

MARCH 2019



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



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This Month:

- **Contract signed with Visiconnex Ltd. to supply and install CCTV system for Arklow Town on 22nd March**

- **Healthy Wicklow Strategy 2018 – 2021 launched by Cllr. Pat Vance, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council and Cllr. Gráinne McLoughlin, Chairperson of LCDC**

- **County Finals of Student Enterprise Park took place on 12th March**
Overall Winners in each category were as follows:
 - *Senior Category – Shane Brown and Robert Davey from Coláiste Bhríde with their project **The Chop***
 - *Intermediate Category – Ross Byrne from C.B.S. Arkow with his enterprise **The Wood Whisperer***
 - *Junior Category – Holly Eager from Coláiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole with her enterprise **Handmade by Holly***

- **Greystones.ie – dedicated website promoting attractions of Greystones officially launched on 26th March by Chief Executive, Frank Curran**

- **Memorandum of understanding between Wicklow County Council and the PPN has been reviewed and signed for 2019**



HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT

No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP)	4113
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	424
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	1063
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.)	25
Approved Housing Bodies (excluding Bray M. D.)	1

3. SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

4336 tenancies occupied @ 23/02/2019

- Total weekly rental accrual €236,018.63
- >Minimum rent €24 pw - Maximum rent €275 .50 pw

Arrears at 28th February 2019 - €1,149,595.23

Casual Vacancies/Relets 60

Municipal District	No
Arklow	12
Baltinglass	13
Bray	12
Greystones	6
Wicklow	17

4. HOUSING SUPPLY – PROGRAMME OF DELIVERY

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

Construction of the 42 No. social housing units at Kilbride Lane in Bray is progressing well. The boundary treatment works have been completed with the exception of some finishing works to the tops of the walls. Foundations for 10 out of the 12 block units have been poured and blockwork is progressing for the rising walls of the blocks with foundations. Installation of DPM, Radon Barrier and tanking have also commenced. The contractor is hoping to have all the sub-floors completed by mid-April. Through the



ER, Wicklow County Council have been pursuing the contractor to ensure the roads bordering the site are maintained in a clean condition. A gateman is now permanently employed by the contractor to restrict access to the site and monitor road conditions.

Social Housing Supply Programme

3 schemes completed in 2018	28 Units
9 schemes currently on site in 2019	152 Units
3 further schemes to commence on site in 2019	124 Units
1 PPP Bundle 1 scheme to commence March 2019	<u>51 Units</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	355 Units

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



5. PART V

2019

- 2 units (Rathdrum) - Department approval received. Contracts and replies to legal queries awaited from Developer expected to close Q1/Q2 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 Q1 2019 (Newtownmountkennedy).
- 16 units (Ashford) negotiations completed. Department approval received – delivery of 9 units expected Q.2 2019 via CALF.
- 4 units (Kilcoole) Agreement reached delivery expected early Q2 2019 via CALF. 2 further units expected delivery Q4 2019.
- 1 unit (Kilcoole) Agreement reached delivery expected early Q2 2019.

Potential units

Negotiations ongoing with a number of developers at preplanning and planning stage. There are over 100 Part V units with planning permission but it's difficult to determine whether they will all proceed or even on what timescale.

Turnkey

- 3 turnkey units purchase completed and have been allocated (2 in Tinahely, 1 in Arklow)
- 1 turnkey unit (Tinahely) closed December 2018 and allocated.
- Remaining 2 units (Tinahely) under construction and will complete by Q2 2019.
- Construction is ongoing on turnkey project at Vale Road, Arklow.
- Negotiations are ongoing with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units

6. PPP SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT

[Bundle 1)

Development Site at Convent Lands, Wicklow for 51 Social Housing units. The Department of Housing has dedicated €300 million towards delivery of housing through the public, private partnership model in the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan. Wicklow has been included as a project in Bundle 1. The Part 8 was passed by the members at the Council Meeting of 3rd July 2017. The project is expected to commence on site in March 2019.

7. APPROVED HOUSING BODIES (AHB'S)

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

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

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

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

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
- 36 Open Applications to value of € 322,000.00

Housing Assistance for

Older People (16)	€ 97,725.56
Mobility Aid Grants (18)	€ 52,800.00
Housing Adaptation Grants (14)	€ 240,000.00

Approved

› 7 Mobility Aid Grants	€ 34,800.00
›0 Housing Adaption Grants	€ 0
›5 Housing Aid for Older People	€ 33,725.56

House Purchase Loans – Rebuilding Ireland

- 27 received up to 28/02/2019
- 5 approvals.
- 5 declined
- 10 awaiting further information.
- 7 awaiting a reply from Housing Agency.

2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

- 7 applications to 28/02/2019
- 1 sales completed

10. ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

Period 01/02/2019 to 28/02/2019

No. of Presentations	48
No. of Repeat Presentations	5
No. of Households (Families)	24
No. of Adults (Individuals)	23
No. of Children	39
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord	
Selling	24
Family Circumstances	13
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	1
Sofa Surfing	8
Rough Sleeping	3
Squatting	0

Temporary Emergency Accommodation 28/02/2019

12 families (18 adults and 32 children)
4 single adults

Homeless HAP

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

The Homeless HAP Placefinder will provide assistance in:

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

To date, 36 (31 families & 5 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council. This includes 31 families and 5 singles from the inception on the 1st October 2018 to 28th February 2019.

Of these 13 properties were sourced by WCC. 6 families were residing in Emergency Accommodation, 3 families in women's refuge accommodation, 16 homeless cases and 11 prevention cases.

