

**Wicklow County Council  
Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024**



**W I C K L O W**

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive’s Monthly Report – November 2024

### Contents

<b>Social Development (Housing &amp; Community)</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Housing .....	4
Community .....	15
<b>Planning, Economic &amp; Rural Development</b> .....	<b>23</b>
Planning .....	23
Economic and Rural Development .....	33
<b>Climate, Environment, Recreation &amp; Amenity</b> .....	<b>42</b>
<b>Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery &amp; Emergency Services</b> .....	<b>62</b>
Transportation .....	62
Infrastructure Delivery .....	68
<b>Emergency Response</b> .....	<b>72</b>
<b>Organisational Development (HR &amp; Corporate)</b> .....	<b>81</b>
<b>Finance, Water &amp; Information Systems</b> .....	<b>85</b>
Finance.....	85
Information Systems .....	90

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### This month:

#### Community Climate Action Funding

Wicklow County Council and The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications are delighted to announce the allocation of €675,574.33 to 20 community groups across the county. This funding will support projects aimed at addressing the negative impacts of climate change as part of the Community Climate Action Programme.

The main objective of this programme is to empower communities to take climate action and to foster the development of low-carbon, sustainable communities, contributing to national climate and energy targets. The funded projects include initiatives such as the installation of renewable energy systems, the development of community gardens, installation of EV chargers, bike racks, water refill stations, composting facilities, lighting upgrades and rainwater harvesting systems.

The fund opened for applications on December 6, 2023, and closed on March 6, 2024. Community groups throughout the county were invited to apply under one or more of the following themes:

- Travel
- Food & Waste
- Shopping & Recycling
- Community & Energy
- Local Climate & Environmental Action

A total of 40 applications were received from interested groups. Following a competitive selection process, 20 community groups were successful in this first round of funding, and they have now entered the delivery stage of their projects.

#### Local Enhancement Programme 2025

The launch of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 was announced on the 7th November 2024

This fund is being provided by the government to support community and voluntary groups, totalling €7 million to be allocated across the local authority network.

County Wicklow has received €199,044 as part of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025, details of which were shared by Ministers Humphreys and Joe O'Brien TD.

The Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is responsible for allocating funding through this scheme. Applications must relate to one or more key priority areas identified in their LCDC's Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to be eligible for consideration.

Further information and application forms will be available in early January 2025, with the closing date for applications set for March 7, 2025.

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

## Social Development (Housing & Community)

### Housing

	October 2024	October 2023
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	97	155
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1364	1521
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	23
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	22	28

### Allocation of Social Housing

	October 2024	October 2023
Wicklow County Council	11	10
Approved Housing Bodies	08	59

### Social Housing Stock

	October 2024	October 2023
Tenancies Occupied	5010	4863
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€336,729.72	€321,558.93
Arrears	€3,271,553.78	€3,062,476.85

### Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 31/08/2024
Arklow	931
Ashford	394
Aughrim	43
Avoca	39
Ballinaclash	7
Ballyconnell	5
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	109
Barnarrig	12
Blessington	247

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

Bray	1110
Brittas Bay	1
Carnew	79
Conary	4
Coolboy	6
Delgany	224
Donard	17
Dunlavin	27
Enniskerry	50
Glenealy	13
Greystones	328
Kilcoole	52
Kilmacanogue	11
Kiltegan	5
Kirakee	1
Knockananna	5
Laken	1
Laragh	11
Newcastle	10
Ntrmk	62
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	63
Rathnew	131
Redcross	5
Roundwood	32
Shillelagh	30
Stratford On Slaney	3
Thomastown	7
Tinahely	30
Wicklow	256
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4364</b>

Note: The Social Housing Needs Assessment 2024 is currently underway, and these figures will be subject to change

### Re-Let's / Voids

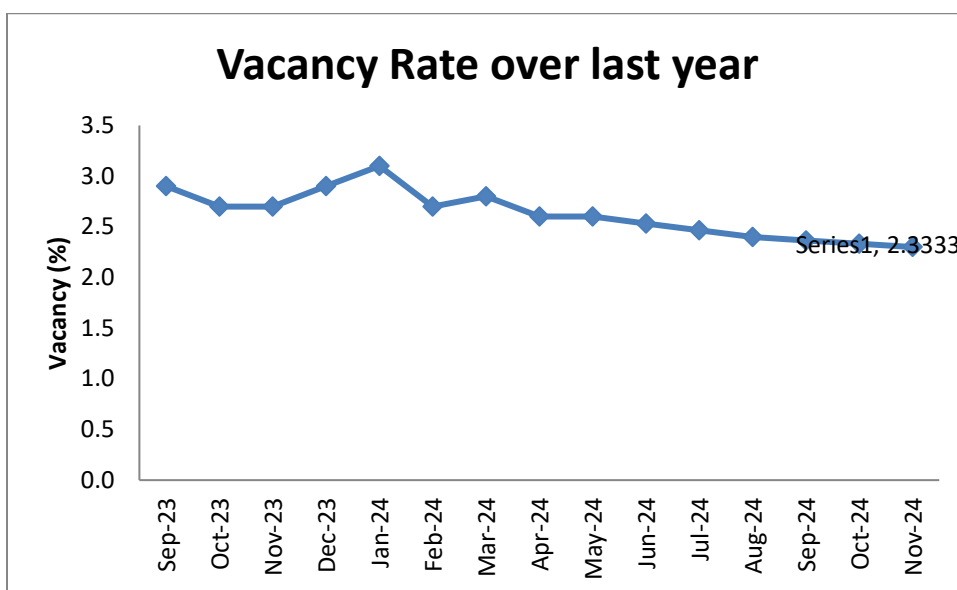
MD	Completed in 2024	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	17 (0)	6 (0)	6 (0)	15 (0)	27(+1)
Baltinglass	16 (0)	5 (+2)	2 (-3)	16(+4)	23 (+3)
Bray	52 (+20)	6 (-14)	5 (-17)	12 (+2)	23(-21)
Greystones	6 (+5)	2 (+2)	0 (-1)	0 (0)	2(0)
Wicklow	25 (+9)	14(+2)	23 (-1)	2 (0)	39 (-5)
<b>2024 Totals</b>	<b>107 (+5)</b>	<b>38 (-9)</b>	<b>38 (+1)</b>	<b>39(-6)</b>	<b>115 (-10)</b>
<b>2023 Totals</b>	<b>140</b>				

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

<b>Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>Figures in brackets indicate change on last month</b>
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A new local area maintenance framework was setup in 2024. 17 contractors were appointed to cover all five MD areas for works such as housing refurbishments works, repairs and adaption grants.

The Council can only recoup a maximum of €11,000 per house from the Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage, whereas the average cost of relets was €36,000 per house in 2022 and €31,000 per house in 2023.



Note: No occupied tenancy data available in June/July/Oct/Nov 2024

According to CSO Census 2022 data:

Total No of rented properties in the state	513,704	100%
No of properties rented by Private landlords	330,632	64.4%
No of properties rented by Local Authorities	153,192	29.8%
No of properties rented by AHBs	29,880	5.8%
No of vacant houses (including Holiday Homes) in Co Wicklow	4,320	
Average no of WCC vacant units (using 2023 figure)	140 (3.2% of total vacant houses in the county)	

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive’s Monthly Report – November 2024

The overall vacancy rate for rental properties (private and social) on Census night was 7%, so our vacancy rate is less than half the overall rate for a rental sector where Local Authorities account for only 29.8% of the properties. Also, Wicklow County Council’s vacant units only account for 3.2% of the total number of vacant units in our county.

### **Housing Maintenance**

Planned Maintenance in the form of electrical remedial works has been completed at Parkmore in Baltinglass. Protech Electrical is currently carrying out remedial works at Palladius Park in Donard and will then move on to Mallinswood, Grangecon.

Gas and oil boiler servicing and repairs continue in all MDs. Checks for fire blankets, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are part of the boiler service visit and any missing or time expired alarms are replaced. Heat Pump maintenance contract documents are currently being prepared and tender competitions will be run on [www.supplygov.ie](http://www.supplygov.ie) shortly.

Housing crews are also currently replacing fire blankets, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in our housing stock following a request sent out for replacements needed at the end of 2023.

### **Energy Retrofit Program**

As part of our ongoing energy upgrade scheme, housing services are undertaking works across the county. This includes, depending on house surveyed, and not limited to external wall insulation, attic insulation, heat pumps and upgraded windows and doors. Number of houses retrofitted as of September 2024. These works comply with our policy on energy fabric upgrades which went through SPC in 2023.

EERP	Numbers carried out as of September
Houses retrofit	125



Retrofit Scheme at Monastery Grove. Completed nominated for ICE/LAMA Award

### **Mortgage To Rent**

A total of 52 households are tenants of Wicklow County Council through the Mortgage to Rent Scheme and as such pay a weekly rent to WCC. WCC leases these properties for a 25-year period from Home for Life, all 52 properties have been inspected and our housing team administers the monthly lease payments to Home for Life.

MTR	Numbers of inspections and sign offs as of October
Mortgage to Rent Properties	41

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive’s Monthly Report – November 2024

### Vacant Home Surveys

Housing Services have been completing vacant homes surveys on behalf of the Vacant homes officer in 2024. This maps locations of vacant and derelict properties around the county in coordination with other departments.

Vacant Homes Surveys	Numbers carried out as of October
Surveyed on app	410

### Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement

The Targeted Inspection programme on private rented accommodation continues. **Housing For All** requires 25% of all private rented properties to be inspected annually. This equates to approx. 1500 properties in Co. Wicklow every year. Target properties are selected using a Risk Based approach. The Council is responsible for enforcing the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 (SI 137 of 2019).

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out last month (October)
Targeted and complaint inspections	59

So far in 2024, the following Notices have been served by Wicklow County Council in relation to breaches of SI 137 of 2019:

Notice Type	Served so far in 2024 (figures in brackets indicate increase on previous month)
Improvement Notice	34 (+1)
Prohibition Notice	9 (+2)

Prohibition Notices are published on the Council’s website and there are currently 6 such notices (the oldest dates back to 2020). Note that in the case of properties subject of HAP, service of a Prohibition Notice results in the HAP payment being stopped as per Section 41(2) (d) (i) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 and this happens within a maximum of 13 weeks.

### Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

Under CAS, the Departments is accepting applications for capital funding for the delivery, through either construction or acquisition, of housing accommodation, to cater for priority groups including:

- elderly.
- homeless persons (including “care leavers” exiting State care on reaching the age of 18).
- people with a disability, with particular emphasis on moving people with disabilities from congregated settings into community-based living.

### **Assessment criteria**

CAS funding operates in partnership with LA’s and Approved Housing Bodies.



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

LAs assess the specific need for CAS funded housing being cognisant of the actual housing need of the CAS groups identified in the latest Social Housing Assessment, consultations with suitable local inter-agency/co-ordination groups that deal with special needs, such as the housing and disability steering groups, national policies and guidelines, including the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People.

In 2023, Wicklow County Council delivered on 8 properties in partnership with Dublin Simon (4), Ark Housing Association (3) and Housing Association for Integrated Living (HAIL) (1).

### Active projects 2024

Wicklow County Council is currently actively working with Ark Housing, Sunbeam housing association, National Association of Housing for Visually Impaired (NAHVI), St John of Gods Housing Association, Newgrove Housing Association, and Peter McVerry Trust to drive projects to completion.

To date, October 2024, Wicklow have delivered 6 properties in partnership with Sunbeam Housing Services (3), Ark Housing Association (2) and National Association of Housing for Visually Impaired (1). Areas of delivery below:

CAS Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	4	Delivery 2024	CAS
Newcastle	1	Delivery 2024	CAS
Arklow	1	Delivery 2024	CAS

Active CAS projects included a construction project with SJOG which will deliver 4 units to house persons with disabilities, 4 turnkey units & 1 acquisition unit with Ark Housing to deliver units to persons at risk of homelessness and 1 unit with Sunbeam Housing Services to deliver a home to a person with a disability.

### Mobility Aid Grants / Housing Adaptation Grants / Housing for Older People

Council Delivered Adaptions Works	Completed/Ongoing
Bray MD	37
Baltinglass MD	13
Wicklow MD	17
Arklow MD	24
Greystones MD	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>

### Budget Spend

	2024 Budget	Amount Spent as of October 2024
Grant Funding for Private Housing	€2,728,709.00	€1,833,861.00
Grant Funding for Social Housing	€913,457.00	€959,648.00

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Grants Received/Processed	249	216	266	327	281	456	518

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### Local Authority Home Loans up to October 2024

<b>Received</b>	<b>Approved in Principle</b>
63	23

### 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To Date	October 2024
<b>Applications Received</b>	454	6
<b>Completed</b>	109	0
<b>Declined</b>	280	0
<b>Ongoing</b>	15	15

### Housing Acquisitions

The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage like previous years, have devolved arrangements through the Local Authorities to focus on acquiring properties where a tenant in receipt of social housing supports, including Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), and has received a Notice of Termination (NOT) due to the landlord's intention to sell the property.

	Vacant	Tenant In Situ (TIS)	In Progress	TOTAL
<b>2023</b>	2	24		26
<b>2024 (to 30<sup>th</sup> September)</b>	6	6	6	14



25 Emyvale, Arklow. Closed 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### House Purchase Enquiries (To 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024)

Total Received to date	Early Enquiry EOI Received	Closed -did not Progress with Purchase	Sale Agreed	Due Diligence Ongoing
51	16	26	6	3

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

The Local Authority Mortgage to Rent scheme is a government initiative to help homeowners who are at risk of losing their home due to mortgage arrears. The scheme enables householders to continue to live in their home as a tenant of either an Approved Housing Body or a Local Authority.

There are currently 98 households in the County availing of this scheme.

Wicklow County Council (MTR) Tenants	Approved Housing Body (MTR) Tenants	In Progress
52	46	7

### Homeless Services

#### Homeless Figures for October 2024

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/10/2024	Year To Date	As at 31/10/2023
No of New Presentations	24	276	29
No. of Repeat Presentations	1	4	2
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	11	85	6
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	28	305	20
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	2	23	3
No. of Children	16	136	9
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	1	51	6
Family Circumstances	11	105	15
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	1	17	1
Mental Health	1	16	6
Risk of Homelessness	3	125	20
Arrears/Loss of Income	1	10	0
Addiction Issues	4	33	9
DV/DA	3	9	0
Medical Issues	2	14	1
Overcrowding	0	37	4
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	4	45	3
ASB:	0	8	0
Rough Sleeping*	1	18	6
Sofa Surfing*	2	22	1
Staying with Family*	9	74	8
Staying with Friends*	1	21	2

\*(Recorded as a consequence of Homelessness as opposed to a Reason for Homelessness)

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/10/24	
Families	13
Adults	27
Children	41
Single individual	7

### Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/10/2023

	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
<b>Household breakdown</b>	23	23	27	6	6	1	4	3

### Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/10/2024

	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
<b>Household breakdown</b>	23	24	22	7	5	2	3	6

### Homeless HAP Place Finder

The Homeless HAP Place finder 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, 582 households (400 families & 177 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024. (232 homeless cases, 325 prevention cases to date and 24 direct provisions). 147 properties were sourced by WCC.

### Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

#### **Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow**

Kilmantin Hill has 11 rooms to support persons either homeless, exiting a higher support facility, or in danger of becoming homeless.

# **Wicklow County Council**

## **Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024**

There are 9 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon. There is continuous transition by the clients to suitable alternative accommodation.

A report is being undertaken at present to cost the refurbishment of the current rooms with a view to making them all ensuite. More details will be available over the coming months.

### **Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow**

Dublin Simon are engaged by Wicklow County Council to operate and manage the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow as a Family Homeless Service. The building comprises of three 1-bed units, two 2-bed units, and two 3-bed units. Eleven families have now transitioned or are in the process of transitioning to a permanent home and the resulting vacancies are in the process of being occupied with families experiencing or in danger of homelessness.

It is envisaged that families will avail of the service for circa 6-months STA (Supported Temporary Accommodation) with key working support to enable families to transition from homelessness into Homeless HAP, or alternative longer-term accommodation.

### **Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray**

San Remo is operated by Dublin Simon and incorporates a service model whereby there are a number of emergency/cold weather initiative beds and Supported Temporary Accommodation Beds (STA). There is on site key working support linking in with clients.

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

Bi-monthly meetings are held with Dublin Simon and Wicklow County Council staff.

### **Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones**

This facility provides 35 ensuite bedrooms with associated kitchens and common areas and is fully operational. Wicklow County Council run an in-reach service with the clients to support them as they continue their journey into more permanent accommodation.

### **Other Homeless Supported Accommodation**

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray, and Greystones, leased to Approved Housing Bodies, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. Six of these persons living in shared accommodation have now successfully moved into their forever homes and this in turn created space to move further people out of homelessness.

A homeless outreach service has been rolled out in Bray and is proving very successful.

### **Housing First**

Peter McVerry Trust has been appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid-East Region. Wicklow County Council is committed to working with them and has now reached and surpassed the targets identified in the programme. Housing First recognises that a stable home provides the basis for recovery in other areas.

