



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



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HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Social Housing Support

	Feb 2020	Feb 19
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP)	4328	4113
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	342	425
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	1746	1063
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	10	7
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	12	10

2. Allocation of Social Housing

	Feb 2020	Feb 2019
WCC Social Housing	42	25
Bray Municipal District	8	
Approved Housing Bodies	59	1

3. Social Housing Stock

	Feb 2020	Feb 2019
Tenancies occupied	4435	4328
Total weekly rental accrual	€302,678.70	€235,587.49
Arrears	€1,592,99.35	€1,115,410.27

4. Casual Vacancies/Relets

	Feb 2020	Feb 2019
Municipal District		
Arklow	12	12
Baltinglass	10	13
Bray	6	12
Greystones	5	6
Wicklow	20	17

5. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Social Housing Supply Programme

4 scheme completed 2019	27 units
10 schemes currently on site in 2020	299 Units
further schemes to commence on site in 2020	<u>210 Units</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	536 Units



SCHEMES COMPLETED	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS	PART 8 APPROVAL
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Completed and allocated	Yes
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated	Yes
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated	Yes
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completed and allocated 2019	Yes
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated 2019	Yes
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated 2019	Yes
Whitehall, Baltinglass	7	Completed, awaiting allocation	Yes
TOTAL	55		
SCHEMES ON SITE	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS	PART 8 APPROVAL
Whitehall, Baltinglass RAPID BUILD	27	Completion anticipated April 2020 .	Yes
Kilbride Lane Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	Completion anticipated August 2020	Yes
FCA Hall Wicklow Town	8	Completion anticipated October 2020	Yes
Kilmantan Place Bray	4	Completion anticipated September 2020	Yes
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completion anticipated April 2020	Yes
Sugarloaf View, Kilmacanogue	20	Completion anticipated August 2020	Yes
Convent Lands	51	Completion anticipated August 2020	Yes
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completion anticipated September 2020	Yes
Carnew RAPID BUILD	30	Completion anticipated November 2020	Yes
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completion anticipated April 2021	Yes
TOTAL	300		
PIPELINE SCHEMES	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS	PART 8 APPROVAL
Avondale Phase 2 RAPID BUILD	20	Site start anticipated June 2020	Yes
Ard na Greine RAPID BUILD	30	Site start anticipated May 2020	Yes
Greenhill Road Wicklow RAPID BUILD	36	Site start anticipated Aug 2020	Part 8 approval by Wicklow M.D. required
Ashtown Lane RAPID BUILD	40	Site start anticipated July 2020	Yes
Mountainview NTMK RAPID BUILD	26	Site start anticipated September 2020	Yes
Old Fire Station Arklow	7	Site start anticipated September 2020	Part 8 approval Arklow M.D. Required.
Cedar Court Bray RAPID BUILD	14	Site start anticipated October 2020	Part 8 approval by Bray M. D. required.
Three Trouts Greystones RAPID BUILD	40	Site start anticipated November 2020	Part 8 approval Gstones M.D.required
TOTAL	220		



5. Part V

2020 – Part V units due for Delivery 2020

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Wicklow	1	Quarter 1	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Quarter 2	WCC
Wicklow Town	3	Quarter 2	WCC
Rathnew	3	Quarter 2	WCC
Greystones	2	Quarter 2	WCC
Dunlavin	4	Quarter2/3	CALF
Ashford	8	Quarter 3	CALF
Wicklow	4	Quarter 2	CALF

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

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Wicklow	9	Q1/Q2 2020	WCC
Wicklow	5	Q2 2020	WCC
Rathdrum	4	Q2	CALF

- Negotiations are ongoing with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units
- Approval has recently been received from the Department in respect of 2 Turnkey units in Baltinglass.

6. PPP Social Housing Project

[Bundle 1)

Development Site at Convent Lands, Wicklow for 51 Social Housing units commenced on site in March 2019. The project is progressing well and is currently due for completion in mid 2020. The Department of Housing has dedicated €300 million towards delivery of housing through the public, private partnership model in the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan. The Convent Lands site in Wicklow has been included as a project in Bundle 1.

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 38 turnkey units via CALF in Arklow due by Q4 2020.
- Acquisition by AHB of 8 (Part V) units via CALF in Ashford due by Q4 2020. A further 4 units (2 turnkey and 2 Part V) due in 2021.
- Construction ongoing on a 40 units (including 4 Part V) via CALF Turnkey in Dunlavin .

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Wicklow County Council is continuing to support acquisitions under the Capital Assistance Scheme with Dublin Simon, Circle Housing, Ark Housing and Peter McVerry Trust.

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

7. 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 - works have commenced.

8. Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

- › Grant funding for private houses - €1,768,217 (€167,666.47 spent to date)
- › Grant funding for social house - € 500,000 (€10,469.14 spent to date)

House Purchase Loans – Rebuilding Ireland

Up to 29/02/2020

- 321 received up to 29/02/2020
- 111 approvals
- 132 declined
- 21 previously approved but approved
- 31 further information/with HA
- 26 either incomplete, ineligible

Up to 28/02/2019

27 to 28/02/2019

- 5 approvals
- 5 declined
- 17 further info/with HA

2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

February 2020

- 76 applications to 29/02/2020
- 4 sale completed
- 14 declined
- 58 remaining various stages – incomplete, with L.A., withdrawn.

February 2019

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

9. Addressing Homelessness

Addressing Homelessness	29/02/20	28/02/2019
No of Presentations	45	48
No. of Repeat Presentations	5	5
No. of Households (Families)	13	24
No. of Adults (Individuals)	25	23
No. of Children	33	39
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	13	24
Family Circumstances	21	13
Leaving Prison Hospital Care	0	1
Sofa Surfing	3	8
Rough Sleeping	3	3
Squatting	0	0
Own Door Temporary Accommodation		
	29/02/2020	28/02/2019
Families	12	12
Adults	24	22
Children	30	32
Singles	4	4

BED & BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION								
No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 28th February, 2020								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	6	17	14	3	1	0	0	2
Children Only				5	3	0	0	4
BED & BREAKFAST ACCOMMODTON								
No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 28th February, 2020								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	10	19	19	7	1	0	1	1
Children Only				14	1	0	1	3



Cold Weather Initiative

The Cold Weather Initiative, a partnership arrangement between the Council and the Dublin Simon Community, with the assistance of Five Loaves Homeless Services, opened on 14th November 2019, in Bray to provide emergency night shelter for homeless individuals.

Referral protocol is through Wicklow County Council, Dublin Simon, Five Loaves and the Gardai.

Homeless HAP

The Homeless HAP Placefinder provides 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, 214 households (164 families & 50 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 29th February, 2020.