Sonass Facility, Wicklow - Transition to Family Homeless Hub.

Following the advice that Sonass was withdrawing services from Wicklow, the operation of the facility was tendered out to Approved Housing Bodies to operate and manage the facility as a Family Homeless Hub. The successful tenderer was Dublin Simon Community, who will be in a position to commence operations and management of the facility from early 2019.

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



Other Temporary Supported Accommodation

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

Housing First

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

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

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

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

Cold Weather Initiative

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

11. SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (SICAP)

Submission has been made to national report on the roll-out of SICAP 2018 currently being compiled by Pobal. This report is due to be released and circulated later in the year.

Monitoring European Social Funds (ESF) allocated to the county through SICAP is a new upcoming responsibility for the local authority – related training to be provided by Department of Education.

Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership have received SICAP funding up to end March. Drawdown request for Q3 funding has been made to Department of Rural and Community Development.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN):

The Service Level Agreement between Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Travellers Group to employ the two PPN staff, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding between the local authority and the PPN have been reviewed and signed for 2019.

The PPN is busy implementing Workplan 2019 and making renewed efforts to increase membership. An audit is also being carried out to ensure that only those groups still in operation are registered.

The Department of Rural and Community Development is currently undertaking a review of the PPN User Guide. Submissions can be made online by individuals or groups and a number of regional consultation events are taking place between now and the deadline of 30th April. Wicklow was in attendance at Dublin consultation event on 12th March. All details are up on the Wicklow PPN facebook page.

Department have recently issued an online survey template to each local authority/PPN in relation to the national PPN Annual Report 2018 – template to be completed by both the local authority and PPN Resource Worker by 30th March. Findings and full report will be released later in the year.



12. WICKLOW LIBRARY SERVICE

'WAY WITH WORDS' FESTIVAL

Wicklow County Council's "Way With Words" Festival returns for its second season from 4th to 13th April. It will be celebrated in Arklow and Blessington Libraries. It will feature a full programme of author visits and literary discussions from well known authors such as John Banville, Marian Carr and Ross Collins, to name but a few. In addition, there will be a "Fighting Words" workshop, where teenage students will feed their own ideas into the creation of a short story. Presenter, Dr. Ciara Kelly will be in conversation with Arnold Fanning, and Martin King will be in conversation with Éanna Ní Lamhna.

The festival is part of Wicklow County Council's "Creative Ireland" programme.

'MY OPEN LIBRARY' ARKLOW

The new Arklow library has been chosen to be Wicklow county Council's pilot for the 'My Open Library' project. It will be one of 23 such libraries, nationwide. Testing of mechanical and electrical works has now concluded. Self-print facilities will be installed the first week in April. The process will now begin of signing people up for this new service. A security company will be appointed in the coming weeks. The new service will commence week beginning Monday 15th April. This will ensure that access is available for students over the long Easter weekend and every day leading up to the public exams.

13. WICKLOW COUNTY ARCHIVES

'COOLATTIN LIVES'

The website launch of Coolattin Lives took place at Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow on 21st March. This new online facility contains the tenant records for the Earl of Fitzwilliam's estates in County Wicklow between 1841 and 1868. This period includes the Great Famine and the years of assisted migration that the Fitzwilliam estate put in place to encourage tenants to move to Canada, so it captures a moment of great change in the population – locally and nationally. Wicklow County Archives Service partnered in this project and the archives' digitised resources of Grand Jury and Workhouse records are also available on the Coolattin Lives site.

In Coolattin Lives thousands of tenant records have been transcribed, digitised and mapped allowing descendants of these tenants – in Ireland, Canada and around the world – to trace their ancestors, find the district where they lived, and make their way back to the family home place. The Courthouse Arts Centre would like to thank their sponsors in this project: Wicklow County Tourism; Lord Haskins of Yorkshire Foods PLC; Sir Naylor-Leyland, Fitzwilliam Estate; Neil McHugh of Green Isle Foods; School of History & Humanities TCD.

14. COUNTY WICKLOW ARTS OFFICE

'WAY WITH WORDS' FESTIVAL

Wicklow County Council's "Way With Words" Festival as detailed under Wicklow Library Service is part of Wicklow County Council's "Creative Ireland" programme. It is curated by Jenny Sherwin Arts Officer in partnership with Executive Librarians Claire Fullam and Margaret Birchall. The capacity is 2,500 people over the two week period. It is supported by Creative Ireland.

CREATIVE IRELAND – CREATIVE WICKLOW

Creative Wicklow is an initiative of Wicklow County Council within the national Creative Ireland programme from which it receives financial and other support. Creative Ireland www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en is a culture-based programme designed to promote individual, community and national wellbeing.

The Creative Ireland programme is guided by a vision that every person in Ireland will have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential. The vision is pursued through five pillars. The first two pillars have special relevance for Wicklow's Culture and Creativity Strategy and for this plan in particular:

Pillar 1 : Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child

Pillar 2 : Enabling Creativity in Every Community

The vision for Creative Wicklow's programme is to embed creativity into the heart of communities across the county. The



aim is to increase the capacity and confidence of all, to bring creativity and innovation to their lives, and so to enrich the social, economic and cultural life of County Wicklow.

Creative Wicklow is designed and organised to forge links and collaborations between the arts, film, heritage, libraries and archives, in both non-professional and professional spheres.