Properties will be provided by both Wicklow County Council and Peter McVerry Trust for the implementation of the programme.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 18 clients under Housing First. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation. The main issue facing this programme is the availability of 1-bed units in suitable locations with easy access to required services.

### **Homeless Action Plan 2024 – 2026**

The plan was approved by the elected members of Wicklow County Council at the Council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

### **Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025**

- Three-year strategy published 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022
- Focus on ending homelessness for young people aged 18-24 through:
  - Prevention of young people from entering homelessness
  - Improving the experience for young people accessing emergency accommodation
  - To assist young people exiting homelessness
- Multitude of stakeholders all with vital roles in addressing fundamental issues

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### Community

#### Local Enhancement Programme 2025

The launch of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 was announced on the 7th of November 2024 by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD.

This fund is being provided by the government to support community and voluntary groups, totalling €7 million to be allocated across the local authority network.

County Wicklow has received €199,044 as part of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025, details of which were shared by Ministers Humphreys and Joe O'Brien TD. The allocation is broken down as follows:

	<u>Capital Allocation</u>	<u>Current Allocation</u>	<u>Total Allocation</u>
<b>Wicklow</b>	<b>€170,609</b>	<b>€28,435</b>	<b>€199,044</b>

Under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025, there will be €6 million in capital funding available nationally to assist community and voluntary groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas. This funding can be used for minor capital works, improvements to facilities, and the purchase of equipment for community use.

Additionally, this year's fund includes €1 million in current funding to support community and voluntary groups with non-pay running costs, such as energy bills (electricity, refuse charges, heating), and other operating expenses (rental or lease costs, insurance bills).

The Department of Rural and Community Development administers the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 through Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs), with support from Local Authorities in each area.

It should be noted that groups applying under the €1 million current fund are not precluded from applying for the capital funding and vice versa.

The Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is responsible for allocating funding through this scheme. Applications must relate to one or more key priority areas identified in their LCDC's Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to be eligible for consideration.

Further information and application forms will be available in early January 2025.

#### Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced on Friday, August 2nd, 2024, €16.5 million to deliver 185 community projects across the country. The major investment will support a diverse range of projects such as upgrades to sports facilities, community centres, parks, walking trails and playgrounds. As part of the initiative, funding is provided to support the purchase of buildings and vehicles for community use.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

The Community Recognition Fund 2024 aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community, in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The Fund, administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development, follows an extensive consultation process with local authorities who submitted their individual list of projects for approval.

Wicklow is set to receive funding for the below projects in this phase:

Wicklow	Carnew	Old Coolattin County Club CLG and Wicklow County Council	Carnew Community Land Development	€150,000
Wicklow	Dunlavin	Dunlavin GAA Club	Development of multi-use games area	€144,000
Wicklow	Dunlavin	Imaal Hall Committee	Facilities Upgrade	€60,800
Wicklow	Newtownmountkennedy	Newtown GAA	Development of a Walkway	€100,000
Wicklow	Arklow	Arklow Town Team	Upgrade to St. Peter's Place Playground	€135,000
Wicklow	Bray	Bray Area Partnership	Purchase of new vehicle	€50,000
Wicklow	Rathdrum	Rathdrum Playground Committee	Park Placemaking Project	€54,500
<b>Wicklow Total</b>				<b>€694,300</b>

The Department of Rural and Community Development has published the full details of the scheme (including funding allocations). For further information please see [gov.ie](https://www.gov.ie)

There will be a further call for the next phase applications in late 2024.

### **Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2023**

The projects below are underway, with estimated completion dates in Quarter 4 of 2024.

	<b>Project Description</b>
<b>Bray Community Centre</b>	Internal works including electrical upgrade, painting, flooring and heating system improvement works
	External works including windows and doors replacement, safe removal of asbestos, exterior painting,
	Other works will include accessible lift, protected stairway works, insulation upgrade, landscaping and signage



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

<b>Baltinglass Community Park</b>	Riverside Walking Path
	New Playground
	MUGA Refurbishment
<b>Bray Parish Centre</b>	Internal works including electrical upgrade, painting and fittings
<b>Wicklow Town Placemaking Project</b>	Refurbishment of Assembly Hall (total area 2,000 sq. ft) to include new heating system, Internal painting, insulation, install 3 phases, refurbish kitchen, toilets and meeting room areas. Make universally accessible
	Installation of universally accessible outdoor community gym facility along the Murrough, in order to extend upon and complement the existing community facilities present.
	Improvements to the seafront promenade linking Wicklow Harbour to the existing Murrough community facilities and beyond to the Murrough coastal walk.
<b>Arklow Playing Pitch</b>	Groundworks and surfacing works
	Multi use pitch and fencing
	Landscaping
<b>Rathdrum Community Park</b>	Groundworks, Fencing, Gates
	Landscaping, large planters and benches
<b>Greystones Community Park</b>	Boules/pétanque playing ground
	Landscaping and Community Placemaking

### **Pride of Place 2024**

Two Community groups from Wicklow were successful at the National Pride of Place Competition 2024, which took place in the Hillgrove Hotel, Co. Monaghan on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

These annual awards are known as the Oscars for community groups, and they highlight the tremendous work being done by community groups all over the island of Ireland.

Tearmann Community Garden, Baltinglass, won gold in the Inclusive Communities category, and Tinahely Community Recycling Centre won silver in the category for Creative Communities.

Cllr. Paul O'Brien, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, attended the event and congratulated everyone involved. He remarked, "This is an exceptional achievement for the County, and I couldn't be prouder of all the people involved who made this happen. To see two Wicklow nominees on the podium, bringing home a gold and silver award, against very strong competition from across the island of Ireland was a very proud moment as Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, who was also present that evening, expressed her pride in all three Wicklow nominees. "It is a wonderful achievement for these groups, and it acknowledges the fantastic work they have done in their communities" Also, she extended her wholehearted congratulations to all the local volunteers and groups who participated in the competition.

Sponsored by IPB Insurance, the Pride of Place competition was initiated 22 years ago in association with Co-operation Ireland to acknowledge the invaluable work undertaken by volunteers and those involved in local community development.

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024



Patricia Norton from Tearmann Community, Baltinglass accepting their gold award.



Dave Murray from Tinahely Community Recycling Centre accepting their silver award.



## **County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme**

### **County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-27**

#### **Action 3.8 Appoint Healthy Age Friendly Homes Co-ordinator & Rollout Wicklow Programme**

The programme continues to support older people to live in their home for as long as possible. Due to the high rate of interest in the programme, there are a high number of referrals and the waiting times to be seen by the coordinator are longer than originally anticipated.

The programme's ambition is based on four key objectives:

1. Enable older people to continue to live in their homes, or in a home more suited to their needs
2. Live with a sense of independence and autonomy
3. Feel part of, and be part of, their community
4. Support the avoidance of early or premature admission to long-term residential care

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

The County Wicklow coordinator, Marion Van der Wel, is carrying out at least seven visits per week arranging supports for participants such as fall detectors, housing adaptation supports from Care & Repair, Housing Adaptations and linking with Community Services.

The programme **accepts referrals from a variety of sources** including from:

1. The older person themselves
2. Family and friends
3. Elected Representatives
4. Local Authority Staff
5. Public Health Nurses, GP's and Occupational Therapists
6. Community Organisations

Please note, consent from the older person (verbal) must be obtained before the referral is submitted. Once the referral is received, Marion will be in-touch with the older person to arrange a free home visit.

Referrals to the programme can be made via phone or email:

046-924 8899 or [healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie](mailto:healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie)

### Older People's Council, Executive Group - Meetings and Representation

The Older People's Council (OPC) met on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 in the Brockagh Centre, Laragh to organise the OPC AGM which took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2024 in the Arklow Bay Hotel. There were information stands from various groups such as H.S.E., An Garda Síochána, Sláintecare, Local Sports Partnership, Healthy Ireland and Speakers from Citizens Information Centre and Bank of Ireland.

OPC Executive is planning for wider engagement with older people across the county and recruitment of more members of the OPC this year.

Clinics for the Greystones area and Blessington area will be scheduled for 2025.

### County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance

Alliance meeting was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 where issues of Health, Transport, Housing and Socialisation were discussed. Each member of the Older Persons Council discussed the issues facing their own areas. Visits will be carried out to various clubs around the county, for example Men's Sheds, Women's Sheds and Active Retirement groups.

"Care and Repair" for the Arklow Area – This is a programme aimed at helping the older person in the community avail of minor works being carried out around their home. Interviews will shortly be taking place. Initially this programme will be a pilot project following which a decision will be made regarding the viability of rolling out in other areas/towns within the county.

### Age Friendly Ireland Committee

Wicklow Station has been nominated as the first train station within the County to receive Age Friendly Status. A Committee has been formed and a Walkability Audit took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 where people from the Irish Wheelchair Association, Members from the Older Peoples Council and members from Wicklow County Council took part. They were given a toolkit to use on the walk up to the station and around the station and they took notes of any issues that they came across. After the Walkability the Committee went back to County Hall to discuss their findings. A report of all the findings will be issued in the next few weeks and work will commence at the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### **Disability Inclusion Steering Group**

A “Make Way Day” meeting was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2024. “Make way Day” is a programme that will be piloted to make people aware of the difficulties people with disabilities face when people park their cars on footpaths obstructing people with disabilities to pass by freely. It is hoped that this programme will be launched by the end of the year.

The Sunflower Lanyard Programme aims to easily identify people with hidden disabilities. This Programme was rolled out in Wicklow County Council. Members of the Customer Care Unit currently wear these Lanyards so that a person with a hidden disability can identify which member of staff they need to talk to.

### **Access Officer**

Training for Access Officer commenced in October 2024

### **Comhairle na nÓg**

The position of co-ordinator is to be filled.

### **CLÁR 2024**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of October over €240,000 funding was announced under the scheme by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD.

The six projects in receipt of this funding in Wicklow are:

1. Annacurra GAA: Carpark Accessibility Upgrade Works - €50,000
2. Ballinacor Mountain Walkers Parking: Tarmacking, and associated works, of parking area at beginning of Ballinacor mountain walking route - €37,980
3. Askanagap Community Hall Renovations: Flooring, wiring, projector and sound system - €50,000
4. Knockananna Amenity Area: Development of a green space within the existing amenity area - €29,215
5. Ballymanus Community Field: Provision of an All-Weather AstroTurf - €50,000
6. Knockananna Community Hall: Energy Upgrade - €24,588



### **Healthy Wicklow**

#### **Behaviour Change Intervention**

Healthy Wicklow's Intergenerational Drumming programme between Carnew Community Care Centre and Coláiste Bhríde Carnew was used as an example to help people develop more effective behaviour change interventions by University of Galway for a two-day training workshop for different stakeholders across the Country on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### **The Recovery Village**

A five-week Community Circle Drumming programme has been funded by Healthy Wicklow for The Recovery Village. The programme commenced on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November which aims to empower people to take an active role in their own mental health recovery.



### **Sláintecare Healthy Communities**

#### **Belong To-Funding**

Sláintecare Healthy Communities alongside Wicklow County Council were awarded 20,000 from the Pobal Dormant Accounts Funds for 2025. The project awarded is Belong To – Bray LGBTQ+ Youth Group (Seniors) to help with extending drop-in hours, developing information and guidance tools, holding additional community events, delivering LGBTI awareness/sensitivity training in healthcare settings, businesses, schools etc, providing outreach support and providing sporting/physical activity programmes to promote inclusion, community participation, health and wellbeing.

#### **Pre and Post Evaluation**

Sláintecare Bray is currently completing a procurement process via RFQ in to seek a third level institution to conduct a 6–9-month pre and post evaluation of our 'Theraplay' project in the Bray Family Resource Development Project. Emails have been sent out to research institutions in the hopes of finding a suitable researcher to conduct this evaluation in January.

#### **Children's Well-being Hub-Bray**

Interviews are underway for The Bray Family Resource Development Project, The Marian Centre and The Bray Travellers Community Project alongside SHC. A play therapist and a family engagement worker are being employed to begin this new project at the start of December.

#### **Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN):**

Current PPN Membership: 467 Member groups across the county.

"Hear from the General Election Candidates" webinars will be run for both constituencies. Wicklow Constituency 19<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm. South Wicklow North Wexford Constituency 20<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm. See website below for more information and links.

Connecting Communities Roadshows held recently in each Municipal District were very successful. Approximately 90 local groups and service providers attended. The events generated new volunteers; new clients/service users; awareness-raising of local services; collaborative projects.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

See [www.countywicklowppn.ie](http://www.countywicklowppn.ie) and Wicklow PPN Facebook page for further information on above and more including funding streams, public consultations, events, daily updates and membership.

### **Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):**

Annual Plans 2025: The Local Development Companies have been given an extension by Pobal until December 13<sup>th</sup> to complete their Plans and submit for assessment on IRIS by the LCDC and Pobal.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### Planning, Economic & Rural Development

#### Planning

##### **Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028 (as varied)**

**Healthy Place-making, Climate Action** and **Economic Opportunity** are the three overarching cross-cutting themes that inform and shape all aspects of the plan. The plan also includes the Core Strategy and the Settlement Strategy for the County. The plan also includes the **Town Plans** for the following settlements: - Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, Ashford, Aughrim, Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely, Avoca, Donard, Newcastle, Roundwood, Shillelagh and Laragh-Glendalough. The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 as altered is available to view here –

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-CountyPlans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Stage-7>

##### **Proposed Variation No 2 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Wicklow Town - Rathnew LAP)**

The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. An online consultation portal has been created to present the variation alongside the draft Local Area Plan. The Proposed Variation is on display for 6 weeks from 09 October to 20 November with submissions invited.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-CountyPlans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Variation-No-2-to-the-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

##### **Proposed Variation No 3 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Blessington LAP)**

The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Blessington Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. An online consultation portal has been created to present the variation alongside the draft Local Area Plan. The Proposed Variation is on display for 6 weeks from 30 October to 11 December with submissions invited.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-CountyPlans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Proposed-Variation-No-3>

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### **Proposed Variation No 4 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Greystones / Delgany & Kilcoole LAP)**

We are currently preparing proposed Variation No. 4 to the WCDP 2022-2028. The purpose of the Variation will be to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Greystones /Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the Variation and the initial stages of the SEA screening is currently being carried out.

### **Local Area Plans**

There are 5 Local Area Plans in Wicklow for the following settlements – ‘Bray Municipal District’, ‘Wicklow Town - Rathnew’, ‘Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole’, ‘Arklow & Environs’ and ‘Blessington’. We are currently reviewing all five in the following order.

### **Draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025**

The draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 is on display for 6 weeks from 09 October to 20 November 2024 with submissions invited. An online consultation portal has been created to present the draft Local Area Plan and associated CDP Variation No. 2.

The Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan process is available to view here -

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Wicklow-Town-Rathnew/Wicklow-Town-Rathnew-Local-Area-Plan-Process>

### **Blessington Local Area Plan**

The draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025 is on display for 6 weeks from 30 October to 11 December 2024 with submissions invited. An online consultation portal has been created to present the draft Local Area Plan and associated CDP Variation No. 3.

The Blessington Local Area Plan process is available to view here -

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Blessington/Draft-Blessington-Local-Area-Plan-2025/Draft-Blessington-Local-Area-Plan-2025>



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### **Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan**

Pre-draft consultation closed for the new 'Greystones - Delgany' & 'Kilcoole' Local Area Plan closed on 31 January 2024 with 115 submissions received. Two well-attended public information days were held in January 2024. All valid submissions have been reviewed and considered and a draft plan is being prepared. The draft plan is currently being prepared and it will go out on public consultation for 6 weeks with submissions invited from everyone. It is hoped that the draft plan will commence display in Q4 2024.

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

The Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan pre-draft process and the consultation portal is available to view here -

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Greystones-Delgany/Greystones-Delgany-Kilcoole-Local-Area-Plan>

### **Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan**

The pre-draft public consultation stage of the Local Area Plan ran from 01 March 2024 to 02 April 2024. An online consultation web portal was created for this stage, with submissions invited through the portal. 80 submissions were received. A well-attended public information day was held on 15 March 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Arklow/Arklow-and-Environs-Local-Area-Plan>

### **Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue)**

Work has commenced on the review of the Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan. We are currently preparing an online consultation portal and are aiming to commence the pre-draft consultation in Q4 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

The current LAP for these Bray is available to view here

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Bray>

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### **Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)**

The Government's Housing For All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland has introduced a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes as a part of the 'Pathway to Increasing New Housing Supply'. The draft RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 was published on 01 February 2024. Submissions were invited on the draft maps up to **01 April 2024 with 9 submissions received**. Submissions requesting a variation of the zoning of land were invited up to 31 May 2024 and no submissions were received by WCC. Determinations on the 9 submissions were issued by 01 July. Landowners had until 01 August to appeal the decision to ABP in the determination and 3 appeals were made. To view the draft RZLT maps click on the link below. The final RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 will be published on 31 January 2025.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2024>

### **Vacant Site Levy**

This programme is still ongoing and is affected by the proposed deferral of the RZLT. As liability to the RZLT is now proposed to be deferred for one year, it is considered appropriate to maintain provisions in legislation for the management and continued charging of the vacant site levy in respect of land which is identified on the register. This will continue to facilitate imminent placements on the register, conclusion of appeals and to facilitate the issuing of demands in relation to the levy for the period to the end of 2024. This will ensure that the use of the levy as an active land management measure will continue until the RZLT is in effect.