111 homeless cases and 103 prevention cases to date. 75 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 pending finalisation of the legal handover.

Refurbishment work has commenced and it is intended to be fully operational by quarter 2 2020..

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 move ons 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.

MARCH 2020



Peter McVerry Trust has been appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid East Region and Wicklow County Council is committed to working with them to achieve the targets identified in the programme. Properties will be provided by both Wicklow County Council and Peter McVerry Trust for the programme.

Wicklow County Council successfully accommodated its first Housing First client with Peter McVerry Trust in Wicklow Town in December 2019 – this was the first client to be accommodated under the programme in the Mid East Region. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending completion of accommodation.



10. Local Sports Partnership (LSP)

Training and Education

Date	Course	Location	Attended
3/3/20	Safeguarding 2 – Club Children’s Officer	Bray Golf Club	14
3/3/20	Safeguarding 1 – Basic Awareness	St Patrick’s GAA, Wicklow Town	18
10/3/20	Safeguarding 1 – Basic Awareness	Arklow Geraldines/ Ballymoney GAA	18
11/3/20	Safeguarding 1 – Basic Awareness	Clermont, Rathnew	17
14/3/20	Inclusive Adventure Activities Training Workshop	The Avon, Blessington	
21/3/20	Activator Tutor Training Workshop	St Mary’s Junior National School, Blessington	
23/3/20	Safeguarding 1 – Basic Awareness	Ashford GAA	

Wicklow Sports Awards

The Wicklow Sports Awards took place in the Arklow Bay Hotel on Friday 21st February 2020 where a presentation was made to the monthly winners. The winners of the five categories nominees were also announced on the night;

Monthly Winners

January: Josh Van De Flier & Wicklow Darts Team
 February: Lucy Mulhall & Ciaran Gethings
 March: Mick Byrne & Warren Kavanagh
 April: Fionnuala McCormack & Niall Earls
 May: Aisling Beacom & Louise Quinn
 June: Katie Taylor & Glencormack FC
 July: Lara Gillespie & Regan Buckley
 August: Joseph Byrne & Baltinglass Golf Club
 September: Diana Moorehouse & Tinahely LGFA
 October: Liam Scales, Áine O’Gorman & Claire Walsh
 November: Leo Cullen, Edel Kennedy & Becky Cassin
 December: Alan Miley & Wicklow RFC Girls Section

Katie Taylor Bursary Winner: Katie Ann O’Neill

Wicklow Sports and Recreation Winners

Event of the Year: ‘EcoTrail’
 Volunteer of the Year: Breda Donnelly
 Youth of the Year: Alan Miley
 Coach of the Year: Stephen Coughlan
 Club of the Year: Blue Dolphins Special Olympics Club



Men on the Move

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership has received €7,000.00 in HSE funding to roll out Men on the Move programmes in 2020.

11. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP:

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has approved both SICAP 2019 End of Year Reports and 2020 Annual Plans.

Both PI's achieved all 2019 KPI's, maintained annual budgets, submitted strong progress reports and case studies.

The March SICAP funding released €61,121.00 to Bray Area Partnership and €51,691.00 to County Wicklow Partnership.

Wicklow PPN:

19 new members have joined, making a total of 319.

County Wicklow PPN was awarded the hosting of PPN National Conference on 2nd and 3rd October in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

Collaboration project between Wicklow PPN and relevant disability agencies and actors has commenced to progress rights and accessibility agenda in County Wicklow.

Age Friendly Initiatives

New age friendly parking bays have been provided in both Wicklow and Arklow civic amenity sites with further bays to be installed at Rampere and Bray Recycling Centres. These are a welcome addition to the centres.

The age friendly walkability survey of Baltinglass is due to take place on the 20th March 2020.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2019

The North Wicklow Trails Network Development project was awarded €152,560.00 under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2019. This project will see the development of linkages of trails from Bray Head Loop Walk and includes the Belmont Trail. The planned works include path construction, surfacing works and installation of signage along the trails. These works will cost in the region of €190,700.00.



12. County Wicklow Library Services

”TAKE A CLOSER LOOK”

The month of February has seen a public library promotion, nationally, entitled – “Your Public Library – Take a Closer Look”. This was promoted in a number of ways, including advertisements on radio, cinema & bill boards, but was particularly prominent on social media platforms. It encouraged the public to visit their local library and see what it has to offer, apart from books.

The month long promotion culminated in “Leap Into Your Library Day” on Leap Day – Saturday Feb 29. Local authority library services were encouraged to hold family friendly events on that day. Below is just a sample of some events that took place across county Wicklow:

Library	Event(s)	Total library visits on Feb 29
Greystones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts & Crafts Lego event Felting event 	503 – versus general average of 350 -400 on other Saturdays
Bray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Story telling workshop “How to Publish a Book” workshop 	546 v average of 400 approx
Arklow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storytime / arts & crafts (88 attendees) Tovertafel demo (42) Music generation demo (45) 	412 – versus average of 350 approx
Wicklow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storytime with puppets Demonstration of online resources 	385- versus average of 250 approx
Blessington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big Sing music workshop Music performance Story time / art event 	378 – versus average of 250 approx
Enniskerry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring craft for children event – attendance of 13 	66 – versus 40-50 average
Ballywaltrim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book club Quilting event – attended by 60 approx 	120 – versus average of 80
Dunlavin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calligraphy workshop - attended by 8 adults + children 	45 – versus average of 30 approx

In general – libraries recorded that the month was busier than usual, with a number of new people joining libraries at all locations.



ENGINEERS' WEEK – 29TH FEBRUARY TO 7TH MARCH

A series of workshops for Transition Year pupils took place in the following schools – Scoil Chonglais, Baltinglass; St Kevin's Community College, Dunlavin; Coláiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole; Woodbrook College, Bray and Glenart College, Arklow.

These were facilitated by Lego Master, Jessica Farrell. Each workshop lasted 2 hours and students were seated in teams of 4 and presented with a series of **LEGO**® building challenges that they had to work at together in order to complete.

The first activity involves basic engineering and problem solving as students attempt to build large but stable structures using limited resources. The stability and functionality of the builds are then put to the test.

The second activity encouraged art and creativity as the students became **LEGO**® set designers with a given collection of elements. Each group then selected a spokesperson to demonstrate and share their end design with the class.

The next activity required a focus on teamwork and communication as the key element to a timed relay building challenge. This was great fun but a lot more difficult than it first appeared.

Finally, Geography came into play for the Build-a- Community activity. Teams were divided into civic, industrial, amenity and residential planners in order to build and design sections of a town that came together as a unified whole.