PUBLIC ART

The two Public Art Projects for Bray Municipal District at Coláiste Raithín and Flood Defence Scheme are nearing completion. Artist Ruth E Lyons met with students of Coláiste Raithín and facilitated workshops with them as part of her commission process. The two site specific installations will undergo final planning in March and will be sited at Easter. A claim is to be lodged as part of the final account for a number of Housing Schemes at present. This will be included as part of a new commissioning round, once our new policy for Public Art is in place through the new Arts Strategy.

ARTS STRATEGY

The new Arts Strategy document is in process and will have a draft available in June. The consultation process will include a number of internal meetings and focused external meetings and response mechanisms included in the design. The Strategy will run from 2019 to 2025.

CREATIVE IRELAND WICKLOW SINGS

The 'Sing in Wicklow' Project for Creative Ireland will have the first completed website draft delivered by the end of March 2019. A series of supports for Wicklow Sings in April is being provided as well to the committee undertaking this festival with 400 choral participants. We are also facilitating workshops as a partnership during this event.

FUNDING ASSESSMENT

The Arts Office Arts Festival, Arts Groups and Individual Artist Scheme applications were assessed by two panels in March 2019. The results are now publically available for all schemes. €7,500 was awarded under the Festivals Scheme, €5,000 for Arts Groups & Organisations and €19,000.00 for Individual Artists. Demand far exceeded the available funds.

The Creative Ireland Grant Scheme closing date was 1st March. A panel will be convened shortly to

assess this funding. The estimated total available for distribution is €15,000.00.

15. COUNTY WICKLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (LSP)

HEALTHY WICKLOW STRATEGY

A very successful evening was had as *The Healthy Wicklow Strategy 2018 – 2021* was launched on Monday 4th March 2019 in County Buildings, Wicklow by Cllr. Pat Vance Cathaoirleach Wicklow County Council and Cllr. Gráinne McLoughlin, Chairperson of the Local Community Development Committee. Launching the plan Cllr Gráinne McLoughlin said "this plan provides the framework for the delivery of a suite of actions that will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the residents of the county".

20X20 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership has signed up for the 20X20 campaign in conjunction with The Federation of Irish Sport. This campaign is to increase participation of Women in all Sports and media coverage by 20% by 2020.

International Women's Day was on Friday 8th March 2019 and Wicklow LSP targeted three Secondary schools which include Dominican College Wicklow, Loreto Bray and Scoil Chonglais Baltinglass on the day where Boxercise classes will be rolled out. Combined with the Fun Fit Family day approximately 1600 teenagers and children took part in physical activity organised through the sports partnership.

ENJOY TENNIS

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership is facilitating a 6-week Enjoy Tennis Programme for children with additional needs. This Programme took place in Newcastle Tennis Courts on 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March 2019 from 3pm – 4pm.

FUN-FIT-FAMILY DAY

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership supported a free Fun-Fit-Family Day on Friday 8th March 2019 from 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. in the RDA Hall, Rathdrum. There were free cookery demonstrations, health information and guided walks which encourages an enjoyable and fun insight into physical exercise and healthy eating that all the family can get involved in.

MARCH 2019



PHYSIO INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES

Start Date	Programme	Location
5 th March 2019	<i>Back Care Exercise Class</i>	<i>Crossbridge Hall, Tinahely</i>
5 th March 2019	<i>PD Warrior early Parkinson's Disease Exercise Class</i>	<i>Coral Leisure Centre, Wicklow</i>
22 nd March 2019	<i>PD Warrior early Parkinson's Disease Exercise Class</i>	<i>Arús Lorcain, Arklow</i>
26 th March 2019	<i>Bone Health Exercise Class</i>	<i>Newtownmoun ntkenndy</i>

All of the above classes are running for a 10-week period – free of charge.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1. WICKLOW ECONOMIC THINK TANK

(CWETT) ACTION PLAN/LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) (ECONOMIC)

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

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

RETAIL

Bray Town Centre

Progress continues to be made on the construction of Bray Town Centre, with the steel structure beginning in March. Momentum on leasing of the new units is increasing with extensive media coverage over the last month.

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 celebrated International Women's Day with a lunch on the 8th March attended by over 100 ladies. The guest speakers included Valerie Cox, Journalist, Deirdre Burns, County Wicklow Heritage Officer and Alice Keenan from St. Mary's College, Arklow. A raffle was held on the day with prizes sponsored by 25 local businesses. The proceeds will be presented to C.E.A.R.T women's group at the next Town Team Meeting.

Following a procurement process Visiconnex Ltd has been awarded the contract for the supply and installation of the Community based CCTV system for Arklow Town. Contracts were signed on Friday

22nd March and work is expected to commence in the coming weeks.

A number of landmarks in Arklow (Courthouse and Nineteen Arches Bridge) were turned green for St. Patrick's Day.

Arklow Town Team now in their third year will hold their first AGM in early April.

Blessington Town Team participated in the assessment of the proposed Greenway. It was agreed that the day went very well and an announcement on funding is anticipated in May 2019.

Work continues on the preparation of an application for funding for CCTV, which is being led by Blessington Town Team.

Bray Town Team continues to liaise with Magnet Networks to progress a free WiFi project for the town centre area.

Bray Town Team have devised a pilot wayfinding project for tourist accommodation providers and it is hoped that new signage will be put in place by the end of March.

Greystones 2020

Greystones.ie, a new dedicated website promoting all the attractions of Greystones will be officially launched on Tuesday, 26th March 2019 by Chief Executive, Frank Curran. It is the latest initiative from Greystones 2020 working in partnership with the Council on projects for the benefit of Greystones.

