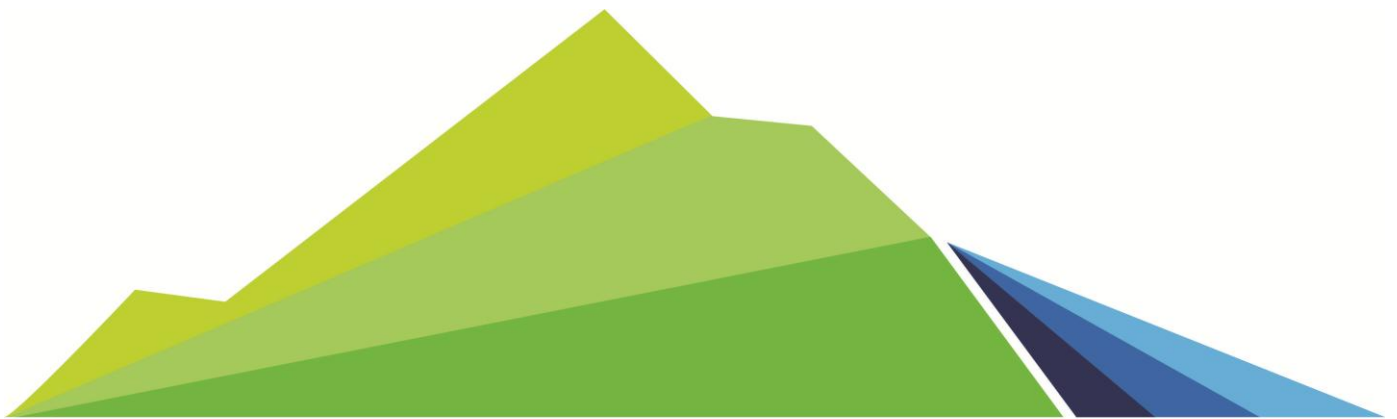




Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



Table of Contents

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY	7
1. SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT	7
2. ALLOCATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING	7
3. SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK.....	7
4. HOUSING SUPPLY – PROGRAMME OF DELIVERY	7
5. PART V	9
6. PPP SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT	9
7. APPROVED HOUSING BODIES (AHB’S)	9
8. HOUSING SCHEMES REMEDIATION	9
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
My Open Library (MOL), Arklow.....	12
14. County Wicklow Genealogy Services.....	13
Rathdrum Famine Graveyard.....	13
15. Community Awards 2019.....	13
Pride of Place 2019	13
Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2019.....	13
16. County Wicklow Local Sports Partnership (LSP)	14
Active Schools Week.....	14
Community Walking Group	14
Street Feast.....	14
Strategic Plan.....	14
Training and Education.....	14



17. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Community)	15
LCDC.....	15
LECP	15
Comhairle na nÓg	15
Older Person’s Council (OPC) – Age Friendly Initiatives.....	15
Community Enhancement Programme 2019	15
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE	16
1. Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT)	16
FILM	16
RETAIL	16
TOWN TEAMS	16
TOURISM.....	18
Glendalough	18
MARITIME	18
FOOD.....	19
2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)	20
MAY 2019 Activities	22
3. Planning and Development	23
Forward Planning.....	23
Heritage	23
Planning Applications	24
Planning Enforcement.....	24
4. Environmental Services	25
WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTION – APRIL2019.....	25
DOG LICENCES.....	25
CARAVAN PARKS.....	25
WHITESTOWN REMEDIATION PROJECT	25



PORTS AND HARBOURS	26
Pollution Control.....	26
Planning & Development.....	27
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS.....	27
Climate Adaptation Strategy	28
Arklow Flood Relief Scheme	28
5. Transportation & Roads Infrastructure	29
Public Lighting.....	29
Winter Maintenance	30
Transportation Statistics (General)	30
6. Emergency Services.....	31
Fire Service.....	31
Building Control	33
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS	34
1. Recruitment	34
2. Access to information	34
3. Press Releases	34
4. Register of Electors.....	34
Local Elections 2019	35
5. I.C.T. Report.....	35
IT Helpdesk	35
Customer Relations Management (CRM)	36
Managed Print Service (MPS)	36
Unified Communications	36
Core Network	36
Data Collection Systems.....	37
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS.....	38



- 1. *Revenue Account*38
- 2. *Cashflow/Overdraft*38
- 3. *Capital Account*39
- 4. *Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections*39
- 5. *General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2019*40
- 6. *Capital Investment Programme 2019-2021*41



This Month:

- Local Elections took place on Friday 24th May; elector turnout in Wicklow was 55%. Shoreline Greystones was the designated count centre for Wicklow

- *Wicklow County Council hosted a reception at Powerscourt House to welcome **Their Royal Highnesses, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall** to County Wicklow on Monday 20th May. Cllr Pat Vance presented a locally handcrafted Shillelagh Stick to His Royal Highness and a beautiful shawl made by Shuttleknit to Her Royal Highness.*

- Over 300 groups benefit from Wicklow County Council Community Grants, in total 319 grants were awarded: 91 in Baltinglass Municipal District; 89 in Arklow Municipal District; 65 in Wicklow Municipal District; 43 in Bray Municipal District; 31 in Greystones Municipal District