More information can be found online at the following link

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Derelict-Vacant-Sites/Vacant-Sites>

### **Heritage Office**

**County Heritage Plan Review:** A draft Heritage Plan was prepared by the Heritage Forum following analysis of issues raised through the pre-draft consultation process. The Draft was adopted by the members of Wicklow County Council during their meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November. The Draft will not enter a second public consultation process.

**County Heritage Plan (CHP):** All projects co-funded with the Heritage Council are complete and recoupment claims to be made by 15<sup>th</sup> November.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive’s Monthly Report – November 2024

**Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN)** – Five new community groups have signed up to the *Our Wicklow Heritage* network and are currently receiving training in setting up their digital archives. New websites due to be launched in early December

**Archaeology:**

**Baltinglass – Irelands Hillfort Capital:** A new publication by authors James O Driscoll, Alan Hawkes and William O Brien and supported by Wicklow County Council is due to be launched in Baltinglass in early December.

**Community Monuments Fund- CMF 2024.** Six projects have been completed in 2024 as follows; Drumgoff Barracks remedialworks; Drumgoff Barracks preparation of a Conservation Plan; Kilmaganogue Conservation Plan; St Kevin’s Church Hollywood Conservation Plan; Mullinacuffe Ruined Church Repair and Consolidation works; Kilranelagh Graveyard digital recording and mapping of headstones. Financial drawdown of €202,000 to be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture):** A total spend of €91,000 in funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme BHIS 2024 and €175,000 under the Historic Structure Fund HSF 2024 was co-ordinated for Wicklow on selected (private and public) projects.

**BHIS 2025** was advertised in September. A total county allocation of €141,000. , 25 applications received and assessment is currently underway.

**The HSF 2025** has recently been announced. Invitations will be sought for County Wicklow with a closing date of Jan 2025 (date TBC)

**Development Management**

**Planning Applications**

Total valid applications received	To 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023	To 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2024	% difference
Received (Valid)	961	908	-5.8%

A total of 92 valid applications were received during October as follows:

Type of Development	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2024 Number Received
Individual Houses	23 (22 Rural)

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

Housing Developments*	05
Agricultural Structures	03
Commercial	05
Other Developments**	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>

\*\*Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger signpost, 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 67 applications in October 2024:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	02
Other Developments	65
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>

Decisions issued between January to October, in comparison to the same period for 2023:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Total Number of decisions issued	851	759
Total Number of decisions to grant	715	648
% Grant Rate	84%	85%
No of applications withdrawn		11 (7 refer to rural house)

### Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

#### Strategic Housing Development

ABP-313229-22 – Lands at **Coolagad**, Greystones (586 Units) Members Meeting 27/4/2022, CE report forwarded 30/5/2022

ABP-313314-22 – Lands at **Fassaroe and Monastery**, Bray (650 Units) Members Meeting 10/5/2022, CE forwarded 07/06/2022 – ABP unable to determine within the 16 weeks statutory timeframe.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

ABP-313442-22 – Lands at the former **Heiton Buckley** site on Castle Street, Bray, (139 Units) Members Meeting 10/05/2022, CE report forwarded 22/06/2022

ABP-314686-22 Lands at **former Bray Golf Club Lands**, Off Ravenswell Road and Dublin Road, Bray, Co. Dublin and Co. Wicklow, (586 Units), Members meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022, CE report submitted 21/11/2022 – Granted 19/08/2024

### Strategic Infrastructure Development

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for approval under section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-310090-21- Proposed development will comprise the onshore grid infrastructure including 220kV export cable circuits and fibre optic cables, new 220kV GIS substation at Shelton Abbey and overhead line connection and all associated ancillary works. In the townlands of Johnstown North, Johnstown South, Seabank, Ballymoney, Killiniskyduff, Templerainy, Coolboy, Kilbride, Shelton Abbey, Ballyraine Lower and Ballyraine Middle, in Co. Wicklow – approved with conditions 27/5/2023.

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for permission under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-309991-21 - Development and operation of an inert landfill facility to backfill the existing quarry to original ground level; progressive restoration of the backfilled quarry to longterm grassland/scrub habitat: establishment and operation of a construction and demolition waste recovery facility; installation and operation of a soil washing plant and all associated site works at Ballinclare and Carrigmore townlands, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow – Decision, refuse permission under section 37G of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, 27/09/2023.

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for proposed development primarily comprising of the provision of a new 110 KV substation with Gas Insulator Switchgear (GIS) technology and two 110kV underground transmission cables (connecting to existing 220kV overhead lines to the northwest of the proposed substation) along with associated and ancillary works at Bogland, Kish, Cooladangan, Ballintombay, Ballyroonaun and Ballynattin, Co. Wicklow – ABP approved proposed development subject to 15 conditions 30/11/2023.

An Bord Pleanála has received a planning application for permission by Sure Partners Limited for offshore wind energy development – Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 located off the coasts of Co. Wicklow and Co.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

Wexford under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended – ABP-319864-24 refers.

### **Substitute Consent**

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for the remainder of the development on lands at Ashford, Co. Wicklow - ABP-312283-21 refers. Granted by ABP 16/8/2024 subject to 16 conditions.

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for development that consists of a sand/gravel extraction pit including extraction areas, processing areas, stockpiling areas and ancillary works (circa 23.7 hectares). The development also includes a sand/gravel washing/screening plant & buildings comprising workshop/machinery shed, tools storage container, pump – house, 2 no. portable office buildings, 1 no. portable office/canteen/WC, Sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant control cabin, bonded oil storage tanks, diesel generator container & electrical substation (all totalling circa 376sqm) The application is accompanied by a remedial EIAR and remedial NIS. Lands at Ballinabarney North & Bolagh Lower, Redcorss, Co. Wicklow

### **E-Planning Project**

The eplanning has now been in place for just over one year, it went live on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and for the year up to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024, we received a total of 1,437 applications of which 744 were received through the eplanning portal and 693 were received in hard copy, 51.8% in the first year were received online.

For the month of October, a total of 116 planning applications were received of which 41.38% were hard copy applications and 58.62% were received online.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 a total of 1,057 applications were received of which 36.8% were hard copy applications and 63.2% were received online.

Due to the complexities of larger applications, it has been necessary to request one hard copy for larger multi-unit developments.

There has been a mix of application types received during the month of October via the eplanning portal including:

- A number of one off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Change of use to a number of properties throughout the county
- Extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

- Construction of crèche to serve proposed new residential development at Brookfield Park in Rathnew
- Part 8 for the construction of the Wicklow Port Access Road Link scheme. The scheme involves the development of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the Dublin to Rosslare Line, including access lifts and stairs to the station.
- Housing development of 97 dwelling units in Rathnew
- Development of an equestrian farm in Ballymoat
- Construction of guest accommodation in Shillelagh
- Installation of 28 ground mounted solar panels in Glencree Wicklow.

### Planning Enforcement

New Files	10
Advisory Letters	26
Warning Letters	7
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	1
Closed	31

### Vacant Sites

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
<b>Arklow</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Baltinglass</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Bray</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Greystones</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Wicklow</b>	<b>6</b>

04 sites on appeal to ABP - Section 18 (Demand Levy)

### Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### Short Term Letting

Applications received for Registration in Sep-Oct 2024	1
Complaints received in Sep-Oct 2024	1
Live UD cases as of 31/10/2024	9
Legal proceedings initiated in Sep-Oct 2024	1
Resolved in Sep-Oct 2024	3
Files under investigation as of 31/10/2024	65



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### Economic and Rural Development

#### Town Regeneration

##### **Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan**

Blessington is a pathfinder town and is the first to receive funding for a Town Centre First Masterplan. The masterplan will provide Blessington with a clear framework to positively develop the town now and into the future. The implementation of the TCF plan is at the planning stage. RRDF funding will fund the redesign of the Main Street and Market Square and bring those projects to a shovel ready stage where they can be submitted for funding for Category 1 RRDF.

**Newtownmountkennedy** is one of the next 26 towns announced under Phase 2 to develop Town Centre First Plans. Funding support of €30,000.00 will be given to the project and a tender document will be produced upon the formation of the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team.

#### **Funding Schemes**

##### **Town Centre First – Suite of Supports**

As above, Newtownmountkennedy have been approved for funding of € 30,000.00 under **Town Centre First Measure 2** Suite of Supports. This Town Centre First Plan must be completed and reports submitted to the Department by 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

Baltinglass, Rathdrum and Kilcoole have been selected for funding of €10,000.00 for each of these towns under the **Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1**. This funding can be used to establish town teams where they are already not established or at an early stage of development. The deadline for the drawdown of funding is 15/11/2024 but an application to extend the deadline to 25/04/2025 has been submitted to the Department Rural & Community Development.

**Town Centre First Measure 3.** Two applications have been approved for this project funding;

1. Blessington – measures to include enhancement to the Square with tree planting and rain garden, spaces for dining and fixed seating.
2. Wicklow Town – Further enhancement at the Black Castle area to encourage more tourism and attractions for locals with installation of picnic tables, seating and a sculpture park.

The capital funding agreement was returned to the DRCD on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The projects must be completed and all grant claims submitted to the DRCD by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### **Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023**

Wicklow Co Council has been awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023. The Projects selected were;

- a. Kirikee, Glenmalure for work on their Community Centre to include renovation of the roof, windows ceilings and walls.
- b. Lacken to renovate the old schoolhouse to be used as a community centre to include café and community shop and a small heritage section.
- c. Wicklow Towns, Murrough BMX pump track to develop into best- in-class asphalt covered pump track for all ages and abilities. The Acceptance Agreements have been signed and the commencement of the tender process was discussed with the associated Town Team /Community Groups in early September. Meetings have been organised with the respective Community Groups to review their tender documents prior to uploading to etenders.

### **Town Teams**

We currently have four Town Teams, Arklow, Wicklow, Greystones and Blessington. Discussions are continuing on the future establishment of a Bray Town Team.

The process has commenced for the formation of a new Town Team in Newtownmountkennedy, with the aim of having the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team established by the end of November 2024.

The process will then commence for Rathdrum, Kilcoole, Baltinglass and Carnew in December 2024 & January 2025.

### **Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications**

#### **Steering Group for the Progression of URDF and RRDF Projects**

The Chief Executive has established an interdisciplinary team for the progression of Wicklow County Councils URDF (Urban Regeneration and Development Fund) and RRDF (Rural Regeneration and Development Fund) projects. The group meet monthly to streamline the advancement of RRDF and URDF projects along with a sub-group that will meet fortnightly and report to the steering group. This is a significant step in setting up the structures for town regeneration in the County.

**Blessington RRDF:** Blessington has been awarded over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) to be used for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a vacant/derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes Greenway.

**Baltinglass RRDF:** The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow has come in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the necessary technical plans are complete in order for the works to commence. Works on the Public Park and playground are underway. Application for further funding on this project was made to the Department on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. However, the submission was not successful.

**Newtownmountkennedy RRDF:** The project is under review at present due to revisions necessary to the public realm, due to contested issues regarding the design of the public realm. Following the necessary revisions, it is hoped that agreement will be reached, the plans will be signed off and submitted for Category 1 funding.

### **URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund**

**URDF Call 3:** Wicklow will receive €2.5 million to assist long term vacancy and dereliction. Four properties have been chosen (two in Arklow and two in Wicklow) and the process has commenced in acquiring these properties. The two properties identified in Wicklow have since had refurbishment works commenced on them by their owners and are no longer available for purchase. Two further properties are now to be identified and this process has commenced.

An additional property has been identified in Arklow and approval has been received from the department to start the process of acquiring this property.

**Bray Harbour Improvements:** A business case has been sent to DHL&H and a tender brief is being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for the proposed works. A WCC project team are meeting monthly to track progress of the project.

### **Tourism**

Wicklow County Council Tourism Office continues to promote County Wicklow as a destination not only to domestic visitors but also on the international market using a range of tools and activities. See below some of the actions delivered on and also some upcoming events:

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

### **Wicklow Passport Promotion:**

The Wicklow Halloween Stamp was a great promoter of the activities in Wicklow during the mid-term break. The campaign was widely featured online and in the local papers. A review of the campaign will be carried out to help structure future similar campaigns.

Wicklow County Council has partnered with the very popular social media platform Best-of-Ireland to help promote the Wicklow Passport. An extensive four day itinerary was designed and Best-of-Ireland has been going around the county collecting stamps and enjoying some of the best activities, attractions and food in Wicklow. Best-of-Ireland has more than 730k followers on Instagram. The platform will feature four videos for each of the days of their adventures, on their way to becoming Wicklow Ambassadors.

Finally, promotional posters for the Wicklow Passport are scheduled to go up on various outdoor frames at both Bray and Greystones DART stations.

### **EcoTrail Wicklow at Festival des Templiers**

With funding from Failte Ireland, EcoTrail Wicklow exhibited at the very popular Festival des Templiers in the South of France. Festival des Templiers is one of the most popular trail running festivals attracting some 35,000 visitors over three days. EcoTrail Wicklow and Ireland was extremely popular and nearly 1600 people registered to the raffle offering a trip for two at EcoTrail Wicklow 2025. The French trail running market offers tremendous opportunities to attract visitors to Wicklow and Ireland and Wicklow is working with Failte Ireland to make the most of it.

### **Economic Development**

#### **Abbey Grounds, Wicklow**

Work is progressing on the Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns project at the Abbey Grounds. Failte Ireland has given an extension of funding until the end of the year.

#### **Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study**

Following from the launch of the Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan, work has begun on the implementation of the Plan. A Steering Group has been established, which is chaired by the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council.

A Working Group comprising representatives from all stakeholders has also been formed and has commenced work on short term actions for 2024, along with longer term actions. As community consultation and participation is a central tenet of the masterplan, a Local Advisory Group has been established to keep the local community informed and ensure their input to the process.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

Directional signage and extra parking, along with a social media campaign to highlight responsible parking in the area has now discontinued following a successful summer tourist season. The focus of social media has now moved to promotion of the area as a destination.

Expressions of Interest have been sought from local landowners to provide land for parking as part of the masterplan. The deadline for receipt is 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

### Special Projects

**The GRID:** The GRID (Greystones Regional Innovation District) is now open and taking enquiries. An Taoiseach, Simon Harris cut the ribbon at the official launch of the GRID on 25<sup>th</sup> October and the GRID is open for events. Engagement with potential licencees is ongoing with first clients expected onsite within weeks.

**Sites on Mill Road, Greystones:** Progress on the Mill Road sites is on hold pending PRA confirmation of site registration.

**Carnew Remote Working Hub:** Design drawings have been reviewed and are being finalised. It is hoped to make an application for Part 8 planning approval before the end of the year.

**Marketing Plan:** The #ChooseWicklow campaign has been launched with regular social media posts and radio advertising each week, backed up by the ChooseWicklow.ie website. The campaign will run until early January.

### Offshore Renewable Energy

The Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Network continues to meet regularly and engage with the offshore renewable energy companies who are developing proposals off the coast of County Wicklow. A plan for 2024 based around three work-streams (skills, ports/harbours, and supply chain) has been agreed. 'Preparing for Offshore', a networking/information event for suppliers and other interested parties will be held in Clermont on 28<sup>th</sup> November, with registration for attendees through the LEO website.

### Skills Strategy

The Skills Strategy for County Wicklow is available on the website to read. The Skills Taskforce will meet regularly over the coming months to drive implementation of the actions contained within the Skills Strategy.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive’s Monthly Report – November 2024

### Food and Beverage Strategy

#### Wicklow Naturally:

**OctoberFeast:** Some 1900 people participated at the various events organised during the OctoberFeast event. The ‘Vision for Venison’ event was organised in partnership with the Climate Action section of the Council and was extremely successful. The event showcased venison as a sustainable source of meat. The event included presentations, cooking demos and a dinner featuring Wicklow Naturally.

**New Website:** The new wicklownaturally.ie website is now live. The website offers improved design, enhanced navigation and new functionalities. The website includes better focus on Wicklow producers, where to eat, shop, visits and where the tours of the Wicklow Naturally’s network members are taking place.

**Content Creation:** More than 50 videos and an extensive amount of high quality photos have been created with the support of funds from the Department of Agriculture. The content is widely used on the Wicklow Naturally social media platform and is available on the Wicklow County Council’s imagery database for future use.

### Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.</li> <li>- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.</li> <li>- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.</li> <li>- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.</li> <li>- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland</li> <li>- Acting as a ‘First Stop Shop’ for business information and referral</li> </ul>			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 28/ € 672,873 4/ € 6,541	42 Combined	21 €646,109 7 €12,500
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
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	40	60	54
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73 / 7 programmes	120	91
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	757	1020	540
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	30	20	20

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	581	500	389
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	528	390	492

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021/2023	2023/2024	Year to Date 23-24
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1028	1100	1358

METRICS: Client Transfers to Enterprise Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of transfers	2023	2024	Year to Date 2024
Number of transfers	5	5	3

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2023	2024	Year to Date 2024
Trading Online Vouchers	81	38 (meet demand)	63

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – November 2024

<b>Lean, Green &amp; Digital Start for Micro Projects</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	15	17
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	5	17	20
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	1	6	7
Energy Efficiency Grant	-	12	3
<b>Microfinance Ireland</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	6	11	9
<b>New Exporters</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	3	-



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### October 2024 Activities:

- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out several times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Business Advice Clinics continue to run 3 days per week to provide advice to those individuals hoping to start a business and to assist existing businesses grow and develop.
- National Women's Enterprise Day on 17<sup>th</sup> October attracted over 100 female entrepreneurs, with speakers Lyndsey Cavanagh and Catherine Brady of local Co Wicklow based businesses. The MC and caterer were also Wicklow female entrepreneurs. The Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive attended.

### November 2024 Activities:

- East Wicklow Business Network together with Local Enterprise Office Wicklow and Bray Chamber of Commerce are organising a **Business Breakfast Briefing 'Your Business, Your Future: Tax Reliefs and Legacy Planning'** on 20<sup>th</sup> November in the GRID, The Greystones Regional Innovation District.
- Industry event - **East Coast ORE Network** information event on 28th November 8.30am in Clermont House. Industry invited to network and listen to 3 key players speak about the sector, plans, opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

### Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The training programme for Autumn/Winter 2024 is open for bookings through our online portal on [www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow](http://www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow).

### Training scheduled for November:

- Start Your Own Business- 4-day Bootcamp 02/11/2024
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar 06/11/2024
- ChatGPT/AI for Marketing 12/11/2024
- Start Your Own Business Course 19/11/2024
- Data Protection & Security in a Virtual World 21/11/2024
- Auto-Enrolment Retirement Savings Scheme - How to Prepare 25/11/2024
- Digital Marketing Advice 29/11/2024

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

#### Climate Action

##### Climate Actions Focus:

- **Climate Action Committee** established and first meeting took place in November
- **E-Bike Shared Mobility Scheme**  
Expression of interest for Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow issued and two submissions received. Bolt and Moby have expressed an interest.  
Letters have issued.  
During the standstill period, we received a query from one of the parties which we are reviewing.
- **Coastal Erosion**
  1. The ECRIPP team presenting to management Team in October and and Cllrs in November.
  2. Malachy Walsh and Partners have been engaged in relation to Brittas Bay and Ennereilly and have submitted an Inception report.
  3. Ltd have been appointed for the Seabank to Kilmichael Point coastal erosion management risk study and have submitted an Inception report.
  4. North Beach (Funding submitted to OPW, Area may be covered by ECRIPP)
- **Glyphosate Policy** – Wicklow County Council has joined a Service Level Agreement for the Scientific Assessment of Alternatives to Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Amenity Public Open Spaces project with various third level institutions (such as Maynooth University and Trinity), agencies, and ten other local authorities (some with large park departments). This SLA commenced in 2020 and findings have been received by WCC. This has to be reviewed.
- **Wicklow SuDS Policy Draft Complete** Public Consultation has passed
- **Greystones MD - Active Travel Scheme with NB SuDS Rainwater Garden scheme taking place**– Part Funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund
- **Rainwater Management Plan drafted** for area in Redford Park. An initial design has been completed, Detailed design to be completed. CCTV survey required
- **Arklow MD Office, Civic Centre, Depot and Harbour Office** – Solar PV to be added and funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund.  
**Arklow MD done, Civic centre approved by climate Team, Depot approved funding by Climate Team. Energy Team organising works. Harbour Office under consideration.**
- **Bray MD EV Mower demonstration Day** – The District reviewed EV mowers with the Climate Action Team – A mower is tendered on etenders and will be funded for the Bray MD from the Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund. Tender process has passed. CE Order signed.
- **Wicklow MD - Brittas Bay** – 1000m of Chestnut Fencing, To be erected by Wicklow MD funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund. JOB CODE issued
- **Baltinglass MD** - Community Notice Board to be trialled in Blessington. Waiting to meet with District Engineer. The option of a shared mobility scheme for Blessington will be reviewed.

##### Climate Action Officer Update:

- Community Gardening Expression of interest received 39 to date with a good graphical spread with Wicklow Town with highest demand.
- Currently investigating Available Sites.
- Working on Green Events Policy

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Biodiversity Officer Update

- Biodiversity Forum and Working Group first meeting held.
- Council Staff: Biodiversity Officer, Heritage Officer, Climate Action Coordinator, Housing Capital and Municipal District Engineers.
- Public Engagement with a discussion paper with meetings to invite submissions on WCC Biodiversity Plan closes Nov 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Brittas Bay Behind the Beach various programme events taking place from July to November.

### Community Climate Action Programme

- Funding of €646,000 allocated to Wicklow.
- Decision letters and agreement issued to applicants.
- All applicants have returned signed contracts.
- Letter to issue with start date.
- WCC will complete press release shortly.
- Julie has provided information workshops in September providing Feedback to interested groups.

### Launch Programme prior to SPC meeting with Community Groups invited

Project Scale	Wicklow	Baltinglass	Greystones	Bray	Arklow
Large	2	1	1	0	1
Medium	3	2	1	1	2
Small	1	3	1	0	1

### Environmental Awareness

- Tree Planting Grant – 20 applications
- Bike Repair Workshops
- 7 schools joined our Climate Action / Climate Literacy webinar as part of CA
- Tidy Towns & Sustainable Development Awards 2024 application process closed, break down as follows:

Award	Bray MD	Greystones MD	Wicklow MD	Arklow MD	Baltinglass MD
SD Award	3	3	4	2	11
Estates	6	4	4	4	9
Main St	1	1	3	1	8

- EAO is currently judging Tidy Estates & Main Streets and doing site visits for a number of the SD Awards. There is an increase in number of entries
- Composting & Recycling for Schools Workshops, ReLove Fashion programme delivered by the Rediscovery Centre, Rubbish Film Festival (9) delivered by Create School.
- Bulky Waste Attendance
- Schools Christmas Decorations Competition – planning stages

### Climate Networking

- Bioeconomy Forum member (Two LA's represented Tipperary (Enterprise) and Wicklow (Climate Team)).
- SDG Forum
- Biodiversity Officers Network
- Community Climate Actions Officers network
- LA Climate Action Forum
- Revised Climate Action Charter Workshop
- Rainwater Management Plan template workshop
- Currently organising workshops for Climate Action Week.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Wicklow County SEC's

Solar Meithal in Greystones ongoing  
Fabric Meithal in Arklow

### Harbours and Ports

#### CCTV and Access Control

Tender documents are being drawn up for improved CCTV and access control systems in Wicklow and Arklow harbours.

#### Arklow Harbour

Works continue on the completion of the 14 Fishers storage huts in Arklow. These will be advertised by way of request for expressions of interest.

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-24	7	5	2	9	7	2
Feb-24	6	5	1	7	5	2
Mar-24	8	7	1	9	7	2
Apr-24	10	9	1	11	9	2
May-24	8	8	0	8	6	2
Jun-24	8	8	2	10	6	4
Jul-24	8	6	2	10	7	3
Aug-24	5	4	1	6	4	2
Sept -24	7	6	1	8	5	3
Oct- 24	4	3	1	5	3	2

#### Litter/Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created	136
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	115
No of Litter Fines Issued	6
No of Fixed Penalty Notice issued	9
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	14
No. of Warning Letters Issued	20
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	9
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	14
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	1
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	15

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	1
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	1
Income - Litter	€4,100.00
Income- Waste Management	€21,545.00

### Pollution Control

#### Pollution Response & Investigation

- 11 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 5 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 1 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 2 Noise pollution complaints closed.
- 1 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 0 Air pollution complaints closed.

#### Private Water Supplies

- 1 Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for 117 Regulated Private Water Supplies prepared.
- 11 Private Water Supplies Monitored.
- 9 Private Water Supplies were compliant with drinking water parametric limit values.
- 1 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with microbiological parametric limit values.
- 2 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with pH parametric limit values.
- 0 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with chemical parametric limit values.
- 1 Private Water Supply audit inspection.
- 1 Boil Water Restrictions placed on Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice due to microbial failures.
- 2 Boil Water Restrictions lifted from Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice after remedial action and compliant sample results.
- 2 Do Not Consume Restrictions placed on Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice due to chemical failures.
- 0 Do Not Consume Restriction lifted from Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice after remedial action and compliant sample results

#### Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 4 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 33 Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.

#### Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 2 Catchment engagement activities was undertaken
- 1 Catchment assessments carried to assess risk and impact.

#### Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared
- 2 inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems to verify work to comply with advisory notices.

#### Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

- 5 Inspections of farm carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Well Grants

- 12 New Water Grant application received
- 6 New Well granted
- 17 New Pumps granted
- 22 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 14 inspections in advance/completion of works

### Petrol Vapour Recovery

- 2 Petrol filling station Stage Ib Installation (Petrol Delivery) assessed.
- 0 Petrol filling station Stage Ib Installation (Petrol Delivery) inspected.
- 1 Petrol filling station Stage II Installation (Petrol Pump Dispensing) issued certificate of Installation.
- 1 Petrol filling station Stage II Installation (Petrol Pump Dispensing) issued certificate of testing.
- 0 Petrol filling station Stage II Installation (Petrol Pump Dispensing) inspected.

### Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 0 Paint Retailer inspected.
- 0 Vehicle refinisher installations inspected.
- 0 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installation issued letters.
- 2 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installation issued compliance certificate.
- 0 Dry Cleaners installations inspected.
- 0 Dry Cleaners installation issued compliance certificate.

### Solid Fuel Regulations

- 1 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected and compliant.
- 0 Wholesalers/distributors/retailer follow-up inspections.

### Air Pollution Act

- 0 Inspection of Licenced bitumen plant.

### Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

- 0 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.
- 0 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed non-compliant and licensees were requested to take corrective action.
- 0 unlicensed wastewater discharges to waters was inspected.
- 0 unlicensed wastewater discharges to waters was assessed.

### Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

- 0 River samples taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.

### Planning & Development

- 2 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
- 11 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

- 1 environmental report on referred planning applications/consultations was completed concerning housing development.
- 1 environmental report on referred planning applications/consultations was completed concerning housing development.
- 1 environmental report on other planning assessment (forestry etc) was completed.

### Control of Dogs

The Regulations in relation to the keeping of XL Bully breeds has come into effect. Owners have until the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 to apply for a certificate of exemption to own or keep an XL Bully dog after which time it will be an offence. To date there have been 6 applications for certificates of exemption.

### Projects Office

#### Whitestown Remediation Project

The draft remediation plan has been presented to the court and has been approved in part. Tender Documents for the Outlets for Material excavated from the site and also for the main contractor are presently being prepared.

#### Avoca Mines Remediation Project

The Council is working in Partnership with DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project. Currently, this work primarily involves making the mines sites safe, by replacing fencing and making safe access to locations that require sampling and monitoring. The contract has been awarded to complete the fencing around Cronebane and Tigroney sections of the Mines. Monitoring and repair works to existing fencing continues.



### Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Planning Application and CPO has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender stage of the project. Site Investigation and Archaeological Investigations will be carried out in 2024.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Wicklow Arts Office

#### Strategic Project Award Scheme 2025

Six applications were successful under the Stream A applications to this scheme for 2025, each will receive an award of €15,000.00 to carry out a project which meets the strategic ambitions of the Arts Plan 2020 – 2025 in the community realm. There were four successful applicants to Stream B. These applicants will each receive continuation funding for initiatives which were previously funded under Stream A of this Award Scheme. Each will receive €10,000.00. Announcement of successful applicants is pending contract acceptance.

#### Culture Night 2024

Just over 2,500 people attended Culture Night in County Wicklow in 2024. The programme was in sixteen County Wicklow locations. The highest individual attendance was recorded in Bray at Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre who received 407 visitors on the night. Wicklow see the programme that was on:

<https://culturenight.ie/location/wicklow/>

#### Wicklow Artists Salon

Wicklow Arts Office set up The Artist Salon programme in 2022. This is an artist-led initiative by County Wicklow artists for Wicklow artists and cultural practitioners. It is peer support and takes the form of a series of evening events bringing together artists in person with both a social and professional purpose, to seed learning, support interactions and encourage collaborations.

Each Salon focuses on a particular topic and features invited artists to explore important themes affecting the arts in Wicklow and beyond. Salon number 9 booking is now live and will take place at the historic Russborough House on November 16<sup>th</sup> with lunch as part of the day.

#### Creative Places Baltinglass

Three further residencies and a commission are being commenced between November and December 2024. These will have durations of six to nine months and will have wide ranging participation both in age range and inclusion from the town. They are shaped by our experiences to date in working with the community to identify areas of artistic need and input.

#### Creative Ireland

The very successful Music Teaching Residency 55+ project in partnership with Music Network has been contracted and will involve a new ensemble of accordion, violin and harp providing tuition for a new group of learners. It will take place at Rathnew in Wicklow County Campus.

#### Arts Festivals

Support of Wicklow Arts Office festival award funding, West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival launched its winter concert programme of events in September. The programme features celebrated violinist, Tamsin Waley-Cohen, clarinettist Carol McGonnell, Wicklow's leading pianist Fiachra Garvey, rising music stars including violinist Jisun Min, pianist Didzis Kalniņš and many more.

<https://www.westwicklowfestival.com/>

#### Mermaid Arts Centre Strategic Plan Launch

Mermaid Arts Centre was launched by an Taoiseach Simon Harris in Bray on October 6<sup>th</sup>, in the presence of Maureen Kennelly, Director of the Arts Council, Arts Council Chair Maura McGrath and Tina Leonard Director of Communications. Also in attendance were the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Councillors and Arts Officer Jenny Sherwin.

#### Reporting

Funding returns and reporting to the Arts Council and Creative Ireland will be completed for 2024 by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Investment for Wicklow County Council through these bodies for the Arts will be announced in December.



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

Two arts leadership positions funded by Wicklow County Council and the Arts Council were advertised. Artistic Director of Mermaid Arts Centre by the Board of Mermaid Arts Centre with a closing date of October 2st.

Wicklow County Council has advertised the role of Permanent Assistant Arts Officer (V) with a closing date of October 31<sup>st</sup> at 12pm.

### Wicklow County Library Service

#### Library Updates



#### Overview of Library Service

The County Library Service is pleased to report outstanding achievements in membership and community engagement, surpassing national benchmarks and demonstrating our ongoing commitment to promoting literacy, learning, and social connection within the community.

The national target for library membership stands at 15% of the population. Our County Library Service has so far exceeded this benchmark, achieving a membership that indicates that over 25% of our county population are current members.

So far this year the County Library Service issued an impressive total of 44,798 physical items. This robust circulation figure underscores the high demand for our diverse collection, ranging from fiction and non-fiction books to educational resources and multimedia materials. The substantial circulation is a testament to our comprehensive and user-focused curation of library materials.


# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

## Yarn Storytelling Festival

### YARN Storytelling Events Across Wicklow Libraries!


The **Mermaid Arts Centre** is excited to partner with **Wicklow Arts Office** and **Wicklow Libraries** to bring YARN storytelling events to libraries across County Wicklow! Join us from **Saturday, 9th November, to Tuesday, 19th November** for engaging storytelling sessions led by talented storytellers from Ireland and beyond.


Each session is **free to attend**, thanks to support from the Wicklow Arts Office Art Festival Award Scheme.




Mermaid Arts Centre is thrilled to have partnered with Wicklow Arts Office and Wicklow Libraries to bring YARN storytelling events to libraries across County Wicklow.




**No booking required**  **Wicklow Library Service**



Storyteller:  
**Zouhair Khaznaoui**  
(Morocco)



Wednesday **13th Nov**  
from **11 am**

**No booking required**  **Blessington Library**




Storyteller:  
**Ruth Kirkpatrick**  
(Scotland)

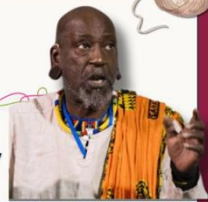


Thursday, **14th Nov**  
from **6.30 pm**


**No booking required**  **Arklow Library**




Storyteller:  
**Tuup**  
(UK)

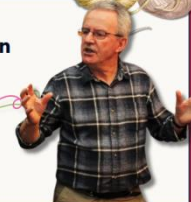


Saturday **16th Nov**  
from **11 am**

**No booking required**  **Bray Library**



Storyteller:  
**Paddy O'Brien**  
(Ireland)



Tues, **19th Nov**  
from **7pm**

**No booking required**  **Wicklow Town Library**



Storyteller:  
**Ruth Kirkpatrick**  
(Scotland)



Friday, **15th Nov**  
from **11 am**

**No booking required**  **Greystones Library**

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

## Winter Coat Initiatives



In alignment with our commitment to community support and sustainability, Greystones Library launched the **Winter Coat Library** initiative, which has quickly gained popularity and positive feedback from patrons. This project supports the circular economy, inviting community members to “take a coat if you need one, bring one if you can,” helping to reduce waste and promote resource sharing.

