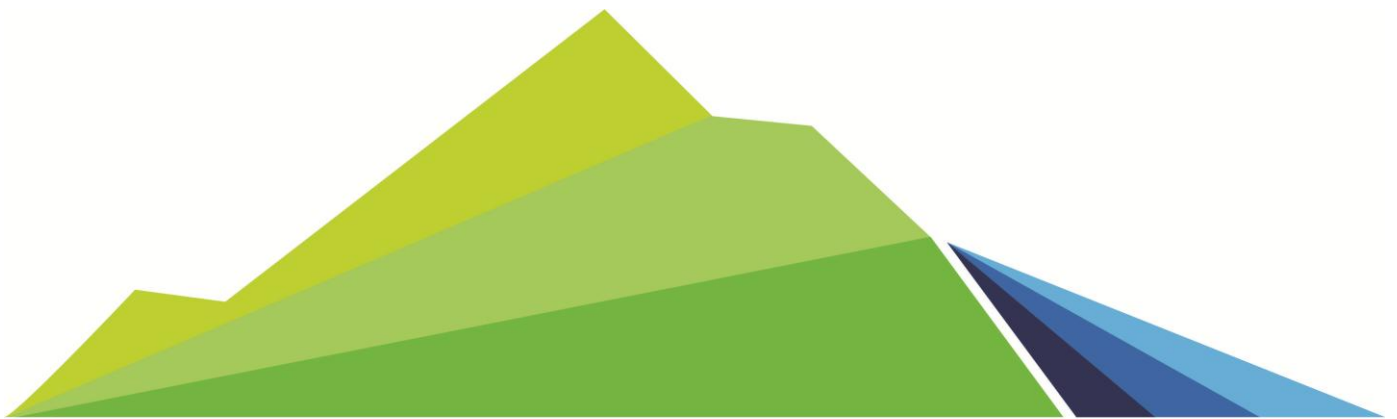


JUNE 2019



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



Table of Contents

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY7

1. SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT7

2. ALLOCATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING7

3. SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK.....7

4. HOUSING SUPPLY – PROGRAMME OF DELIVERY7

5. PART V9

6. PPP SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT9

7. APPROVED HOUSING BODIES (AHB’S)9

8. HOUSING SCHEMES REMEDIATION 10

9. HOME IMPROVEMENT/ADAPTATION 10

10. ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS 10

11. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)..... 12

12. Public Participation Network (PPN)..... 12

13. Wicklow Library Service..... 12

Libraries Grant Application:..... 12

My Open Library (MOL), Arklow..... 12

CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG..... 13

MOBILE LIBRARY - UPDATE 13

14. County Wicklow Local Sports Partnership (LSP) 13

Basketball Blitz 13

Boxercise..... 13

Training and Education..... 13

Strategic Plan..... 14

Training and Education..... 14

15. Community Enhancement Programme 14

Community Enhancement Programme 2019 (Men’s Shed Funding) 14



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE.....15

1. Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT)..... 15

FILM 15

RETAIL 15

TOWN TEAMS 15

Enterprise Town Awards 16

URDF Funding..... 16

TOURISM..... 17

Glendalough 17

Failte Ireland..... 17

MARITIME 17

FOOD 18

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)..... 19

MAY 2019 Activities 21

3. Planning and Development.....22

Forward Planning..... 22

County Development Plan review 22

Heritage 22

Planning Applications 23

Planning Enforcement.....24

4. Environmental Services25

WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTION – MAY 2019 25

DOG LICENCES..... 25

WHITESTOWN REMEDIATION PROJECT 25

PORTS AND HARBOURS 25

Pollution Control..... 26

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme 27



Bathing Water Monitoring Programme.....	27
Planning & Development.....	27
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS.....	28
Climate Adaptation Strategy	28
Sustainable Energy.....	29
Arklow Flood Relief Scheme	29
5. Transportation & Roads Infrastructure	30
Public Lighting	30
Transportation Statistics (General)	31
6. Emergency Services.....	33
Fire Service.....	33
Building Control	35
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS	36
1. Recruitment.....	36
2. Access to information.....	36
3. Press Releases	36
4. Register of Electors	37
5. Local Elections 2019.....	37
1. I.C.T. Report.....	38
IT Helpdesk	38
Customer Relations Management (CRM)	38
Unified Communications	38
Core Network	38
Data Collection Systems.....	39
Domain Migration.....	39
eServices.....	39
Wicklow Welcomes All.....	39



Open Data.....	39
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS.....	40
1. <i>Revenue Account</i>	40
2. <i>Cashflow/Overdraft</i>	40
3. <i>Capital Account</i>	40
4. <i>Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections</i>	41
6. <i>Capital Investment Programme 2019-2021</i>	42



This Month:

- *Cllr Irene Winters elected Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council*
- *Cllr Pat Kennedy elected Leas-Chathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council*
- *Wicklow County council were allocated €5 million for Blessington Greenway project*
- *Bray Homecoming event in honour of World Lightweight Champion boxer Katie Taylor took place on Friday 7th June at the Bandstand on Bray Promenade.*
- *IBYE – Ross Lawless of CALT Dynamics won Regional best entrepreneur in the start up category, Ross will go on to represent Wicklow in the finals in September.*

- **WICKLOW WELCOMES ALL** - Wicklow County Council has produced a series of familiarisation videos to help members of the public with accessibility arrangements for County Buildings and the five Municipal District Offices. This Digital initiative was part-funded under the Department of Rural and Community Development's Digital Innovation Programme and aims to assist people with learning difficulties, Autism, physical disabilities, and with anxiety concerns encountered when visiting Council offices.