- *Connecting People and Nature in Wicklow 2019 programme was announced by the Heritage Officer Deirdre Burns, this provides opportunities for everyone to learn more about the County's Biodiversity. Among the highlights included a talk in the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh, on Wednesday 22nd May by Oran O Sullivan on wildlife to be found along the Avonmore River catchment.*



HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT

No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP)	4163
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	408
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	1191
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.)	44
Approved Housing Bodies (excluding Bray M. D.)	5

3. SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

4338 tenancies occupied @ 27/04/2019

- Total weekly rental accrual €236,831.63
- Minimum rent €24 pw - Maximum rent €275.50 pw

Arrears at 30th April 2019 - €928,693.82

Casual Vacancies/Relets 61

Municipal District	No
Arklow	14
Baltinglass	21
Bray	4
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. Work to install the DPMs and radon barriers is continuing, while work to connect the drainage branches within each unit to the main site sewers has commenced. Once the drainage is complete this will allow the erection of



scaffolding to blocks 1 & 11 (blocks adjacent to Kilbride Lane & Herberton) and the commencement of the blockwork and brickwork to the external walls. It is hoped to erect scaffolding at the end of April.

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

Social Housing Supply Programme

3 schemes completed in 2018	28 Units
10 schemes currently on site in 2019	203 Units
3 further schemes to commence on site in 2019	124 Units
9 further schemes to commence on site in 2020	220 Units
<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
PIPELINE SCHEMES	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Site Start anticipated June 2019
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 Q2 2019 (Newtownmountkennedy).
- 16 units (Ashford) negotiations completed. Department approval received – delivery of 9 units expected Q.2 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 early Q2 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.
- Construction ongoing on a turnkey project at Bollarney Woods, Wicklow.

Negotiations are ongoing with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units

6. PPP SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT

[Bundle 1)

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

7. APPROVED HOUSING BODIES (AHB'S)

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

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

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

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

8. HOUSING SCHEMES REMEDIATION

Glending, Blessington – Remediation

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

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

Phase 4 - to commence by end Q.2 2019



Hillview, Wicklow - Remediation

Works substantially complete, with some outstanding ceiling works ongoing.

9. HOME IMPROVEMENT/ADAPTATION

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

› Grant funding for private houses - €1,266,829.00
› Grant funding for social house - € 650,000.00
61 Open Applications to value of € 334,727.76

Housing Assistance for

Older People (29)	€ 123,460.78
Mobility Aid Grants (32)	€ 99,900.00
Housing Adaptation Grants (17)	€ 205,766.98

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

- 60 received up to 30/04/2019
- 9 approvals.
- 7 declined
- 16 to be assessed.

2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

- 18 applications to 30/04/2019
- 1 sales completed
- 2 declined in April.

10. ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

Period 01/04/2019 to 30/04/2019

No. of Presentations	57
No. of Repeat Presentations	6
No. of Households (Families)	30
No. of Adults (Individuals)	29
No. of Children	52
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord	
Selling	22
Family Circumstances	20
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	1
Sofa Surfing	3
Rough Sleeping	1

Temporary Emergency Accommodation 30/04/2019

Own Door

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

B & B Accommodation

Families - 10(12 Adults, 18 Children)
7 single adults.

Homeless HAP

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

The Homeless HAP Placefinder will provide assistance in:

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

To date, 57 (46 families & 11 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 30th April 2019.

39 homeless cases and 18 prevention cases of which 6 families were residing in emergency accommodation and 3 families in women's refuge accommodation have been assisted by Homeless HAP to date. 20 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)

Mid-Year Review: The mid-year cut-off point for SICAP is May 31st. In light of this, both Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership (LDCs) have to ensure that all data pertaining to the Jan 1st - May 31st period is fully entered onto the IRIS system by mid-June. An assessment process will then be undertaken by the SICAP Sub-group, including individual meetings with each of the LDCs, to discuss progress and provide feedback. A recommendation will then be brought to the July LCDC meeting in relation to the approval of the Mid-Year Reports.

SICAP Case Studies 2019: The theme of Collaboration has been selected in Wicklow for 2019. In line with national guidelines both of Wicklow's LDCs will be including a video presentation with their case study.

To date this year the local development companies in Wicklow have supported and worked with 328 disadvantaged individuals and 27 local community groups.

12. Public Participation Network (PPN)

The PPN Annual Report 2018 has been completed and submitted to Department of Rural & Community Development.

The Application process for The Big Hello Community Fund has been completed.

12 new membership applications have been processed.

"Meet the Candidate" events were held in each Municipal District in relation to the Local Elections 2019.

Connections have been made with the Asylum Reception Centre in the Grand Hotel, Wicklow Town.

Syrian Refugees Resettlement Programme

The Request for Tender document is currently being finalised.

Ongoing interagency Working Group meetings were held in April and May

13. Wicklow Library Service

My Open Library (MOL), Arklow

Following the initial pilot phase of "My Open Library" (MOL) in recent years, the facility is now being rolled out, nationally. Each local authority was invited to provide MOL at one location. Wicklow County Council chose its flagship, Arklow library, to pioneer the service. Arklow MOL was launched on Thursday 18 April, ensuring that the service would be available for use over the Easter weekend, and is now in its fourth week, to great acclaim from its users. By the end of 2019, it is planned that the service will be available at 23 libraries nationwide. These will act as a second pilot phase, with the vision of the service being further extended in 2020.