Discussions are ongoing between the team and the harbour developers to progress an art work feature in the harbour area.

In conjunction with Greystones Tidy Towns, Greystones 2020 are progressing the tender for the Public Realm Plan.

Wicklow Town Team are currently working with Cainteoiri Chill Mhantain & Comhaltas Ceoltoiri preparing a programme of events for Feile Chill Mhantain.

MARCH 2019



The Tender Documents for the lighting of the historical sites are being finalised and will be advertised on tenders by the end of March.

The Town Team are finalising the details for their new website Wicklowtown.ie

A table quiz organised by Wicklow Lions Club in aid of Wicklow Town Team took place in February.

URDF Funding

Wicklow applied for funding for nine projects under the Urban Regional Development Fund. The following three projects were awarded funding in the first round; Arklow Historic Town Core €1,645,000, Wicklow Library/ Fitzwilliam Square €1,626,000, Bray Public Transport Bridge €3,450,000. Each of these projects has planning approval and will start as early as possible in 2019.

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

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

TOURISM

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

The strategy sets out a number of challenging but achievable priorities along with a series of detailed actions to be implemented over the next 5 years

The Key Priorities are:

1. Develop New Accommodation
2. Develop Key Towns as Visitor Hubs
3. Develop a Masterplan for Glendalough
4. Grow Thematic Experiences
5. Market our County by Developing A Common Narrative

A Tourism Implementation Group is being established to oversee these actions and drive all sectors towards helping Wicklow achieve the target of **€200m in tourism revenue by 2023.**

Key stakeholders including industry experts, representatives of local businesses and Town Teams, along with staff and elected representatives, were designated to the following Tourism Implementation groups:

- Accommodation
- Towns as Visitor Hubs
- Thematic Experiences & Marketing
- Glendalough

Each group will host a series of meetings throughout the year with a view to implementing the recommendations contained in the Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan.

Both the Accommodation Working Group and the Thematic Experiences & Marketing Group met during March and set out their proposed work programme for the coming months. Failte Ireland has been developing new guidelines for enhancing towns as visitor hubs. The Towns as Visitor Hubs Group will await the publication of these guidelines before proceeding.

Glendalough

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

MARITIME

National Marine Planning Framework

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

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

Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow

The intent of the strategic review is to provide non-statutory guidance for uses and activities within the marine area and to assist Wicklow County Council and other statutory agencies with their policy formulation process as well as providing Wicklow



County Council with a clear picture of its maritime area so that it is in a position to respond and provide input to higher level policy, where necessary. The Strategic Review will identify ways the economic base of County Wicklow could be strengthened through its ports and harbours and formulate recommendation for Wicklow County Council.

Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions have been awarded the contract to prepare the Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow.

Maritime Business Development Group

The MBDG continues to meet on a regular basis. In January, an Aquaculture working group was established to work with industry experts and

investigate the proposal to restore natural oyster reefs off the coast of County Wicklow.

An application for funding for a feasibility study on regeneration of the oyster banks was submitted to BIM in February under the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) Programme 2016 – 2023. An initial assessment has been carried out and further information which was sought has been submitted.

2. LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a First Stop Shop for business information and referral 			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2018	2019	2019
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 24/€476,558.50 - 14/€26,219.06	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	6/€139,674.12
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2018	2019	2019
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	52	52	22
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	72	70	13



Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	876	850	109
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	1

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

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2017/2018	2018/2019	Year to Date
No. of Senior Cycle 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	13

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

MARCH 2019



March 2019 Activities

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

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

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

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

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

3. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

FORWARD PLANNING

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

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

The Director's Report on submissions received was issued to the members of the Regional Assembly on 14 February 2019. The members were invited to consider this report, the amendments recommended by the Director

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

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

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

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

and to submit any additional amendments if desired by 25 February 2019.

Vacant Site Levy

Assessment of regeneration sites throughout the County is ongoing

- 1 no. valuation has been appealed to the Valuations Tribunal – hearing scheduled for scheduled for April 2019
- 31 no. sites now stand on the Register.
- 07 no. sites are currently on appeal to ABP.
- 1 Notice of Intent (Section 7(1))



HERITAGE

Heritage Ireland 2030 – National Heritage Plan public consultation process announced by Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Two consultation workshops were hosted by the Heritage officer in January. The public consultation period has been extended to 31st March. Emails to Heritageireland2030@chg.gov.ie

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structures Fund (HSF): The council has assessed and shortlisted applications from owners of protected structures for grant funding under both schemes and has submitted recommendations from Wicklow to the DCHG. The allocation for County Wicklow under the BHIS is €60,000, while the HSF is a competitive process with €1.8m made available nationally. The council is due to receive notification about approved allocations by the end of March.