- *Savings Swifts: Wicklow County Council has teamed up with Birdwatch Ireland on this Swift Project. This initiative forms part of our ongoing programme of biodiversity actions through the County Wicklow Heritage Plan, to record, protect and enhance biodiversity in Wicklow.*



HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT

No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP)	4230
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	404
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	1244
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.)	54
Approved Housing Bodies (excluding Bray M. D.)	5

3. SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

4353 tenancies occupied @ 25/05/2019

- Total weekly rental accrual €237,168.01
- Minimum rent €24 pw - Maximum rent €275.50 pw

Arrears at the end of May 2019 - €1,066,844.89

Casual Vacancies/Relets 61

Municipal District	No
Arklow	13
Baltinglass	21
Bray	9
Greystones	8
Wicklow	14

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. 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
11 schemes currently on site in 2019	250 Units
2 further schemes to commence on site in 2019	77 Units
9 further schemes to commence on site in 2020	<u>220 Units</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	575 Units

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 August 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 October 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.
- The purchase of 7 Part V units (Wicklow) via CALF was completed in December 2018 by Tuath AHB.
- The purchase of 3 Part V units (Rathnew) into LA Stock was completed in December 2018.
- The purchase of 8 Part V units (Greystones) via CALF was completed in December 2018 by Tuath AHB.
- 2 Units Part V agreement completed – delivery expected in Q3 2019 (Newtownmountkennedy).
- 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)
- 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 5th April, 2019.
- (Construction is ongoing on turnkey project at Vale Road, Arklow – first 5 units expected to deliver in June 2019.

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

6. PPP SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT

[Bundle 1]

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

7. APPROVED HOUSING BODIES (AHB'S)

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

- *Acquisition by AHB of 73 turnkey units via CALF in Rathnew due Q3 2019.*

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

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



8. HOUSING SCHEMES REMEDIATION

Glending, Blessington – Remediation

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

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

Phase 4 - to commence by end Q.2 2019

Hillview, Wicklow - Remediation

Works substantially complete, with some outstanding ceiling works ongoing.

9. HOME IMPROVEMENT/ADAPTATION

Mobility Aid Grants/Housing Adaption Grants/
Housing Aid for Older People

› Grant funding for private houses - €1,266,829.00

› Grant funding for social house - € 650,000.00

58 Open Applications to value of €1,004,000.00

– (full value of grant available, this figure will reduce once approved)

Housing Assistance for

Older People (15) € 104,000.00

Mobility Aid Grants (10) € 60,000.00

Housing Adaptation Grants (33) € 840,000.00

Approved

18 Mobility Aid Grants € 87,900.00

9 Housing Adaption Grants € 115,766.98

13 Housing Aid for Older People € 83,460.78

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme

- 75 received up to 31/05/2019
- 9 approvals.
- 9 declined
- 5 to be assessed.

2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

- 21 applications to 31/05/2019
- 1 sales completed
- 2 declined in April.

10.ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

Period 01/04/2019 to 31/05/2019

No. of Presentations	64
No. of Repeat Presentations	4
No. of Households (Families)	31
No. of Adults (Individuals)	36
No. of Children	61
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord	

Selling	19
Family Circumstances	14
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	0
Sofa Surfing	9
Rough Sleeping	6

Temporary Emergency Accommodation 31/05/2019

Own Door

12 families (18 adults and 30 children)

3 single adults

B & B Accommodation

Families – 8 (16 Adults, 14 Children)

7 single adults.

Homeless HAP

The 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, 74 (56 families & 18 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 31st May 2019.

49 homeless cases and 25 prevention cases of which 9 families were residing in emergency accommodation and 4 families in women's refuge accommodation have been assisted by Homeless HAP to date. 30 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)

The deadline for Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership for mid-year returns (covering Jan 1st – May 31st 2019 period) was 17th June.

In advance of July LCDC meeting the SICAP Sub-group will review and evaluate the content of the Mid-Year Reports and will meet with both Partnerships. A recommendation will be brought to July LCDC meeting in relation to the approval of Mid-Year Reports.

To date this year the local development companies in Wicklow have supported and worked with 479 disadvantaged individuals and 31 local community groups which is well above target.

Wicklow County Council has applied to the Department of Rural & Community Development for SICAP Q3 funding which will total €327,334.24.

12. Public Participation Network (PPN)

Key areas of focus:

- (i) Dept. of Rural & Community Development Rural Policy 2020-2050 consultation event
- (ii) Helplink Seniors Alert Scheme and linking with local communities
- (iii) Local Environmental Networks Gathering for Wicklow, Kildare, Meath and South Dublin, Blessington, 15th June.
- (iv) Preserve Our Heritage event in collaboration with WCC Heritage Officer, National Museum of Ireland and KWETB, 20th June.
- (v) Let's Talk about Climate Change and WCC Climate Adaptation Strategy event, 24th June.

13. Wicklow Library Service

Libraries Grant Application:

A funding application has submitted to Department of Rural & Community Development to provide library supports to marginalised and disadvantaged communities. Application focuses on literacy supports, encouraging reading among children/young people, improving internet and digital skills.