The public sign up for separate MOL membership. They are firstly given a tour of all the services and must agree to terms and conditions. Following normal staffed hours, the public leave the building, but may return, if they are MOL members. The service is available from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., 365 days per year.

Arklow Executive Librarian, Claire Fullam, says the reaction from the public is greatly appreciated, particularly by the students, who now have facilities to study until 10.00 p.m. While usage stats will continue to grow, even from Day 1 (Good Friday), there were 29 users of the service. This had grown to 69 users by Saturday 4th May, with daily figures of 60+ on the second weekend in May.

It is currently, being used predominantly by leaving cert students, but plans are to target various groups over the summer and autumn.



Particular emphasis will be placed on the opportunity to use the community room, while family visits will also be encouraged.

14. County Wicklow Genealogy Services

Rathdrum Famine Graveyard

A new Information panel for Rathdrum Famine Graveyard was launched on 2nd May. Unveiled by local historian Kevin Byrne, it is on the route of the very popular Rathdrum Jubilee Loop walk. The panel was funded by Wicklow County Council, commissioned by Councillor Pat Kennedy and the Rathdrum Playground Committee and researched by the County Archives service, based on the work of Kevin Byrne in his book "Time Did Not Stand Still, a History of St. Coleman's Hospital". The graveyard was first used around 1847, at the height of the Great Famine, and was also in use throughout the late 19th and early 20th century. The Burial Ground, like many "paupers" graveyards, was known colloquially as the 'Shankyard'. It is estimated that over 8,000 people were buried here, many of whom were children - with well over 1,000 of these burials occurring during the Great Famine.

15. Community Awards 2019

Community grants totalling over €142,000 have been allocated by Wicklow County Council to groups throughout the county. In total, 319 grants were awarded: 91 in Baltinglass Municipal District; 89 in Arklow MD; 65 in Wicklow MD; 43 in Bray MD and 31 in Greystones MD.

The grants are awarded as part of the Council's commitment to supporting local community development with funds being provided to groups and organisations undertaking community projects in their area. The Community Awards cover a wide range of activities to ensure that all forms of voluntary effort in the county are recognised. These include general community activities like

scouting associations, first responders, women's and men's groups, active retirement, and those running community centres as well as groups who focus specifically on people most at risk of being marginalised in society such as anti-racism initiatives and vulnerable young people. Sporting and recreation activities are also included.

The grants range from €200 to a maximum of €2,000 and are provided to support small projects and group running costs.

An additional €35,000 in grants was awarded to 11 groups under the Community Pride category. These range from €2,500 to €5,000 and they are awarded to groups undertaking a particular project that makes a significant difference to their community.

Pride of Place 2019

The closing date for Pride of Place nominations was 3rd May 2019. Wicklow County Council submitted two nominations - Blessington Town under population, Category five and Tinahely Resource Centre under Age Friendly Initiative, Category eight. The judging for this competition will take place during the summer.

Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2019

The Department of Rural and Community Development is seeking applications under the Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2019. The following are the funding measures available under this scheme:

M1 - Small Scale Maintenance/Promotion and Marketing with a maximum grant payable of €20,000 and a maximum number of 9 applications per local authority.

M2 - Medium Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Trail Development with a maximum grant of €200,000 and a maximum number of 4 applications per local authority.



M3 - Large Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Strategy Trail Development with a maximum grant of €500,000 and a maximum of 1 application per local authority.

The closing date for submitting applications is the 31st May 2019. Wicklow County Council will submit the maximum number of applications (14) for this year's scheme.

16. County Wicklow Local Sports Partnership (LSP)

Active Schools Week

Wicklow Sports Partnership organised an Irish Tug of War Blitz in Russborough House and Parklands on Wednesday 8th May for Wicklow Primary Schools. Over 350 children were on site for this tournament.

Five Schools are taking part in the 'One Million Step Challenge' in May as part of Active Schools Week.

Community Walking Group

Walk & Talk Tuesday is a 6 week community walking group, starting on 14th May at 6.30 p.m. outside the Grand Hotel with a focus on those in Direct Provision to get involved.

Street Feast

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership partnered up with "Street Feast" again this year and any neighbourhood hosting a Street Feast event was invited to collect a bag of play equipment provided by Wicklow Local Sports Partnership worth €50 to encourage fun and active play within their community. 74 estates registered for this year's Street Feast across County Wicklow.

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.



17. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Community)

LCDC

The LCDC Annual Report 2017 has been adopted and will be before the April meeting of Wicklow County Council.

LECP

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

Comhairle na nÓg

Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg won the “Ones to Watch” award at the recent Aldi Foróige awards for their work on cyberbullying.

Their “we need to talk about homelessness” conversation cards were launched and are being distributed around the county by Comhairle members

Older Person’s Council (OPC) – Age Friendly Initiatives

Arklow will shortly become an age friendly town. The parking is in place, the age friendly benches and customer surveys are complete and a number of the businesses have signed up to commit to being age friendly.

In conjunction with Kildare Age Friendly, we are working to create a template for age friendly primary care centres nationally with a view to Athy and Baltinglass being the first age friendly centres.

Work continues on the online survey which will form part of County Wicklow’s first digital strategy. The initial report has been produced and a successful tenderer has been chosen.

Wicklow was well represented at the National Convention of Older Person’s Councils which took place in Donegal.