Due to its success in Greystones, we are pleased to announce the expansion of the Winter Coat Library to **Arklow and Dunlavin Libraries**. This initiative enables people to donate gently-used coats, accessible to those who need them, providing a practical and sustainable way to stay warm this winter.


Coats for all ages are welcome, and we anticipate continued community engagement and support as we extend this initiative to additional branches. This project has been a meaningful contribution to our service, highlighting our role in fostering a community spirit and supporting sustainable practices.

## Indian Classical Music Events

Bray Library and the Indian Classical Music Society of Ireland present

### An evening of Indian Classical Vocal Music

with Debajyoti Sanyal and Dr. Sudipto Das



Tuesday November 19th, at 7pm.

All welcome

BRAY LIBRARY

### An afternoon of Indian Classical Music

with Ustad Amjad Ali Khan  
Accompanied by Rupak Pandit on Tabla

#### Tinahely Library



Thursday, November 21st, at 3.30pm.

All welcome

THE INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC SOCIETY OF IRELAND



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

Wicklow Libraries is delighted to offer two Indian classical music performances this November, providing our patrons with enriching cultural experiences in collaboration with talented artists and the Indian Classical Music Society of Ireland.

### Indian Classical Music Afternoon at Tinahely Library

On Thursday, November 21st, Tinahely Library will host a live performance by Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, an internationally renowned artist celebrated for his expertise in Indian classical music. He will be accompanied by Rupak Pandit on the tabla, bringing an authentic and expressive musical experience that showcases the depth and beauty of this tradition.

### Indian Classical Vocal Music Evening at Bray Library

On Tuesday, November 19th, Bray Library will present an evening of Indian classical vocal music, featuring artists Debajyoti Sanyal and Dr. Sudipto Das. This event, held in partnership with the Indian Classical Music Society of Ireland, provides an opportunity for the community to experience the distinct vocal traditions and melodic richness of Indian classical music.

Both events are open to the public free of charge, continuing our commitment to providing diverse cultural programming accessible to all.

### Craft Swaps



### Craft Exchange Initiative – Greystones and Enniskerry Libraries

Greystones and Enniskerry Libraries recently launched a **Craft Exchange: Bring & Take Event** to foster community engagement and promote sustainability. This initiative encourages patrons to bring in unused craft supplies—such as buttons, fabric scraps, wool, needles, and other materials—and exchange them with items others have contributed.

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

## Greystones Dungeons and Dragons



Greystones Library recently held its first **Adult Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) Meetup**, following requests from local fathers who expressed interest after attending a successful teen-focused session. The event was a remarkable success, attracting a diverse group of participants excited to explore this popular tabletop role-playing game in a welcoming environment.

The adult meetup provided a relaxed space for new and experienced players to connect, share storytelling skills, and build community. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with participants appreciating the opportunity to engage in this interactive and imaginative activity with fellow enthusiasts.

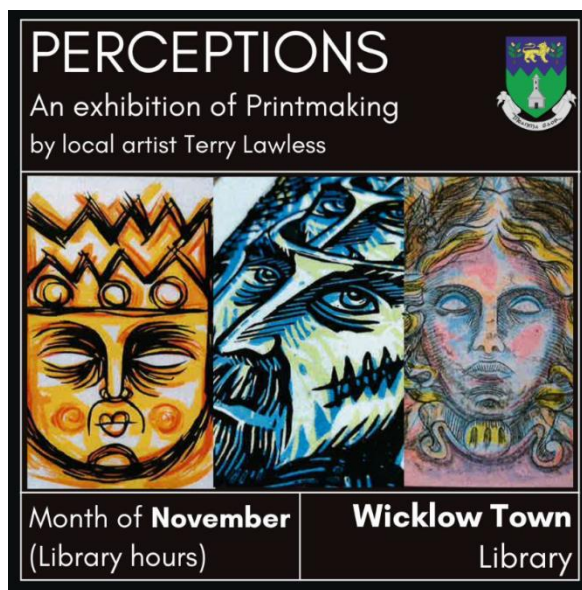
## Family Board Games at Rathdrum Library

Rathdrum Library has introduced a new **Family Board Games Afternoon** every Friday, offering an enjoyable, screen-free activity for all ages. Beginning at 3 pm, families are invited to drop in and choose from a selection of family-friendly board games, suitable for children aged 5 and up.

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024



## Terry Lawless Exhibition at Wicklow



### Perceptions: An Exhibition by Terry Lawless

Wicklow Town Library is delighted to present Perceptions, an exhibition by local visual artist and printmaker Terry Lawless.

Terry is a member of Black Church Print Studio, has taken part in many group exhibitions both nationally and internationally. He works mainly in drawing, painting and printmaking.

He recently completed a mini mural for the Bridge Tavern as part of the Wicklow Wander Walls Project.

The Exhibition runs from the 1st to the 30th of November 2024 so make sure to pop and have a look.

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

## AI Exhibition Wicklow Town Library



Joe Gallagher, a GP based in Gorey and involved in research at UCD, will be sharing an important project during Science Week (10th-17th November) and World Pneumonia Day on 12th November. The project, which focuses on childhood pneumonia in Africa, uses artificial intelligence and blood tests to identify children at risk of severe illness and those who need antibiotics.

To highlight these global health challenges, there will be an exhibition featuring photos that tell the story of the project and sculptures from Malawi. This exhibition aims to raise awareness of childhood pneumonia, antibiotic resistance, and AI's role in healthcare—issues that resonate both in Africa and here in Ireland.

Come and explore how AI is shaping the future of healthcare at Wicklow Town Library from the 9th to the 19th of November 2024

## A Farewell to Famine



## Wicklow Town Library

A talk by Jim Rees

Based on his best selling book, Jim describes the journey and experiences of a group of people from Wicklow and Wexford who left Ireland in 1850, to establish an Irish Catholic colony in the American Mid-West

**Thursday, November 21st at 7pm**

**Booking essential:**

0404 67025

wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Local History Talks

Local History talk at Wicklow Town Library Branch

In 1850, Fr Thomas Hore led a group of people from their homes in the counties Wicklow and Wexford to establish an Irish Catholic colony in the American Mid-West. Based on his bestselling book, historian Jim Reese describes their journey and experiences as they settled in places as diverse as New Orleans, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri and Iowa. Everyone welcome. Email [wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie) or phone 0404 67025 to book your place.

### Archives & Genealogy Service

Wicklow County Council's Archives Service has launched its latest project, John Tate's Charity, at Rathdrum Library. This project features an exhibition, an archival catalogue, and digital resources that tell the story of the charity, founded as a bequest in the will of John Tate in 1787. The charity's records were donated to Wicklow County Archives by the charity's board of trustees. Remarkably, the charity is still in operation today, providing assistance to third-level students through interest-free loans.

John Tate of Fananierin, Glenmalure, died unmarried in 1787 at the age of 33. He was a member of the landed gentry and, in his short life, extended his holdings to just under 3,000 acres. In his will, he left his interest in 900 acres at Cullentrath to form the basis of his charity, with the stipulation that parishioners of Rathdrum and surrounding areas, regardless of religion, should benefit from its support. Former trustees of the charity included Charles Stewart Parnell and other well-known families, such as the Hayes family, who originally built Avondale, the Actons of Kilmacurragh, and the Guinness family.

The Tate exhibition will be available for viewing in the Rathdrum Library from 14th November until 11th December 2024.



### Schools programme

The County Archives and Local Studies Services welcomed a visit from the media students of the Dominican College Wicklow and 5th and 6th year students of North Wicklow Educate Together this month. The students explored the collections, with a special emphasis on estate papers, school registers and photograph collections. Our digitised collections and online student resources on [Wicklow.ie](http://Wicklow.ie) were also highlighted to the students.



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Digitisation programme

Wicklow County Archives holds records of the Harbour Commissioners, which contain valuable information about the maritime history of the county. The Wicklow and Arklow Harbour Commissioners minute books are now being prepared for digitisation and will be available on Wicklow.ie shortly.

### Outdoor Recreation

#### Wicklow Coast Blueway

The Wicklow Coast Blueway project is moving towards the second stage of the accreditation process with the current accreditation mainly reliant on provider-based activities. Blueway promotion and links has commenced with a timetable of events and providers listed. Project completion is due in March 2025, with signage installation a priority and works currently at various stages of completion on the selected Blueway Nodes:

Greystones – Accessible boardwalk installed at South Beach. Works completed.

Brittas Bay – Accessible toilet, upgraded toilets, new larger water tank and new outdoor shower facilities. Car parking painting and tidy up. Works completed.

Wicklow Town –Harbour area: path upgrade completed. Toilet facilities upgrade completed. New outdoor showers, ground works completed and showers installation completion during November.

Arklow – New path completed replacing the old boardwalk at South Beach. Licence Agreement and MOU being finalised with Roadstone, landowner, with new facility works at the Cove to commence afterwards, consisting of installation of a changing screen with seating area and a bike shelter. Planters with shrubs now installed along the Roadstone site fence by the car park.

#### Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee (WORC) – NPWS host

The next meeting will be held on the 16/01/2025 at NPWS main offices in Laragh.

#### ORIS 2021- M3 – The Sugarloaf Repair Project – Images November 2024:



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) supports the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the necessary repair, enhancement, or promotion of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure in countryside areas across Ireland. The Scheme is funded under "Our Rural Future" which specifically prioritises the growing outdoor activity tourism sector as part of a long-term vision for a vibrant and sustainable rural Ireland.

The table below is a list of current projects funded under ORIS:

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Date for Completion
OR221WW02	<i>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</i>	The TIDES Project team are providing support to Greystones MD with the preparation of CPO maps for the Cliff Walk realignment. Marc Devereaux, DOS, liaising with Bray MD and new task force on project funds' allocation decision.	Extension requested to DRCD
ORIS 2021-M2 OR221WW01	<i>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</i>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. New tender in progress. Trial hole work by contractor to check grounds near bridge has been approved by NPWS.	In progress. Extension granted to August 2024
ORIS 2021-M3 OR321WW01	<i>The Sugar Loaf Repair (Images above)</i>	Stone Pitching by hand, waterbars and crossdrains constructed. Pitching from shoulder down towards lower slopes 50% complete. 2 Helicopter Airlifts completed. Pitching and path building from shoulder to summit is now fully complete. Blocking of biggest gully and anchor bar construction continuing down hill. First large V-Ditches dug for water management on lower sections.	In progress. Extension to Oct'24
ORIS 2022 M1 OR122WW05	<i>Red Kite Loop (Avoca) Play Area</i>	Ground works completed around Play Area. Play Equipment installed.	Completed
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW01	<i>Blessington Greenway Russborough Parklands &amp; House Trail</i>	Enhancement of trails in Russborough Parklands/cycle hub to link with Greenway. Bike shelter installed at the end of the trail and new finger signage and plaque.	Completed
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW02	<i>Glenmalure Community Riverside Walk &amp; Recreation Area</i>	Upgrade of existing trail, boardwalk replaced with a path. Play Equipment installed and groundworks nearing completion.	In progress
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW03	<i>Coolkenno Equestrian Trail</i>	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners due after their planning permission process is completed.	In progress
ORIS 2022 M3 OR322WW01	<i>Roundwood Recreation Area</i>	Groundworks and extension of existing car park with fencing works completed. Area cleared for equipment installation with first two play areas delivered and installed. Second delivery during Nov, with last play equipment delivery in Jan'25. Bike area designed; works will commence after completion of play areas.	In progress

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### ORIS 2023 - Project Development Measure (PDM), Measure 1 and Measure 2

The total funding awarded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to 2023 ORIS Measures 1, 2 and Project Development Measure projects in Wicklow amounts to **€858,780**.

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Date for Completion
ORPDM23WW01 CC781	<b>Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan</b>	Recreation plan for the area with a Feasibility study in progress. Due to be completed by March'25.	30/06/2025
ORPDM23WW02 CC782	<b>Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan</b>	Feasibility project to provide a realistic work plan with budget and time frame designed to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. Environmental consultation and Tender documentation being reviewed.	30/06/2025
OR123WW01- CC791	<b>Hollywood Natural Play Area</b>	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Play Equipment RFQ sent and contract appointment due shortly. Play area at design stage and Licence agreement with Coillte finalised.	31/10/2025
OR123WW02 - CC792	<b>Wicklow Way (Glencree River) Re-surface</b>	200m of new trail construction and 800m of surface dressing.	Completed
OR123WW03 - CC793	<b>Knockree Bridge</b>	Knockree bridge replacement at the Glencree brook on the Wicklow Way, between Ballyreagh and Onagh Bridge.	Completed
OR123WW04 - CC794	<b>Knockamunnion-Stranahely Bridges</b>	Replacement of 2 bridges and additional drainage works between them over a track of some 200m. Work plan being prepared.	31/10/2025
OR123WW05 - CC795	<b>Three Wells and Cushbawn Link</b>	8m of surfacing on Three Wells crossing and 270m of surfacing on the looped upper trail. Due commencement.	31/10/2025
OR123WW06 - CC796	<b>Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way</b>	Signage replacement along an 18km route is in progress.	31/10/2025
OR223WW01 – CC903	<b>Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure</b>	Enhancing parking, with design being done by Council's Engineer. Trail specification underway.	30/06/2026
OR223WW02 – CC904	<b>Three Trouts Bridge, Delgany</b>	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the route. In progress with Greystones MD Engineer with initial tender out.	30/06/2026
OR223WW03 – CC905	<b>Tinahely New Loop Trail</b>	Additional spur to loop walks linking Coolafunshogue, Curravanish and Ballyshonog. 10km route to Tinahely village. Initial design in progress.	30/06/2026

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

## Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

### Let's Talk - Addiction & Mental Health

**LET'S TALK**  
**ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH**  
**WITH FORMER LIMERICK HURLER CIARAN CAREY**

WEDNESDAY OCT 30TH  
7PM IN ECHELON PARK, AUGHRIM

**Topics Covered:**

- Mental Health & Addiction Awareness
- Effects on individuals, families and communities
- Support services for positive change and healing

Logos: Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, Wicklow County Council, Irish Life GAA Healthy Clubs, Sport Ireland, Wicklow County Council (WICKLOW), ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership facilitated a 'Let's Talk' evening focusing on Addiction and Mental Health with former Limerick hurling star Ciaran Carey.

A total of 12 different GAA clubs were in attendance with over 60 attendees. This event opened up a really important conversation and follow up individual club visits by trained Wicklow based tutors will be offered to clubs in attendance. This is all fully funded by the Sports Partnership.

### Wicklow Pickleball Festival

72 participants attended the Wicklow Pickleball Festival held in Shoreline Greystones on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Players from Pickleball clubs from Arklow, Rathdrum, Tinahely, Newcastle, Roundwood, Dunlavin and Wicklow attended. There were three categories ranging from beginners, intermediate to advanced players. The festival was a celebration of the newly formed clubs in County Wicklow.

### Women's Try Tennis Programme

A women's try tennis programme started on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November at Newcastle Tennis Courts. The sessions are part funded by Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership and Tennis Ireland. There are 20 players signed up to the programme. The programme encourages women to try out tennis and keep active. The sessions are run by Tennis Ireland Licensed coach Ella Tindale.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Enjoy tennis (Inclusive programme) Arklow

10 participants from the National Learning Network in Arklow started an Enjoy Tennis programme with Tennis Ireland coach Yvonne Doyle. The 5-week inclusive programme started on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November and is being held in Arklow Tennis Club.

### Activator Poles Rathdrum

A 6-week activator poles programme is being held in the RDA Hall Rathdrum on Wednesday afternoons. This programme is for older adults to improve mobility and balance along with getting more active. These sessions are being facilitated by Sinead Nolan.

### Learn to Cycle Ballywaltrim, Bray

A 6 week learn to cycle programme is being held in Ballywaltrim Community Centre on Tuesday afternoons. The sessions are for 5 to 8 years and 8+ years encouraging children to cycle and giving parents/guardians tips to teach their children. The sessions assist children who may have a disability or diagnosis and are facilitated by Active kids cycling tutor Lisa Redmond.

### Inclusive 3-day Badminton Camp

An inclusive badminton camp for children aged 10 to 16 years was held over the midterm break in St Marys School, Arklow. Badminton Ireland coach Georgina Ward facilitated the 2-hour camp over the 3 days. Three participants attended. One wheelchair user, one visionally impaired person and one person with Autism.

### Yoga Mindfulness and Creativity for Teenage Girls

The Colour Club in Arklow facilitated a yoga, mindfulness and creativity 6-week programme for teenage girls. 6 teenage girls attended the programme. The sessions focused on self-love and kindness, empowerment and strength, balance and resilience, flexibility and adaptability, calm and reflection and self-expression.

