



# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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E N D L E S S O P P O R T U N I T I E S



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**This month:**

## **Extra Funds of €282,686, to Help Community Groups**

County Wicklow will benefit from €282,686 in funding announced as part of a special Government fund to support community groups impacted by COVID-19.

The fund is to support community groups impacted by COVID-19 by providing small grants to such groups and will support facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centres.

The Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs such as utility or insurance bills, as well as with improvements to their facilities.

## **National Tidy Town Awards – Gold Medals for Wicklow**

Three County Wicklow towns achieved the coveted Gold Medal award in this year's national Tidy Towns Awards.

Arklow, Bray and Wicklow finished near the top at national level in their respective size categories. Greystones secured a Silver Medal in this year's competition.

Arklow achieved highest in County Wicklow with a score of 349 points, just six points behind the national winner which was Ennis in County Clare. Wicklow Town with 346 points had the second highest score while Grangecon with 339 points took third place in the County.

## **Tree Grants Awarded to Wicklow Community Groups**

Wicklow County Council has awarded tree grants to 29 communities and groups around the county. The grants will fund the planting of **4,735** trees in the coming weeks.

Every Autumn Wicklow County Council provides an annual grant for tree planting, which covers 75 per cent of the cost of purchasing trees for planting. Trees must be native species, fruit trees or a limited range of pollinator friendly trees recommended under the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

A diverse range of groups applied for funding including residents' associations, Tidy Towns groups, schools, community gardens and local biodiversity groups. Trees will be planted in all parts of County Wicklow. Demand for funds to plant has doubled in the last two years.

Some of the trees are being purchased as single trees or small groups of trees on public open space while others will be used to create larger belts of wooded habitat in our town and communities. This year several groups availed of grants to buy native hedging plants which will be used to create natural corridors for wildlife allowing wildlife to move around and live safely in urban settings.

## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

### 1. Social Housing Support

	October 2021	October 2020
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4470	4,519
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	254	292
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2386	2022
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	17	15
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	30	20

### 2. Allocation of Social Housing

	October 2021	October 2020
Wicklow County Council (including Bray MD)	78	158
Approved Housing Bodies (including Bray MD)	1	10

### 3. Social Housing Stock

<b>3. Social Housing Stock</b>	<b>October 2021</b>	<b>October 2020</b>
Tenancies occupied	4,660	4,523
Total weekly rental accrual	305,022.16	299,148.30
Arrears	2,708,677.63	2,344,978.73

## 4. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

<b>SCHEMES COMPLETED</b>	<b>UNITS</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Completed and allocated
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completed and allocated
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated
Whitehall, Baltinglass	34	Completed and allocated
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completed and allocated
Convent Lands	51	Completed and allocated
Urban Villas (FCA Hall), Wicklow Town	8	Completed and allocated
Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue	20	Completed and allocated
Kilmantan Place, Bray	4	Completed and allocated
Carnew Rapid Build	30	Completed and allocated
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completed and allocated
Kilbride Court (Bray)	42	Completed and allocated
Total	308	
<b>Schemes on Site</b>	<b>units</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completion anticipated Quarter 4 2021
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow	40	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2022
Ard na Greine, Bray RAPID BUILD	31	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2022
Mountainview, NTMK RAPID BUILD	26	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2022
Greenhill Road Wicklow RAPID BUILD	36	Completion anticipated Q3 2022
Sheehan Court	7	Completion anticipated Q3 2022
Avondale Phase 2 RAPID BUILD	20	Completion anticipated Q4 2022
TOTAL	207	
<b>Pipeline Schemes</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Cedar Court Bray RAPID BUILD	14	Site start anticipated Q1 2022
Three Trouts Greystones RAPID BUILD	40	Site start anticipated Q3 2022

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Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Site start anticipated Q1 2022
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Site start anticipated Q2 2022
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Part 8 advertised November 2021
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Stage 1 approval expected.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>276</b>	

## 2021

It is expected that 25 Part V units will be delivered in 2021 however this is subject to a number of factors including the duration and number of any further Covid 19 lockdowns, including the current restrictions and then how quickly the Developers can remobilise and complete units.

The Council nominated a number of Essential sites which included Part V's which are due to be completed shortly. This includes the following Part V units:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Enniskerry	2	Completed end March 2021	WCC
Wicklow	4	Scheduled Q1 2022	WCC
Greystones	2	Scheduled Q1 2022	WCC
Wicklow	3	Scheduled Q2 2022	CALF
Delgany	3	Completed May 2021	WCC
Baltinglass	1	Completed 2021	WCC
Dunlavin	4	Completed 2021	WCC
Rathdrum	5	Scheduled Q1 2022	WCC
Delgany	1	Scheduled Q4 2021	WCC
Bray	7	Scheduled Q4 2021	LEASE
Delgany	4	Scheduled Q4 2021	WCC

## Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for 43 units in Delgany, Bray, Rathnew, Wicklow, Baltinglass, Dunlavin and Enniskerry with delivery ranging from 2021-2023. This includes the 25 units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 90 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

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Ballinaclesh	2	Completed Q2 2021	WCC
Tinahely	2	Completed Q1 2021	WCC
Tinahely	1	Q1 2022	WCC

- Negotiations are ongoing with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Approval has recently been received from the Department in respect of 2 Turnkey units in Baltinglass. Units have not commenced construction.
- Approval has recently been received from the Department in respect of 3 Turnkey units in Roundwood. Expected delivery is 2022.
- Approval recently been received from the Department for 13 turnkey units in Rathdrum.

## 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.

- Construction completed on 40 units (including 4 Part V) via CALF Turnkey in Dunlavin.
- Construction ongoing on 28 units in Arklow.
- Acquisition by AHB of 16 Turnkey units via CALF in Baltinglass with a further 48 units (including 4 Part V units and 8 CAS units) completed in 2021.
- Construction ongoing on 28 units in Wicklow (including 3 Part V) due for delivery in 2022.

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

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

## 5. Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

› Grant funding for private house - €1,952,700 (€1,377,558.84 spent to date)

› Grant funding for social house - €1,168,200 (€597,644.93 spent to date)



153 open applications (some carried over from 2020)

195 approvals (some carried over from 2020)

Many of the approved applicants are experiencing delays in having the works carried out due to Covid and the inevitable back logs it has caused for contractors.

## Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing and Disability Steering Group has prepared the new draft Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2022-2027.

## Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

During recent works on Casual Vacancies/Relets, the Council fenced large sections of existing social housing gardens this resulted in three infill sites to develop Age Friendly schemes in Greystones. It is proposed to build small A rated units, specifically designed for the older tenant, which will be offered to eligible tenants in the local area, who wish to downsize. The larger property will return to the council for reletting to a family, and the tenant will benefit from being able to remain in their community, in an age friendly designed home with high comfort and low utility costs.

Millbank, Mill Road - Two 2 bed properties	Part 8 Closed. CE report completed and signed. Submitted to Greystones MD on 27 <sup>th</sup> July and approved.- detailed design underway
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Part 8 Closed. CE report completed and signed Submitted to Greystones MD on 27 <sup>th</sup> July and approved.Detail design underway
Carraig Eden - 14 age friendly apartments	stage 2 underway for submission to the Department for approval to go to Part 8 Part 8 drawings almost complete – design ongoing
Kilcoole Health Centre 4 no 2 bed apartments	Submitted to Greystones MD on 27 <sup>th</sup> July for information. Part VIII was advertised and last date for receipt of submissions has passed. CE report to be submitted to the greystones MD for the their meeting of 30 <sup>th</sup> November.

## Vacant Homes Scheme

There are now 10 CPOs underway on long term vacant houses around the county.

### Oral Hearings

- 108 Charnwood, Bray – Determination by An Bord Pleanála due on 30<sup>th</sup> November following oral hearing on 17<sup>th</sup> August.
- 6 Ashleigh, Ashford – objection submitted to An Bord Pleanála – this will result in an Oral Hearing (date yet to be notified to us).

Negotiations are also ongoing to purchase some of the houses currently under CPO, by agreement. Further long term vacant properties have been identified for future batches of CPOs.

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There were 2 reports relating to Co Wicklow on [www.vacanthomes.ie](http://www.vacanthomes.ie) in Sept 2021 – both were investigated. So far in October, there have been a further 3 reports via the website.

## Housing Maintenance - Heating Upgrade Programme

C. 65 gas and oil boilers have been replaced in Council housing stock in 2021 at a cost of over €150,000 54 were replaced in 2020.