My Open Library (MOL), Arklow

MOL is only in operation in Arklow library since Easter weekend – 19th April but despite less than 8 weeks of service, it is proving very popular with the public.

The initiative, which enables the public (aged 16+) to have access to Arklow library from 8AM – 10PM, 7 days per week, has been gratefully availed of by the Arklow public, particularly by students doing their Leaving Cert and Junior Cert exams.

Whereas the May bank holiday weekend had recorded visits of 30+, one month later, the recorded visits were as follows:

Date	MOL Name	Number of daily visits
Saturday 1 st June	Arklow Library	111
Sunday 2 nd June	Arklow Library	121
Monday 3 rd June	Arklow Library	142



14.County Wicklow Local Sports Partnership (LSP)

These statistics are particularly impressive in light of the fact that the library would traditionally have been closed on bank holiday weekends. Emphasis on promoting this service will switch from students to families over the coming months.

As of Monday 17 June, 198 users have become MOL members.

CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG

Cruinniú na nÓg forms part of the Creative Ireland initiative. This year's event took place, nationally, on Saturday 15 June. Events in Wicklow were spread throughout the county. Wicklow County Council Library Service hosted four events:

- Lego design workshops in Enniskerry Library,
- Storytelling with Joe Brennan in Blessington Library,
- Two performances of Whistleberry Forest in 'Under the Wishing Tree' in Arklow Library
- WAVE in Greystones Library – aimed at performances for infants less than one year old

Co-ordinated through Wicklow County Council Arts Office, the weekend events have proven to be very successful, with full capacity attendances at each of the events

MOBILE LIBRARY - UPDATE

Construction of a new mobile library for county Wicklow is continuing and is on schedule. It is anticipated that the vehicle will be completed and delivered to Wicklow County Council by late August, so a September launch is realistic. The Mobile Library service has been in place since 2004, so the new vehicle will be welcomed by the public it serves.

Basketball Blitz

Wicklow Sports Partnership organised a Mini 3v3 Tournament for West Wicklow Primary Schools on Wednesday 22nd May in Scoil Chonglais, Baltinglass. Over 70 children took part in this tournament. Jason Killeen, Basketball Ireland National Development Officer and Lorcan Murphy International Basketball Player were in attendance on the day.

Boxercise

A six week Traveller Girls Boxercise programme organised by Wicklow Sports Partnership commenced on the 11th June. This programme will run every Tuesday in Wicklow Traveller Youth Service.

CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG

Wicklow LSP was part of the line up for Wicklow's Cruinniú na nÓg on the 15th June and proudly supported three events with Leinster Rugby, Tug of War Ireland and Balance Bikes on site on the day in the stunning grounds of Russborough House and Parklands.

Training and Education

Event	Date & Location	No of attendees
Cycle Right Tutor Course	8 th June, Little Bray Community Centre	7/10
Autism in Sport Course	13 th June, Coimin Centre, Blessington	20/20
Safeguarding 1 Course	20 th June, Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs	16/17



Strategic Plan

Wicklow Sports Partnership held open public forums in Avon Rí, Blessington, on the 8th May and the Glenview Hotel on the 9th May to enable the public to have input into our new Strategy and how we roll out participation programmes, support clubs and distribute grants.

Training and Education

There are currently 29 people scheduled to sit our Safeguarding 1 Courses provided by Wicklow Sports Partnership on the 15th and 28th May in the Glenview Hotel.

15. Community Enhancement Programme

The Community Enhancement Programme 2019 has funding of €141,343. The scheme has closed and the applications are currently being assessed.

Community Enhancement Programme 2019 (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.

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



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

Works are progressing well on site, with visible changes being made on a weekly basis. Consultations continue with prospective tenants for units adjacent to the anchor tenants.

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 pleased to announce the signing of the first contracts for Leader funding with County Wicklow Partnership for a project named: Arklow, Ireland Ancient Town Project. The project is to present the heritage in the evolution of the town from its inception as a Viking camp to its current modern status of an urban town. When complete, a timeline graphic will hang permanently in the lobby of the library, with a leaflet strolling map linked to relevant features.

The CCTV project for Arklow is progressing well and it is anticipated that installation of the cameras should commence in the coming weeks.

Arklow Town Team continues to enhance and improve the image of Arklow's Main Street with the Flower Basket Scheme 2019. The Main Street is now in bloom again this summer as over one hundred and fifty baskets were purchased by

businesses in the town. The baskets will be collected at the end of September for reuse in 2020.

Blessington Town Team is working closely with Baltinglass Municipal District to prioritise actions arising from the town Health Check.

As part Under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, works have been completed on cleaning of the Downshire monument in the town square.

The inaugural Dame Ninette de Valois festival, celebrating the life of the internationally renowned ballet dancer, choreographer and poet was held in 2018. Plans are well underway for the second instalment, to be held in early September.

Bray Town Team launched its' Summer in Bray campaign for 2019. The new campaign aims to promote the many tourism products and the fantastic family fun-filled events on offer in the much-loved seaside resort this summer

Future Analytics have been appointed by Bray Town Team to carry out a Health Check for Bray which will analyse the strengths and weaknesses of Bray considering the activities in the town centre, its mix of uses, accessibility and general amenity and appearance.

Greystones 2020 have sought tenders for the awarding of the Public Realm Plan, with tenders closing on 24th June. There has been great interest in the project.