### Parkfit sessions (indoors)

A follow on 6-week park fit programme is continuing indoors in the RDA hall for the Winter months. The sessions are facilitated by Fitness instructor Rochelle Cawley and work on strength and conditioning.

### Girls' activity session in collaboration with Arklow Sports Promotion Unit

Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership have teamed up with Arklow Sports Promotion Unit to deliver a 6-week physical activity programme for young girls. 7 girls are attending the multi-sport sessions delivered by Rochelle Cawley

### Training & Education

Activity	Venue	Date
Safeguarding 1	Online	12th November 2024
Sports First Aid	Greystones	9th November 2024
Autism in Sport Workshop	Online	21st November 2024

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery & Emergency Services

#### Transportation

##### Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (19/11/2024) outstanding stands at **700 – 4.47%** of total stock of 15,637. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults.

The new public lighting contractor commenced works in Wicklow on 21/10/2024. Initially, the contractor had a crew of one, but this has since been upgraded to a crew 3/4 to expedite the large number of fault repairs outstanding. Due to ESB rules regarding operations on the ESB network, we currently only have one electrician approved to undertake such works.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	2	3	6	1	3	15
Cable Fault (Attended)			4		1	5
ESB Interface Required			1	1		2
ESB Required (Attended)	16	12	9	16	19	72
Knock Down (Attended)	1			1		2
Materials Required	1	3	2	1	1	8
No Supply		1	8	1		10
On Hold	3	3	13	1	11	31
Submitted	105	81	127	71	151	535
TMR	5		7		2	14
Tree Cutting Required			5		1	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>Percentage Not Working</b>	<b>4.31%</b>	<b>4.25%</b>	<b>5.38%</b>	<b>3.17%</b>	<b>4.94%</b>	<b>4.47%</b>

##### Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The initial survey element of the above project has been completed. This is the initial phase of the project; the design is currently ongoing. The retrofitting of lanterns has commenced in Arklow, Baltinglass & Bray MDs.

##### Noise Action Plan

The Wicklow Noise Action Plan is currently awaiting feedback from relevant stakeholders (e.g. TII, EPA, etc.) and it is hoped to finalise the Plan in December.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive’s Monthly Report - November 2024

### Transportation Statistics

	Total 2022	Total 2023	Total 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	838	1026	823	118	100	124
<b>Road closure applications</b>	78	42	44	2	5	1
<b>Road Opening licences</b>	1414	1956	1028	108	103	115
<b>Abnormal Load applications</b>	60	54	41	5	9	4

#### **M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme**

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website [www.n11m11.ie](http://www.n11m11.ie) on 14 December 2021. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in 2021. Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation was due to commence in Q1 2022. The scheme is currently suspended as no funding is provided. The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet with the public and any interested parties.

#### **M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme**

The BPIS seeks to achieve the early delivery of bus priority measures in advance of the main scheme between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview). The scheme is currently at the Options Selection phase (Phase 2 of TII’s Project Management Guidelines).

A non-statutory public display on the emerging preferred options for sections A and C took place in November 2022.

A further non-statutory public display event was held in the Glenview Hotel in September 2023 that presented the overall emerging preferred option for the BPIS between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview).

The public display documents are available to view on the project website [www.n11m11bpis.ie](http://www.n11m11bpis.ie). The Post Consultation Report which summarises the issues raised has been prepared and is available on the Project Website since the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Since December 2023, work has been progressing to develop the emerging preferred option in greater detail and to undertake a thorough environmental evaluation of the scheme.

Specifically, the reassessment of options currently being undertaken is focussed on Sub-Scheme B, between Junction 6 (Bray/Fassaroe) and Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue). Further details on the options being assessed are presented in the Post Consultation Report. This work is currently progressing, and following completion of this revisit of Phase 2, details of any revision to the final preferred option will be published. This is expected in late Q1 2025.

#### **N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue**

A noise assessment to the east of the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The options review and design commenced in March 2023 following confirmation of funding from TII. Site investigation works were completed in November 2023. This information has been reviewed by the Design Team and the final design option has been prepared. Direct consultation has taken place with the affected residents/landowners. The procurement of a contractor for the construction works is currently being progressed by the project team.

#### **N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment**

Tenders for a Per-Cent Art Feature are being procured by the Arts Office. The preferred feature has been selected pending the completion of the final assessment stage.

#### **N81 Irishtown West, Whitestown Lower, Hangman’s Bend and Tuckmill Lower “N81 Four Studies”**

Following completion of Phase 1 feasibility studies (The N81 Four Studies – Feasibility Report), Wicklow County Council are now progressing the following two projects:

- N81 Whitestown Lower Project; and
- N81 Hangman’s Bend and Tuckmill Project.

The Phase 2 Options Selection work is currently progressing under TII’s Project Management Guidelines. A non-statutory Public Display event on the Route Options took place in the Inis Fail Germaines, Main Street, Baltinglass, on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The public display documents are available to view on the project website [www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie](http://www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie). The period for submissions ended on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The next steps are to

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

further develop the options in order to establish the emerging preferred option. It is envisaged that further public consultation of the preferred route will take place in Q1 2025.

### **N81 Pavement Capital Works**

Drainage works and the resurfacing of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove were completed in May 2024. Two other sections of the N81 received surfacing renewal works namely at N81 Trooperstown Blessington and N81 Mullycagh Lower. Works were fully completed by end May 2024.

### **N81 Hollywood Cross Rural Traffic Calming Road Safety Improvement Scheme (RSIS)**

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) was approved by TII in November 2023. The Design Report (Phase 3) was approved by TII in April 2024. The Part 8 statutory process (Phase 4) commenced on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 with the period for submissions by interested parties ending on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024. At the May 2024 meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District the Elected Members voted to approve the Chief Executive's recommendation for the scheme to proceed. The Detailed Design and Contract Documents (Phase 5) are being prepared in advance of tendering for a contractor for construction.

### **Park & Ride/Share at Hollywood**

A feasibility report, funded by the Baltinglass Municipal District was prepared and submitted to TII in Oct 2021. This report considered an option for parking accessed from the N81. TII subsequently provided funding to further examine the feasibility and options.

TII have indicated that they do not support the proposed additional access to the N81. As a result, the option for a parking facility accessed from the N81 has been discounted from the traffic calming scheme. Suitable parking locations that can be accessed from the regional/local road network are being investigated.

### **N81 Blessington Gateway Project**

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) was finalised and approved by TII in October 2023. TII have also approved funding to proceed with the design phase in accordance with TII Standards. Wicklow County Council are progressing this project to the design phase (Phase 3) to be followed by any necessary statutory approvals process (Phase 4).

### **N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities**

Proposals for bus-based Park & Ride facilities are being progressed adjacent to the N11/M11 at Junctions 6 (Fassaroe), Junction 11 (Kilpedder) and Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew).

The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in November 2023.

The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) has been progressed to Part VIII stage of design. The Part VIII documents for Junction 16 Ashford/Rathnew are currently on display on the Wicklow Co Co Consultation Hub and County Buildings up to the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Submissions may be made by interested parties up until noon on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) is being progressed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office.

### **N11/R772 Johnstown North/Regional Road**

Road safety works involving the design and installation of a vehicle restraint system have been progressing throughout 2024, at the interface between the R772 Regional Road and the adjacent M11 motorway at Johnstown just North of Junction 20 on the M11. TII provided approval for WCC to proceed with construction contract award in August 2024. The works commenced on site in early October 2024 with an anticipated 8-week programme.

### **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

The Phase 2 Options Selection Report, which will determine the preferred route for the Greenway, is currently being reviewed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Negotiations are still ongoing with landowners. Following TII approval of Phase 2 we will proceed to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation.



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

As of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, An Bord Pleanála (ABP) have granted permission for the northern section of the Blessington Inner Relief Road as a partial approval for a planning development. The residential development (330 units) has been refused permission by ABP.

### **Chapel Road Pedestrian and Cycle Infrastructure Improvement Scheme - Wicklow County Council Compulsory Purchase No. 1 Order 2021**

Tenders submitted by contractors for the Chapel Road Project are currently being evaluated. On successful completion of the tender process construction is expected to start on site at the start of Q1 2025. The CPO Notice to Treat was issued on all landowners in October 2023. There is active engagement between Wicklow Roads Project staff and landowners and a Wicklow County Council appointed valuer is engaging with valuers and homeowners as part of the CPO process.

### **Wicklow Greystones Greenway**

Phase 2 Route Options are currently being developed by Wicklow County Councils consultant Atkins Realis. A 4-week public consultation was completed in May 2024 for the emerging route corridors. The project was presented at the April Council meeting with two public events taking place in Greystones and Wicklow during April. Meetings and information sharing is ongoing with Irish Rail for their East Coast Rail Infrastructure Protection Project.

### **Blessington eGreenway**

Wicklow County Council were notified in August 2024 that An Bord Pleanála has decided to determine the planning application without an oral hearing. Under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, we had formally submitted our planning documents to An Bord Pleanála. Given the need to conduct comprehensive additional surveys and generate a substantial volume of supporting material, An Bord Pleanála granted an extension to the submission deadline for additional information to January 29<sup>th</sup> 2024. As this information has been deemed significant additional information by ABP we were required to undertake a public consultation period taking place in May and June 2024 for a 6 week period. Wicklow County Council were notified in July 2024 that no oral hearing is required and we are currently waiting on a decision from ABP.

## **Active Travel Updates**

### **Projects under Construction**

#### **Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities (Wicklow MD)**

Provision of new pedestrian facilities and road safety improvements along the Ballyguilemore Road between Carrig View and the entrance to the proposed new St. Patricks GAA Pitch. The scheme includes for new footpaths and road widening works. Construction of the new footpath is now complete, along with the drainage and public lighting works. Accommodation works are currently in progress. It is planned to complete the road edge reinstatement works in November, and to commence planting of trees and native hedging along road verge.

#### **Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)**

Provision of 2.8km of segregated cycle track along the R-772 Wexford Road, Arklow between Knockmore Roundabout and M11 Junction 21. The scheme will also construct 1.4km approx. of pedestrian footpath. Road Surfacing and cycle track surfacing works have been completed, and the new Zebra crossings have been completed at the Knockmore Roundabout at the northern end of the scheme. It is planned to complete the line marking works and install the remaining signage in November.

#### **Safe Routes to Schools: St. Kevin's National School, Greystones (Greystones MD)**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Front of school implementation works are completed. All civil works within the school grounds on the permeability link are substantially completed by NNR crew. Security gates, CCTV and electrical works are due for completion by end of November. Pending NTA approval works to commence on pedestrian crossing and

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

footpath widening on Church Lane in mid-November and due for completion by first week in December. It has been agreed with the NTA to extend the cycle parking within the school grounds also as part of this project.

### **Safe Route to Schools: Scoil Nioclais Naofa, Dunlavin (Blessington MD)**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. This project includes implementing a one way system on the eastern side of Fair Green. Works have commenced on site and are ongoing. Front of school works for the school zone are complete. The permeability link on Church Hill is due to commence by end of November estimated to take 3 weeks to construct new path and crossing. This will link the new development and provide a continuous pathway to the school off the main vehicular routes.

### **Project Updates**

#### **Bray Transport Interchange (Bray MD)**

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. David Walsh Civil Engineering commenced ground works in Mid-February. Main drainage works have been completed. Paving has been installed on Quinsborough Road and Adelaide Road. Works are progressing on schedule. Buses are relocated to temporary stops. Works ongoing on Station Road and Florence Road. Accommodation works have commenced.

#### **Wicklow Station Pedestrian and Cycle Link (Wicklow MD)**

New pedestrian and cycle bridge to be provided at Wicklow Train Station, linking Station Road to the Port Access Road. Bus and vehicle set down to be provided along with cycle parking. Landtake agreed with landowner. Part 8 advertised on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Public consultation to run until 25<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)**

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvements along the R750 and Station Road from Abbey Street carpark to Station Road Junction to improve linkage to Wicklow Train Station. The Preliminary Design has been prepared by DBFL Consulting Engineers and submitted to the NTA for approval, comments received from NTA. Road Safety Audit to be carried out. Tender to be advertised for consultants to manage the project through phases 4-7.

#### **Bray Bridge footbridges and tie ins (re-draft tender) (Bray MD)**

New footbridges and alterations of road to make provision for cyclists. Meeting held with consultant to recommence the project. A Phase 2 Gateway Report has been prepared and issued NTA for approval. Consultant to proceed to Phase 3 Preliminary design when Gateway 2 has been approved.

#### **Greystones Pathfinder (Greystones MD)**

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to Greystones Train Station. The spine route extends from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Centre.

- **Phase 1 Charlesland Dual Carriageway Roundabout Upgrade Works** - The phase will include new and improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Tenders were invited for contractors to carry out the upgrade works and contractor has been appointed. NTA approval received to proceed to construction stage. Works to commence mid-November.
- **Phase 2 - Church Road Improvement Works** - This phase of the project will reduce vehicle speeds and provide a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists along Church Road through the narrowing of the carriageway, junction realignment, new and improved pedestrian crossings and road resurfacing. Works are expected to be completed in November 2024.
- **Phase 3 - Greystones Marina to Charlesland Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements** - This phase includes the design of pedestrian and cycle improvement works to be completed along the public road linking Greystones Train Station with the Marina to the north and Charlesland to the south. The preliminary design has been prepared by Arup Consulting Engineers and has been submitted to the NTA for Gateway 3 approval.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### **Kilcoole Road Footpath (Greystones MD)**

Footpath to be constructed linking Greystones to Kilcoole. Meeting held with landowner to discuss accommodation works. Contractor has commenced the accommodation works at Barna Cottage. Commence construction of boundary wall in November 2024.

### **Safe Routes to Schools: Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Greystones Educate Together & Temple Carrig School (Greystones MD)**

Provide improvements on Blacklion Manor Road to make the area safer for school children. These works aim to encourage more children to walk and cycle to school. Preliminary Designs prepared and issued to NTA for approval. Section 38 to be advertised in November 2024 when preliminary designs are approved by the NTA.

### **Safe Routes to Schools: Kilmacanogue NS (Bray MD)**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Preliminary Designs prepared and issued to NTA for approval. Section 38 to be advertised in December 2024 when preliminary designs are approved by the NTA.

### **Safe Routes to Schools: Greystones Educate Together (Greystones MD)**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Preliminary Design is being prepared. Section 38 will be advertised when preliminary designs are approved by the NTA.

### **Safe Routes to Schools: Temple Carrig School (Greystones MD)**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Issue updated preliminary design to the NTA for review. Section 38 will be advertised when preliminary designs are approved by the NTA.

### **Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)**

Work on 2 new bridges (Milltown Lane and Applewood Greystones) was completed in October. Work commenced on 1 new bridge (Tombreen) in late October.

### **Winter Maintenance**

Salting continues under WM Plan.

Oct 14 to 31- O treatments

Nov 1 to 21- 1 single and 2 double treatments (12<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> D 20<sup>th</sup> D)

### **Machinery Yard**

Large truck (HCV) tender for 4 vehicles assessed. SMT for approval in coming days.

Pick-up truck tender for 20 vehicles to be advertised soon.

Lease contract (various size vehicles) to be advertised in December.

### **Parking Income**

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	883,259.81
Greystones Municipal District	273,302.48
Wicklow Municipal District	399,206.62
Arklow Municipal District	210,257.86
Parking Permits	82,648.66
Parking Fines	514,185.40
<b>Wicklow County Council Total</b>	<b>2,362,860.83</b>

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Infrastructure Delivery

<b>Schemes Recently Completed</b>	<b>UNITS</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed and allocated
Greenhills Road (Affordable)	36	Completed and sold
<b>Schemes on Site</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Final snagging underway
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completed
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2025
Merrymeeing Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
<b>Pipeline Schemes</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Contractor appointed
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor appointed
Rehills, Bray	193	PPP dropped the scheme due to high projected costs, WCC reconsidering the viability of this scheme
Burnaby, Greystones	272	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Ballinahinch Ashford	19	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Tinahask, Arklow	75	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Sheephouse Arklow	30	Design Stage
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Hawkstown Park Phase 2, Wicklow Design & Build	54	Part 8 approved, design work underway

### Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2024:

<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>	<b>Due for Delivery</b>	<b>Method</b>
Bray	1	Delivery due Q4 2024	CALF
Dunlavin	3	Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Delgany	1	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Rathnew	2	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Greystones	8	Delivery due Q4 2024	WCC
Wicklow	3	2 Delivered Q1 2024, 1 Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Rathdrum	2	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Delgany	8	3 Delivered Q3, 3 delivered Q3, 2 due Q1 2025	WCC
Blessington	6	4 Delivery Q2 2024, 2 Delivered Q3	WCC
Rathnew	4	Delivered Q4 2024	WCC
Rathnew	37	Delivery due Q4 2024	WCC

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

Blessington	9	Delivery due Q4 2024	CALF
Bray	15	Delivery due Q4 2024	CALF

### Potential Units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Rathnew, Bray, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy, Blessington, Baltinglass and Wicklow with delivery ranging from 2024-2026. This includes the units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

Wicklow County Council is currently holding discussions with a number of developers at preplanning and planning stage. There are over 100 potential Part V units with planning permission but it's difficult to determine whether they will all proceed or even on what timescale.

### Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2024:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	17	Delivery Due Q4 2024	CALF
Greystones	5	Delivered Q3 2024	WCC
Baltinglass	2	Delivery Due Q1 2025	WCC
Arklow	3	Delivery Due Q1 2025	WCC
Rathnew	1	Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Blessington	7	Delivery due Q4 2024	CALF
Bray	10	Delivery due Q4 2024	CALF

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Expression of Interest for Turnkey Housing Developments/Housing Schemes and or land for the provision of social housing/affordable housing was advertised on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

### 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. Approved Housing Bodies also make applications for CALF acquisitions to address a particular housing need.

CALF Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	2	Delivered February 2024	CALF
Bray	1	Delivered April 2024	CALF

**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 etc.

CAS Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	1	Delivery February 2024	CAS
Newcastle	1	Delivered April 2024	CAS
Bray	1	Delivered April 2024	CAS

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands

#### Parnell Road (Central Garage site)

Tuath have submitted the revised CAS application and it is currently being assessed. The Department had some queries which have been responded to.

#### Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas

All land registration issues have now been resolved. Respond are in the process of appointing a project manager.

### Infill Sites/ Age Friendly/ Disability Units

Scheme	Units	Current Status	TiCC
5A Rednagh Road – Disability house	1	Contract	Contractor expected on site Octoexpected completion Q3 2025
1A Mill Road- Age Friendly	3		Planning permission granted expected on Site Q1 2025

### Vacant Homes Scheme

Compulsory Purchase Orders on long term vacant houses around the county 2024.

No.	Property Location	Current Status
1.	2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
2.	100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
3.	41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
4.	30 South Green, Arklow.	Works commenced.
5.	5 Priory Way, Delgany.	Contractor appointed.
6.	6 Ashleigh, Ashford.	Contractor appointed.
7.	114 Hillside, Greystones.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
8.	53 South Green, Arklow.	Works commenced.
9.	53A South Green, Arklow.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
10.	88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	Contractor appointed.
11.	108 Charnwood, Bray.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
12.	2 Harbour Road, Arklow.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
13.	36 Wheatfield, Bray.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
14.	10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
15.	27 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray.	CPO commenced.

Further long-term vacant properties are currently being identified for future batches of CPOs.

### Croí Cónaithe (Towns, Cities and Rural) – Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant is a payment you can get if you are turning a vacant house or building into your permanent home or a rental property. The grant applies to qualifying vacant properties in cities, towns, villages and rural parts of the country.

A grant of up to €70,000.00 is available. If the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000.00, a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000.00 is available.

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

Have proof of ownership or evidence of active negotiations to buy the property (that is, confirmation of engagement from the estate agent or owner of the property) where you are seeking approval in principle for a grant.

- Live in the property as your principal private residence or make it available for rent.
- Have proof that the property has been vacant for at least 2 years and that it was built up to and including 2007.

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

Number of Applications	155
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants.	9
Applications Approved.	78
Number of Applications paid.	21
Value of 21 Grants paid out.	€1,127,675.77
Applications pending execution of Legal Deed of Charge/payment.	9
Applications withdrawn/Rejected.	38

### **Serviced Sites – Kilcommon, Tinahely**

Number of Sites	5
Letters of Offer Issued	7
Number of applications	7

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Emergency Response

#### Operational Fire Statistics October 2024

There were **122 incidents** attended during the month of October 2024. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **159 occasions** including **7 mobilisations** in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of October 2024 **increased by 2% (plus 4 mobilisations) on the preceding month September 2024 (155 mobilisations).**

Operational activity for the month of October 2024 **decreased by 6% (minus 10 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2023** (October 2023, 169 mobilisations).

#### Incidents in County Kildare (5-incidents total):

- 06/10/2024           Dunlavin crew supported Naas Fire Station at an incident involving a casualty pinned under a car in a workshop at Grangebeg.
- 17/10/2024           Baltinglass crew supported crews from Carlow Town at a single car RTC which had overturned at Castledermot.
- 17/10/2024           Blessington crew supported Naas Fire Station at a single car RTC which had left the road at Eadestown.
- 20/10/2024           Blessington crew supported Naas Fire Station at a single vehicle RTC which had left the road at Arthurstown.
- 21/10/2024           Dunlavin crew attended an alarm activation at Kennycourt Stud.

#### Incidents in County Wexford (2-incidents total):

- 07/10/2024           Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey Fire Station at a 2 car RTC at Ballykale.
- 21/10/2024           Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey Fire Station at a domestic house fire at Inch.

#### Fire Prevention Statistics October 2024

Fire Safety Certificates (FSCs), Disability Access Certificates (DACs)

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	2		0		5
Revised FSCs	1		0		0
FSC 7-Day Notice	3		5		15
Regularisation FSCs	0		0		0
DACs	3		12		11
Revised DACs	1		0		0
Dispensations / Relaxations	0		0		0

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 28 planning files during the month of October 2024.

The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 27 of these files.



# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	3	1	4	3	3
Circuit	1	0	2	1	1
Dangerous Substances Act	2	4	1	0	0
Explosive Act	3	0	0	3	0

## Civil Defence

- Civil Defence Volunteers attended the Arklow RNLI Launch of their new all-weather lifeboat on Sunday at 13.53 in tradition to the hull number. the local community gathered alongside all the local voluntary and principle emergency services.



# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

- Transition year students from across Wicklow took to the Murrough in a 2.5km walk as part of a mental health awareness for youths. Our Volunteers were on hand to provide first aid & safety cover.



Wicklow Hospice Dip in the Nip event was held on Greystone's south beach, the event had male only participants take to the sea in a naked dip all in aid of the Wicklow Hospice. Wicklow CD provide land based medical cover for the event.

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024



Our volunteers teamed up with the Ashford Community First Responders kicking off #RestartAHeartDay. Thanks to all the members of the public for participating and to all the volunteer community groups for assisting your community in times of need.

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024



Volunteers from Wicklow and Meath completed their training in the PUWMA Sonar device in Greystones, thanks to Mariteq Solutions for a very enjoyable and informative course.

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

**PUWMA**  
PORTABLE UNDER WATER MAPPING AND A/D

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**Wicklow**  
Local Authority Integration Team

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Michumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

**LGMA**  
An Chomhairleachas Banníochta Shabair Ártuis  
Local Government Management Agency

**WICKLOW**  
ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Top Line Data

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	12
Number of new centres opened this month	0
Total number of residents	1523 – decrease of 8 since October
Of which are children	436 – increase of 13 since October

WCC LAIT Activity to date for 2024	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	63
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	530
Total number of sessions with single adults	300
Total number of sessions with families/couples	212

### LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for October

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	5
No. of adults (total from singles, couples and families)	84
No. of sessions with single adults	76
No. of sessions with families	4
No. of sessions with couples	0
No. of sessions with IPA's	69
No. with Refugee Status	1
No. with Subsidiary Protection	0
No. with Leave to Remain	1
Less than 3 months in Ireland	33
1-3 months in Ireland	31
3-6 months in Ireland	7
6 months – 1 year in Ireland	4
1-2 years in Ireland	1
Over 2 years in Ireland	3

### **Areas of Support**

Main Theme / Primary Support Issue	Incidence
Health - adult	3
Health - child	0
Mental health	0
Medical Card	6

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

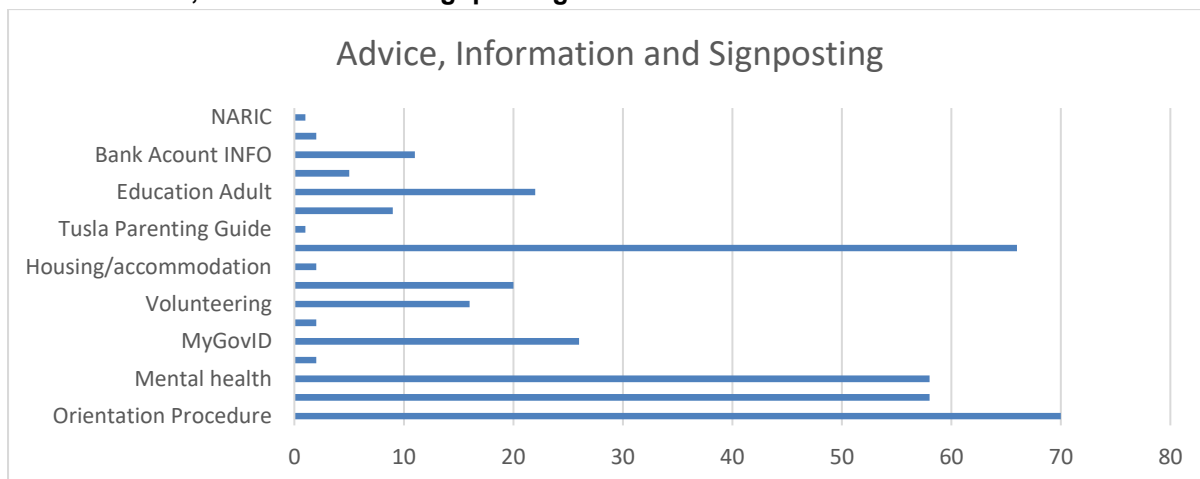
Education & Training - Adult	1
Education - child	0
Special needs - child	0
English	0
MyGovID	0
Employment	6
Volunteering	1
Legal	2
Housing/accommodation	3
Transport	0
Childcare	0
Family support	0
Orientation to Ireland	58
Financial Supports	0
Other	0

In-Session Support Categories	Incidence
Advice, Information and Signposting	371
Practical Support	32
Referral and advocacy	24

Post-Session Categories of Support	
Advocacy and Referral	6
Follow up Contact with Client	252

## In-Session Support: Detailed Breakdown

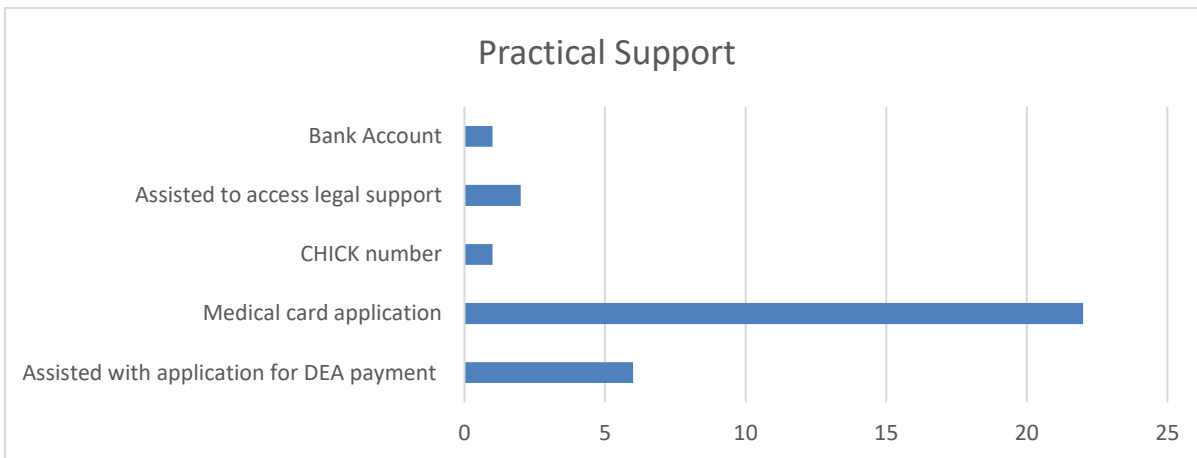
- **Advice, Information and Signposting**



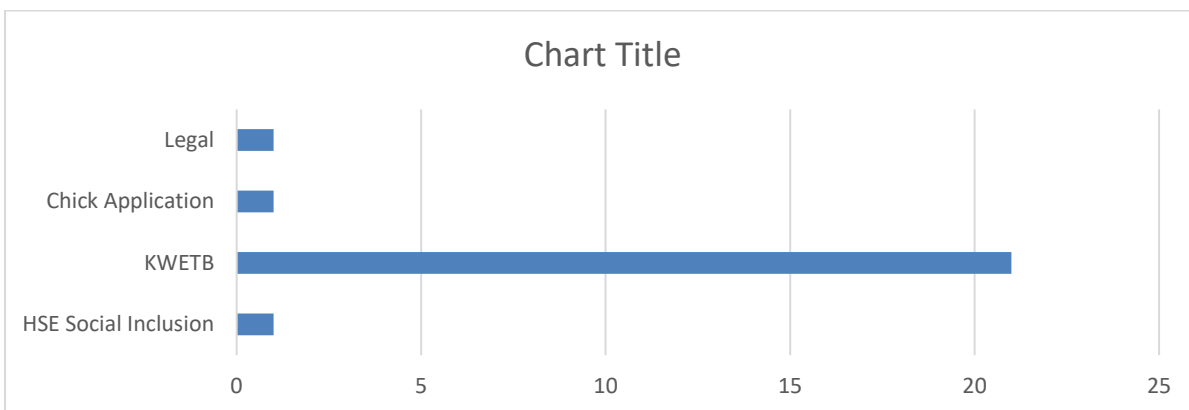
# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

- **Practical Support**



- **Referral and Advocacy**



### Other Activity

In October, the Wicklow LAIT:

- attended a National LAIT Networking Event hosted by the LGMA.
- attended an EU Anti-Trafficking event, hosted by Bray Garda Station.
- hosted 'Know Sex Trafficking' training, delivered by Ruhama. The training was offered to stakeholders and partners across County Wicklow. 25 people from a variety of agencies including Citizens Information, Wicklow Volunteer Centre, IPAS centres, HSE, TUSLA, KWETB, Bray and North Wicklow Partnership Company, and County Wicklow Partnership attended the training.
- arranged for children from The Grand IPAS centre to attend mid-term camp in Spotlight Studios, Wicklow Town.
- hosted an in-person session of the Community Integration Forum.

In November, the Wicklow LAIT:

- offered support to children in IPAS centres to become members of local sports clubs.
- hosted a second training session with Ruhama titled 'Conflict in Crisis', which was also attended by a range of stakeholders as above.
- hosted an online session of the Community Integration Forum.
- facilitated an information session for IPAS residents with the KWETB, hosted by Wicklow



# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

## Organisational Development (HR & Corporate)

### Recruitment

The following interviews were held in October 2024:

- Interviews Executive Technician
- Interviews Technician Grade 1 (Architectural)
- Interviews Technician Grade 1 (Civil)
- Interviews Technician Grade 1 (Environmental)
- Interviews Executive Solicitor
- Interviews Staff Officer

### Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024
Managerial/Administrative	319	323	337	334
Professional/Technical	150	150	146	146
Outdoor	265	261	259	255
Temporary/Seasonal	43	44	87	91
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>831</b>

\* Increase in Temp/Seasonal category due to graduate recruitment programme

### Freedom of Information

October 2024: 7	October 2023: 7
January – October 2024: 108	January – October 2023: 92

### Ombudsman Requests

October 2024: 2	October 2023: 3
January – October 2024: 18	January – October 2023: 26

### Press Releases

October 2024 – 21

### Register of Electors

Speculation of an upcoming General Election in the media before the end of 2024 led to an upsurge in online applications via [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie)

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

The Franchise Section began on planning for such an electoral event in October. The General Election was called by An Taoiseach, Simon Harris on 8<sup>th</sup> November with a date set for 29<sup>th</sup> November. The deadline for receipt of applications to register to vote was 12<sup>th</sup> November. Consequently, over 5,000 applications were received.

This General Election will see voting in the new constituencies of Wicklow and Wicklow-Wexford Constituencies following Boundary changes in 2024. The new Polling Schemes creating these new constituencies was adopted at the Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.