New oil / gas heating has been installed in 28 houses so far this year with a further 2 pending.

## 6. Purchase Schemes

### Rebuilding Ireland Homeloans 2021

Received	Approved in principle
77	30

### 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	October 2021
Applications Received	340	6
Completed	76	3
Declined	220	6
Ongoing	44	44

## 7. Addressing Homelessness

	As at 31/10/2021	Year To Date	As at 31/10/2020
<b>No of New Presentations</b>	19	312	30
<b>No. of Repeat Presentations</b>	3	43	9
<b>No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)</b>	7	124	18
<b>No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)</b>	14	219	18
<b>No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)</b>	2	15	1
<b>No. of Children</b>	19	217	32
<b>NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling</b>	4	54	7
<b>Family Circumstances</b>	9	142	17
<b>Leaving Prison/Hospital Care</b>	0	8	1



Mental Health	0	8	0
Risk of Homelessness	2	45	7
Arrears/Loss of Income	2	15	1
Addiction Issues	4	22	2
DV/DA	2	14	3
Medical Issues	0	4	0
Overcrowding	0	19	3
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	1	22	0
ASB:	0	3	0
Rough Sleeping*	4	26	3
Sofa Surfing*	3	31	2
Staying with Family*	2	89	9
Staying with Friends*	2	29	1

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/10/2021	
Families	16
Adults	33
Children	39
Single individual	2

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/10/2021								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	17	18	18	7	1	3	3	1
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/10/2020								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	15	18	10	5	2	3	2	3



## COVID 19

The Homeless Team continues to provide key support by phone, - Bed and Breakfast properties currently retained by Wicklow County Council are continuing to provide emergency accommodation for homeless clients –All Covid 19 protocols are in place in these facilities

## Homeless HAP

The Homeless HAP Placefinder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 366 households (273 families & 93 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2021. (161 homeless cases, 198 prevention cases to date and 7 direct provision). 115 properties were sourced by WCC.

## Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

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

There are 11 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon, with continuing transition by the clients to suitable, alternative accommodation.

### Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

Dublin Simon are the successful tenderer to operate and manage the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow as a Family Homeless Service. - Refurbishment works on the facility are complete and snagging is under way and it is anticipated that the facility will be fully operational by end of 2021 2021.

The family service envisaged is a 6 month STA(Supported Temporary Accommodation) with key working support to enable family's transition from homelessness into Homeless HAP or alternative longer term accommodation.

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

A key focus of Wicklow County Council in addressing homelessness was to identify and provide a high supported, temporary accommodation unit in Bray/North Wicklow to address the accommodation and support needs of a particular homeless cohort. This cohort was identified from the presenting population and those currently known to and accessing homeless services in Bray/North Wicklow.

The acquisition and upgrade of a former nursing home in Bray has completed and the facility opened to clients in October. The facility, operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where there are a number of emergency/cold weather Beds (restricted during Covid) 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.

## Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) approved funding to upgrade the building to provide 35 ensuite bedrooms within the existing building, with associated kitchens and common areas, as well as the upgrade of Fire Protection.

The refurbishment completed in March and the facility is fully operational. Wicklow County Council are making arrangements with the AHB to run and in-reach service with the clients in the service to support them as they continue their journey.

## Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. There continues to be a number of move ons from these properties, signalling the success of this model.

## Housing First

Housing First recognises that a stable home provides the basis for recovery in other areas.

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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 8 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.

## 8. Traveller accommodation

### Capital Programme

<b>Ballinteskin – 3 houses</b>	Detailed design stage and tender documents completed, stage 3 approval has been received –tender to be advertised in the near future - meetings have taken place with the residents regarding moving to temporary alternative accommodation during construction .
<b>Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 4 houses</b>	Approval received for funding from Department, draft design now agreed with the proposed tenants – part VIII advertised on 3 <sup>rd</sup> November with a closing date for receipt o submissions 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
<b>Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 2 houses</b>	Revised Stage 1 approval received March 2021. Survey of utilities in the area complete, preliminary design underway..
<b>Ballinteskin,</b>	Stage 1 for a disability extension has has now been approved – discissions underway with resident .

Fire safety on Halting sites were completed by members of the Housing section IN October 2021.



## **Covid 19 Update**

Wicklow County Council has put a number of arrangements in place to provide, among other things, services to previously un-serviced sites which will facilitate better sanitation and social distancing.

Welfare facilities were provided at a number of unauthorised sites.

Three families from unauthorised sites were provided with housing units.

Hygiene packs were distributed to all authorised sites and further facilities provided in March.

## **9. Energy Efficiency**

**Solar Panel Carport** – Solar carpark complete and commissioning underway .

### **Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 1**

This phase includes units in Bray and Greystones Arklow, Wicklow and West Wicklow – delays in completing works due to construction inflation during COVID.

### **Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2**

Works on 20 properties in Wolfe Tone Square West, Bray, completed

Works have commenced 57 properties in West Wicklow and Rathdrum

Works on the remaining 34 properties around the County have commenced.

## 10. Community, Cultural & Social Development

### Chambers Ireland excellence in local government awards 2021

Wicklow County Council has been shortlisted in the 17th annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021 for the following projects:

- **"Include Me" Visibility Campaign** in Best Practice in Community Engagement
- **Virtual Couch to 3K- Walk to Jog Programme** in Health & Wellbeing
- **Inclusive Online Easter Camp** in Disability Services Provision
- **Wicklow and the War of Independence: The Historians' Project** in Commemorations & Centenaries

The award ceremony for the 2021 Excellence in Local Government Awards will take place on Thursday, November 18.

### County Wicklow Arts Office



Wicklow's Culture Team led by the Arts Office rolled out a Halloween Festival in Rathdrum - Halloween Playfest on the 30th and 31st of October. This involved the Arts, Heritage, Local Sports and Development Partnership, Outdoor Recreation Service, Healthy Ireland Wicklow, the Community Development Officer and the Climate Action Team of Wicklow County Council coming

together with the Rathdrum Development Association to programme and present a first outdoor event spectacle in Rathdrum. Approximately 2,500 people attended over the two day period which involved performances, workshops, pumpkin carving, discos, fancy dress and sports games.

The Arts Office made an application on behalf of the Local Authority and Bray Municipal District for the Government's Outdoor Spaces Scheme. The Municipal District will now undergo a Part VIII Planning process and consultation and design phase in order to progress the project. The Department has granted the maximum award of €250,000 for the scheme's implementation in Bray.



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The Arts Office received an additional €143,000.00 for the LLPS in October. This is to be utilised by December 31st 2021.

The position of Arts Services Coordinator within the Arts Office was advertised as a Grade V position with Wicklow County Council on a three year contract of employment.

Wicklow County Council's Artist Panel Call is now live, The Arts Office is seeking individual professional artists to join the panel for a two year period to assist in the shaping of professional development services and supports for artists in Wicklow. Selected artists will be remunerated for their attendance at six consultation meetings per year within the two year agreement.

The Arts Office is currently preparing the presentation of the final programmes which will include community place making initiatives in two towns, performances both indoor and outdoor settings and a series of residency opportunities for artists which will be live shortly and offered before December 31st 2021.

## County Wicklow Library Services

### October Statistics

Wicklow County Council library Service's usage statistics for October are impressive. Just under 30,000 physical, unique items were borrowed during the month from our 13 libraries & mobile library. This equates to 210 items per 1,000 pop, compared with a national average of 128 per 1,000 pop.

Statistics for E-books and downloadable audio books show that Wicklow had the highest quantity of items borrowed, nationally. Wicklow stats equated to 54 compared with a national average of 36 per 1,000 pop.

These stats can be attributed to Wicklow County Council's commitment to continually upgrading its libraries, and the continuous promotion of the services by staff, both on the front line and on social media.

### Children's Book Festival

Wicklow County Council Library Service was delighted to celebrate Children's Book Festival this year with a wide range of well received events. Online events included 'zine making workshops for teens, dual language story times, a monster quiz and an uproarious hour with children's book legend Julian Gough. A rainy mid-term break ensured great interest in our online events, which also catered to children isolating with symptoms. Great fun was had by all with a strong turnout of eager young readers. Over 200 children attended our online events programme, and we greatly look forward to welcoming our community back to in-person children's events this week with fancy dress story time, Read the Rainbow teens events, Irish language author talks and more!