The Town Team have produced a development plan for Greystones 2020, in line with the assessment carried out as part of the Failte Ireland Destination Town Guidelines.



Following on from the launch of the new website, www.greystones.ie, Greystones 2020 report a reach of over 202,000 on social media reach since March.

Wicklow Town Team are busy putting the finishing touches to the new website.

The contract for the backlighting of Wicklow's Historical Sites will be awarded in the coming week. Following on from this, an application is being prepared for funding to develop a Heritage Trail in Wicklow.

Enterprise Town Awards

The Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards 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.

Two thriving towns, Ashford and Rathdrum, were selected for entry into this year's competition. Preliminary preparation has begun by the Steering Group while awaiting an announcement on when judging will take place.

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,

The Town Team welcome the news that Virgin Media are to provide free WiFi for Market Square.

Tenders have been received for the backlighting of Wicklow's Historical Sites and are currently being assessed.

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.



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 have produced a brief and hope to seek tenders shortly in relation to carrying out a county-wide audit of the tourism accommodation.

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 must be submitted by 17th July 2019.

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 has been planned. Any groups/organisations with an interest in County Wicklow's coastline have been invited to share their views on the plan. The public consultation phase will end on 12th July.

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.](#)

The Aquaculture sub-group will meet in the coming weeks to organise the feasibility study and build on the success of attendance at the Native Oyster Restoration Alliance (NORA) conference held in Edinburgh during May.

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.



2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives
<p>To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a First Stop Shop for business information and referral

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2018	2019	2019
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 24/€476,558.50 - 14/€26,219.06	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	14/€291,566.62 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	22
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	355
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	2(as at 31/5/19)



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*	307
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	446	430	181

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	16

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



MAY 2019 Activities

On Wednesday 29th May the Final of the National Enterprise Awards (NEAs), which are organised by Local Enterprise Offices nationwide took place at the Mansion House Dublin. LEO Wicklow's nomination was Profitsflow, owned and run by Tadhg Henderson. In attendance were: Tadhg and Louise Henderson, Tom Murphy (WCC), Vibeke Delahunt (LEO).

JUNE 2019 Activities

On Wednesday 19th June the regional finals of the Irish Best Entrepreneur Competition will take place at the Step House Hotel in Borris.

The workshop 'Prepare your Business for Customs', developed by Enterprise Ireland and delivered by BDO Ireland, will take 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.



3. Planning and Development

Forward Planning

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

At the EMRA meeting on the 3rd May 2019 the Members of the Regional Assembly agreed to make the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region in accordance with section 24 (9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Members also agreed that the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region shall come 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.

Now that the RSES has been made, this process will commence.

Vacant Site Levy - April

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.
- 01 Notice of Intent issued
- June – Demand for €81,000 for site at Castle Street Bray (former Heiton Buckley site) issued following appeal to the Valuation Tribunal.

Heritage

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP): 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.

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 137 applications were received during May, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	No. Received
Individual Houses	45
Housing Developments	9
Agricultural Structures	7
Commercial	3
Other Developments	73
Total	137

Decisions issued in respect of 92 applications in May, being:

Type of Development	No. of Decisions
Housing Developments	5
Individual Houses	20
Other Developments	67
Other Developments Requiring EIA	0
Total	92

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

	31/05/2018	31/05/2019
Total Number of decisions issued	387	422
Total Number of decisions to grant	317	354
grant rate	82%	83%

No. of Applications withdrawn

May 15

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



Planning Enforcement

Details of activity during May:

- New files were opened 14
- Advisory Letters issued 24
- Warning letters issued 24
- Enforcement Notices served 4
- File was referred for legal action 3
- Files have been closed 14

Derelict Sites Activity May:

- No. of sites on Register 6
- No. of Inspections 3
- No. of sites removed 1

Court Cases

- Circuit Court Cases 6 of which
- *Substituted Service application* 1
- *Order granted on Consent* 1
- *Attachment & Committal – adjourned* 1
- *Struck Out – one with Order for costs* 2
- *Undertaking given to Court – stands adjourned* 1



4. Environmental Services

WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTION – MAY 2019

May 2019	
No. of Complaints Opened	220
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	292
No of Litter Fines Issued	51
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	2
No. of Warning Letters Issued	9
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	15
No. of Burning Applications Granted	12
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	6
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	15
No. of Cases in Court under Waste Management Act	2
Income - Litter	€4,237.50
Income- Waste Management	€2,344.05

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 are due to commence on site on 1st July.
- Website is up and running and regular updates will be made to keep the Public and Members informed of progress.

PORTS AND HARBOURS

A public consultation day regarding the Strategic Review of the Maritime for County Wicklow was held on 10th June there are plans to hold a second public consultation evening in the near future .

Wicklow Port & Harbour

During May 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.



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

The recruitment process for Lifeguards for the 2019 bathing season took place in May. Following pool tests held in Coral Leisure, Wicklow, and interviews a total of 23 lifeguards were appointed. 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.

Pollution Control

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants - Ambient Monitoring

- 36 River samples were taken and analysed upstream and downstream of discharges of public wastewater treatment plants involving 396 individual analyses were monitored on behalf of Irish Water.

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 4 Water pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 2 Air Pollution complaints were received.