### Customer Service Innovation Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2024 – October			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	6,793	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,718
No. of Customer Service Emails received	1,447	Revenue Transactions	1,385
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	112	Housing Counter Visits	251

Total in person visits for October 2024 – 1,544

### Energy

2024					
Action	Energy Savings	Carbon Savings	Simple Payback before Grant (Years)	Project Status	Funding
	(kWh)	(T CO <sub>2</sub> )			
<b>Bray Fire Station</b>					
Air-to-water heat pump, re-piping, replacing radiators and re-plumbing	350,000	71	8	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Appliance Bay Doors (5)				Works Complete	
Window Upgrades				Works Complete	
<b>Total</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>8</b>		
<b>County Buildings</b>					
Air-to-water heat pump	230,000	47	10	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Enabling Works				Works Complete	
Radiator Upgrades				Works Commenced	
<b>Total</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>10</b>		

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

Bray Civic Offices					
Air-to-water heat pumps replacing gas boiler	120,000	24	8	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Heating Controls				Works Commenced	
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>		
Wicklow Civil Defence (Greystones)					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacng gas boiler	10,000	5	7	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Solar Photovoltaics (10kWp)				Works Complete	
Insulated hot water cylinder				Works Complete	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>		
Wicklow Town Fire Station					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacing electric storage heating	10,000	3	8	Works Complete	Wicklow Fire Service
Window & External Door Upgrade				Works Complete	
Insulation Upgrades				Works Complete	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>		
Blessington Fire Station					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacing gas boiler	24,657	5	13.5	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Solar Photovoltaics (10kWp)				Works Complete	
Insulated hot water cylinder				Works Complete	
Upgrade Lighting to LED				Works Complete	
Insulation Upgrades				Works Complete	
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,657</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13.5</b>		
Arklow Recycling Centre					
Solar PV Project 20kW	20,000	3	4	Works Complete	WCC Climate Action Fund
<b>Total</b>	20,000	3	4		
Arklow Municipal District Depot					
Solar PV Project 20kW	20,000	3	4	Works Complete	WCC Climate Action Fund
<b>Total</b>	20,000	3	4		

# **Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024**

## **Wicklow County Council - Energy Office**

- ISO 50001 - Wicklow County Council awarded ISO certification
- SEAI Energy Awards 2024 – Wicklow County Council is a finalist in the Energy in Buildings category for the decarbonisation of Bray Fire Station

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Finance, Water & Information Systems

#### Finance

##### Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST OCTOBER 2024							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	40,402,962	53,458,479	76%	(43,753,033)	(57,560,824)	76%	(3,350,071)
Road Transport & Safety	19,236,771	25,608,536	75%	(13,447,085)	(18,366,119)	73%	5,789,686
Water Services	3,998,011	4,809,015	83%	(4,703,925)	(5,729,978)	82%	(705,914)
Development Management	19,746,804	15,877,727	124%	(14,836,015)	(10,024,717)	148%	4,910,789
Environmental Services	12,118,456	15,632,861	78%	(2,443,145)	(4,087,049)	60%	9,675,311
Recreation and Amenity	7,719,746	9,440,065	82%	(749,972)	(1,079,718)	69%	6,969,774
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,895,645	2,283,534	83%	(728,617)	(1,104,228)	66%	1,167,028
Miscellaneous Services	8,359,885	9,997,953	84%	(11,694,841)	(13,219,706)	88%	(3,334,956)
Central Management Charges	20,070,308	22,890,755	88%	(965,001)	(1,050,000)	92%	19,105,307
Local Government Fund				(14,067,251)	(16,880,701)	83%	(14,067,251)
Commercial Rates				(26,192,072)	(31,045,885)	84%	(26,192,072)
	<b>133,548,589</b>	<b>159,998,925</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>(133,580,957)</b>	<b>(160,148,925)</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>(32,368)</b>

##### Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

##### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST OCTOBER 2024					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2024	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/10/2024
	€	€	€	€	€
	Housing and Building	13,566,712	42,230,278	(32,059,038)	(497,959)
Road Transport & Safety	(41,551,755)	14,229,129	(8,205,198)	(398,500)	(35,926,324)
Water Services	(6,530,052)	1,490,779	(1,326,377)	25,000	(6,340,650)
Development Management	(32,037,828)	14,963,485	(28,723,502)	(209,000)	(46,006,845)
Environmental Services	(936,699)	3,211,194	(2,764,527)	(390,000)	(880,032)
Recreation and Amenity	(2,144,873)	4,790,861	(1,103,865)	(94,000)	1,448,123
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,046,613)	338,708	76,397	(200,067)	(1,831,575)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,410,645)	(345,903)	(792,671)	1,755,289	(9,793,931)
	<b>(82,091,754)</b>	<b>80,908,531</b>	<b>(74,898,782)</b>	<b>(9,236)</b>	<b>(76,091,241)</b>

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2024										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2024	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/10/2024	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,457,366	31,986,982	0	10,129	(208,053)	35,246,424	(27,801,250)	7,445,174	585,633	80%
Rents & Annuities	3,434,905	15,188,589	0	(5,518)	0	18,617,976	(14,934,638)	3,683,339	0	80%
Housing Loans	276,649	2,061,230	0	0	0	2,337,879	(2,176,774)	161,105	0	93%

**NB:** The 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.

### General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2024

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 9th 2023 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% generated circa €1.2m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the 5 Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2024 is set out below:

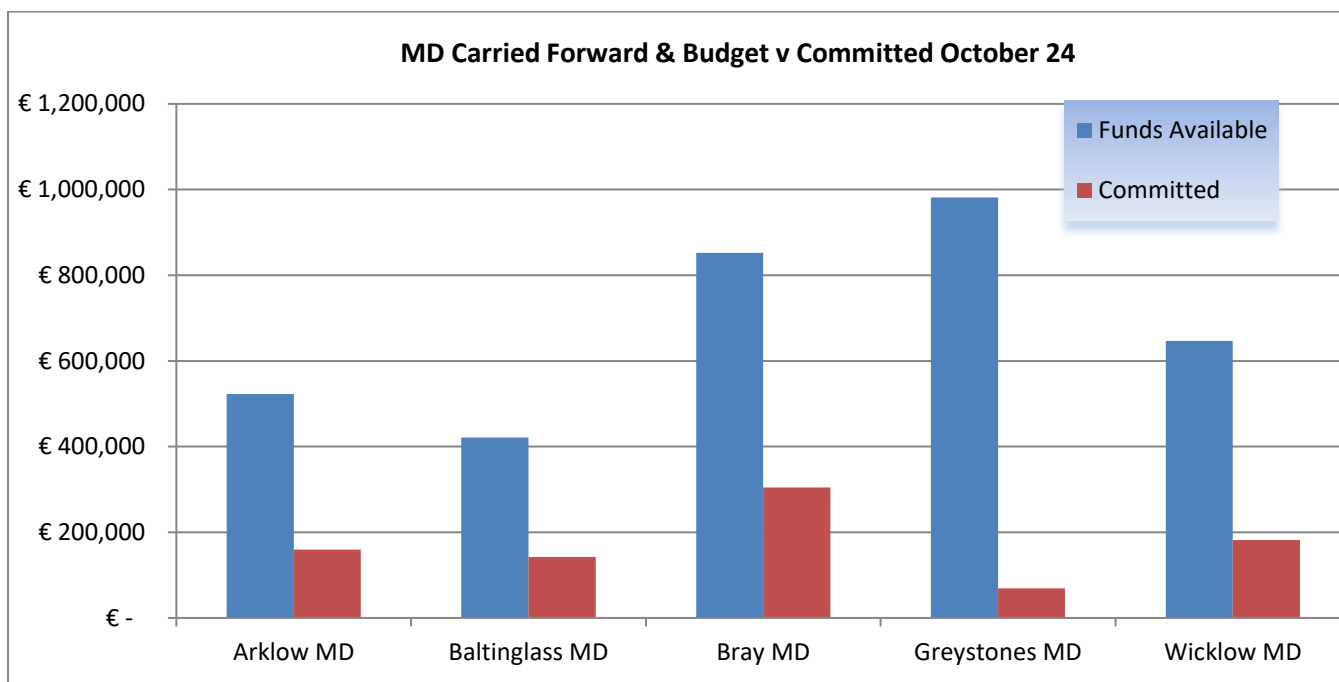
Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	34,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	10,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	66,500
Festivals / Other	25,000	20,000	52,000	20,000	25,000	142,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Discretionary Funding	223,028	223,028	367,370	223,028	223,028	1,259,482
<b>Total</b>	<b>284,028</b>	<b>261,028</b>	<b>440,870</b>	<b>261,028</b>	<b>265,028</b>	<b>1,511,982</b>

Municipal District carried forward allocation and budget '24 and expenditure for 2024 is as follows:

Municipal District	C/F from 2023	Adopted Budget 2024	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	238,944	284,028	522,972	159,671	363,301
Baltinglass MD	160,175	261,028	421,203	142,515	278,688
Bray MD	411,666	440,870	852,536	304,301	548,235
Greystones MD	720,591	261,028	981,619	68,901	912,718
Wicklow MD	381,436	265,028	646,464	181,751	464,713
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,912,812</b>	<b>1,511,982</b>	<b>3,424,794</b>	<b>857,139</b>	<b>2,567,655</b>

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024



### Capital Investment Programme 2024-2026

The Capital Investment Programme 2024-2026 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of April 8<sup>th</sup> 2024. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2024	2025	2026	TOTAL	Dev Charges <sup>1</sup>	Loan	Grant Aid <sup>2</sup>	Other <sup>3</sup>	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	107,375,000	130,150,000	136,500,000	374,025,000	-	30,000,000	333,083,500	10,941,500	374,025,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	20,331,000	45,830,000	58,400,000	124,561,000	31,001,000	7,000,000	69,360,000	17,200,000	124,561,000
WATER SERVICES	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	-	-	300,000	-	300,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	8,271,000	4,849,507	8,435,000	21,555,507	2,172,376	-	15,623,131	3,760,000	21,555,507
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	4,990,000	25,370,000	23,997,000	54,357,000	-	-	47,867,000	6,490,000	54,357,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	8,467,791	9,595,000	18,017,000	36,079,791	12,773,291	-	21,806,500	1,500,000	36,079,791
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	4,000,000	12,210,000	20,400,000	36,610,000	3,127,500	-	30,507,500	2,975,000	36,610,000
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	700,000	500,000	500,000	1,700,000	-	-	-	1,700,000	1,700,000
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>154,234,791</b>	<b>228,604,507</b>	<b>266,349,000</b>	<b>649,188,298</b>	<b>49,074,167</b>	<b>37,000,000</b>	<b>518,547,631</b>	<b>44,566,500</b>	<b>649,188,298</b>

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Capital Funded Projects

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
NRGF	Blessington Greenway	€15,000,000	€0
URDF	Arklow Historic Town Core	€3,134,684	€783,671
URDF	Wicklow Town - Library and Fitzwilliam Square	7,034,879	€2,407,470
URDF	Bray Public Transport Bridge	€8,600,000	€1,000,000
URDF	Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration	€9,520,000	€2,380,000
RRDF 2019	Blueprint for Baltinglass	€3,566,968	€891,742
RRDF 2020	Placemaking Newtownmountkennedy	€477,000	€119,250
REDF	Wicklow County Campus - Content Creation Hub	€4,500,000	€2,700,000
REISS (REDF)	Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation and Innovation Centre	€249,500	€49,900
Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns	Abbey Grounds Wicklow Town	€1,000,000	€500,000
Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Scheme	Market Square Wicklow Town	€119,000	€19,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Greystones CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Blessington CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
WCC	Mill Road, Greystones Masterplan	€50,000	€50,000
Sports Capital Programme	Charlesland All Weather Pitch Refurbishment	€52,500	€2,750
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Wicklow	€68,759	€20,628
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Arklow	€28,999	€8,700
Sports Capital Programme	Arklow Running Track	€62,434	€18,730
Sports Capital Programme	Dr. Ryan Park	€45,320	€13,596
LSSIS	Wicklow Swimming Pool	€2,443,654	€1,579,477
LSSIS	Charlesland Running Track	€411,674	€123,502
Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2022	Wicklow Libraries	€26,500	€2,650
T&V 2018	Blessington	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2018	Wicklow	€150,000	€30,000
T&V 2019	Dunlavin	€26,216	€2,623
T&V 2019	Coolkenno	€30,000	€3,000
T&V 2019	Aughrim	€119,500	€17,925
T&V 2019	Redcross	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2019	Delgany	€37,000	€3,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Bundled	€28,000	€2,800
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Dunlavin	€4,950	€495
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Roundwood	€40,000	€4,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Ballinaclesh	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Enniskerry	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Laragh	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Tinahely	€5,500	€550
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Baltinglass	€10,000	€1,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Arklow	€39,500	€3,950
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Wicklow	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Greystones	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Rathdrum	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Broadband Connection Points	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Kilcoole	20,000	2,000
T&V 2020 Main	Stratford	€200,000	€22,222
T&V 2020 Main	Avoca	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Enniskerry	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Annamoe	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2021	Ballinaclesh	€70,000	€7,000
T&V 2021	Donard	€29,000	€2,900
T&V 2021	Wicklow	€245,931	€24,593
T&V 2022 PMD	Carnew	€55,555.00	€5,555
T&V 2022 PMD	Kiltegan	€55,555.00	€5,555
T&V 2022	Ashford - GAA Wall	€127,000.00	€12,700
T&V 2022	Blessington - Community Space	€20,000.00	€2,000
T&V 2022	Kilcoole - Stakepark	€277,777.00	€27,777
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>€58,988,686</b>	<b>€13,104,276</b>



# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
CLAR 2019	Rathcoyle NS	€55,556	€2,778
CLAR 2019	Knockananna	€46,000	€3,000
CLAR 2021	Knockananna community allotment	€10,830	€1,083
CLAR 2021	Askanagap	€55,557	€5,557
CLAR 2021	Knockananna	€27,514	€2,501
CLAR 2022	Kilpipe	€18,000	€1,800
CLAR 2022	Askinagap - Boundary Wall	€50,000	€5,000
CLAR 2022	Askinagap - Carpark	€50,000	€5,000
CLAR 2022	Knockanna - Pitch	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS 2018	Avonmore Way Link Bridge	€460,000	€91,000
ORIS 2018	Vartry Reservoir Walks & Car Park	€165,157	€33,031
ORIS 2018	St. Kevin's Way	€200,000	€40,000
ORIS 2018	The Spinc	€160,000	€30,000
ORIS 2019	Wicklow Way Infrastructure Enhancement	€25,000	€5,000
ORIS 2019	Baltinglass Road Cycle Trails	€11,000	€2,200
ORIS 2019	North Wicklow Trails Network Development	€240,700	€108,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Avondale Avonmore	€20,330	€2,033
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Trail Digitising	€19,600	€1,960
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Tinahely	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Stratford	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Long Distance Video	€21,400	€2,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Brockagh Mountain Access	€11,100	€1,110
ORIS Measure 1 2020	People Counters	€22,000	€2,200
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Sean Lenihan	€21,200	€2,120
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Glenmalure Bridge	€12,500	€1,250
ORIS Measure 3 2020	Bright light Blueway	€754,820	€205,482
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilmacanogue Nature Trail	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Lacken Mass Path	€18,000	€1,800
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilcoole Mass Path	€13,000	€1,300
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Avonmore Kayak Project	€16,500	€1,650
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Age Friendly Triobikes for older people	€23,160	€3,160
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Keadeen Access	€13,500	€1,350
ORIS 2021 Project Development	Three Trout Route	€27,000	€3,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 3	The Sugarloaf Repair	€500,000	€50,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link	€180,000	€18,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	€220,000	€22,000
ORIS 2022 M1	Avonmore Way Clara Vale	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Ballyboy Equestrian Trail	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Glen Turn Cliff Walk Airlift	€33,300	€3,600
ORIS 2022 M1	Miners Way Ballinafunshogue	€28,000	€2,800
ORIS 2022 M1	Red Kite Loop Play Area	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	West Wicklow Access Points	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Wicklow Uplands Airlift	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Aughrim Heritage Access to Stoneworks	€30,000	€3,000
ORIS 2022 M1	Devil's Glen river Walk Extension	€30,000	€3,000
ORIS 2022 M1	Oakwood Ballinagee Trail Upgrade	€30,000	€3,000
ORIS 2022 M2	Blessington Greenway Link to Russborough	€198,200	€19,820
ORIS 2022 M2	Glenmalure Riverside Walk & Recreation Area	€133,100	€13,310
ORIS 2022 M2	Coolkenno Equestrian Trail	€220,000	€22,000
ORIS 2022 M3	Roundwood Recreation Area	€550,000	€55,000
	<b>Total to date</b>	<b>€63,955,710</b>	<b>€13,910,951</b>

# Wicklow County Council

## Chief Executive's Monthly Report - November 2024

### Information Systems

#### Operations

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 50 tickets a day this month, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.

#### GIS & Systems Analysis

- **GIS Server Migration** – GIS Web applications successfully migrated to new server.
- **Election Mapping** – Maps produced to aid in the validation of the Register of Electors.
- **Consultation Hubs** – Wicklow Town/Rathnew Draft LAP Consultation Hub and Blessington Draft Consultation Hub have gone live. Work has commenced on the Pre-draft Bray LAP Consultation Hub.
- **Brittas Bay Coastal Study** – Data has been processed and shared with consultants involved in the study.
- **Planning Application Monitoring Viewer** - Demonstration for Forward Planning – editing and updating the online Planning Application Monitoring Viewer.
- **SEAI Solar Atlas** - Prepare Solar Atlas Map – source various datasets from SEAI, Global Solar Atlas and Solar Safeguarding Zones.
- **Barn Owl Database** - Preparation of maps for progress report for Wicklow Co. Co. and NPWS.
- **iPlan and Planning Register** - Applications for housing developments post Census April 2022

#### Infrastructure

- Ongoing upgrades of WAN connections at remote sites by Wicklow County Council aim to optimize performance and cost-effectiveness.