### Health Ireland at Your Library

Food allergies & intolerance an online talk with dietician Sara Keogh took place on Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup>. This is part of a series of Healthy Ireland nutrition talks targeting dietary issues that adults may need clarification on. The next two talks in the series are 'The Cholesterol Lowering Top 10' on 11<sup>th</sup> of November and 'Coeliac Disease: Could it be you?' on 18<sup>th</sup> of November at 7 p.m.

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Booking is through Eventbrite and links may be accessed on the library website <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Libraries/Events>

### **Nature Walk in the People's Park**

A miserable wet day did not prevent 25 Junior Explorers from attending a guided nature walk at the People's Park in Bray on 27<sup>th</sup> October. Led by the knowledgeable environmentalist and nature expert, Pat Hunt, the children and their adults explored a section of the park and learned more about the flora and fauna in this area.

### **Mandarin Dual Language Story Time at Bray Library**

Bray Public Library was delighted to host Evan Furlong, of the Dublin School of Mandarin Chinese for two very special dual language story times. In our online session, Evan read the Gruffalo and the original Chinese folk tale of The Fox and the Tiger to a rapt young audience. Our first in-branch story time since February 2020 took place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> of October, when Evan told the story of the Twelve Animals of the Chinese Zodiac, and promoted our new mini-collection of Mandarin Chinese picture books.

This marked the launch of Bray Library's Mandarin Chinese picture book collection and the beginning of ongoing engagement with this community.

### **Wicklow Naturally's October Feast at Wicklow Library**



Wicklow town's new library recently hosted an evening of culinary excitement in the spacious exhibition area. This event tied in with Wicklow Naturally's October Feast and featured Chef Tadgh Byrne preparing and showcasing beautiful food and drink produce from County Wicklow. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy a sample of the finished dishes which included ingredients such as rosehips from the Glen of Imaal, venison, local cheeses and wines and a multitude of other locally produced food items.

Covid regulations now include checking proof of vaccination for indoor events.

### **County Wicklow Archives and Genealogy Services**

#### **Wicklow County Archives & Local Studies Services welcomes school groups**



Now located at the new Wicklow Library & Archives, Wicklow Town – we were delighted to welcome the first of the school groups to visit our services. The students from Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School were introduced to Wicklow archives collections such as Wicklow Town records from the



1600s, workhouse registers from Famine times, and school group photographs from the early 1900s. They learned about the importance of records for the study of history and the work of the archivist in preserving them and making them accessible. They also learned how to start researching their family tree. The Local Studies librarian showed the children special collections such as the early newspapers featuring adverts and photographs, Wicklow map resources, postcards and a wide array of sources for the study of Wicklow local history.

The archives and local studies services are planning a comprehensive schools programme to include school visits, projects and resources to assist at Junior and Leaving Certificate work levels. This will introduce the students to Wicklow sources and support their work as part of the history curriculum, particularly in relation to the emphasis on the use of primary source material in history project work.

## Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnerships

### **Ballywaltrim, Bray has been selected as a ‘Healthy Communities’ site with an investment of €250,000 secured.**

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme is a cross-Government initiative, launched by Health Minister Stephen Donnelly and Minister of State Frank Feighan, with annual funding of €13m from the Department of Health.

Healthy Communities is a partnership between the HSE, local authorities, communities, statutory, voluntary and community groups to deliver increased health and wellbeing services in 19 community areas across Ireland. The Ballywaltrim area of Bray has been selected as one of these sites. The programme aims to improve the long-term health and well-being of people living in these communities. Initiatives will be delivered to help promote and improve overall health and wellbeing through partner groups working together to provide a range of dedicated services to build lasting improvements.

Initially this programme will come with two important supports, a dedicated Healthy communities local development officer which the County Council is now recruiting for and a Community Enhancement fund of €250,000. The proposal for the enhancement fund was developed through consultation with partners i.e. Wicklow County Council CCSD Section, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, Bray Municipal District, Healthy Wicklow Coordinator, Bray Area Partnership & other community groups.

Public need has been assessed through interagency meetings and discussion with users’ groups in the area. The outlined projects will also build on planned intervention programmes and developments in the area.

Works to be funded include;

- 3 Community kitchens to be installed in Bray at SPECS (Supporting Services & Early Childhood Services), Ballywaltrim Community Centre & Giltspur Community Facility at a cost of €12,000 each €36,000
- Reinstall GAA & Soccer posts €20,000
- Upgrade Sports Pavilion & install new accessible toilets / refit showers €20,000
- Ballywaltrim Artificial Bouldering Rocks €20,000
- Ballywaltrim Playground Calisthenics Outdoor Exercise Equipment €30,000
- Ballywaltrim Playground Mural €2,000
- New 3v3 Basketball Courts and futsal pitch €20,000

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- Installation of Outdoor Gym and Fitness Equipment for community use €100,000
- Healthy Ireland branded mural €2,000

## Couch to 5K

The Community based Couch to 5K has a great reach across the whole of County Wicklow, bringing together people who want to get from walking to running before Christmas. This 6 week virtual programme enables them to participate in any area with weekly check-in's, programmes and tips to keep motivated to exercise in the winter months.



## Learn to Cycle for People with a Disability

Following from the success of a taster session in September in Blessington we responded to the community demand for a 6 week programme which is running in St Kevin's Community Centre on Thursday afternoons in November and December. This programme targets children and teenagers with an Intellectual Disability or with an Autism Spectrum diagnosis who cannot cycle without stabilisers.

## Courses

Safeguarding 1	19 <sup>th</sup> November	Zoom
Sports First Aid	20 <sup>th</sup> November	St Kevin's Community Centre

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### Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC)

Three applications have been sent to the Department under the new 2021 Disability Participation and Awareness Fund. These three applications include strategy consultant, research for disability guide and communication boards for libraries and playgrounds as well as handrails for Wicklow Harbour.

The committee meets every month and a number of sub-committees meet as required to discuss Changing places facilities, a Disability strategy, Tourism and Communications.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> December, is International day for Disability and the “Purple Lights” campaign, and a number of buildings, and the 19 Arches Bridge, will be lit in Purple on the day.

### Healthy Ireland



### Minister Donnelly visits Healthy Ireland Initiatives in Bray



Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, was in Bray recently to visit projects which have been supported by Healthy Ireland funding and to meet the people involved on the ground. The initiatives included Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership actions Healthy Towns, Physical Activity for All and Teenage Urban Outdoor Recreation initiative which aim to increase participation in sport among specific target groups. Bray Area Partnership showcased the Health and Wellbeing Programme in the 6 DEIS schools in Bray, the benefits of the Aspire Social Prescribing initiative. The SPECS team were on hand to highlight the Perinatal Booklet developed and the Community Kitchen in St Kieran’s Special School.

### Rathdrum Halloween Playfest

Teaming up with Wicklow Arts office and Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, a free outdoor 2 day Halloween Playfest was ran in the Memorial Park in Rathdrum. A Programme full of play was organised and Healthy Wicklow funded tutors for a balance bike circuit, pound dance class, games and exercise activities for all the family to get involved. It was a hugely successful event with approximately 2,500 people in attendance over the 2 days.

### Urban Outdoor Recreation Initiative

A 3 week introduction to trail walking initiative will commence for leaving cert applied students in Scoil Chonglais, Baltinglass and St Kevin’s School, Dunlavin on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

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

### SICAP:

SICAP 2022-2023 Statement of Priorities documents have been completed by both Programme Implementers and approved by the LCDC.

Priority groups/issues will be: New Communities; Travellers; Older People; Mental health.

Annual Plans 2022: Deadline for submission was November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Co. Wicklow SICAP case studies 2021 now available from both Partnerships including videos.

### PPN:

Nomination and election process underway to fill upcoming vacancies on committees and boards.

Continuing the Meet your Elected Reps online sessions.

Ongoing organisation of PPN annual conference scheduled for Arklow in March 2022.

Consultations: Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy; Community Group Insurance; Well-being framework for Ireland; Standards for the care of children using social care services.

**Elected Reps:** Meet Your Elected Representatives currently being organised for October/November. See website to be involved.

**Online sessions:** Live online training and networking events now available every Thursday night through: <https://countywicklowppn.ie/free-online-sessions-book-your-place/>

**Consultations:** Wicklow County Development Plan; Age Friendly Houses Killincarrig; Enniskerry Village Renewal; Survey on Insurance Reform; National Disability Authority Survey on the accessibility of websites and Apps.