Private Water Supplies

- 18 Private water supplies were sampled and deemed compliant with microbiological parameters
- 2 Private water supplies were inspected.
- 7 letters issued to private water suppliers check and test their private water supplies.
- 2 boil water notices were lifted from 2 private water supplies after remedial

action and verification sampling were taken.

Solvents

- 2 inspections of vehicle refinisher installations were carried out.
- 2 compliance certificates were issued in respect of vehicle refinisher installations.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2019

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

Well Grants

Number of Inspections carried out in respect of water grant applications 7



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).
- 11 pre-season samples were taken from 6 Identified (designated) bathing waters and 5 non-designated bathing water for analysis.
- All bathing water results indicated excellent quality.

Pollution team member participated in field trip event with LA Water Programme Team, Coillte and Forestry Service in Ow Catchment in the context of learning about protective measures

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

Well Grants

- Number of Applications 23
- Number of New Wells 6
- Number of New Pumps 20
- Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) 11

The Department has stated that it is hoped that the new Regulations would hopefully 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.

applicable to priority areas where forestry is a pressure, such as the Avonmore and Liffey Catchments.

Pollution team member attended meeting of National Blue Dot Programme Steering Committee and field trip event with Blue Dot LA Water Programme Team, Irish Water, Forestry Service and Coillte in the Owenriff River Catchment in Oughterard, Co.Galway in the context of learning about the measures required to protect and restore the high status pristine water in the state.

Pollution team member attended EPA National Water Conference in Galway.

Pollution team member attended EPA National Septic Tank Inspection Workshop in Portlaoisie.



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 will collect their Green Flags that will be awarded on the 22nd of May at the Helix Theatre. One school was selected as a finalist for a global citizenship award.

Students from The College of New Jersey will visit Bray recycling centre on the 25th of May with CIEE based in DCU who are a US abroad study

provider. The students are visiting under the annual Sustainability Europe Ireland and Portugal Programme. They are here to see best practice in sustainable waste management.

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 screening has been completed by the

Environmental Consultant. Awaiting AA screening report.

The Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was presented to the members of Wicklow County Council on 29th April and is presently in a period of Public Consultation which ends on 5th July 2019.

The document has been placed on display on www.wicklow.ie, in County Building, at the municipal district offices and in the libraries of Blessington, Arklow, Greystones and Ballywaltrim, Bray. It has also been circulated via the PPN. It was advertised in local press and on social media. Two public presentations are being given in June.



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 successfully bid. They will commence work shortly.

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.



5. Transportation & Roads Infrastructure Public Lighting

	30 April 2019	7 May 2019	13 May 2019	20 May 2019	28 May 2019	4 June 2019
Access Issues (Attended)	11	10	12	14	16	18
Cable Fault (Attend)	9	10	13	15	15	15
ESB Required (Attended)	10	10	10	10	12	12
Knock Down (Attended)	6	6	6	6	6	6
Materials required	12	12	12	13	13	12
No Supply	15	16	17	19	22	22
On Hold	4	4	4	4	4	4
Submitted	263	294	283	230	190	199
Traffic Management Required	23	23	25	33	26	21
TOTAL	353	385	383	344	304	309

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	TOTAL
Access Issues (Attended)	3	3	4		8	18
Cable Fault (Attend)	3		2	3	7	15
ESB Required(Attended)	1		4	5	2	12
Knock Down (Attended)	1		2		3	6
Materials required			5	1	6	12
No Supply	5	3	1	5	8	22
On Hold		4				4
Submitted	51	30	41	25	52	199
Traffic Management Required	2	1	8	5	5	21
Grand Total	66	41	68	44	91	309



Parking Income by Municipal District May 2019	EURO
Income Florence Road Carpark Bray MD	€26,737
Income Herbert Road Carpark Bray MD	€109,163
Income North Beach Car Park - Strand Road Bray MD	€17,117
Income Restricted Parking Bray MD	€313,828
Income Parking Fines Bray MD	€79,512
Income Residential/Special Parking Discs Bray MD	€29,725
Bray Municipal District	€576,081
Income Greystones Pay Parking Scheme	€187,979
Greystones Municipal District	€187,979
Income Parking Charges Wicklow MD	€129,691
Income Residential Parking Disk Wicklow MD	€2,500
Income Traffic Fines Wicklow MD	€10,486
Wicklow Municipal District	€142,677
Income Parking Traffic Fines Arklow MD	€8,300
Income Pay Parking Fees And Permits Arklow MD	€99,182
Arklow Municipal District	€107,482
Wicklow County Council	€1,014,219

Transportation Statistics (General)

	April 2019	May 2019
Solicitors Queries	66	81
Road Closure Applications	3	12
Road Opening Licences	137	147
Abnormal Load Applications	<i>1 single permit 1 quarterly permit 1 half yearly permit 1 annual permit</i>	<i>4 abnormal load permits 3 single journey permits 1 half yearly permit</i>



N11 Kilmacanoge Parallel Service Road

The tender for the main construction works has been published and the deadline for receipt of tenders is July 5th.

€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 at the beginning of July, and the Site Supervision contract will also be awarded in July. The works on site are expected to commence in August. €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 for works Surfacing works will commence along the N81 during July, beginning with at Mullycagh to Ballylion, other site include, pavement works North of Blessington to the Dublin Border will commence 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.