The AGM of the County Wicklow Older Persons’ Council is taking place on 31st May 2019 with guest speakers including Patricia Rikkard Clarke and Deputy Andrew Doyle. The age friendly fridge magnets will be launched on the day as will the new Locallink bus route between Wicklow and Glendalough.

Community Enhancement Programme 2019

Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has advertised the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2019 with a closing date of 30th May 2019 for applications from community and voluntary groups and not-for-profit organisations for small scale capital projects that will enhance community facilities for individuals and communities that are impacted by disadvantage. These grants are funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Capital projects only that comply with the objectives of County Wicklow’s Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the development of community facilities and age friendly initiatives e.g. bus shelters will be funded under this programme

There are two parts to this funding scheme: Grants up to a maximum of €1,000 for small grassroots community projects that address disadvantage and fulfil the objectives of the LECP.

Larger grants – 1 or 2 per Municipal District area – up to a maximum of €20,000 for projects that can clearly demonstrate that they address disadvantage and fulfil the objectives of the LECP, e.g. age friendly initiatives.



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

Construction work continues on the erection of the steel structure. Work continues on finalising anchor tenants for the site. Restaurants and cinema units are reserved.

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 held a Spring Clean event as part of National Spring Clean week and welcomed over 30 volunteers, who gathered 50 bags of rubbish between Pearse's Park, Arklow and the Woodenbridge Hotel.

Work is continuing on the community based CCTV Scheme with 11 locations identified between the Main Street and North Quay areas. Connection agreements will be signed with ESB by the end of May and a programme of works will then be prepared.

Blessington Town Team continues to work on projects which received funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. Work on cleaning of the Downshire monument in the town square has commenced and will be complete by the end of May. A site for a sensory garden has been identified alongside the existing playground. Works will commence, once design work has been completed.

The application for authorisation to operate a CCTV Scheme has been submitted to An Garda Síochána and public consultation has been completed.

Bray Town Team is continuing discussions with Magnet Networks in relation to the installation of free public access WiFi for Bray. The summer in Bray campaign is at advanced stages of planning and will be launched in the coming weeks.

Greystones 2020 has applied for funding under the Community Enhancement Grant for the provision of five bus stops in the area. Marlena Murphy, who is a member of Greystones 2020 was awarded Greystones Person of the Year under the Civic section. A development plan for Greystones Town Team has been developed and work is ongoing with other Town Teams in relation to developing the various towns as Tourism Destination Towns.

Wicklow Town Team launched a very successful Féile Chill Mhantáin from the 17th to 19th May.

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



Wicklow Welcomes the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall

The strong links between Wicklow, Ireland and Great Britain were stressed by the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Vance, when welcoming Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, to the Garden County.

The Royal Couple were at Powerscourt House as part of their visit to Ireland and attended a reception in their honour hosted by Wicklow County Council. The Prince of Wales has made it clear that he intends to visit every county in Ireland and Wicklow is honoured to have been chosen for this most recent visit. Such occasions can only help to strengthen relations between Great Britain and Ireland.

The visit provided Wicklow County Council with a great opportunity to showcase Wicklow on an international stage. The Royal Couple visited Glenree, Killruddery, Kilmacurragh, Avoca and Glendalough during their time in the County.

Cllr Vance stressed the long history and links between our two countries adding: *“Like a lot of Irish and indeed Wicklow families, our relationship with our neighbours in the UK goes back a long way. As a maritime county, we have traded for centuries with our nearest neighbours. We have helped to build your cities and have fought in your army.”*

Emphasising Wicklow’s literary links and beautiful landscape, the Cathaoirleach said he hoped that during their visit to the county the Royal couple would have a chance to enjoy the scenery that so inspired Seamus Heaney and our other great writers.

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: *“It is a great honour to welcome Your Royal Highnesses and distinguished guests on this auspicious occasion. Whatever the outcome of the Brexit negotiations, we plan to continue to welcome visitors from the UK, our nearest neighbours, and to continue to offer the wonderful experience and friendly welcome that has been enjoyed by so many.”*

Wicklow County Council and County Wicklow will benefit from the fantastic media coverage that follows the Royal visitors.

Mr Curran stated: *“I am very pleased to note that this is not your first visit to Wicklow and I certainly hope that it won’t be your last.”*



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. Nominations are currently being considered and entries will be made by early June.

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.

Glendalough

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

MARITIME

National Marine Planning Framework

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

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

Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow

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



through its ports and harbours and formulate recommendation for Wicklow County Council.

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

Maritime Business Development Group

The MBDG continues to meet on a regular basis. In January, an Aquaculture working group was established to work with industry experts and investigate the proposal to restore natural oyster reefs off the coast of County Wicklow.

An application for funding for a feasibility study on regeneration of the oyster banks was submitted to BIM in February under the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) Programme 2016 – 2023. An announcement on funding allocations is expected in the coming weeks.

Wicklow County Council in conjunction with members of the MBDG have produced documents to promote Wicklow and the proposed Oyster Reef Restoration project. These were presented at the Native Oyster Restoration Alliance (NORA) conference held in Edinburgh during May.

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 allocation of €20,000 has been made to this project, confirmation of which was received in May.*

Wicklow County Council in conjunction with members of the MBDG have produced documents to promote Wicklow and the proposed Oyster Reef Restoration project. These were presented 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	13
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	876	850	256
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	2



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*	259
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	446	430	152

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

The Third Start Your Own Business course started on Thursday 2nd May with 15 participants booked on. This course will run for ten weeks.