**Funding Opportunities/Competitions:** EIL Seed Funding; Artist in the Community Scheme; Mitigating against Educational Disadvantage Fund; Meet and Code 2021; Town Twinning and Networks of Towns.

## CLÁR 2021 Projects Funding Approved

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CLAR 2021 – funded projects

Area	Project	Funding
Askanagap	Astro turf	50,000
Knockananna	MUGA floodlights	22,510.13
Knockananna	Community garden	9,747



## LECP UPDATE September 2021

Goal 1: Develop community capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban and rural regeneration

### Town & Village Funding Scheme to Revitalise Towns and Villages 2021

The Town and Village Scheme objectives are being refocused to align with commitments within ‘Our Rural Future – Rural Development Policy 2021-2025’. The 2021 Scheme will prioritise the objectives of this policy such as tackling vacancy in towns and villages, remote working and supporting town centre living. Other projects which will be welcomed include regeneration projects that support active and vibrant town or village centres, upgrading shopfronts and street facades, and green spaces and parks, etc.

#### Grant Levels:

For the 2021 Scheme, the minimum grant which is available is €20,000. The maximum level of grant funding available is being raised to €500,000 in respect of one application from each Local Authority. A maximum of €250,000 will apply in respect of 2 applications and €100,000 in respect of 4 applications. 2 applications must be in respect of Towns/Villages that have not previously received funding under the Standard Town & Village Renewal Scheme

#### Town and Village Applications Submitted July 2021

Town/Village	Project
Kiltegan	Transform a derelict vacant site into a multi purpose community facility. The project aims to purchase the site and renovate the existing building to rehouse the community shop and café, provide community space, rehouse the CE scheme and provide a remote working hub.
Lacken	Refurbish a town centre building into a community shop, café and remote working hub. The project aims to maximise opportunity for economic benefit from the Blessington Greenway and from walkers and cyclists. It also aims to develop a heritage hub and a community space to create a resilient and socially cohesive community, using the Smart Village Model
Wicklow	This is a placemaking project to reconnect Wicklow centre to the port area by reanimating and revitalising the network of laneways with creative lighting, murals, riverside seating with canopy and parklet planting
Hollywood	Placemaking project to create a quality and environmentally friendly public space. This project aims to transform an underutilised space which is close to woodland so lends itself to a natural approach to designing a pocket park with associated walkway and car parking.
Ballinaclesh	Renovate the community hall to revitalise the village by providing access to remote working facilities and community activities to the community and possible new residents. This includes the replacing a dividing wall with



	a movable divider, fitout of remote working space and insulation works to the building
Coolboy	A placemaking project to improve public space in Coolboy and maximise social and economic benefits to the area. It will rejuvenate the village green by resurfacing and upgrading existing paths to make them more accessible and age friendly and reconnect a small underused annex area. It will also see the addition of picnic benches, a bandstand and an area of planting and landscaping, improving the biodiversity of the area.
Donard	Rejuvenation of community hall to develop a community café and to provide remote working spaces.

## Announcement of the Rural Regeneration Development Fund Category 2

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, on May 12<sup>th</sup>, announced the third call for Category 2 applications to the €1 billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. This fund is for projects that will drive economic growth and footfall, combat dereliction, regenerate town centre and heritage buildings, develop pedestrian zones and outdoor spaces and make rural towns more attractive places to live, work and raise a family.

The €1 billion Fund is also part of the Department's Rural Development Investment Programme, which is funded under Project Ireland 2040. Projects that will be funded under Category 2 are those that require significant development before they reach the stage of being shovel ready.

### RRDF Applications Submitted July 2021

Town/Village	Project
South West Wicklow – Shillelagh, Tinahely, Carnew	<p>Reimagining South West Wicklow</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maximise all opportunities for the area, arising from significant planned infrastructural investment and development of the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway.</li> <li>2. Revitalise Rural Towns in Southwest Wicklow to become vibrant sustainable SMART centres of commerce and attractive places to work, live and recreate in harmony with the natural environment</li> <li>3. Maximise all economic &amp; social opportunities arising from the Coolattin Footprint in line with the Irelands Ancient East brand</li> <li>4. Maximise economic, social and environmental benefits from the critical mass of 'National Walking Loop Trails' already developed in the area.</li> </ol>
Blessington	Regeneration of Blessington





	Renovation of the town centre and public space and significant development works to Russborough House to enhance visitor experience and maximise economic opportunities arising from the Blessington Greenway development.
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Goal 2: Promote Active Citizenship and Public Participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making

### **Age Friendly Programme**

The national Age Friendly Primary care centre guidelines were launched in June. These guidelines were compiled by Kildare and Wicklow Age Friendly Programme managers. Walkability audits are to take place in a number of locations.

The Arklow Age Friendly Befriending Service is to launch soon following the final garda vetting process. This will be of huge benefit to the population of Arklow.

Regarding housing, we are looking into making Rathcoran Estates in Baltinglass an Age Friendly Estate. It was built by and will be run by Respond.

### **Comhairle na nÓg**

The Comhairle na nÓg, through the Coordinator, are taking part in the COVID-19 Community Response Forum, bringing the perspective of young people to the table. They are also taking part in the Time Machine project which is an intergenerational project.

Funding has been secured from DCYA to continue to support the Comhairle na nÓg. Tablets were purchased for use by the Comhairle in each Municipal District, to help them to keep the youth council going during the COVID-19 restrictions.

Goal 3: Strategic Direction – Develop high quality integrated services, available to all communities, in particular, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups

### **1. Healthy Wicklow Strategy**

Round 3 of Programme is underway but implementation has slowed down because of COVID-19. An extension to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 has been granted.

In 2021 the Healthy Ireland Programme has focused on the Keep Well Campaign which is coming to an end. The final round of reporting is being completed at present.



## 2. Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme

The Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme is a new initiative led by Slaintecare and Healthy Ireland in partnership with Wicklow Local Community Development Committee and other local stakeholders. The goal of the programme is to improve the long term health and wellbeing of people living in the most disadvantaged communities in Ireland. The programme is based in the Bray area of Wicklow. This is a holistic approach to health and wellbeing incorporating the physical and social determinants of health, that is, the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age, and the wider set of forces and systems that shape the conditions of daily life. The programme will implement targeted initiatives to tackle these challenges from within these communities. This will be achieved through the provision of dedicated services to build sustainable improvements in the health and wellbeing of all those living in those communities.

A local implementation team will be formed in each area led by a SHCP Local Development Officer to be employed by Wicklow County Council.

## 3. County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy – Food Poverty and Sustainability

The County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy contains aims and objectives to tackle food poverty and food sustainability in the county. This is a long term issue but was highlighted through the work of the Community Response Forum during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A subgroup has been formed to work on this issue. Research has already been undertaken to establish the extent and nature of food poverty and the responses to this. Further research is now ongoing with a view to the development of a working plan going forward.

Goal 4: Develop a vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector
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## Bray Area Partnership

In addition to the ongoing work being undertaken by BAP in supporting the operation of social enterprise activity in the Bray and north Wicklow areas, some key developments to note are as follows:

1. A market research and feasibility study report is nearing completion with respect to the establishment of a social enterprise employing individuals having had interaction with the Probation Service and criminal justice system. Collaboration Ireland has been commissioned to undertake the report with funding being provided through the Probation Services Kickstart grants scheme and supported by the Dormant Accounts Fund.
2. As part of a collaboration involving BAP and two neighbouring LDCs, a support initiative, SEED 2, has been developed to work with social enterprises in the Bray/north Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and South Dublin areas. SEED 2 will cover Strategic Planning; Income Diversification and Governance guidance and supports using group training, individual mentoring and networking sessions. This work is being resourced by the Covid 19 Social Enterprise Regeneration Programme through the Dormant Accounts Fund and will run for six months, commencing in September/ October coming.
3. Work is continuing on developing the Care and Repair Action social enterprise initiative aimed at providing home supports to older people living in the Bray and north Wicklow areas.