Our Wicklow Women: A publication based on the Our Wicklow Women exhibition has been produced as an action of the Heritage Plan and was officially launched on 8th March at an International Women's Day event organised by the Arklow Town Team. The exhibition is currently on display in Arklow Library and will travel to other public libraries throughout the year.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A total of 126 applications were received during February, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	30
Housing Developments	4
Agricultural Structures	5
Commercial	7
Other Developments	80
Total	126

Decisions issued in respect of 89 applications in February, being:

Type of Development	Number of
---------------------	-----------

	Decisions
Housing Developments	0
Individual Houses	21
Other Developments	67
Other Developments Requiring EIA	1
Total	89

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

	28/02/2018	28/02/2019
Total Number of decisions issued	157	176
Total Number of decisions to grant	127	148
% grant rate	81%	84%

No. of Applications withdrawn

February 6

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

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Details of activity during February:

- 10 New files were opened
- 31 Advisory letters issued
- 11 Warning Letters issued
- 02 Enforcement Notices served
- 03 File was referred for legal action
- 15 Files have been closed

Court Cases

- 4 Cases before Circuit Court of which
- 3 Court Orders & Costs
- 1 Case adjourned

Derelict Sites Activity February:

- No. of sites on Register 8
- No. of Inspections 2
- No. of Notices issued 0

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTION – FEBRUARY 2019

	February
<i>No. of Complaints Opened</i>	160
<i>No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed</i>	355
<i>No of Litter Fines Issued</i>	27
<i>No. of Waste Management Files Opened</i>	5
<i>No. of Warning Letters Issued</i>	1
<i>No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued</i>	9
<i>No. of Burning Applications Granted</i>	17
<i>No. of Temporary Signs Granted</i>	1
<i>No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act</i>	7
<i>No. Of Cases in Court under Waste Management Act</i>	1
Income - Litter Fines	€ 3,250.00
Income- Waste Management	€300.00

DOG LICENCES

Control of Dogs Act 1986-2010.

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

WHITESTOWN REMEDIATION PROJECT

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

- Appointment of Site Investigation contractor week commencing 25th March.
- Website is up and running and regular updates will be made to keep the Public and Members informed of progress.

PORTS AND HARBOURS

The request for tenders (RFT) for the provision of a Maritime Strategic Review closed on the 08th February 2019. There were four tenders received by the closing date. Tenders were assessed in accordance with terms and conditions of the RFT and procurement policy and the contract was awarded to the successful tenderer on 28/02/2019. The contract has been awarded to Gavin & Doherty Geosultions Limited.

A debt management process, which commenced in November 2018, is on going with six cases referred to the Law Department for the instigation of legal proceedings.

Four applications for grant aid / funding were submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2019 in February. It is anticipated that that we will be notified of successful projects by late March / early April 2019.



Wicklow Port & Harbour

There were 7 ships in total berthed in Wicklow for month of February; of the 7 ships, 6 had a single transaction i.e. either an import or an export of cargo while 1 had two transactions i.e. an import and an export of cargo from the same ship. The exports consisted of pulp and scrap metal while the imports consisted of logs and timber.

One marine notice was issued during February.

The installation of a new automated security gate and the commissioning of CCTV equipment at the North Quay, Wicklow which commenced in January were completed during February.

A contract for the provision of security drills and exercises in accordance with the Wicklow Port Security Plan was awarded during February 2019

The redundant weighbridge on the North Quay was removed by the owner during February. It is anticipated that the Wicklow County Council direct labour crew will commence infill and repairs works at the site during April 2019.

The Wicklow County Council Direct Labour Crew continued with surface repairs at the Packet Pier, Wicklow during February. It is expected that this phase of repairs should be complete by the end of March.

Arklow Harbour

The removal of two sunken wrecks from the Fish Dock, Arklow Harbour was completed during February. Since the start of the year a total of six wrecks have been removed from the Arklow. This follows the issue of notifications to the owners of the vessels regarding the unseaworthy / wrecked condition of the vessels and concludes this phase of removals.

Bray Harbour

Following an engineering inspection of Bray Harbour in January 2019 the Wicklow County Council Direct labour Crew commenced repair works in the harbour area during February including repairs to the pier surface and reinstatement of coping stones, repairs to handrails, installation of bollards etc.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Section 4 Licensed Discharges to Waters (Surface & Ground)

- 2 S4 licensed discharges to waters involving 17 individual analyses were monitored were sampled by licensee and 16 letters issued recognised good or requiring improved performance of wastewater treatment plants.

Section 16 Licensed Discharges to Sewers)

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

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants - Ambient Monitoring

- 42 River samples were taken and analysed upstream and downstream of discharges of public wastewater treatment plants involving 317 individual analyses were monitored on behalf of Irish Water.

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 3 Water pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 1 Oil pollution complaint ongoing.
- 2 Air Pollution complaints were received.

Private Water Supplies

- 11 Private water supplies were sampled.
- 1 Private water supply was inspected.
- 5 Replies were received from water suppliers to provide updated information on status, treatment and access for private water supplies register.

Solvents

- 12 inspections of vehicle refinisher installations were carried out.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2019

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



Well Grants

- Number of Applications 20
- Number of New Wells 5
- Number of New Pumps 15
- Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) 12

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme.

- 5 Lakes were monitored involving 14 samples were taken for analysis for the purposes of WFD/River Management Plan.
- 38 Rivers were monitored involving 66 samples for analysis for the purposes of the WFD/River Management Plan.

Liaised with EPA and LA Water Programme Team on desk studies for Sllaney and Avonbeg/Avonmore Priority Catchments.

Undertook agricultural inspections to protect groundwater in Kiltegan and to protect Greese in Dunlavin.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

8 environmental reports on referred planning applications were completed

CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

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

Climate adaptation involves taking steps to adjust our operational systems and planning processes in response to existing and anticipated Climate Change. The completed strategy will allow us to mainstream adaptation over time into the plans and policies of Wicklow County Council. It will provide a

strategy to ensure corporate activities are climate proofed

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

ARKLOW FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

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

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

Following a detailed scheme options assessment process, the series of measures that will make up the emerging preferred flood relief scheme for the Avoca River, Arklow have now been identified. A number of questions have arisen regarding the affect of the flood defences on the hydrology of the Arklow Marsh and a study of the water levels in the marsh is now being carried out. A second study, which is also ongoing, is a Hydro-geomorphology Study being carried out by Gavin Doherty Geosolutions. Following the confirmation of the preferred flood relief scheme an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared and submitted to An Bord Pleanala.