6. Emergency Services

Fire Service

Fire Service content for Chief Executive's Report

Operational Fire Statistics

	TOTAL	<i>Bray</i>	<i>Greystones</i>	<i>Wicklow</i>	<i>Rathdrum</i>	<i>Arklow</i>	<i>Blessington</i>	<i>Dunlavin</i>	<i>Baltinglass</i>	<i>Carnew</i>	<i>Tinahely</i>
<i>Callsign</i>		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
<i>Fire Domestic Persons Reported</i>	2							1	1		
<i>Fire Domestic</i>	7	1	1	2		2	1				
<i>Fire Caravan</i>	4	1	1	1	1						
<i>Road Traffic Collision (RTC)</i>	18	1	2	4	2	4	1	2	1		1
<i>Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)</i>	4			1	1					1	1
<i>Fire Industrial / Commercial</i>	4	2	2								
Single Station Mobilised											
<i>Fire Alarm or CO₂ Activation</i>	13	4	5	2		1	1				
<i>Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes</i>	47	5	8	21	3	5	2		1	1	1
<i>Fire Chimney</i>	2		2								
<i>Fire Small / bin / skip</i>	12	1	3	4		1	1			2	
<i>Fire Vehicle</i>	10	4	3			1	2				
<i>Fire Shed</i>	4	1		1	2						
<i>Ambulance Assist</i>	7	3	1	2	1						
<i>Lock In / Lock Out</i>	1	1									
Mobilised into other County	1							1			
Times Stations mobilised	136	24	28	38	10	14	8	4	3	4	3

There were **117 incidents** attended during the month of May 2019. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incidents, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **136 occasions**.

The month was characterised by gorse fires which accounted for 35% of overall activity. One area alone close to the Lighthouse on Wicklow Head accounted for 14 incidents or 10% of the overall activity in the County in the month. Other statistics are:- Road Traffic Collisions (13%), small outdoor fires (9%), vehicle fires (7%) assisting the ambulance service (5%), alarm activations (10%).

Call numbers are the same as the previous month (134 mobilisations) but significantly increased on the equivalent month in 2018 (102 mobilisations) due mainly to an increased number of gorse fires in 2019 (circa 10) and increased Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) (circa 10).



Sample Incidents (May 2019)

- 01/05/19 Crews from Arklow and Wicklow town attended an RTC on the M11 north where a car had overturned and a female occupant had to be rescued. 4 ambulances were at the scene to treat all of the casualties.
- 21/05/19 Crews from Baltinglass and Dunlavin attended an apartment fire in the early hours of the morning. The fire was contained to a hot press and extinguished. Occupant treated for smoke inhalation.
- 22/05/19 Crews from Arklow and Tinahely attended an RTC at Killahurler where a single car had left the road and overturned in a ditch trapping both occupants.
- 24/05/19 Crews from Greystones and Bray attended an RTC at Barry's Bridge Kilpeddar where a single car had overturned.
- 31/05/19 Crews from Blessington and Dunlavin attended an RTC near Manor Kilbride between a car and a motorbike.

Incidents mobilised outside County Wicklow

Kildare (1-incident)

- 21/05/19 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to a small outdoor fire at Halverstown on the old N9.

Incidents where crews from neighbouring counties were mobilised to assist in County Wicklow

- 06/05/19 Naas Fire Crew supported Blessington in responding to reports of a Domestic House Fire at The Close, Blessington Abbey. It was a car on fire near other cars and a house.

General

- The Fire Service Twitter Account has achieved over 1,000 followers in under a year.
- The Chief Fire Officers Association annual conference was held in Monaghan.
- A 2-week Initial Breathing Apparatus Course took place in Bray with 6 Wicklow students. There were instructors and students from a number of other counties (Tipperary, Offaly, Meath).
- A series of meetings and practical exercises took place with the Air Corps in Baldonnel in advance of a major exercise scheduled for Lough Dan on 13th June.
- A Major Emergency Management Committee meeting took place on 16th May.
- Intensive preparations took place for the recruit course scheduled to take place on 10th June.
- A Tower Crane Rescue exercise took place at the Vartry on 25th May.
- A pre incident planning visit took place to Newcastle Airfield.

Fire Prevention Statistics May 2019

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	8		2		10
Regularisation Certificates	5		7	2	1
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice	1		1		2
Disability Access Certificates	7		3		15

Licensing	Received, acknowledged	Inspected	Requested further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District	0	5	0	4	0
Circuit	1	0	0	0	0

General - Reviewed event management plans for:-

- Kaleidoscope Festival, Russborough House, Blessington - Friday 28th June – 30th June 2019.
- Bray Air Show - Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th July 2019

Building Control

May 2019 - Commencement Notices

- 42 Commencement Notices of which:
- 11 were Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 8 were Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 2 Seven day Notice
- 21 Opt Out Declarations
- 50 % of commencements notices are opt out.
- 48 % inspection rate on all notices
- 18 new build units
- 13 of which are one off houses

Completion Certificates

- 13 completion certificates validated (59 housing units)
- Wicklow County Council are not notified of the completion of opt out houses

Non compliance issues (on going)

- 9 pre validation of commencement notices
- 5 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 May 2019:

- Executive Technician
- Executive Quantity Surveyor
- Retained Fire Fighters
- Administrative Officer – Shortlisting process over 3 days
- Acting G.5 (Leader Project)
- Archivist
- Leakage Locator

Employee Numbers

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

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

(Excludes figures for Fire-fighters)

2. Access to information

No. of FOI Requests

<i>May 2019</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>May 2018</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Jan to May 2019</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>Jan to May 2018</i>	<i>42</i>

No. of Ombudsman Requests

<i>May 2019</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>May 2018</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Jan to May 2019</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Jan to May 2018</i>	<i>6</i>

3. Press Releases

May 2019 – 6 Press Releases



4. Register of Electors

The Franchise Team are now in the process of preparing our team of fieldworkers to begin their house to house checks, ensuring that all qualified persons are included in the Draft Register which is published each year on 1st November and to also remove the names of persons who are deceased or who have moved away should be removed.