**Department of Rural and Community Development Measure Ones 2021- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. Projects approved:**

			<u>Amount Awarded</u>
Wicklow	Kilmacanogue Nature Trail	Enhancement of the links between Wicklow Uplands Way and Sugarloaf Way by taking a section off road.	€18,000.00
Wicklow	Lacken Mass Path	Provide a link between the final section of the original mass path and carry out repairs along the trail.	€16,200.00
Wicklow	Kilcoole Mass Path	Upgrade of the existing trail surface, infrastructure and drainage.	€11,700.00
Wicklow	Avonmore Kayak Project	Enhancement of the access and egress points along the river bank by placing railings. Living willow changing screens will also be planted.	€14,850.00
<b>Wicklow</b>	Age Friendly Triobikes for older people	Cycling with Age allows volunteers to bring people living in nursing homes and community resource centres out into the community in an enjoyable way, improving their health and wellbeing.	€20,000.00
Wicklow	Keadeen Access	To extend the carpark at Ballinabarney Forest to allow for improved access	€12,150.00



## Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

### 1. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

This month new guidelines have been launched for the preparation of LECPs. LECPs detail how Local Authorities will support economic and community development in their areas over the next six years. The new guidelines will assist with the development of the plans for local areas, with a key focus on sustainability, consultation and engagement with local communities and business.

The guidelines will require the Council to consider housing needs when formulating both the economic and community elements of the LECPs. The guidelines are timely as the current LECP finishes in 2022. The new plan will take account of lessons learned and the changing needs of communities. The guidelines reinforce the important role of communities in determining the needs and priorities of their local area.

### Retail

#### Bray Central

Bray Central site is back fully operational and working to make up for lost ground due to the lockdown and issues within the construction industry. Contractor activity intensifies on site to meet the new opening deadline early in the New Year. Practical completion date is end of January 2021. Heads of terms have gone out to several new retail and leisure tenants. To date there is excellent interest from a number of operators for the smaller retail units.

#### Town Teams

Town Teams in Arklow, Blessington, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow continue to meet virtually where possible to progress various projects. Activity, particularly engagement with stakeholder groups has been curtailed due to Covid restrictions.

#### Arklow Town Team

Arklow Town Team have submitted a biodiversity grant application for funding to [Environment and Nature Fund 2021, Community Foundation for Ireland](#) for Glenart Forest for a comprehensive biodiversity survey



of the woodlands in order to tackle some of the major invasive species issues and other woodland habitat challenges associated with the forest.

Sub-committees have been set up to progress a number of interests and initiatives, including the Arklow Good Store Project and as an interim measure for the Arklow Pottery Museum Project, an online museum cataloguing Arklow Pottery through the years.

The Town Team are also considering potential future projects to benefit the town.

### **Bray Town Team / Bray Town Recovery Team**

The Bray Town Recovery Team will have its inaugural meeting following discussions with the Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District. The members of Bray MD have agreed the Terms of Reference.

### **Blessington Town Team**

Blessington Town Team is working closely with Blessington & District Forum and Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership to roll out a number of initiatives aimed at making Blessington a healthier place to live. Four permanent road signs were funded under Healthy Wicklow to promote positive Mental Health. The signs are dispersed in different areas of Blessington and include the words; hope, courage, love and faith.

### **Christmas Light funding**

Various voluntary and community groups throughout Baltinglass Municipal District applied for Christmas light/festival contributions for 2021. €10000 in total was distributed to twenty two groups throughout the District.

### **Blessington Town Square**

Baltinglass MD received €95,000 funding from the NTA Additional Outdoor Infrastructure measure fund, in June 2021. This funding has been used to complete phase one of the Town Square redevelopment which included the pedestrianising a large area in the square. The square is now open to the public. The works completed consists of the following:

- paving a large area of the square
- provision of public lighting in the square
- back light of the monument
- age friendly seating
- planters
- big belly bin



## Greystones Town Team

Greystones Town Team was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee in recent months. A formal structure has been put in place to include Council officials and elected members, Town Team directors and the chairs of the four committees -

- **Public Realm/Tidy Town**
- **Arts/ Culture/Tourism/infrastructure/Heritage**
- **Events PR Digital and Sports**
- **Business/Retail & Economic Development**

The events committee together with the support of other Town Team members have been busy organising the November 20<sup>th</sup> turning on of Christmas Lights event and an exciting and engaging social media campaign pre, during and post the lights ceremony, designed to support local business and generate a buzz locally.

The events include a live streamed broadcast featuring local choirs, messages from clergy, messages from home & abroad, Santa's parade, special guest appearances including Dustin the turkey, Ms Claus storytelling, Burnaby Elf's adventures, Santa's post box, giveaways and many more surprises.

## Wicklow Town Team

The next meeting of the Wicklow Town Team will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The Town Team is currently working with other members to organise activities for the Christmas season ahead.

## Outdoor Dining

Fáilte Ireland earlier this year announced funding for Outdoor Dining:

Part One of the Scheme - *Outdoor Seating and Accessories* - supports individual hospitality businesses with grants of up to €4,000 for seating, tables and outdoor accessories. This scheme which is fully funded by Fáilte Ireland is administered by the Local Authorities. Where the tables and chairs are located in a public space, the business must apply for a Section 254 licence, if the equipment is located on private property, planning permission may be required.

This scheme is now closed for applications with payments to be completed by the 30<sup>th</sup> November.

All Local Authorities were invited to apply to Fáilte Ireland for funding under Part Two - Local Authority Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme - to develop streets and public spaces to



facilitate outdoor dining in urban tourism centres, enabling access to outdoor seating for extended periods throughout the year.

Wicklow County Council applied for and was awarded funding for Outdoor Dining and Weatherproofing for Market Square in Wicklow Town (€119,000) and Abbey Lane in Arklow (€81,000).

## **Streetscapes**

Six towns/villages in County Wicklow have been selected to participate in the Streetscape and Shopfront Enhancement scheme. The areas selected are Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington, Enniskerry, Kilcoole and Wicklow Town.

The *Streetscape Enhancement Initiative* is a key part of the Government's 'Our Rural Future' and is designed to make our rural towns and villages more attractive colourful and vibrant places to live, work and visit.

Types of projects funded include: refurbishment of traditional shop fronts, artwork, murals, lighting, planting etc. The closing date for completed applications was extended to 14<sup>th</sup> September with the completion of works deadline also extended from 22<sup>nd</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 with 99 applications received for the measure.

## **Tourism**

### **Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022**

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

The Key Priorities are:

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

### **Wicklow Passport:**

Wicklow Tourism is investing in mobile promotional units to help promote the Wicklow Passport. Our first mobile unit was displayed over the mid-term break at Clissmann's Horse Drawn Caravans during their Halloween Pumpkin Patch event. The display unit offers a tremendous opportunity to raise the Wicklow

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Passport concept to the local community. The objective as well is to bring mobile units beyond Wicklow at various fairs and trade shows to inspire potential visitors to roam the County.

## **EcoTrail Wicklow:**

We are currently engaging with Tourism Ireland's offices in Europe and beyond offering the extensive image database and video created during the event to feature on their social media channel and help showcase Wicklow's amazing outdoor playground to people around the world. See image selection at: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1x8WqBraCYugKCXEv5\\_9PYklizEO51X0t?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1x8WqBraCYugKCXEv5_9PYklizEO51X0t?usp=sharing) or watch the video at : <https://youtu.be/Yhpi1WnrxE>

**Destination Town Funding:** An application to Fáilte Ireland on behalf of Wicklow Town was made in respect of Destination Town Funding and funding has been awarded to develop visitor amenities in the Abbey Grounds. Mosart, a local architect team which specialise in architecture, landscape and urban design, have been appointed to design the Abbey Grounds project with a view to increasing visitor numbers to Wicklow while maintaining this important oasis at the heart of Wicklow town. Part VIII application has been lodged and is currently on public display.

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

This is a Fáilte Ireland funded project led by FI with strategic partners NPWS, OPW, Coillte and WCC. The Plan covers visitor attractions and activities available in the area and the first stage of stakeholder engagement has been completed. .

The consultants team are now engaging with some of the key landowners to assess the feasibility of developing additional off road trails between Laragh and Glendalough and provision of additional parking. The process has identified a number of issues: congestion at key sites, concerns over security, capacity and quality of car parking and visitor services, issues with local access, and erosion and degradation of the environment.

Visitor Experience Hubs have been identified around the county where there is a particular focus of visitor attractions. Development of these hubs will build capacity, help disperse visitors across the county, encouraging longer stays and greater investment in the area. The team is developing detailed plans for walking, mountain biking, off road family cycling.

Measures have been taken this year to introduce additional temporary parking and to use traffic counters to improve parking management and signage. Toilet facilities have been upgraded.