Throughout the session, light, friendly competition between groups was encouraged in order to add excitement and incentive. The multiple, different activities involved in this workshop ensured engagement of students of varying talents and abilities.

The core objective of this **LEGO**® workshop was for each student to discover fun, new ways to unlock their own personal potential within a team environment.

Wicklow County Council Library Service was delighted to have Daniel Roche and Liam Bourke, both Senior Engineers with Wicklow County Council and John Paul Lappin, Senior Engineer with Jon's Civil Engineers host workshops and talks in some of our libraries and schools as part of Engineers' Week 2020.

John Paul treated the students of Avoca National School to a presentation on what it means to be an engineer, followed by a demonstration on stable structure using marshmallows and spaghetti. Liam gave a presentation on engineering as a career and conducted an engineering workshop with some students from St. Andrew's school, while Daniel paid a visit to Arklow Library where he chatted with pupils from local primary schools on the subject of engineering.



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).

Retail

Bray Town Centre

Work is continuing on the Florentine Site but due to a number of factors such as weather, practical completion has been delayed. A revised timetable indicates that practical completion is due in Q2 2020 with fit-out estimated to take 3-4 months thereafter.

Interest by potential tenants has been very positive; negotiations with anchor tenants are ongoing.

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

As part of the An Taisce National Spring Clean the Arklow Town Team, are planning a spring clean which will take place on Sunday 5th April over a 13km stretch from Arklow to Aughrim. Participants must be over 16 years of age. Refreshments will be provided by the Woodenbridge Hotel. Arklow Town Team will continue to enhance and improve the image of Arklow's Main Street with the Flower Basket Scheme 2020.

Blessington Town Team

The last meeting of Blessington Town Team took place on the 10th March 2020 in the Civic Offices Blessington. There was a detailed report from Blessington Tidy Towns and members heard of the



success of a number of Blessington groups at the recent Wicklow County Council environmental awards. The Chairperson congratulated Jason Mulhall on his award and complimented all members of Blessington Tidy Towns and noted the tremendous work that they do in the locality. There was a discussion on the Rural Regeneration Development Fund application which was submitted to the Department to secure funding to carry out a number of public realm projects in the town. There was also a detailed discussion on the proposed housing development on the Kildare side of Blessington. Concern was expressed about the need to develop education, community and recreational infrastructure to cater for the increased population. It was also noted that as the development is in Kildare administrative area Kildare County Council will allocate people from their housing list to the social housing that will form part of the development. Development of the relief road is a priority for businesses in the town.

Bray Town Team

Bray Municipal District undertook and received a report on Town Centre Health Check which is now an item on Council's agenda. It is due to be discussed in further detail at the April meeting with a view to setting up working groups which will also include representatives of the business community. It was also agreed at the Bray Municipal District Meeting of 3rd March that the Cathaoirleach and the District Administrator would examine the Town Centre Health Check recommendations with a view to agreeing what the priority categories should be. These will be brought back to the April MD Meeting and the Members will examine and agree a strategy to progress.

Greystones 2020

Greystones Public Realm Plan which was funded by County Wicklow Partnership via Leader Funding with matched funding from Wicklow County Council has recently been completed. Arrangements will be made to present the plan to Greystones Municipal District with a view to launching it thereafter.

Wicklow Town Team

Wicklow Town Team has successfully secured €35,000 in funding under the LEADER Programme to develop a Town Heritage Walk. The proposed Heritage Walk will start at St. Patrick's Church and take in landmarks of historical interest to include The Abbey Grounds, Town Hall, Black Castle and the Gaol. Storyboards and maps will be erected at these locations detailing the rich history of the town from the landing of St. Patrick at Travelahawk Beach to the 1798 rebellion. Each lectern/ storyboard will direct tourists toward the next stop on the trail and will have scannable QR codes which will present the story of each place on your phone. It is hoped that such an initiative will encourage tourists to spend more time in the town and provide a welcome boost to the local businesses.



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 has been established to oversee these actions and drive all sectors towards helping Wicklow achieve the target of **€200m in tourism revenue by 2023**.

Accommodation:

Fáilte Ireland has engaged Crowe Consultants to develop a Toolkit to help attract investment in accommodation. It is estimated that Wicklow requires an additional 175 Hotel Rooms over the next five years based on 4% growth, this is assuming that the additional 50 rooms that have extant planning permission are developed.

Key Towns as Visitor Hubs:

Fáilte Ireland has announced an investment of €15.5 million available through local authorities to boost the attractiveness and tourism appeal of towns across the country. Funding of between €250,000 and €500,000 will be available to local authorities to develop towns in their area which have the potential to become a 'destination town' for tourists. The 'destination towns' will need to demonstrate their capacity and appeal to attract more international visitors to stay overnight.

Fáilte Ireland has set aside up to €500,000 in Destination Town Funding for County Wicklow; Wicklow County Council is working on an application for funding under this theme.

Masterplan for Glendalough:

Wicklow County Council is working with Fáilte Ireland and its strategic partners, the Office of Public Works and the National Parks and Wildlife Service to engage consultants to develop a Masterplan for

MARCH 2020



Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park with a Visitor Orientation Plan for County Wicklow.

Thematic Experiences

Tracks and Trails previous programmes have been digitised and are available online. Two new 10 minute programmes have been commissioned featuring the Tinahely hiking trails and the Bray Head to Sugarloaf Trail and are due to be launched on 2nd April

Wicklow Passport: Featuring stamps designed representing attractions, towns and villages when a visitor obtains 15 stamps they will qualify for a certificate as a Wicklow Ambassador

Eco Trail: The Eco Trail is the largest Trail Running Event in Ireland and takes place on 26th September 2020

Rural & Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

RRDF applications have been submitted in respect of Blessington, Newtownmountkennedy and Rathdrum. Blessington's application is based around the urban regeneration of the town square and linkages to the proposed inner relief road and the greenway. Newtownmountkennedy's application is to develop design solutions for the regeneration of the town, enhancing its public realm and infrastructure provision and to drive increased footfall, encouraging the regeneration of business. Rathdrum's application was based on the development of a community enterprise centre and the regeneration of the town core.

URDF applications are being developed in respect of Bray, Wicklow and Arklow Harbours incorporating the public transport Bridge in Bray and the Pottery Museum in Arklow.

Climate Action

Climate Action Applications have also been submitted in respect of Wicklow and Arklow Harbours aimed at ensuring both harbours can benefit from development of the offshore wind energy industry.

The Wicklow harbour application was submitted to apply for funding to develop the physical infrastructure in Wicklow harbour in order to accommodate crew transfer vessels servicing the offshore wind sector.



