audit and other analysis, a number of short, medium and long term objectives in relation to operational matters will now be put in place. Some of these include:

- As replacement vehicles are required the fleet of small and medium vans will be through lease option which provides more economic value for money.*
- The machinery yard focus will remain on our larger vehicles including Winter Maintenance fleet and larger trucks, our fire service fleet and library vehicles.*
- A full Capital replacement programme, of all Machinery Fleet, will be completed.*
- A cost analysis of stores operations identified a number of areas where economies could be achieved. Areas highlighted included annual costs of running stocked stores, high cost of obsolete stock and alternative sources of obtaining stock and materials. Stocked stores, located at County Buildings, will be phased out and alternative options for procurement of items will be pursued.*
- An alternative use for the stores location will be identified in 2020.*



Both areas of operation will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

6. EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Services

Operational Fire Statistics June 2019

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Callsign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	5	1	1	2		1					
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	21	5	6	5	3	2					
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	4			2	2						
Fire Institutional	2	1	1								
Fire Industrial / Commercial	1				1						
Single Station Mobilised											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	17	6	5	3	1	1			1		
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	10	4	1	4						1	
Fire Chimney	0										
Fire Small / bin / skip	10	4	1	3		2					
Fire Vehicle	5	2	2								1
Fire Shed	1			1							
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	0										
Ambulance Assist	3		3								
Garda Assist	2					1			1		
Electrical Incident	2					1			1		
Gas Leak	0										
Rescue from Lift	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	0										
Entrapment / Rescue	0										
Hazardous Materials	0										
Malicious False Alarm	0										
Mobilised into other County	7						3	3		1	
Times Stations mobilised	90	23	20	20	7	8	3	3	3	2	1

There were **74 incidents** attended during the month of June 2019. Due to laid-down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **90 occasions**. On no occasion during the month did an Incident Commander request additional resources above what has been predetermined for the incident type.



Operational activity for the month was down by 33% on the preceding month which was mainly accounted for by a reduction in gorse / outdoor fires. Activity for June 2019 was 40% of June 2018, again due to the large number of gorse fires in 2018.

Sample Incidents (June 2019)

- 04/06/19 Crews from Wicklow Town and Rathdrum attended an RTC at Ballydowling involving an overturned car with 2 casualties trapped inside.
- 16/06/19 Arklow and Rathdrum fire crews were mobilised to an RTC where a vehicle had overturned and rolled down a bank near the Woodenbridge Hotel on the Vale Road.
- 19/06/19 Baltinglass fire crew, on the instructions of Gardai, entered the river Slaney south of the town in dry suits to remove a body of a deceased person.
- 23/06/19 Greystones fire crew attended a car fire on the Sally Gap.

Incidents mobilised outside County Wicklow (June 2019):

Kildare (4-incidents)

- 04/06/19 Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to support a fire crew from Newbridge at a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) near Punchestown Race Course.
- 09/06/19 Blessington and Dunlavin Fire Crews were mobilised to support a fire crew from Naas at a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) near Arthurstown.
- 10/06/19 Blessington and Dunlavin Fire Crews were mobilised to support a fire crew from Naas at a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) on the Naas to Ballymore road.
- 14/06/19 Dunlavin Fire Crews were mobilised to support a fire crew from Athy at a crashed aircraft involving 2 fatalities in the townland of Belan.

Wexford (1-incident)

- 22/06/19 Carnew Fire Crew were mobilised to a small outdoor fire in Gorey.

General

- Preparations continued for the rescheduled Air Corps wildland firefighting exercise at Lough Dan on 9th July.
- A 3-week firefighter induction course "recruit course" took place from 10th June.
- A series of meetings and inspections to review event management plans took place in relation to the 3-day Kaleidoscope Festival which took place at Russborough from 28th – 30th June.
- Preparations took place for a 2-week Unit 1 Course (command / leadership course for junior officers) to take place from 1st July.
- Reviewed event management plans, attended meetings and carried out inspections in advance of Bray Air Show.