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The consultants have prepared the draft masterplan and this was presented to members of the Laragh/Glendalough Community on the 27th October 2021.

## Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

The following applications were submitted under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund Grant Scheme for Category 2 Funding;

**Shillelagh/Carnew/Tinahely:** Developing the villages for the eventual arrival of the Greenway – purchasing some of the old station buildings linking in with the Tinahely Trails and other tourist venues including the Tinahely Farm shop and the Orchard Farm.

**Blessington:** Redeveloping and resubmitting the proposal to design and develop the Square for when the N81 is re-routed and to make the town greenway ready to be able to cater for the large influx of visitors expected.

A call for Category 1 (shovel ready) proposals is to be made later in 2021.

## URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

The Wicklow Town URDF Project for the development of the library at the old Ulster Bank Building and the redevelopment of Fitzwilliam Square has been completed. Total cost for the development of the Library was €6 million, with €3 million funded via the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage URDF and €1 million from the Department of Rural and Community Development. €2 million matched funding was committed by Wicklow County Council.

The €2m Fitzwilliam Square refurbishment project, funded by an amount of €1.5m under the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government URDF scheme, has created a multi-functional space, improving accessibility and enhancing the presentation and public realm of the Town Centre at Fitzwilliam Square. A new outdoor venue for community events, performances and exhibitions, and outdoor dining is now available. The Halpin monument which was concealed is now made more visible and contributes to tourism and the town's maritime heritage. The newly created space is also now responding to the recent health and safety challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and will go towards helping to support the recovery of the tourism and hospitality sector.



Part 1 of the Arklow URDF Project the refurbishment of the Courthouse and the development of an Enterprise Space in the former Town Council offices. Part 2 of the project the public realm works are currently underway.

### **Bray Public Transport Bridge**

Submissions under the Part VIII process closed on Monday 6th September 2021, with over 150 submissions received. An Bord Pleanála is reviewing the application and will determine whether an EIS is required.

### **Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration**

Funding of €7.14m has been announced for the Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration Project from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and this funding has the capacity to unlock the great potential of Bray Harbour and surrounding area.

RPS Ltd was appointed to further appraise and develop a masterplan for the on shore elements of Bray Harbour following the report by RPS Ltd of the Bray Harbour Improvements Feasibility Study. This work is essential to provide clarity to the overall direction of the Bray Harbour Improvements before progressing to detailed design. Draft options for regeneration of onshore facilities around the harbour that would enhance the public realm and reorganise space to provide for additional water based leisure and commercial activities was presented. Initial discussions took place between the council and some key property owners and leaseholders that would be affected by proposals to relocate their facilities in early October. RPS Ltd have been instructed to follow up with all of the relevant stakeholders to determine the viability of the options being considered. Additionally RPS have been asked to explore an option that does not necessitate relocating existing occupiers but aims to gain space for the public realm and new activities by a combination of reduced parking provision and land reclamation. A foreshore licence will be required for all of the off shore works agreed following the completion and approval of the Bray Harbour Feasibility Study and the Bray Harbour Masterplan. It is hoped that we will be in a position to appoint a consultant for the detailed design of all the works before next summer.

Work is ongoing to further develop the unsuccessful applications for Wicklow and Arklow Harbours. A meeting with the Department of Housing URDF Team has taken place, this will inform the resubmission of these applications. It is likely that the next call for URDF funding will be late 2021/early 2022.



## Maritime

There are a number of Offshore Wind Energy projects proposed off the coast of County Wicklow

- Dublin Array – Bray and Kish Banks
- Cailleach – off Bray Head
- Codling Wind Park between Greystones and Wicklow
- Arklow Bank between Arklow and Wicklow Head
- Shelmalere just south of Arklow

### **Arklow Bank**

SSE Renewables has submitted a planning application to An Bord Pleanála for the development of the landfall for two offshore export circuits underground high voltage connections, a new sub-station and transmission compound along with a 220kV overhead power line connection from Shelton Abbey to the transmission network.

SSER has made an application to Wicklow County Council in respect of the O&M base at Arklow.

### **Codling Wind Park**

The Codling Wind Park has published its Onshore Infrastructure Scoping Report which covers the land-based elements of the Codling Wind Park project, such as the point at which the cables will come ashore (landfall), the routing of onshore cabling and any electricity substation(s) that may be required to connect the project to the national grid. It also describes how the operations and maintenance base for the project, which will be located at a port along the east coast, may be considered in the EIA.

The Codling Wind Park has announced its decision to base its operations and maintenance facility at Wicklow Port. This will provide 75 skilled jobs over the 25 to 30 year lifecycle, plus another 40 jobs during construction. The construction of the windfarm itself will employ 1,000

### **Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme**

Under the RESS energy providers bid for connections to the national grid. This is a major milestone for the offshore windfarms. If their bid is not successful the projects will not proceed.

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications has opened a consultation on the first auction to supply electricity from offshore wind under the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS 1).



The aim of this targeted consultation is to engage stakeholders and gather feedback on aspects of the Terms and Conditions to ensure the efficient and economical delivery of renewable electricity projects under ORESS 1. Views are being sought from all interested parties.

**Closing date for submissions is 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

Key policy objectives of the RESS 1 include:

- increasing energy security, energy sustainability and ensuring the cost effectiveness of energy policy;
- providing for community participation through community benefit funds;
- increasing technology diversity – by broadening the renewable electricity technology mix;
- delivering an ambitious renewable electricity policy to 2030;

The consultation document covers issues such as state consent, bidding independence, grid connections, bidding mechanisms, bid bonds and performance securities and offshore community benefit funds.

### **Key Milestones**

The enactment of the Marine Area Planning Bill, 2020 is expected in 2021

The Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) Auction whereby the companies bid for a grid connection is expected in 2022

### **Food and Beverage Strategy**

Funding of €175,000 has been secured via the LEADER Food Programme for a Food and Beverage Co-ordinator role for Wicklow Naturally CLG and a tender for the supply of event costs for the period 2021 - 2023 in support of Wicklow Naturally's Promotional Activities Plan. Wicklow Naturally will contribute 5% from subscriptions and it is proposed that Wicklow County Council will contribute €35,000 over the two year life of the project.

OctoberFeast has been the highlight in the calendar for Wicklow Naturally during 2021, with different events every day including food tours, demonstrations, markets and restaurants hosting Wicklow Naturally meals. The OctoberFeast Mid Harvest Celebration was held on Friday 15th October in the Arboretum at Kilquade and was well attended with a mix of producers and officials, with food writer Dee Laffan and journalist Suzanne Campbell present.



## 2. Local Enterprise Office

<b>LEO Objectives</b>
<p>To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:</p> <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>

<b>METRICS: Grants</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 27/€663,778.00 - 3/€3,850	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	-27/ €512,202 -2 / €3,150 (to date)
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
<b>METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	64	60	63
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	75	75	119
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	1542	1000	764
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	12	10

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<b>METRICS: Business Advice &amp; Mentoring</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	1302	1000	713
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	803	600	444 (Including Brexit 1-1 Mentoring)

<b>METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
No. of Secondary Student Participants	953	1000	Recruitment ongoing

<b>METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Year to Date 2021</b>
Number of Applications	Programme review	Programme review	Programme review

<b>Trading Online Voucher</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>No of Trading Online Vouchers approved</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Year to Date 2021</b>
Trading Online Vouchers	430	70	124 (Total value: € 259,211.40)

<b>Lean For Micro Project</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	8	11	9



Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2020	2021	2021
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	21	23	7

## October / November 2021 Activities

- The October Network of Entrepreneurial Women network meeting took place via Zoom
- Four craft businesses were chosen to represent LEO Wicklow at the 'LEO Area' of Showcase 2021 (craft industry wholesale exhibition, RDS Jan 2022), in conjunction with the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland
- The 'Stimulus' and 'Green for Micro' consultancy programmes are in train, offering expert guidance to approximately 50 growing LEO client businesses in 2021.
- The Owner Manager Development Programme is proceeding well, with 21 participants.
- Preparations are under way for an official visit by minister Damien English to LEO Wicklow offices on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November
- Linda Healy of LEO Wicklow, and the Film Commissioner for Wicklow County Council was featured on Nationwide, broadcast on RTE 1 television on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November, speaking about the history of filmmaking in Co. Wicklow
- The LEO is continuing to help clients work through their customs queries with additional customs one to one clinics scheduled for week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> November.
- There continues to be a high level of demand for business advice clinics which are currently being run remotely.
- Fortnightly newsletter is circulated to clients on supports, training courses, events and other relevant information.
- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- The LEO Wicklow Export Development programme run in partnership with LEO Kildare held its final workshop on 11th November in the Tulfarris Hotel, Blessington with very positive feedback from participants. As a result of the course seven Wicklow businesses are now primed to successfully develop new export markets.
- The East Region Food Academy Programme led by LEO Wicklow continues with 10 food producers from the east region participating in the Finance workshop on 5<sup>th</sup> November last.
- The Student Enterprise Programme is in full swing in second level schools around the county with in class sessions being delivered by the Student Enterprise co-ordination team. LEO Wicklow is currently reviewing entries for an extra competition focused on Idea generation with a prize to be awarded in November.

## Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Autumn Winter 2021 business skills training programme is nearing completion and work has commenced on developing the Spring Summer 2022 Training Programme with some courses open for bookings through our online portal on [www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow](http://www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow).

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## **Business Skills Training Courses recently held:-**

Prepare your business for Customs, 12<sup>th</sup> October

- ✚ Prepare your business for Customs, 12<sup>th</sup> October (15 participants)
- ✚ Trading Online Voucher Seminar, 20<sup>th</sup> October (27 participants)
- ✚ Content Creation & Copywriting 3<sup>rd</sup> November (17 participants)
- ✚ Effective use of Social Media, Intermediate level: 11 November 2021 (12 participants)

## **Business Skills Training Courses available for bookings on our website include:-**

- ✚ Cashflow Management 17<sup>th</sup> November
- ✚ Customs Queries Answered (One to One) 16<sup>th</sup> November
- ✚ Data Protection & Security in a Virtual World – 24<sup>th</sup> November
- ✚ Essential Idea Exploration: Proven tools & techniques to test the Market – 1<sup>st</sup> December
- ✚ Digital Marketing Advice Clinics (One to One) – 6<sup>th</sup> December
- ✚ Start Your Own Business Course – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- ✚ Trading Online Voucher Seminar – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022





## 3. Planning and Development

### Forward Planning

#### County Development Plan Review

The consultation period for the draft County Development Plan 2021-2027 ended on 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2021. Over 300 submissions were received which are currently being reviewed.

#### Wicklow Heritage and Biodiversity Office

The fourth meeting of Wicklow Heritage Forum in 2021 is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> November to oversee implementation of County Heritage Plan programme. Heritage Plan allocations received from The Heritage Council for the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan actions in 2021 Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.

Funding of €29,950 allocated under the National Biodiversity Action Plan fund based on application submitted by Heritage Officer. Three projects are being funded to enhance conservation management of council owned properties, 1 at Brittas Bay, 2 at selected historic graveyards and 3 at Kilmacanogue marsh. All projects commenced June- July with botanical, bat and invertebrate surveys. Public open event held on Sat 18<sup>th</sup> September at Brittas Bay, community volunteer event planned for 20<sup>th</sup> November. Access improvements were undertaken in Kilmacanogue Marsh in association with Bray MD in Sept/ Oct.

Biodiversity Awareness programme: Programme of nature themed zoom evening/ lunchtime talks (8 in total) held in partnership with Wicklow Library Service held from Feb- July. Other activities include production and free distribution of publications (Wicklow Wildlife posters and Gardening for Wildlife booklets and other Wicklow habitat guides)

Community Monument Fund (CMF). Notification received on 16<sup>th</sup> June from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage of a total funding of €65,000 for Wicklow archaeology projects under the CMF2021. The seven projects approved are; Baltinglass Hillforts, an assessment of archaeological significance; Whitfield Graveyard access improvements; Wicklow Town Community Archaeology Initiative; Dunganstown Castle conservation advice, Kilbride archaeological investigations, Arklow Castle conservation report and the development of Conservation Management Plans for historic graveyards (Ballymacroghue, Mullinacuffe and Whitefield).



Protected Structures Grants: Heritage Office is co-ordinating these on behalf of planning section. Two successful projects announced for funding in county Wicklow Historic Structure Fund (HSF); Killruddery Clock tower repairs approved for €50,000 and Conservation works to the 'weir' at Russborough House approved for €50,000. A total allocation for county of €72,000 received for projects under BHIS (x 10 individual projects). Two BHIS projects complete, majority of others underway.

Glendalough Community Archaeology Project: WCC supported a 2 week community excavation 3<sup>rd</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Aug in association with UCD and the Glendalough Heritage Forum. 50 +participants. Online archaeology talk held for Heritage Week. HO working with the Glendalough Heritage Forum on production of a Lego model reconstruction of monastic city project , funded by the Heritage Council.

County Wicklow Geology Publication, currently being edited by HO and GSI. Based on County Geological Sites audit, this will be a coffee table, user friendly format for general release and sale.

County Wicklow Swift Project; Survey work and public engagement elements complete. To date swift boxes have been deployed through this project to 17 towns and villages around county Wicklow, a total of 36 individual locations. The total number of boxes involved is 72, of three types: single, double (Zeist plywood), and triple (Genesis, magnesium board) boxes. Of Council owned properties, nesting boxes and calling systems have been installed at the following libraries; Tinahely, Arklow, Wicklow Town, Baltinglass and Dunlavin, while they have also been installed at County Buildings, Wicklow Town, Arklow Municipal District Offices & Depot and at Arklow Courthouse.

Wicklow's Wonder Women – joint project from Heritage Office and Arts office as part of Decade of Centenaries Programme. Programme of weekend events including talks, workshops, light show, poetry and music in Arklow and Greystones 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Avoca River Stories – An education programme focussed on two primary schools in Arklow (Gaelscoil and St. Peters) to explore biodiversity and other aspects of Heritage associated with the Avoca river, co-ordinated by the Heritage Office and funded through the Wicklow Creative Ireland Programme. Workshops underway at schools in October / November with external facilitator.

Hidden Heritage – The production of accessibility beacon at Rathgall as part of the Hidden Heritage project in association with UCC Archaeology and University of Bradford – seeking to develop technological solutions to increase accessibility for all at this important archaeological site. Project currently underway, funded through Creative Ireland Programme.

Our Wicklow Heritage: 'Daoine agus Áit – Connecting our communities'. Joint project, co-funded with Healthy Ireland, in partnership with National Museum of Ireland, Clare and Galway county

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council's heritage offices. 19 Community groups (45 persons) participated in photography and creative writing workshops to produce bespoke postcards for their local area. Postcards produced and distributed for Heritage Week along with short videos from each group.

National Heritage Week 15<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> August. 45+ projects registered online for county Wicklow on [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie) for County Wicklow. WCC projects registered include Wicklow Swift Project; Daoine agus Ait Connecting Communities; River Liffey Stories Film Project

## Development Management

### Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	31st Oct. 2020	31st Oct. 2021	% Increase
Received (Valid)	913	1135	24%

A total of 115 valid applications were received during October as follows:

Type of Development	31st Oct. 2021 Number Received
Individual Houses	30 (26 refer to rural house applications)
Housing Developments*	8
Agricultural Structures	3
Commercial	9
Other Developments**	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>

\* Large housing development

PRR21/1208, Stephen Collier, 12 Units at Clora, Nuns Cross, Ashford

PRR21/1187, Glenveagh Homes Ltd, 66 Units, Broomhall & Ballynerrin, Rathnew

PRR21/1195, Karla Clarke, 90 Units, Rossana Lower and Newrath, Rathnew

PRR21/1243, Finbar Keenan, 26 units, Togher Be, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow

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

Decisions issued in respect of 86 applications in October, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	2
Individual Houses	19 ( 18 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	65
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>

In relation to decisions issued between January to October 2020, in comparison to the same period for 2021, the details are as follows:

	31/10/2020	31/10/2021
Total Number of decisions issued	740	965
Total Number of decisions to grant	645	825
% Grant Rate	87%	85%
No of applications withdrawn		08

## Applications lodged with An Bord Pleanála

### Strategic Housing Development

ABP-311181-21, Former Bray Golf Club Lands, (591 Units) Members meeting 7/9, CE report due by 14/10



## 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.

An Bord Pleanála advised that it is not possible to determine the above application within the period of 18 weeks and intends to determine the application of the above proposed development before the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

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

## E-Planning Project

The roll out of the ePlanning system is scheduled in Wicklow for Q1 2022.