On Friday 3rd May the Student Enterprise Programme National Awards Competition took place in Croke Park, Dublin with Students from Wicklow represented in all 3 categories, Junior, Intermediate and Senior. All three groups had an excellent display of products on show on the day.

On Wednesday 8th May the customer validation workshop: from Idea to Business was delivered by Patricia O'Sullivan with 12 participants.

On Wednesday 8th May the second Start Your Own Business Course for 2019 concluded after ten weeks. Participants received certificates and an inspirational book.

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

On Thursday 16 May, a new workshop called: The exhibition Masterclass: Making the most of exhibiting at a trade fair was piloted with trainer Stephan Murtagh with 11 participants booked on.

During the month of May, the winners and runners up of the Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Competition met with LEO staff to specify the activity to which they wished to allocate their share of the investment prize fund of €50,000.

On Thursday 23rd May the third Trading Online Seminar will be delivered by guest speaker Noel Davidson of the Entrepreneurs Academy, as well as a member of the LEO team. So far 33 clients have booked on.

Also on Thursday 23rd May, Wicklow LEO are sponsoring four Wicklow based food producers to exhibit at the 'Meet the Buyer on the Street' IQFA event at IT Limerick. LEO staff will be in attendance.

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

The last IT course of the Spring Summer programme, Social Media for Beginners will take place at the campus. The course is already booked out with 12 participants.



3. Planning and Development

Forward Planning

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

The proposed material amendments to the draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy were published on 15th March 2019 and submissions invited until 12th April 2019. On 29th April 2019, the Director of the EMRA issued his report on submissions to the proposed material amendments to the members of the Regional Assembly. The discussion of the report and the adoption of the final Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy are scheduled for 03 May 2019.

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.
- 08 no. demands for payments have been issued, with a total of €219,000 due.
- 05 no. appeals against payment have been lodged with ABP.

Payments received to date total €9,000 (VS/NTMK/11)

- The valuation appealed to the Valuations Tribunal was settled in April on the day of the scheduled hearing.

Heritage

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP): The Heritage Office launched a Biodiversity Awareness programme; 'Connecting People + Nature in Wicklow 2019' which includes a range of free events including monthly weekend themed outings at East Coast Nature Reserve.

As a follow up to an initial survey of swifts in County Wicklow last year, the Heritage Office is working with Birdwatch Ireland on a County Swift Survey during Summer 2019 to establish a baseline population figure for this threatened species. Two community workshops were held in Bray and Baltinglass Courthouse on 9th & 10th May.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heritage Ireland 2030: Public consultation period for preparation of the National Heritage Plan is now completed. Public feedback event organised by Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht for 28th May.



Planning Applications

A total of 120 applications were received during April, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	No. Received
<i>Individual Houses</i>	20
<i>Housing Developments</i>	8
<i>Agricultural Structures</i>	3
<i>Commercial</i>	7
<i>Other Developments</i>	82
Total	120

Decisions issued in respect of 73 applications in April, being:

Type of Development	No. of Decisions
<i>Housing Developments</i>	3
<i>Individual Houses</i>	17
<i>Other Developments</i>	53
<i>Other Developments Requiring EIA</i>	0
Total	73

Planning Enforcement

Details of activity during April:

- New files were opened 17
- Advisory Letters issued 27
- Warning letters issued 6
- Enforcement Notices served 0
- File was referred for legal action 1
- Files have been closed 16

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

	30/04/2018	30/04/2019
<i>Total Number of decisions issued</i>	315	330
<i>Total Number of decisions to grant</i>	256	277
<i>grant rate</i>	81%	84%

No. of Applications withdrawn

April 8

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

Court Cases

- District Court – 1 Case adjourned to December.

Derelict Sites Activity April:

- No. of sites on Register 6
- No. of Inspections 2
- No. of sites removed 2



4. Environmental Services

WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTION – APRIL 2019

April 2019	
No. of Complaints Opened	265
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	138
No of Litter Fines Issued	43
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	3
No. of Warning Letters Issued	6
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	20
No. of Burning Applications Granted	12
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	6
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	2
No. of Cases in Court under Waste Management Act	2
Income - Litter	€5,040.00
Income- Waste Management	€3,100.00

DOG LICENCES

Control of Dogs Act 1986-2010.

192 dogs were licenced in County Wicklow in April 2019. The same amount of dogs were licenced in April 2018. The Dog Wardens are going to be doing on blitz on Wicklow Town, Rathnew and Ashford in the coming weeks as there are a large number of dogs unlicenced in these areas.

CARAVAN PARKS

Application forms have been sent out to all caravan parks in County Wicklow. As of 15th May 2019 16 parks have applied to renew their licence and inspections on site are being carried out.

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

Initial briefing meeting regarding the Strategic Review of the Maritime for County Wicklow was held with Gavin & Doherty Geo Solutions on the 25th April 2019. Stakeholder engagement will commence towards the end of May 2019.

Wicklow Port & Harbour

There were 8 ships in total berthed in Wicklow for month of April; of the 8 ships, 7 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, scrap metal and SRF to the United Kingdom while the imports consisted of logs from Scotland and timber from Sweden.