The Office of Public Works has approved the appointment of an Executive Engineer for a period of three years to progress the scheme.



5. TRANSPORTATION & ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

PUBLIC LIGHTING

	28 January 2019	6 February 2019	11 February 2019	18 February 2019
	13	14	14	13
Access Issues (Attended)	8	8	8	8
Cable Fault (Attend)	8	8	8	8
ESB Required (Attended)	5	6	7	7
Knock Down (Attended)	15	14	14	14
Materials required	10	10	10	10
No Supply	4	4	4	4
On Hold	247	237	282	305
Submitted	24	30	30	30
Traffic Management Required	334	331	377	399

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	1	3	1	1	5	11
Cable Fault (Attend)	1		2	2	4	9
ESB Required(Attended)	1		2	4	2	9
Knock Down (Attended)	1		2		3	6
Materials required	1	1	4	2	5	13
No Supply	5	3	1	5	1	15
On Hold		4				4
Submitted	38	46	26	22	68	200
Traffic Management Required	5	1	10	4	6	26
Grand Total	53	58	48	40	94	293

Parking Income by Municipal District January 2019	EURO
Income Florence Road Carpark Bray MD	8,488
Income Herbert Road Carpark Bray MD	38,285
Income North Beach Car Park - Strand Road Bray MD	5,655
Income Restricted Parking Bray MD	116,459
Income Parking Fines Bray MD	34,682
Income Residential/Special Parking Discs Bray MD	19,995
Bray Municipal District	223,565

MARCH 2019



Income Greystones Pay Parking Scheme	70,895
Greystones Municipal District	70,895
Income Parking Charges Wicklow MD	41,942
Income Residential Parking Disk Wicklow MD	345
Income Traffic Fines Wicklow MD	4,829
Wicklow Municipal District	47,116
Income Parking Traffic Fines Arklow MD	4,198
Income Pay Parking Fees And Permits Arklow MD	37,988
Arklow Municipal District	42,186
Wicklow County Council	383,763

NATIONAL PRIMARY AND NATIONAL SECONDARY

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

The main allocations are as follows:

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

Community Involvement Scheme €257,890
Applications are invited for the Community Involvement Scheme; the closing date is the 6th March 2019.

WINTER MAINTENANCE

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

Transportation Statistics (General) February 2019)

	January 2019	February 2019
Solicitors Queries	51	63
Road Closure Applications	7	1
Road Opening Licences	153	144
Abnormal Load Applications	1 single journey permit & 1 quarterly permit	3

MARCH 2019



WICKLOW TO GREYSTONES GREENWAY

A Community Workshop was held regarding the Wicklow to Greystones Coastal Route in the Druids Glen Hotel, Wicklow Thursday 28th February 2019.

The development of this Coastal route was proposed by the Wicklow Town Team and Wicklow County Council agreed to undertake a feasibility study to determine whether a greenway, a coastal route or trail is feasible, given the existence of the Murrough SPA, coastal erosion and proximity to the railway line. Consultants have been appointed to undertake this and it is intended that the report will be completed by the end of April 2019.

The purpose of the community workshop was to seek the views, opinions and feedback of the local community on the greenway / coastal route from a local perspective. Over 80 people attended the event with the emphasis been on recording the issues both positive and negative raised from the local community.

DELGANY VILLAGE ACCESSIBILITY SCHEME

Following consideration of the Chief Executives report the members of the Greystones Municipal District at a meeting 18th February 2019 agreed to the proposed scheme.

AECOM were engaged by Wicklow County Council to undertake a review of Delgany Village to assess the existing conditions for road users and to prepare design proposals arising from the review. The study area is located along the R762 (known locally as Glen Road / Church Road), which is the main route into Delgany off the N11 dual carriageway. It runs from the Bellevue Hill junction through the Village to the Killincarrig Roundabout to the east of the Village.

The aim of the project is to provide safe and attractive infrastructure to encourage greater use of sustainable travel modes for trips to work, education, and for recreation. The objectives of the proposed Scheme are:

- To improve facilities and quality of service for cyclists and pedestrians; and
- To maintain an appropriate level of provision for other road users.

BRAY TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE

Following consideration of the Chief Executives report the members of the Bray Municipal District at a meeting 5th March 2019 agreed to the proposed scheme.

The scheme proposes to regenerate the existing Forecourt at Bray DART Station to create a transport interchange that strikes a balance between fulfilling the key functions of a transport interchange and providing a landmark civic space with a clear identity contributing to the local place function. The extent of the scheme consists of the general forecourt area in front of the Bray Dart Station and sections of Quinsborough Road, Eglinton Road and Florence Road.

The scheme intends to facilitate interchange between the key modes of walking, cycling, taxi, bus and railway, whilst providing a high quality public realm that complements the heritage of the station building. In general this will consist of works to footpaths, including the construction and realignments of kerb and channel line, and provision of high quality paving setts and landscape features.

SEAFRONT PAVILION, STRAND ROAD, BRAY

Following consideration of the Chief Executives report the members of the Bray Municipal District at a meeting 5th February 2019 agreed to the proposed scheme.