Similarly the application in respect of Arklow is to facilitate servicing of the offshore wind industry and to investigate the possibility of developing enterprise units for small businesses engaged in marine activities. Offshore wind has a cross governmental mandate secured through the delivery of the Climate Action Plan targets of 3.5 GW of offshore wind by 2030.

Maritime

Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow

The Strategic Review will identify ways in which the economic base of County Wicklow could be strengthened through its ports and harbours and formulate recommendation for Wicklow County Council.

Key Recommendations:

- To maximise the Offshore Wind Opportunity
- To investigate the feasibility of a new harbour facility at Wicklow
- Aquaculture Support
- Marketing Strategy for County Wicklow as a Coastal Tourist Destination

The Strategic Review is at the core of the applications for Climate Action and URDF funding.

Maritime Business Development Group

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

FLAG Funding

Wicklow County Council has supported applications for FLAG funding in respect of the Native Oyster Reef Restoration project and also in respect of a Wreck Fishing proposal.

The Native Oyster Reef Restoration (NORRI) project is a plan to establish self-sustaining native oyster habitats in the Irish Sea, in collaboration where possible, with Wind Energy and Coastal Defence Development. A workshop is planned for the end of March to publicise this project.

The Wreck fishing FLAG is an application supported by the Maritime Business Development Group. It is a proposal aimed at surveying current wreck fishing sites and eventually attracting leisure type fishing in these areas.



Food & Beverage Strategy

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.

County Wicklow Partnership with the support of Wicklow County Council, have been awarded LEADER funding for the implementation of the Food & Beverage Strategy. Following a procurement process, Jonathan Birnie Associates (JBA) were awarded the contract and are currently engaging with the Food and Beverage steering group.

Working groups have been established to progress actions from the Strategy viz:

1. Tell the Wicklow Story
2. Develop a Food Activity Calendar
3. Get Local Food to Local Consumers
4. Provide Appropriate Business Supports

Some of the key actions achieved to date include

- 1) The drafting of a definition for Wicklow Food.
- 2) The creation of a website and social media feed dedicated to the food strategy.
- 3) Creation of a Wicklow Food and Beverage Network

Food Showcase event

In February the Food Strategy consultants, JBA held an information event in Tinahely Farm Shop. The purpose of this event was to update the food and drink producers on what's been happening since the launch of the food and drink strategy in April 2019.

Members of the Steering Group representing the Food & Beverage sector have worked with brand specialists to develop the Wicklow Naturally Food Brand – this will be launched in the coming weeks.

An event aimed at bringing hotels, restaurants, retailers and tourism businesses together with food producers will be held on 31st March. It is proposed to launch the new Wicklow Naturally brand and Website in April, when it is safe to do so.



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
	2019	2020	2020
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 33/€888,954.62 - 8/€11,427	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	- - €82,497 -
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
	2019	2020	2020
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	53	55	8
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73	75	15
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	832	800	118
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	6	6	1



METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	546	470*	147
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	458	440	86

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2018/2019	2019/2020	Year to Date
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1134	1100	

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2019	2020	Year to Date 2020
Number of Applications	57	Programme review	Programme review

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2019	2020	Year to Date 2020
Trading Online Vouchers	39	40	0

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2019	2020	2020
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	11	10



March 2020 Activities

Local Enterprise week took place from the 2nd to 6th March. Headlining events in Wicklow included:

- ✦ **Start Your Own Business Course**, this 10-week course is a great starting point for anybody wanting to start a business. It covers all elements essential for getting started (15 participants).
- ✦ **Green Your Business Seminar** helping business owners to reduce costs and sustain their businesses for the future. Guest speakers for this event were Ron Immink a Dutch/Irish entrepreneur with extensive experience in entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, strategy, innovation and SME engagement. Dr. Joanne Rourke, Resource Efficiency Officer with the Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Management Office and Maeve Morrissey from the SEAI who outlined the business supports to reduce carbon footprint available through SEAI (40 attendees).
- ✦ **General Data Protection Regulations Clinics** for businesses to identify ways to improve business compliance with these regulations (6 business owners/managers attended).
- ✦ **Digital Marketing & Website Advice Clinics** were also held for business owners who want to identify numerous ways in which they can improve and get results with their online marketing efforts (7 business owners/managers attended).
- ✦ This week was also Jobs Week and the LEO teamed up with Intreo to host an event titled 'Enterprise, Self-Employment & Future Employers'. The Local Area Partnership groups also presented at the event (60 attendees).
- ✦ The Wicklow county final of the **Student Enterprise Programme** due to be held on 26th March has been cancelled in line with school closures. Projects will be assessed based on written reports from each mini company and winners will be contacted

On the 10th March a 2 day Food Starter Programme designed to help those with a food idea or those at an early stage of starting up a food business commenced with 15 participants.

The second Trading Online Voucher Seminar was held on the 12th March with 31 attendees.

In response to COVID-19 it has been necessary to arrange that all Business Advice Clinics will now be conducted by phone and upcoming training courses will be delivered online.



3. Planning and Development

Forward Planning

County Development Plan Review

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly 2019-2031

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

On 14th January 2020, the Minister for Housing Planning and Local Government, issued a Direction pursuant to Section 31A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly was directed to amend Section 5.6 and Table 8.2 of the RSES. A copy of the Ministerial Direction and accompanying documentation is available using the following link: <https://emra.ie/draft-ministerial-direction-relation-rses/>

County Development Plan Review

Notice to review the current County Development Plan 2016 - 2022 and prepare a new County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 was given on the 6th November 2019. Closing date for submissions was Friday 10th January 2020. 156 submissions were received. All of the submissions are available to view on the website. Work is currently underway on the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received.

Local Plans

The County Development Plan includes local plans for the towns of Ashford, Aughrim, Baltinglass Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely, Avoca, Donard, Newcastle Roundwood, Shillelagh and Laragh-Glendalough. The County Development Plan review will therefore include a review of the plans for all of these settlements. The Municipal District of Bray (which includes the settlements of Bray, Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue), as well as the settlements of Arklow, Blessington, Greystones – Delgany, Kilcoole, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum and Wicklow – Rathnew all have their own 'Local Area Plans' which do not form part of the County Development Plan; these plans will be reviewed after the new County Development Plan is adopted.