The Harbours and Ports Unit recently purchase a Whaly 500R workboat for use in Wicklow and Arklow Harbours.

The vessel was delivered in mid April and should be ready for its initial launch from May onwards.

The seasonal yellow swim buoys, numbered 1 to 6, delineating the designated bathing area are scheduled to be deployed inside Wicklow Harbour by mid May.

There were no marine notices issued during April.

Pollution Control

Section 16 Licensed Discharges to Sewers

- 1 S16 licensed discharge to sewer involving 10 individual analyses was monitored.

Section 4 Licensed Discharges to Waters

- 12 S4 licensed discharges to waters involving 120 individual analyses were monitored.
- 10 letters were issued to S4 licensee to commend good performance and request improvement where necessary.

Ambient Monitoring

- 31 river samples upstream and downstream of discharges Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants involving 310 individual analyses were monitored.

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 9 Water pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 1 Noise complaint was received.

Private Water Supplies

- 19 Private water supplies were sampled.
- Out of 19 sample results available 3 samples were not compliant for pH and 1 sample was non-compliant for nitrate.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2019

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

Well Grants

- No. of Applications 3
- No. of New Wells 0
- No. of New Pumps 3
- No. of New Equipment (Filters etc.) 1



Mr. Eoghan Murphy, T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government today, Friday 8 February 2019, announced a new investment programme for water services in rural areas. The Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme is to run from 2019 to 2021.

Key features of the Programme include:

- Significant capital investment to support Group Water Schemes in rural areas.
- A new grant measure to support rural communities to link to the public drinking water and waste water network.
- The maximum grant for refurbishment works to a domestic well will increase from €2,031 to €3,000. A new and additional provision is included for a maximum grant of €5,000 where a new well is required as an exceptional measure.
- The means test to qualify for a grant to carry out improvement works on a septic tank is being abolished and the maximum grant is being increased to €5,000. Currently, the maximum grant amounts available are €2,500 and €4,000 depending on the applicant's means. Eligibility for the grant scheme is also being extended.

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

Planning & Development

13 environmental reports on referred planning applications were completed

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Over the last month talks were given on Climate change impacts and actions for the University of Third Age in Bray, Single Use Plastics and Climate Change for Laragh Tidy Towns, Food Waste and composting for Newcastle Development Association, The Importance of Trees for Colaiste Chill Mhantain, an evening visit to Bray recycling centre for the 11th Wicklow Kilmacanogue Scouts troop and on Single Use Plastics and Taking Action to Eliminate Them for Greystones Educate Together.

The National Spring clean campaign with over 140 participating groups was supported with a media and advertising campaign. Groups were provided with clean up kit where needed and collections of the bags and waste was coordinated.

Green Dog walking materials were provided to groups in Dunlavin, Arklow, Bray and

Newtownmountkennedy. Greystones Tidy Towns were provided with materials to hand out during their fun day. The Environmental awareness are currently coordinating provision of signage for Greystones and Dunlavin.

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 are now being paid out to grantees.

Twenty Five schools will collect their Green Flags that will be awarded on the 22nd of May at the



Helix Theatre. One school has been 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

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

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

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.

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 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was presented to the members of Wicklow County Council on 29th April and will go to public consultation once the AA screening consultation has been received.

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

	1 April 2019	8 April 2019	15 April 2019	23 April 2019	30 April 2019	7 May 2019
Access Issues (Attended)	11	11	11	11	11	10
Cable Fault (Attend)	9	9	9	9	9	10
ESB Required (Attended)	10	10	10	10	10	10
Knock Down (Attended)	6	6	6	6	6	6
Materials required	12	12	12	12	12	12
No Supply	15	15	15	15	15	16
On Hold	4	4	4	4	4	4
Submitted	213	236	240	273	263	294
Traffic Management Required	23	23	23	23	23	23
TOTAL	303	326	330	363	353	385

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	TOTAL
Access Issues (Attended)	1	3			6	10
Cable Fault (Attend)	1		2	3	4	10
ESB Required (Attended)	1		2	5	2	10
Knock Down (Attended)	1		2		3	6
Materials required		1	4	2	5	12
No Supply	5	3	1	5	2	16
On Hold		4				4
Submitted	43	56	62	38	95	294
Traffic Management Required	2		9	6	6	23
Grand Total	54	67	82	59	123	385



Parking Income by Municipal District April 2019	EURO
Income Florence Road Carpark Bray MD	€ 20,221
Income Herbert Road Carpark Bray MD	€ 81,289
Income North Beach Car Park - Strand Road Bray MD	€ 13,041
Income Restricted Parking Bray MD	€ 238,656
Income Parking Fines Bray MD	€ 68,201
Income Residential/Special Parking Discs Bray MD	€ 26,985
Bray Municipal District	€ 448,392
Income Greystones Pay Parking Scheme	€ 148,015
Greystones Municipal District	€ 148,015
Income Parking Charges Wicklow MD	€ 97,570
Income Residential Parking Disk Wicklow MD	€ 1,560
Income Traffic Fines Wicklow MD	€ 9,206
Wicklow Municipal District	€ 108,336
Income Parking Traffic Fines Arklow MD	€ 7,377
Income Pay Parking Fees And Permits Arklow MD	€ 81,681
Arklow Municipal District	€ 89,058
Wicklow County Council	€ 793,801

Winter Maintenance

April marked the final month in the 2018/2019 Winter Maintenance Season. It was another mild month with only a few cold nights early in the month. In

total, 16 call outs were made and 62 tonnes of salt were used over the 9 routes within the County.