Fire Prevention Statistics June 2019

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	4	1	2		12
Regularisation Certificates			5	2	0
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice	2		2		1
Disability Access Certificates	6		1		11

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

Building Control

Commencement Notices – June 2019

39 Commencement Notices, of which:

- 12 were Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 3 were Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 4 Seven day Notice
- 20 Opt Out Declarations
- 51 % of commencement notices are opt out.
- 31 % inspection rate on all notices
- 135 new build units
- 17 of which are one off houses

Completion Certificates- June 2019

- 20 completion certificates validated
(80 housing units)

Building Control are not notified of the completion of opt out houses

Non compliance issues (on-going)

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



Organisational Development and Financial Matters

Competitions for the following posts were held in June 2019:

Senior Ex. Librarian
 Staff Officer-Shortlisting process
 Administrative Officer Final Interviews

Employee Numbers

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

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

(Excludes figures for Fire-fighters)

1. Access to information

No. of FOI Requests

<i>April 2019</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>April 2018</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Jan to April 2019</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>Jan to April 2018</i>	<i>31</i>

No. of Ombudsman Requests

<i>April 2019</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>April 2018</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Jan to April 2019</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Jan to April 2018</i>	<i>4</i>

2. Press Releases

June 2019 – 7 Press Releases



3. Register of Electors

We have successfully appointed 7 new fieldworkers who will complete training before beginning their door-to-door verifications based on the information provided on the current Live Register of Electors 2019/2020.

Our other 29 fieldworkers have been on the road working for a couple of weeks.

Application forms that are received daily in the post are checked, verified and updated where necessary. These forms are copied and the originals posted back out to the relevant

fieldworker for their information; this informs the fieldworker that secondary calls to homes where forms were left are not required, as they have been returned/verified etc.

We are hoping that we will have the workbooks completed and returned to us by September 20th, 2019, however with over 100,000 electors currently registered we may push this date out to the end of September



4. I.C.T. Report

IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with 680 tickets closed in the past 8 weeks. The “Frequently Asked Questions” knowledge database improves case tracking and responses and is being used as a model for workflow mapping in other business areas.

Email Archiving

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

Customer Service Delivery

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

Unified Communications

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

Core Network

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

GIS & Data Collection Systems

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

Domain Migration

- Wicklow County Council is currently undertaking a domain migration project which includes the replacement of historic domain controllers and the migration of all users and servers to the new infrastructure. The project will proceed over the course of the summer and autumn and facilitate a full audit of servers, users and devices to allow completion of forest migration and cloud computing strategies. The Planning and Environment Departments should be complete by the end of July.

eServices

- In line with Social Media Strategy & Content Plan, significant growth has been reached across Wicklow County Council’s social media platforms since the end of 2018. To date there is a 104.9% increase in followers on Facebook, 10.18% increase in followers on Twitter and 196.86% increase in followers on Instagram.
- A 6 week social media campaign on Household Waste Awareness has completed. A series of posts were uploaded to Wicklow County Council’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts over a 3 week period. A total of 43,888 people were reached during this campaign. Assuming these followers are based in Co. Wicklow, as per the targeted audience, that is 30.81% of the County population. Traffic to the Bye-laws on www.wicklow.ie website increased during the campaign.

Open Data

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



datasets uploaded ranging from Wicklow Wind Energy Strategy to Election Cont Result Sheets.

Broadband Development

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



Financial Accounts

1. Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH JUNE 2019							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to date	Actual income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to date	
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
A - Housing and Building	9,545,304	19,892,855	48	(8,905,367)	(24,370,271)	37	639,937
B - Road Transport & Safety	9,096,337	20,449,070	44	(5,347,723)	(13,354,096)	40	3,748,614
C - Water Services	2,542,771	5,818,773	44	(3,848,273)	(6,759,744)	57	(1,305,502)
D - Development Management	4,491,540	9,868,577	46	(3,342,679)	(5,501,133)	61	1,148,861
E - Environmental Services	5,374,574	10,987,633	49	(1,279,690)	(1,971,500)	65	4,094,884
F - Recreation and Amenity	3,292,360	6,990,426	47	(475,628)	(894,778)	53	2,816,732
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	695,320	1,541,865	45	(314,660)	(812,728)	39	380,660
H - Miscellaneous Services	4,839,816	11,098,626	44	(2,875,085)	(8,257,821)	35	1,964,731
J - Central Management Charges	7,744,835	16,052,449	48	(543,625)	(1,005,217)	54	7,201,210
LG - Local Government Fund				(5,991,713)	(11,983,425)	50	(5,991,713)
PL - Pension Levy				-	-		-
RA - Commercial Rates				(13,969,781)	(27,939,561)	50	(13,969,781)
	47,622,857	102,700,274	46	46,894,224	102,850,274	46	728,633

2. Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st June 2019 to 30th June 2019.

3. Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30th JUNE 2019					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2019	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers To/From Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/06/2019
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	23,666,606	18,833,055	(22,868,475)	63,634	19,694,820
Road Transport & Safety	(39,057,744)	1,423,759	(5,159,416)	(130,614)	(42,924,015)
Water Services	(10,100,125)	182,405	(675,573)	0	(10,593,293)
Development Management	(9,430,657)	104,705	(474,703)	(69,280)	(9,869,935)
Environmental Services	322,578	1,831,829	(1,698,107)	(131,261)	325,039
Recreation and Amenity	(237,760)	702,986	(1,578,943)	(53,750)	(1,167,467)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(929,822)	124,188	0	(76,250)	(881,884)
Miscellaneous Services	(14,953,999)	1,740,683	(537,301)	206,536	(13,544,081)
	(50,720,923)	24,943,610	(32,992,518)	(190,985)	(58,960,816)



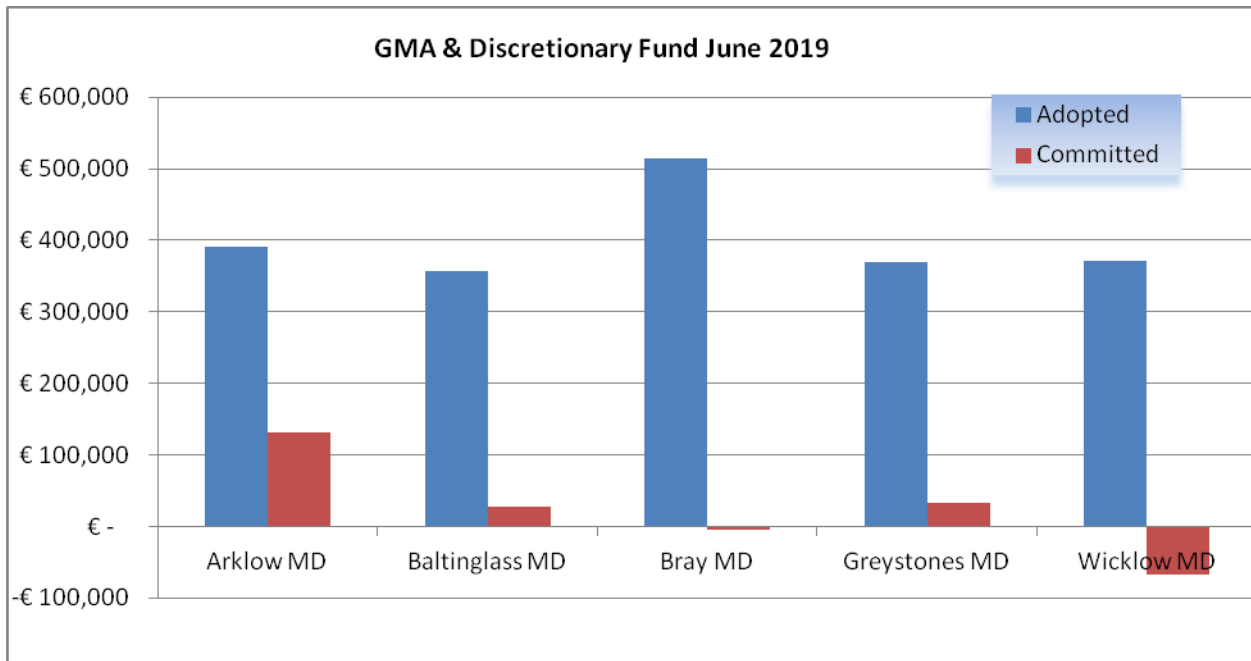
4. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

JUNE									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2019	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/06/2019	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates *	6,804,584	27,926,985			34,731,569	13,172,390	21,559,179		38%
Rents & Annuities	1,470,372	6,723,990		(2,709)	8,191,653	6,698,432	1,493,221		82%
Housing Loans *	399,710	753,340			1,153,050	782,925	370,125		68%

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	232,276	260,824
Baltinglass MD	269,230	356,750	296,861	329,119
Bray MD	168,672	514,500	163,850	519,322
Greystones MD	-6,637	368,750	26,268	335,845
Wicklow MD	188,759	370,750	120,831	438,678
Total	721,374	2,002,500	840,085	1,883,789

6. Capital Investment Programme 2019-2021

The Capital Investment Programme 2019-2021 for Wicklow County Council which details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was approved by the Members at the Ordinary Council meeting of March 4th 2019.

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

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