Heritage

Heritage & Biodiversity Plan Actions:

- Let's Get Buzzing Community Actions for Biodiversity; a one day community training and information workshop organised by the Heritage office and Environmental Awareness Office was held on Sat 22nd Feb in Ashford Community and Heritage Centre.
- Brittas Bay Biodiversity project: This project won Silver under Best Ecological/ Environmental Project in the All Ireland Local Authority and Community Awards 2020 announced on 15th Feb. 'Explore the Shore workshop' with National Biodiversity Data Centre planned for 21st March at Brittas Bay.
- Phase 2 County Swift Project. Community engagement is underway with Tidy Towns groups and individuals. New nesting boxes and callers due to be installed in a selection of council owned buildings in Arklow and Wicklow.
- New ICAN Network for Wicklow: People and Place project supported by Wicklow's Creative Ireland programme. Redevelopment of Wicklow's online community heritage archive to facilitate six additional local community archives in the new multi-platform site. Groups are; Delgany Tidy Towns, Glens Of

MARCH 2020



Lead, Greystones Tidy Towns, Medieval Bray Project, Glendalough Heritage Forum, The Glen/Donard Heritage Group. New sites in development launch planned for May.

Protected Structures Grants: The Council assessed applications and recommended projects under the county allocation of €60000 to the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, and shortlisted 5 projects for submission under Historic Structures Fund. Awaiting outcome of recommendations.

Planning Applications

A total of 112 applications were received during February, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	20
Housing Developments	5
Agricultural Structures	10
Commercial	3
Other Developments*	74
Total	112

*Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger sign post, Well, change of use, Hoarding, relocation of vehicular entrance, extend the appropriate period of permission, various amendments/modifications to previous planning permission, conversion, retention, boundary screen wall, attic conversion, reclamation of land, effluent treatment system & percolation area.

Decisions issued in respect of 69 applications in February, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	3
Individual Houses	26
Other Developments	40
Other Developments Requiring EIA	0
Total	69

In relation to decisions issued January & February 2020, in comparison to the same period for 2019, the details are as follows:

	28/02/2019	29/02/2020
Total Number of decisions issued	176	140
Total Number of decisions to grant	148	117
% Grant Rate	84%	84%

No. of Applications withdrawn

February 9

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



Planning Enforcement

Enforcement

New Files	03
Advisory Letters	43
Warning Letters	17
Enforcement Notices	03
Legal files	00
Closed	26

2 Cases before the District Court – both resolved and struck out with costs awarded to WCC

1 Case due before the District Court in March

Vacant Sites

25 no. sites now stand on the Register.
04 no. sites are currently on appeal to ABP
01 no. site currently on appeal to Valuation Tribunal
02 no. S15 Demand Notices issued
No Notice of Intent issued

1 site referred to Law Department for Debt Collection proceedings

Derelict Sites

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



4. Environmental Services

Climate Action

Climate Action Charter signed by Wicklow County Council in December 2019. First SPC of Climate Action and Biodiversity SPC held 4th December 2019. Second SPC postponed initially because of election and now due to Covid 19. Directors have submitted champions to represent their directorate on the Climate Action Team to the newly appointed Climate Action Officer

Implementation plan with actions from the Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Climate Charter being developed for submission to the SPC and the Climate Action Team

Priority Action items:

- Installation of EV Charging points in Greystones
- Tree Policy to be drawn up for the County
-

Wicklow County Council is part of a sub region of the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Region along with Kildare Meath and Louth. Going forward Wicklow will collaborate with these other Local Authorities to source funding for larger scale project across the region.

No. of Complaints Opened	52
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	228
No of Litter Fines Issued	33
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	4
No. of Warning Letters Issued	2
No. of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	5
No. of Burning Applications Granted	7
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	4
No. of Notices issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	8
No. of files prepared for Court included in Court lists	56
Income – Litter	€5,950.00
Income – Waste Management	€7,650.82

Blue Flag Beaches

Applications have been submitted to An Taisce for 4 beaches in County Wicklow to be recognised as Blue Flag Beaches for 2020. These beaches are Bray, Greystones, Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South. The results will be known in May 2020. The recruitment process for the selection of Life Guards for the coming season has begun with a closing date for receipt of applications is 27th March 2020.

Dogs Worring Sheep

Dog Wardens will be calling to homes in North Wicklow in the coming weeks.

Under the Control of Dogs Act 1986, which was amended in 1992, all dogs over four months old are required to be licensed, with the exception of Guide dogs.

There are a large number of dogs in the county who are un licenced. Reminders are sent by An Post to the owners whose dogs are licenced, but in order to get ensure all dogs are licenced, ISPCA dog wardens will be calling to homes in County Wicklow in the coming weeks to check are their dogs licenced.



If you are a dog owner, you must have a valid dog licence. The dog wardens will be checking for licences and fines will be issued if you are found not to be in receipt of a valid licence.

315 dogs were licenced in County Wicklow in January 2020.

To co-ordinate with the lambing season Wicklow County Council are currently running a radio campaign on local radio until the end of April regarding dogs worrying sheep.

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 completed site Investigation on Friday 13th September and factual report received in January 2020- results of the site investigation will inform the proposed remediation plan which is scheduled for completion in May 2020.
- Website is up and running and regular updates will be made to keep the Public and Members informed of progress.
- Environmental risk assessments as per EPA guidance document and a draft remediation plan are currently being prepared..

Ports & Harbours

- SSE decision on location of wind farm depot still awaited on. Meeting held with SSE regarding site location and various legal matters.
- Pontoon proposed at South Quay. Following consultation with the Foreshore Unit in the DHPLG a Part 8 application has been prepared and will be ready to advertise before the end of March.
- Preliminary applications have been submitted to the DAFM for 5 different projects including minor refurbishment works at the East Pier €82,500; installation of lighting at the North and South Piers Arklow €60,000; New ladders North and South Quay, Wicklow €45,000; Signage improvements Arklow and Wicklow €30,000; Large Mooring Bollard, Packet Pier €70,000 (resubmitted from last year). Keatings Construction awarded for the 50T Bollard in June 2019. Delayed last year and were due to start in January. They have now indicated that the bollard could cost in excess of €100,000. Intention is to try and negotiate with Keatings and if not possible either retender or use direct labour under the supervision of a qualified marine engineer.
- Fishermen's Storage Facilities – survey completed waiting on drawings back from TWCE in order to commence Part 8 application.
- Explosives Bye-Laws sanctioned by the Minister for Justice and Equality on the 28/02/2020. Next stage is adoption by the Members on Wicklow County Council. Proposal to put before the April Meeting, if possible.

Pollution Control

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants - Ambient Monitoring

- 36 River/Lake samples were taken and analysed upstream and downstream of discharges of public wastewater treatment plants involving 364 individual analyses were monitored on behalf of Irish Water.

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 6 Water pollution complaints were received and investigated.
- 3 Air Pollution complaints were received and investigated.

Private Water Supplies

- 3 Private water supplies serving caravan park/holiday home subject to boil water/do not consume notices were advised to take action to improve the quality of their water supplies in advance of holiday season.