Transportation Statistics (General)

	March 2019	April 2019
Solicitors Queries	44	66
Road Closure Applications	3	3
Road Opening Licences	177	137
Abnormal Load Applications	2	1 single permit 1 quarterly permit 1 half yearly permit 1 annual permit



6. Emergency Services

Fire Service

Fire Service content for Chief Executive's Report

Operational Fire Statistics

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Callsign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported											
Fire Domestic	9			2	3	1	1	1	1		
Fire Caravan	2			1		1					
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	19	2	3	2	1		3	3	2	1	2
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	0										
Fire Institutional	4	2	2								
Fire Industrial / Commercial	0										
Single Station Mobilised											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	14	4	8	1			1				
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	34	10	7	7	2	3	3	2			
Fire Chimney	3	2								1	
Fire Small / bin / skip	6	1	2	1		1			1		
Fire Vehicle	2	2									
Fire Shed	3			1					1		1
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	2				1		1				
Ambulance Assist	10	4		1	1	1		1		1	1
Garda Assist	0										
Electrical Incident	2					1			1		
Gas Leak	0										
Rescue from Lift	1	1									
Lock In	1	1									
Entrapment / Rescue	0										
Hazardous Materials	0										
Malicious False Alarm	0										
Mobilised into other County	5						2	2	1		
Times Stations mobilised	134	29	39	16	8	8	11	9	7	3	4

100 incidents were attended to during the month of April 2019. Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of 134 occasions.

The month was characterised by gorse fires which accounted for 25% of overall activity, Road Traffic

Collisions (19%), assisting the ambulance service (8%), alarm activations (10%).

Call numbers are generally consistent with the previous month (112 mobilisations) but significantly increased on the equivalent month in 2018 (72 mobilisations) due mainly to an increased number of gorse fires in 2019 (circa 30).



Sample Incidents

- 09/04/19 Crews from Bray and Greystones attended a fatality on the railway track on Bray Head.
14/04/19 Crews from Arklow and Wicklow Town attended 2 caravans on fire at a Caravan Park, Brittas Bay.

Incidents mobilised outside County Wicklow

Kildare (5-incidents)

- 15/04/19 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to an RTC at Ballytore to support Athy Fire Station. Single vehicle one person trapped.
16/04/19 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to a chimney fire in Halverstown, Kilcullen.
25/04/19 Baltinglass Fire Crew were mobilised to an RTC on the M9 at Junction 3 Mullamast with crews from Carlow. 2-car RTC.
25/04/19 Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to an RTC on the M7 at Junction 9 Naas North with crews from Kildare. 3-car RTC.
28/04/19 Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to an RTC at Punchestown Race Course with crews from Kildare. 2-car RTC.

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

- 02/04/19 Naas Fire Crew supported Blessington at an RTC at Deerpark. 2-car RTC, 1-person trapped.
04/04/19 Naas Fire Crew supported Blessington at a domestic house fire in apartments at Kilbride Road.
21/04/19 Naas Fire Crew supported Blessington at an RTC on the N81. Car versus motorbike.

General

- Galway Fire Service spent 2 weeks in Bray undertaking Breathing Apparatus training.
- Michael Gahan (SACFO) was course director for the 1-week national "heavy rescue" course in Carlow.
- Arklow Fire Crew took part in training exercise in Sigma Aldrich.
- Teams from Wicklow took part in the national rescue organisation challenge in Sligo. The medical / trauma team took 2nd place overall.
- Wicklow Fire Service hosted the monthly regional Major Emergency Management meetings for Gardai, HSE and local authorities.
- Officers attended an operational debrief with Irish Rail in relation to the fatality on rail track at Bray head.

Fire Prevention Statistics April 2019

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	20		1		3
Regularisation Certificates	1		2	1	1
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice	1		1		2
Disability Access Certificates	17				2

Licensing	Received, acknowledged	Inspected	Requested further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District	5	1	3	2	
Circuit	2		1	1	

Building Control

April 2019 - Commencement Notices

- 30 Commencement Notices
Of which:
 - 8 were Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
 - 4 were Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
 - 2 Seven day Notice
 - 16 Opt Out Declarations
 - 53 % of commencement notices are opt out.
 - 20 % inspection rate on all notices
 - 49 new build units
 - 9 of which are one off houses

Completion Certificates

- 19 completion certificates validated (66 housing units)
Wicklow County Council are not notified of the completion of opt out houses

Non compliance issues (on going)

- 5 pre validation of commencement notices
- 4 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 April 2019:

General Operatives
Waste Water Caretaker
Water Caretaker
Executive Solicitor

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

No. of Ombudsman Requests

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

3. Press Releases

April 2019 – 7 Press Releases

4. Register of Electors

The Franchise Section have been busy preparing for the Local Elections due to take place on 24th May. Nominations for candidates opened on 27th April and closed at 12 noon on 4th May. Extensive work was

carried out on the Register of Electors for the Election with a large number of people added as having moved from other local authority areas together with a large number of 18 year olds.