We are also in the process of recruiting 8 new fieldworkers for the following areas:

- Arklow Town
- Wicklow Town
- Rathnew
- Ashford
- Newcastle & Surrounding areas
- Kilcoole
- Greystones
- Bray

It's anticipated that after interviews scheduled for July 12th we will have the new fieldworkers appointed, trained and out on the road beginning their house to house checks.

5. Local Elections 2019

Following our Local Elections on 24th May, Wicklow County Council would like to welcome the following new and re-elected members:

Arklow Municipal District

Cllr. Miriam Murphy
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cllr. Peir Leonard
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Tommy Annesley

Greystones Municipal District

Cllr. Derek Mitchell
Cllr. Gerry Walsh
Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore
Cllr. Lourda Scott
Cllr. Mags Crean
Cllr. Tom Fortune

Baltinglass Municipal District

Cllr. Avril Cronin
Cllr. Edward Timmons
Cllr. Gerry O'Neill
Cllr. John Mullen
Cllr. Patsy Glennon
Cllr. Vincent Blake

Wicklow Municipal District

Cllr. Gail Dunne
Cllr. Irene Winters
Cllr. John Snell
Cllr. Mary Kavanagh
Cllr. Paul O'Brien
Cllr. Shay Cullen

Bray Municipal District

Cllr. Anne Ferris
Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy
Cllr. Dermot O'Brien
Cllr. Grace McManus
Cllr. Joe Behan
Cllr. Melanie Corrigan
Cllr. Rory O'Connor
Cllr. Steven Matthews



The Annual General Meeting of Wicklow County Council took place on Friday 7th June, 2019 with Councillor Irene Winters elected as the Cathaoirleach and Councillor Pat Kennedy elected as the Leas-Chathaoirleach.

An induction day was held on Monday 24th June, for the newly elected members where a presentation was carried out by the Chief Executive and the Directors/Heads of function of each department followed by a bus tour which saw some of the current projects being carried out by Wicklow County Council including the Florentine Centre, in Bray and social housing schemes in Kilbride Lane, Bray and Farrenkelly, Greystones, public realm projects in Glenealy etc.

1. I.C.T. Report

IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk System has continued to function as the test area for customer care and case management systems. This is an open source platform and handles in excess of 8,000 cases per annum. 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.
- The “Asset Management Module” of the ticketing system was deployed in 2018 to allow performance monitoring across the network and preparation of a strategic deployment model for ICT Infrastructure. This allowed preparation of an upgrade schedule for the PC estate and review of software licensing requirements. The 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 for Housing, Environmental Services & Representational Systems were used for preparation and development of customer care unit proofs of concept. The initial deployment of Office 365 is in place and a “Sandbox” has been created on Wicklow’s Cloud Tenancy.
- This platform was used for development and testing purposes and forms the basis for the 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.

Unified Communications

- The 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 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 to during the summer months ensure readiness of call handling systems during roll of the customer care unit.

Core Network

- Procurement of core and edge network hardware refresh is complete and LAN upgrade was complete during 2018. A fully updated core network is now in place.
- Network traffic analysis and load balancing has informed plans for update of virtual infrastructure and change from copper to fibre for connections to core network. This work is on-going. 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.

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.
- Parallel projects in Housing, Roads and Environmental Services departments are on-going and integration to CRM and GIS systems are being developed. A project to update and edit Wicklow's Storm Water Network more effectively is underway and includes off site data collection.
- All Revenue Collectors Handhelds have been upgraded to Tablets to allow more efficient data transfers to the financial management system while on-site data collections systems have been consolidated and applied to Housing Condition Surveys, Health & Safety Audits, CCTV surveys etc.

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.

eServices

In line with Social Media Strategy & Content Plan, significant growth has been reached across Wicklow County Council's social media platforms since December 2018. 58% increase in followers on Facebook, 9% increase in followers on Twitter and 176% increase in followers on Instagram. Regular posting of a wide range of content and news is taking place and a 6 week social media campaign on Household Waste Awareness is currently active.

Wicklow Welcomes All – Help to plan your council visit

Wicklow County Council has produced a series of familiarisation videos to help members of the public with accessibility arrangements for County Buildings and the five Municipal District Offices. The focus of these videos is to assist people with learning difficulties, Autism, physical disabilities, and/or anxiety concerns in different elements encountered when visiting Council offices. The videos are available on the Council's website at: <http://www.wicklow.ie/living/AccessVideos>

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.