- 3 Private water supplies were sampled and deemed compliant with the available microbiological results.
- 1 Private water supply serving public house reverted to public water supply for human consumption.
- 9 boil water notices were lifted from private water supplies in 2019 after remedial works.
- 7 new boil water notices were issued to private water supplies in 2019.
- 1 new do not consume notice was issued to a private water supply in 2019.

Deco Paints and Solvent Regulations

- 1 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installation was issued a compliance certificate.
- 1 Dry Cleaners installation was issued a compliance certificate.

Petrol Vapour Recovery Regulations

- 1 Petrol filling station was issued a compliance installation certificate.
- 1 Petrol filling station was issued a compliance testing certificate.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2020

- 18 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems under national inspection plan for 2020.
- 10 domestic waste water treatment systems passed inspection and were issued with compliance certificates.
- 8 domestic waste water treatment systems failed inspection and were issued with advisory notices requiring improvements.
- 14 Pre-inspection letters issued for sites selected for inspection of domestic waste water treatment systems in March 2020.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

- 4 self-monitoring discharge sample results from licensed installations were reviewed and deemed compliant.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 6 Lakes were monitored involving 12 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

- 7 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerned agricultural, commercial and forestry development.
- 6 environmental reports on referred planning consultations were completed concerned forestry development.

Well Grants

- Number of New Applications 13
- Number of Provisional Approvals 13
- Number of Grants provided 9
- Number of Inspections 13
- Number of New Wells 2
- Number of New Pumps 4
- Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) 20



Environmental Awareness

Renewal visits for schools hoping to renew their Green Flag were undertaken in schools six schools. A presentation on Biodiversity's role in Climate Action was given at the Lets get Buzzing, Communities for Biodiversity event in Ashford on the 22nd of February. The event was organised in collaboration with the Heritage Office. Over sixty community representatives attended. Preparations were made with An Taisce for National Spring Clean and materials for supply to community groups purchased. Two LAPN projects were completed with the installation of water bottle filling stations in secondary schools and the production of an animated video on wet wipes, a suite of gif and posters on cleaning products. 800 tree saplings were requested from Coillte through the Tree Council of Ireland. The trees were advertised through contacts and the PPN with 63 requests received to take some of the trees by community groups. A meeting was held with the PPN to develop an event in May looking at the use of the Sustainable Development Goals for Climate Action.

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 has been carried out. The report concluded that, while there was a link between the groundwater levels in the Marsh and the Avoca river, the change in groundwater level is significantly dampened when compared to changes in river level. A number of changes in design have resulted in the need to update the Public realm drawings which is presently being done expected completion by late April. Possible disposal options for the dredge material are currently being investigated. 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, Water & Emergency Services

Public Lighting

	27th January 2020	4th February 2020	10th February 2020	17th February 2020	24th February 2020	2nd March 2020
Access Issues (Attended)	13	13	14	15	16	18
Cable Fault (Attend)	30	28	23	21	3	3
ESB Required (Attended)	35	35	38	37	34	33
Knock Down (Attended)	4	5	5	5	5	5
Materials required	5	5	12	13	6	3
No Supply	26	27	22	22	22	23
On Hold	0	0	0	0	0	0
Submitted	579	476	419	369	344	199
Traffic Management Required	20	18	19	20	25	26
TOTAL	712	607	552	502	455	310
Percentage of lights not working					3.08%	2.10%

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	1	3	6	3	5	18
Cable Fault (Attend)			2	1		3
ESB Required(Attended)	1		2		30	33
Knock Down (Attended)	1		2		2	5
Materials required			1		2	3
No Supply	5	3	4	7	4	23
Submitted	42	50	24	25	58	199
Traffic Management Required	2	3	14	3	4	26
Grand Total	52	59	55	39	105	310
Percentage Not Working	1.78%	2.50%	1.70%	1.43%	2.99%	2.10%

Transportation Statistics (General)

	2019	Running Total 2020	January	February 2020
Solicitors Queries	775	134	62	72
Road Closure Applications	40	9	6	3
Road Opening Licences	1418	229	125	104
Abnormal Load Applications	35	5	2	3

Winter Maintenance

The winter maintenance programme commenced on the 1st October 2019 and monitors conditions for the winter season of October 2019 to April 2020. In February 119 call outs were made and 561 tonnes of salt was used over the 9 gritting routes within the County. Salt stocks were further replenished this month with the delivery of 500 tonnes of salt.

Funding 2020

The following annual funding has been received for 2020 to date

Transport Infrastructure Ireland – National Roads €7,207,126

Notification was received of a further grant of €196,256 for Capital Maintenance on the National Secondary Pavement Works N81 Saundersgrove to Tuckmill

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport – Regional and Local Roads - €11,641,360

Sustainable Transportation Schemes:

NTA have allocated funding of €2,690,000 for 20 Sustainable Transportation Schemes in County Wicklow under the Sustainable Transportation Measures Grants Scheme.

The schemes are:

- Arklow - Shillelagh Cycle Route (planning completion)
- Strand Road Cycle Track
- Bray DART Interchange
- Wicklow Town Port Access Route to Station Pedestrian Access
- Killarney Road Cycle Route (CN1)
- Vevay Road Cycle Route (CN2)
- Permeability to Public Transport or Schools
- Dublin Road , Bray ITS Traffic Management
- Bray Bridge Footbridges and Tie-ins
- Swan River Greenway
- Bus Priority in Little Bray
- Bray Public Transport Bridge Connection Phase 2

- Arklow Transport Study
- Greystones Transport Study
- Southern Cross Road VRU improvements
- Bus stops Mill Road, Greystones
- Bray Main Street Bus Priority and Decongestion
- Church Road/Killarney Road Junction Safety Scheme
- Public Transport Priority & Public Realm Improvements at Bray Town Hall
- Convent Avenue to Vevay Crescent Permeability Scheme

Fire Services

Operational Fire Statistics February 2020

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Callsign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	4	2	2								
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	27	4	4	6	5	4	2	2			
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	6	3	3								
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	0										
Single Station Mobilised											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	18	2	4	6	1	3		1			1
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	12	1	2	3			2	2		1	1
Fire Chimney	6	3	1			2					
Fire Small / bin / skip	7		4		1		2				
Fire Vehicle	11	5	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Fire Barn	0										
Flooding	2		2								
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	2		2								
Ambulance Assist	3	2					1				
Garda Assist	2			1	1						
Electrical Incident	0										
Gas Leak	0										
River Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	0										
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	1						1				
False Alarm Malicious	1		1								
Mobilised into other County	8					2	3	2		1	
Times Stations mobilised	110	22	26	17	9	12	12	8	0	2	2



There were 92 incidents attended during the month of February 2020. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of 110 occasions. On no occasion during the month did an Incident Commander request an additional crew above what has been predetermined for the incident type to deal with the incident.