The Franchise team also carried out voter registration days in the larger libraries throughout the county in the run up to the Supplement Closing Date of the 7th May. The Franchise team also visited a number of Secondary Schools to do voter registration with students who will reach the age of 18 up to the publication of the Live Register in The electorate in Wicklow for this election exceeded 100,000 electors

Local Elections 2019

- The % elector turnout in Wicklow was 55%
- The count centre was handed over to the Local Returning Officer at 8pm on Saturday 25th May when the count for the local elections began
- The first count began in all 6 LEA's simultaneously.
- Prior to announcement of the first count, all doubtful ballot papers were adjudicated on with the candidates and their agents

February 2020. Both Voter Registration drives were very successful and to the best of our knowledge we were the only Local Authority in the Country to provide this service. We will be continuing with these voter registration days for future registers and/or electoral events as required.

- First counts were announced for all 6 LEA's on Saturday night/early hours of Sunday morning
- The count resumed on Sunday morning at 10am with all counts completed late on Sunday evening.
- The Returning Officer acceded to a request for a recount in the Bray East LEA .
- This recount was carried out on Monday and Tuesday 27th and 28th May

5. I.C.T. Report

IT Helpdesk

The IT Helpdesk function was used as a test area for development of a customer care and case management systems. This was based on an open source platform and handles in excess of 8,000 cases per annum.

Analysis of cases and responses allowed development of a "Frequently Asked Questions" knowledge database which is in daily use and improves case tracking and responses. This system is being applied to issues arising under the "Domain Migration Project" which is underway and will all users to be migrated to a newly configured domain.

The "Asset Management Module" of the ticketing system was deployed in 2018 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 review of software licensing requirements. This will facilitate preparation of our 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. 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 development of 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. The user acceptance phase will commence over the next number of weeks.

Managed Print Service (MPS)

Renewal of the MPS was completed following vendor neutral print audit and RFT of December 2017. Project roll-out was completed in early 2018 and all new devices have completed five full quarterly cycles. Device utilisation and support centre analysis has taken place with the supplier

with a view to ensuring continuous review and strategic management of all devices. The current printer estate and allocation will be reviewed during Q4 of 2019 and options for MPS will be assessed during the early part of 2020.

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.



Financial Accounts

1. Revenue Account

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

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 March 2019 to 31st March 2019.



3. Capital Account

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

4. Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

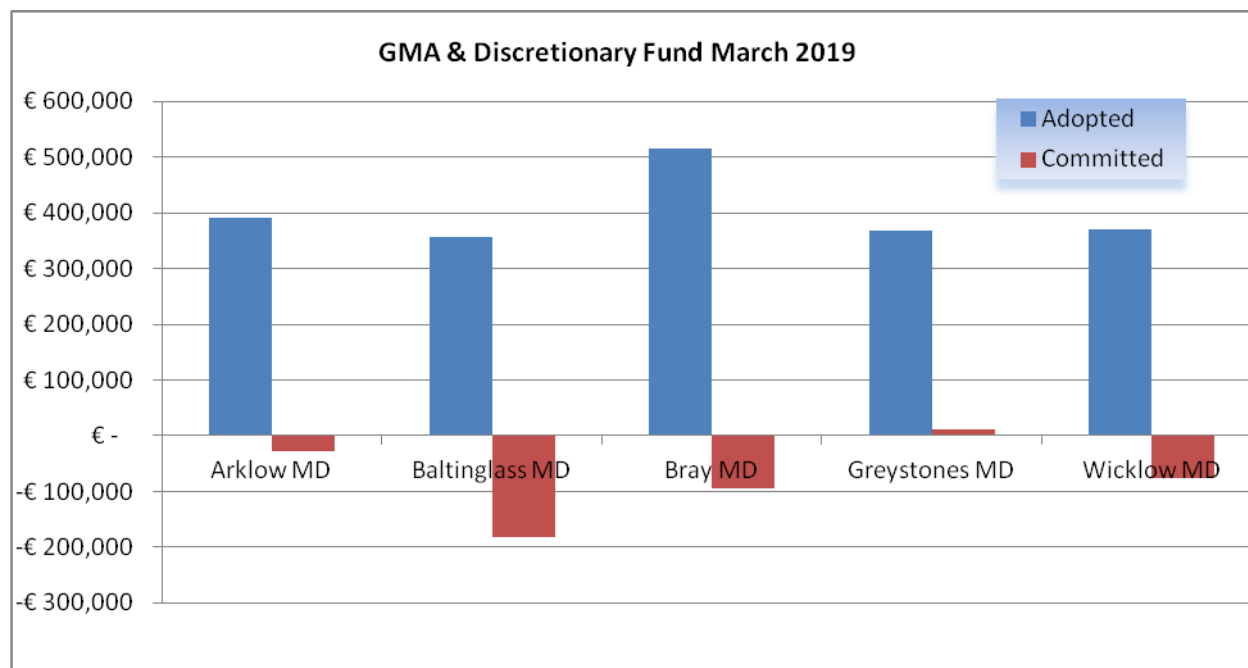
MARCH									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2019	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/03/2019	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates *	6,804,584	27,927,545			34,732,129	3,088,636	31,643,493		9%
Rents & Annuities	1,470,372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

N.B. The rent and rates collection percentages are below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.



5. General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2019

Discretionary Budget 2019 €2,002,500. The graph and table below outline the discretionary budget for 2019 by Municipal District.



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



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