Financial Accounts

1. Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MAY 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	8,089,815	19,892,855	41	(7,355,934)	(24,370,271)	30	733,881
B - Road Transport & Safety	6,816,522	20,449,070	33	(3,856,730)	(13,354,096)	29	2,959,792
C - Water Services	2,156,656	5,818,773	37	(1,696,807)	(6,759,744)	25	459,849
D - Development Management	3,515,609	9,868,577	36	(2,573,912)	(5,501,133)	47	941,697
E - Environmental Services	3,934,244	10,987,633	36	(580,500)	(1,971,500)	29	3,353,744
F - Recreation and Amenity	2,686,119	6,990,426	38	(432,648)	(894,778)	48	2,253,471
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	569,404	1,541,865	37	(280,374)	(812,728)	34	289,030
H - Miscellaneous Services	2,156,431	11,098,626	19	(2,381,805)	(8,257,821)	29	(225,374)
J - Central Management Charges	6,310,401	16,052,449	39	(444,509)	(1,005,217)	44	5,865,892
LG - Local Government Fund				(4,991,713)	(11,983,425)	42	(4,991,713)
PL - Pension Levy				-			-
RA - Commercial Rates				(11,641,484)	(27,939,561)	42	(11,641,484)
	36,235,201	102,700,274	35	36,236,416	102,850,274	35	(1,215)

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 May 2019 to 31st May 2019.

3. Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st MAY 2019					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2019	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers To/From Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/05/2019
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	23,666,606	10,526,438	(11,879,766)	63,634	22,376,912
Road Transport & Safety	(39,057,744)	1,169,172	(4,261,658)	(140,000)	(42,290,230)
Water Services	(10,100,125)	168,639	(560,320)	0	(10,491,806)
Development Management	(9,430,657)	79,665	(232,703)	(69,280)	(9,652,975)
Environmental Services	322,578	1,494,377	(1,424,683)	(121,875)	270,397
Recreation and Amenity	(237,760)	507,678	(1,275,030)	(53,750)	(1,058,862)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(929,822)	124,148	0	(76,250)	(881,924)
Miscellaneous Services	(14,953,999)	1,452,012	(537,051)	206,536	(13,832,502)
	(50,720,923)	15,522,129	(20,171,211)	(190,985)	(55,560,990)



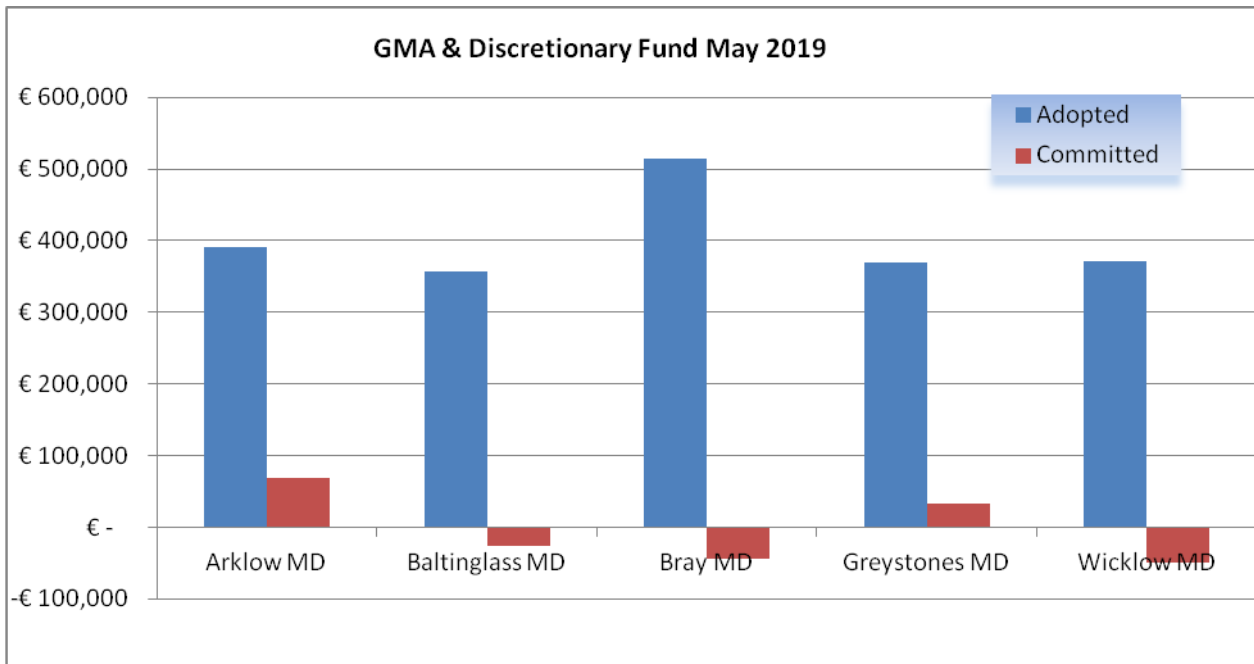
4. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

MAY									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2019	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/03/2019	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates *	6,804,584	27,928,030			34,732,614	10,339,995	24,392,619		30%
Rents & Annuities	1,470,372	5,700,348		(2,242)	7,172,962	5,639,604	1,533,358		79%
Housing Loans *	399,710	621,353			1,021,063	622,269	398,794		61%

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	170,870	322,230
Baltinglass MD	269,230	356,750	243,471	382,509
Bray MD	168,672	514,500	124,970	558,202
Greystones MD	-6,637	368,750	26,083	336,030
Wicklow MD	188,759	370,750	138,895	420,614
Total	721,374	2,002,500	704,289	2,019,585

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