Operational activity for the month February was down on the preceding month (January 2020 – 123 mobilisations). Activity for the month was down 13% on February 2019, mainly due to a decrease in domestic fires and RTCs.

Sample Incidents (February 2020)

- 06/02/2020 Rathdrum and Arklow Fire Crews were mobilised to Woodenbridge where a car had rolled down an embankment coming to rest on its roof on the railway line.
- 06/02/2020 Rathdrum and Wicklow Town Fire Crews were mobilised to Parnell Road, Rathdrum where a car had rolled down an embankment.
- 09/02/2020 Greystones Fire Crew deployed sandbags to protect a property from flooding on the Sea Road, Newcastle.
- 10/02/2020 Blessington and Dunlavin Fire Crews attended an overturned car on the N81 close to Hollywood.
- 12/02/2020 Wicklow Town and Arklow Crews attended an incident at Junction 19 on the M11 where a car had gone over the barrier and down an embankment.
- 19/02/2020 Bray and Greystones Crews responded to a house fire in Charnwood. Fire on ground floor extinguished, occupant treated for smoke inhalation.
- 23/02/2020 Wicklow Town and Rathdrum responded to an RTC, car in ditch near Glenealy, occupant trapped.

Incidents mobilised outside county Wicklow (February 2019):

Kildare (4-incidents)

- 03/02/20 Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to support units from Naas and Newbridge at a 2-car RTC with 2-persons trapped at Watch House Cross, Punchestown, County Kildare.
- 07/02/20 Blessington and Dunlavin Fire Crews were mobilised to support units from Naas at a 2-car RTC at Ballymore Eustace, County Kildare.
- 15/02/20 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to support units from Athy at a 1-car RTC at Inchaquire, Ballytore, County Kildare.
- 21/02/20 Blessington Fire Crew were mobilised to support units from Naas at a 1-car RTC at Eadestown, County Kildare.

Wexford (3-incidents)

- 09/02/20 Carnew Fire Crew were mobilised to an alarm activation in Camolin, County Wexford.
- 16/02/20 Arklow Fire Crew were mobilised to an alarm activation in Inch, County Wexford.
- 16/02/20 Arklow Fire Crew were mobilised to support Wexford crews at a 1-car RTC with 1-person trapped in Inch, County Wexford.

Incidents where stations from outside Wicklow were mobilised into the county (February 2019):

- 21/02/20 Gorey Fire Crew supported Arklow at a car fire on the M11 motorway near Junction 21.

General

- A new Assistant Chief Fire Officer took up his appointment.
- A Major Emergency Management Committee meeting took place on 13th February where the recent Major Emergency Exercise was assessed in detail.
- A Station Officers' meeting was held on 20th February dealing with a range of Health and Safety issues and launching 3 new national Standard Operational Guidance (SOG) documents.
- A new "Biological Kit" for dealing with body recovery incidents having been developed in Greystones. Kit was issued to all stations.
- A Social Media campaign to highlight the role of "on-call" firefighters took place in preparation for the imminent recruitment campaign.
- A 2-week QQI accredited Breathing Apparatus Course was run in Bray with 6 participants from Wicklow.
- Cork City Fire Brigade used the Bray Training Centre for 2-weeks during the month.
- Hydraulic Platform refresher training for operators took place in Wicklow Town.
- 4 x Flood Responder refresher training courses took place in Laragh.
- 1 x Confined Space refresher training course took place in Wicklow Town.
- The Primary Schools Programme has commenced, all schools in the County will be visited with nationally developed programme.

Fire Prevention Statistics February 2020

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	11		2		8
Regularisation Certificates					
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	8		2		4

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

Building Control

Commencement Notices

29 Commencement Notices Submitted:

Distribution:

- 8 => Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 2 => Seven day Notice
- 18 => Opt Out Declarations
- 1 => Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents

Submission Statistics

- (i) 62% of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- (ii) *Revised Information requested
12 No. Commencement Notices (CN)
Of which, 8 are Opt Out (66%)
3 are Compliance Documentation (25%)
1 are 7 Day Notice (9%)
Validated CNs for February = 15No.
Relating to 8 new build residential Units
1 of which are one off houses
- (iii) Invalidated (CNs) for February = 1

11 No. Certificates of Compliance on Completion (CCC) processed this period

- 11 No. Deemed Valid
- 0 No. Deemed Invalid

11 No. Validated CCCs related to:

- 6 No CCCs submitted in February 2020
- 3 No CCCs submitted in January 2020
- 1 No CCCs submitted in December 2019
- 1 No CCC submitted in November 2019
- 54% => 6No. @ Multi-Development site => 50 new residential units
- 10% => 1No. @ One-off House, (private homes) => 01 new residential units
- 36% => 4No. @ Commercial Development => 00 new residential unit

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District February 2020	EURO
Bray Municipal District	164,738
Greystones Municipal District	57,386
Wicklow Municipal District	51,890
Arklow Municipal District	32,895
Parking Permits	20,451
Parking Fines	55,976
Wicklow County Council	306,909

Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. Recruitment

Competitions for the following posts were held in February 2020

No competitions were held in February 2020.

Employee Numbers

	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019
Managerial/ Administrative	280	272	280	285
Professional/ Technical	104	98	103	102
Outdoor	316	318	318	318
Temporary/ Seasonal	65	88	62	62
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	8
Total	773	784	771	775

	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 DOHPLG	13	8	8	8
Total	736	761	752	740

(Excludes figures for Fire-fighters)



2. Access to Information

No. of F.O.I. Requests

February 2020	8
January to February 2020	18

February 2019	19
January to February 2019	29

No. of Ombudsman Requests

February 2020	7
January to February 2020	7

February 2019	2
January to February 2019	2

3. Press Releases

February 2020 – 5 Press Releases

4. Register of Electors

The 2020/2021 Register of Electors has now been published and issued to all Councillors and TD's via email as the Political Extract. This document can be imported into excel and contains the full Live Register. In order to be more environmentally conscious the Register will only be printed in hard copy for places where it is available to the public such as Post Offices, Garda Stations and Libraries.

There are 101,933 electors on the 2020/2021 Live Register of Electors for Wicklow.

Work will continue on database maintenance and locating Eircodes for properties that do not have them in the system.



5. I.C.T. Report

IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 27 tickets a day.

Customer Service Delivery

- Customer Relations Management (CRM) System – Arklow Municipal District continue piloting the new system for Housing Repairs and Environment have begun using it for waste enforcement.
- Work continues with the business process mapping and DPIA's are being carried out for each process as it arises.