The scheme proposes to create a high-quality public plaza on Strand Road in front of the Sea Life Centre that will create a hub of activity on the waterfront.

The aim of the scheme is to deliver a public space that will:

- give people the opportunity to sit and relax;
- allow people to move about easily and comfortably between Sea Life Centre and the other cafes and businesses on both sides of Strand Road plaza;
- provide a coherent connection between the footpaths and cycle tracks on either side of the Sea Life Centre; and
- allow potential space for outdoor café/restaurant seating and hosting public events.



The scheme will include:

- widened pedestrian areas using new paving materials;
- a segregated cycle track linking to the existing cycle route on both sides of the scheme;
- new seating,

- trees and planters;
- and new public lighting.

The road carriageway will be raised and reduced in width to control vehicle speeds and shorten crossing distances for pedestrians.

7. EMERGENCY SERVICES

FIRE SERVICE

Operational Fire Statistics February 2019

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baitinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Callsign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	2			1	1						
Fire Domestic	15	3	3	3	1	2	1			1	1
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	16	3	4	3	4	2					
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	5	1	1	1		2					
Fire Industrial / Commercial	6			3		3					
Single Station Mobilised											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	7	4	2						1		
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	33	9	3	4	2		7	6	1		1
Fire Chimney	12	4	1		1	3	1	1		1	
Fire Small / bin / skip	4	1	2					1			
Fire Vehicle	6	2		1	1	1				1	
Fire Shed	1			1							
Flooding	1	1									
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1		1								
Ambulance Assist	3	1	1			1					
Garda Assist	1					1					
Electrical Incident	1					1					
Gas Leak	1					1					
Rescue from Lift	0										
Rescue from Water/Flooding	0										
Entrapment / Rescue	0										
Hazardous Materials	0										
Malicious False Alarm	1	1									
Mobilised into other County	10						3	5	2		
Times Stations mobilised	126	30	18	17	10	17	12	13	4	3	2

There were **100 incidents** attended during the month of February 2019. Due to laid procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incidents, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on at total of **126 occasions**. On 1 occasion during the month an Incident Commander requested additional resources above what has been predetermined for the incident type due to the spate of gorse fires in the Blessington area.

MARCH 2019



The month was characterised by gorse fires which accounted for 26% of overall activity. Domestic fires (12%), Road Traffic Collisions (12%), Chimney fires (10%).

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

Sample Incidents

- 28/02/19 Blessington and Dunlavin attended a serious RTC in Kildare to support Naas Fire Station.
- 25/02/19 Blessington and Dunlavin attended an overturned truck at the Castlewarden exit on the M7.
- 13/02/19 Baltinglass attended an overturned car with Carlow Fire Service in Kildare.
- 11/02/19 Arklow and Rathdrum attended a multiple vehicle RTC on the Vale Road.

Incidents mobilised outside County Wicklow

Kildare (7-incidents)

- 13/02/19 Baltinglass Fire Crew were mobilised with Carlow Town to an RTC in Castledermot, County Kildare.
- 14/02/19 Baltinglass Fire Crew were mobilised with Carlow Town to an RTC at Knocknacree Cross Roads, County Kildare. 3 patients including 4 month old, 1 person trapped.
- 22/02/19 Blessington and Dunlavin Fire Crews mobilised to an RTC towards Naas in Co. Kildare.
- 24/02/19 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to an Ambulance Assist at Lipstown, Narraghmore.
- 25/02/19 Blessington and Dunlavin Fire Crews mobilised to an RTC at Kiltel in Co. Kildare.
- 26/02/19 Dunlavin Fire Crew mobilised to an outdoor fire at Gormanstown Church in Co. Kildare.
- 28/02/19 Blessington and Dunlavin Fire Crews mobilised to assist at an RTC at Perrystreet Cross Roads, Ballymore Eustance in Co. Kildare.

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

Wexford (1-incident)

- 05/02/19 Gorey Fire Crew were mobilised to support Arklow at a jeep on fire with horse box attached with 2 horses on the M11.
-

Dublin / Kildare (2-incident)

- 19/02/19 Naas supported Blessington at a domestic fire at Burgage Manor in Blessington.
- 26/02/19 Tallaght, Naas and Newbridge supported Blessington, Dunlavin and Baltinglass at gorse fires around the Blessington lakes.

General

- Wicklow Fire Service ran a 2-week Breathing Apparatus Course in Bray.
- Wicklow County Fire Service was nominated for a Local Authority Award.
- A 1-day Station Officers meeting was held on 15th February.

Fire Prevention Statistics February 2019

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

Licensing	Received, acknowledged	Inspected	Requested further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District	3	1		1	
Circuit		1		1	

BUILDING CONTROL

Commencement Notices – January 2019

28 Commencement Notices

Of which:

- 9 failed validation (3 x revised information, 1 incomplete, 5 invalid)
- 19 Validated
- 8 with compliance documents (50% multi unit developments and 25% non residential, 25% Private Residential Works)
- 6 valid commencement notices without compliance documents
- 4 opt out declarations
- 1 seven day notice

Total new build units 89 units, 5 of which are one off houses

Inspection rate 15% on all notices

Certificates of Compliance on Completion – February 2019

- 11 CCC (Certificate of Compliance on Completion) validated
- 30 residential units
- BCA not notified on completion of opt out houses

Non Compliance Issues (on-going)

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



Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. RECRUITMENT

Competitions for the following posts were held in March 2019:

General Operatives

Employee Numbers

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

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

(Excludes figures for Firefighters)

2. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

No. of FOI REQUESTS

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

No. of OMBUDSMAN REQUESTS

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

4. PRESS RELEASES

February 2019 – 6 Press Releases

5. REGISTER OF ELECTORS

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

6. I.C.T. REPORT

IT HELPDESK

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

CUSTOMER RELATIONS MANAGEMENT (CRM)

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



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

MANAGED PRINT SERVICE (MPS)

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

UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS

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

CORE NETWORK

- Procurement of core and edge network hardware refresh is complete and Phase 1 of LAN upgrade was implemented in Q1 2018. Extension to other sites including Bray MD, Fire HQ, Library HQ, Clermont was completed during Q2 2018.
- A fully updated core network is now in place.
- Network traffic analysis and load balancing has informed update of virtual infrastructure and change from copper to fibre for connections to core network. This work is on-going.

- *Business case for connection to government networks and government cloud networks is underway and will be advanced during Q1 2019.*

DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

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



1. REVENUE ACCOUNT

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

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

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 February 2019 to 28th February 2019.

3. CAPITAL ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2019					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2019	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers To/From Reserves	Closing Balance at 28/02/2019
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	23,362,413	1,976,316	(2,198,083)	465,634	23,606,280
Road Transport & Safety	(37,632,340)	381,554	(681,615)	0	(37,932,401)
Water Services	(10,100,125)	4,866	(62,281)	0	(10,157,540)
Development Management	(9,465,542)	18,225	(2,874)	5,720	(9,444,471)
Environmental Services	322,578	357,820	(453,541)	0	226,857
Recreation and Amenity	(288,617)	307,541	(166,623)	0	(147,699)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(929,822)	20,597	0	0	(909,225)
Miscellaneous Services	(13,917,259)	1,109,927	(319,862)	(465,634)	(13,592,828)
	(48,648,714)	4,176,846	(3,884,879)	5,720	(48,351,027)



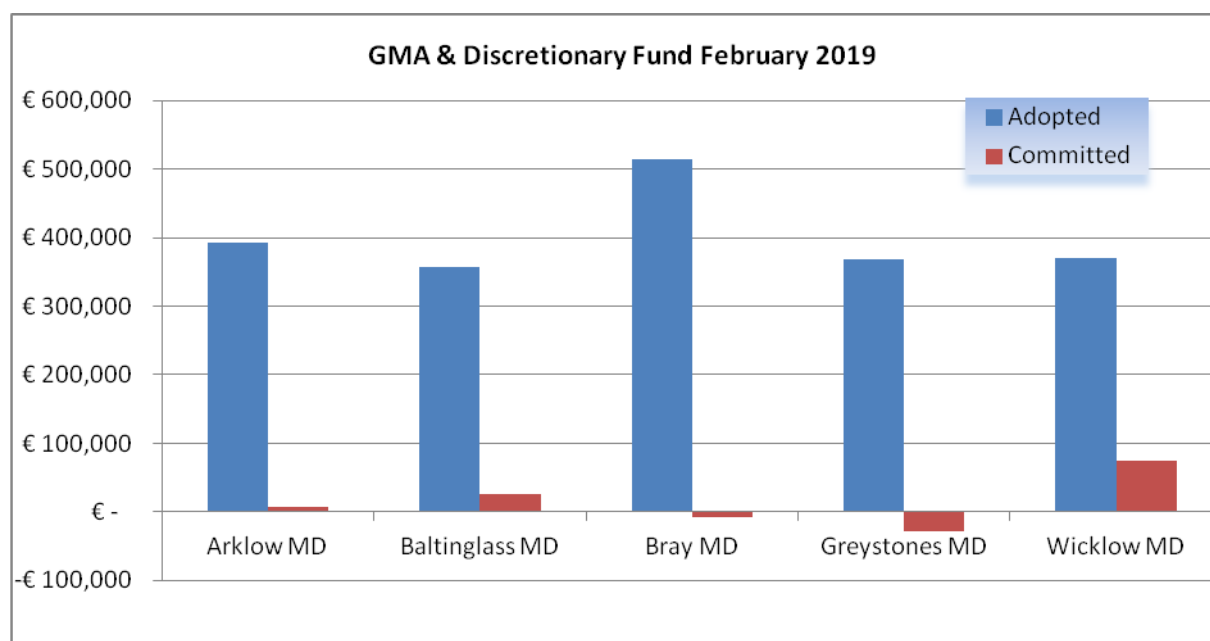
4. COMMERCIAL RATES, RENTS AND LOAN COLLECTIONS

FEBRUARY									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2019	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 28/02/2019	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates *	6,804,584	27,927,545			34,732,129	930,214	33,801,915		3%
Rents & Annuities	1,470,372	2,323,036		(1,117)	3,794,525	2,160,869	1,633,656		57%
Housing Loans *	399,710	238,501			638,211	254,041	384,170		40%

N.B. The rent/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	-	391,750	6,352	385,398
Baltinglass MD	-	356,750	25,059	331,691
Bray MD	-	514,500	7,764	522,264
Greystones MD	-	368,750	28,652	397,402
Wicklow MD	-	370,750	75,129	295,621
Total	-	2,002,500	70,124	1,932,376

N.B. Due to year-end adjustments that are currently being carried out as part of the 2018 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) process, we are not in a position to include the expenditure balances carried over from 2018. This situation will be regularised during the Quarter 1 period.



5. 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