Domain Migration

- The domain migration project is nearing completion on the computers and users. The last few laptops are currently being migrated. Mailboxes are the next step in the project.

GIS & Data Collection Systems

- Data analysis underway for the upcoming County Development Plan.
- Parallel projects in Housing, Roads and Environmental Services departments are on-going and integration to CRM and GIS systems have been developed and rolled out.

eServices

- The Online Consultation Hub on the Wicklow.ie website currently has 1 item up for consultation – Part 8, 3 Units in Ballintreskin.
- Plans in place for improvements to the Library events calendar.
- Wicklow.ie – pageviews up until end of February 2020 were 267,821
- Social media accounts
 - Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 6462 followers.
 - Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 6154 followers.
 - Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 103 followers.

Broadband Development

- National Broadband Plan - Following signing of contract for NBP in November, planning for the rollout of broadband has now commenced.
- Survey of Broadband Connection Points started in February.



Financial

Revenue Account

Due to year-end adjustments that are currently being carried out as part of the 2019 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) process, we are not in a position to provide January 2020 expenditure figures in the normal format at this time. This situation will be regularised during the Quarter 1 period. The below table outlines the 2020 adopted budget by service division.

REVENUE ACCOUNT			
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 29TH FEBRUARY 2020			
	EXPENDITURE	INCOME	NET
	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Full Year Budget	
	€	€	€
A - Housing and Building	24,541,664	30,692,854	6,151,190
B - Road Transport & Safety	23,611,358	16,493,380	7,117,978
C - Water Services	5,560,661	6,545,641	984,980
D - Development Management	11,242,546	6,144,652	5,097,894
E - Environmental Services	11,837,313	2,002,200	9,835,113
F - Recreation and Amenity	7,663,027	847,647	6,815,380
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,479,516	819,228	660,288
H - Miscellaneous Services	11,879,184	6,156,153	5,723,031
LG - Local Government Fund		13,720,320	13,720,320
RA - Commercial Rates		31,950,795	31,950,795
	116,222,871	116,372,870	(149,999)

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 29th February 2019.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 29th FEBRUARY 2019					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2020	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers To/From Reserves	Closing Balance at 29/02/2020
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	33,149,661	6,186,196	(7,021,460)	0	32,314,397
Road Transport & Safety	(44,190,469)	1,039,345	(2,328,861)	83,642	(45,396,343)
Water Services	(11,309,153)	16,739	(230,785)	0	(11,523,199)
Development Management	(9,789,409)	19,441	(15,731)	16,358	(9,769,341)
Environmental Services	1,258,208	201,069	(521,429)	0	937,848
Recreation and Amenity	(1,191,448)	665,183	(586,545)	0	(1,112,810)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(885,558)	(74,031)	0	0	(959,589)
Miscellaneous Services	(15,181,549)	254,604	(866)	0	(14,927,811)
	(48,139,717)	8,308,546	(10,705,677)	100,000	(50,436,848)



Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

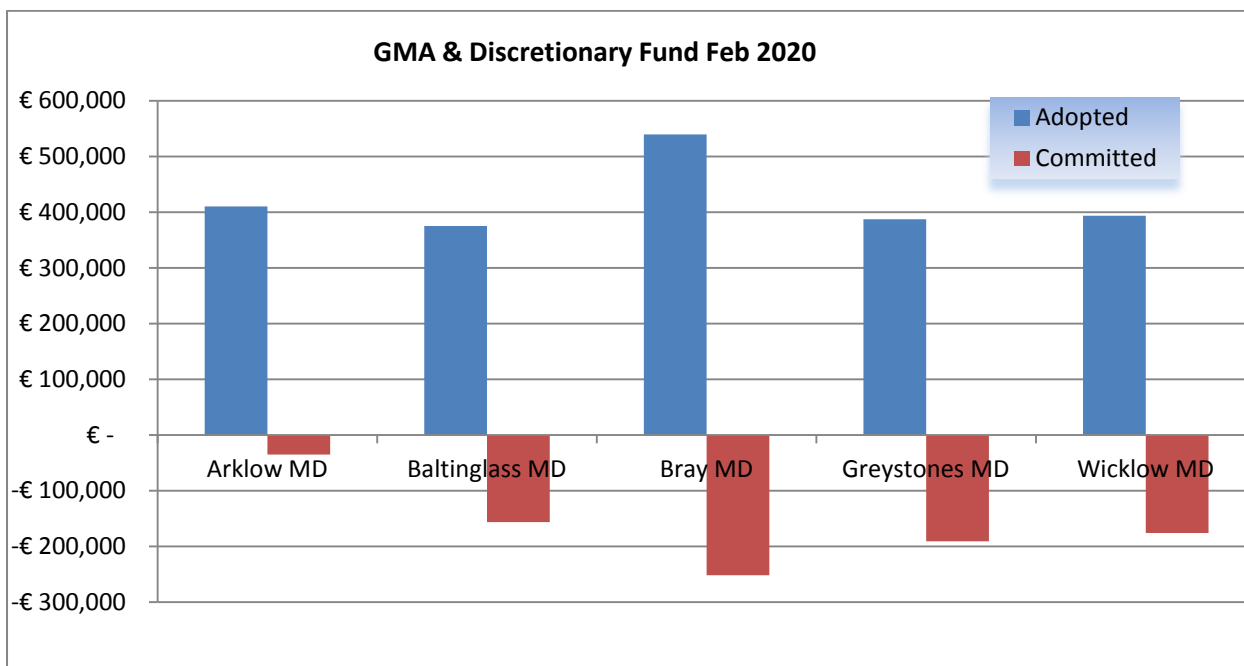
SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 29TH FEBRUARY 2020									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2020	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 29/02/2020	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates *	5,265,234				5,265,234	810,689	4,454,545		15%
Rents & Annuities	1,858,717	3,217,002			5,075,719	2,730,343	2,345,376		54%
Housing Loans *	403,560				403,560	300,080	103,480		74%

N.B. The commercial rates figures will be populated after the 2020 rate demands are issued
 This updated 2020 housing loan figures will be available in next months report
 The rent collection percentage is below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year.
 This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

5.

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2019

Discretionary Budget 2020 €2,106,500. The graph and table below outline the discretionary budget for 2020 by Municipal District.



Municipal District	C/F from 2019	Adopted	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	52,813	410,500	17,673	445,640
Baltinglass MD	180,991	375,500	24,641	531,850
Bray MD	165,252	539,500	(86,756)	791,508
Greystones MD	205,713	387,500	14,641	578,572
Wicklow MD	159,389	393,500	(16,507)	569,396
Total	764,158	2,106,500	(46,308)	2,916,966



Capital Investment Programme 2020-2022

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