The project will include the following elements:

- Standardised naming/structure of all documentation in Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála.
- Web Portal through which all electronic planning applications and all correspondence regarding same would pass.
- All submissions can be made on-line for both planning application and part VIII applications.
- Fees will be paid online by means of card payment or EFT.
- Part VIII applications for all Local Authorities would be submitted and stored centrally.
- Referrals to all prescribed bodies and the receipt of their submissions would be electronic.
- Electronic transfer of planning files to An Bord Pleanála following an appeal.

The e-Planning system will provide a better service to the public. It will allow agents to build their applications before submission, and will reduce the printing, copying and scanning of documentation. It will also facilitate electronic interaction between Local Authorities, An Bord Pleanála and prescribed bodies.

## Planning Enforcement

New Files	15
Advisory Letters	22
Warning Letters	13
Enforcement Notices	2
Legal Files	0
Closed	20

## Court Cases

District Court	1 Case adjourned to December for mention only.
Circuit Court	1 Case adjourned to December
	6 Cases adjourned to January Call Over
	2 Adjourned for hearing in January
High Court	2 Cases adjourned for mention in December

## Vacant Sites

Municipal District	24 Sites on Register
Arklow	6
Baltinglass	2
Bray	3
Greystones	5
Wicklow	8

2 Section 15 Notices - Demand for Levy served

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2 sites on appeal to ABP - Section 18  
2 sites on appeal to Valuation Tribunal  
1 Section 7(3) Notice of Entry  
€14,114.19 levies received to end Oct 2021

## Derelict Sites

3 sites on Register

Municipal District	No of sites on Register
Wicklow	1
Baltinglass	1
Bray	1

## Short Term Letting

Applications for Registration received	102
Warning Letters issued	19
Enforcement Notices issued	5
Under Investigation	66
UD files created	22

The recent Government strategy 'Housing for All' has announced new regulations in this regard, with revised regulatory controls requiring the registration of short term and holiday lets with Fáilte Ireland. Responsibility for enforcement with the new registration requirements will lie with the Residential Tenancies Board, the Local Authority will continue to address illegal or unauthorised structures or changes of use.

## 4. Environmental Services

### Waste Management

#### Litter/Waste Enforcement

No. of Complaints Created	112
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	125
No of Litter Fines Issued	10
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	2
No. of Warning Letters Issued	7
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	10
No. of Burning Applications Granted	8
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	7
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	1
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	36
No of cases in court under the Litter Pollution Act	10
No of cases in court under the Waste Management Act	3
Income - Litter	€1,375
Income- Waste Management	€5,350

A significant number of court cases were taken in recent months with successful outcomes, sending a clear message from Wicklow County Council in this regard.





## Whitestown Remediation Project

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

Draft remediation plan was lodged with Brownfield restoration Ireland Limited (BRIL) on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Following the receipt of submissions from a number of prescribed bodies, the High Court instructed WCC to incorporate the requests contained in the submissions into the draft plan and to commence surveys required for an Appropriate Assessment.

Surveys of the qualifying interests, as agreed with NPWS are ongoing and due to be completed in December 2021.

## Recycling Centres

A review of all of the Recycling Centres in line with the National Review document recently published on the DECC website is underway to assess how these Civic Amenities are operating with respect to both the service provided and VFM.

Ark Housing has been awarded a lease to operate a charity shop at Bray Recycling Centre. It is planned to improve the space used by the charity shop by reconfiguring the space available. Ark housing will facilitate the collection of books for reuse by the Recycling Centre when the upgrade works have been completed.

## Climate Action

### Climate Action Plan 2021 – Securing Our Future

The Climate Action Plan, which was launched on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021, is an ambitious plan to put Ireland on a more sustainable path, cutting emissions and creating a cleaner, greener economy and society

The Climate Action Plan follows the Climate Act 2021, which commits Ireland to a legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050, and a reduction of 51% by 2030. These targets are a key pillar of the Programme for Government.

The plan sets out 475 separate actions to halve Ireland's greenhouse emissions by 2030, including extensive offshore wind power, retrofitting 500,000 homes and putting a million electric vehicles on the roads.

The public sector will lead by example and halve emissions by 2030. Green Teams will be established in every public sector body. No new fossil fuel heating systems will be installed in public buildings after 2023, except in very limited exceptional circumstances. All new fleet purchases will be electric from 2023, where such vehicles are available.



A new National Retrofit Plan will drive demand and make retrofitting more affordable whilst there are increased targets for district heating and the public sector, and strengthening building standards for all buildings.

Just transition principles are embedded in the plan, including the principles that people need to be equipped with the skills to benefit from changes and that costs need to be shared. A Just Transition Commission will be established.

All increases in carbon tax receipts are earmarked for targeted social protection measures, an expansion of retrofitting, particularly for social and low-income homes, and agri-environmental projects.

## Wicklow Climate Action

Consultants have been appointed to undertake a base line study for the Arklow Decarbonisation Zone and to assist in drawing up a decarbonisation Implementation plan.

LA Electrification of Fleet and EV charging Guidance Document was published 17th August on the LGMA and CARO websites. One of the key recommendations from this guidance document is for each LA to prepare an EV and EVCP Strategy for their administrative areas to progress the fleet transition and implementation of suitably located EVCPs. The Climate Action Officer is coordinating this strategy with the Council's fleet manager and the District Engineers.

The draft Tree Management Policy was presented to the members of the Climate Action and Biodiversity SPC and discussed at the SPC meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> September. Following consideration of further submissions, a revised policy document will be discussed with the SPC at their meeting in December.

Upper Avoca Catchment. - Awaiting a call for Climate Action Fund Applications.

Blessington Main Street: ESB connection is in place and we are awaiting a contract to be setup with a service provider.

## Energy

BEC 1121 application as set out below have been approved and with the support of 3 Counties Energy agency almost all projects have been completed .

Location	Project	Status
Clermont	Heating Controls	Complete
	PV Panel	Complete
Wicklow Town Hall	PV Panel	Complete
	Lighting Upgrade	Complete
Bray Civic Offices	PV Panel	Complete
	Heating Controls	Complete
	Lighting Upgrade	Complete
Bray Depot	PV Panel	Complete
	Lighting Upgrade	Complete
Tinahely Area Office and Fire	Lighting Upgrade	Complete



Station		
	Insulation Upgrade	Complete
	Insulation Upgrade	Complete
	PV Panel	Complete
Greystones Library	Lighting Upgrade	Complete
County Buildings	BMS	Complete
7 No. EV Chargers.	EV Chargers - Double Socket	Ongoing.

## Sustainable Energy Committees

Work continues on the Energy Masterplans (EMPs) - EMPs for Newtownmountkennedy, Greystones/Delgany, Wicklow and Blessington. Greystones/Delgany and Newtownmountkennedy are almost complete.

Glenmalure has completed its EMP. The committee is now focused on identifying projects to implement. Laragh Energy Master Plan is also complete and has been presented to the Community. Payment was made and a claim for reimbursement from SEAI has been submitted with money now reimbursed by SEAI.

The grant application for an Energy Master Plan by Enniskerry SEC has been processed and a grant agreement signed between Wicklow County Council and SEAI. Work by consultants has started.

A new application for a grant to undertake an EMP was received from High Park SEC with St Patrick's Missionary Society in Kiltegan. The application has been approved by SEAI and a consultant will be put in place to undertake the study.

A new SEC group was formed in Arklow. The application is now complete and has been submitted to SEAI.

## Environmental Awareness

Funding has been awarded by the EPA for two LAPN projects this year. The first project for which funding was granted will be for a Wicklow Naturally webinar on the circular economy for food producers. This project will be delivered in collaboration with the Wicklow LEO, highlighting the Green for Micro programme. Work will commence on developing content on the circular economy for the Wicklow Naturally website now. The webinar has been scheduled for February the 3<sup>rd</sup>. A second project will link to the Bikes for Africa project and involve delivery of workshops on bicycle repair in the three larger recycling centres and a video animation to promote extending the life of bicycles through good maintenance. Workshops will target both adult and youth participation.

Judging has been completed in the annual Tidy Town, Estates and sustainable development awards. This year the awards referenced the sustainable development goals. We are waiting for results from the national competition to complete list with award for best in national competition.

A new Tree nursery project is being run in three locations, Laragh, Bray and Greystones. Training is being provided to community groups on the production of trees locally from seed in a nursery bed. Raised beds have been developed at three sites and training given on seed preparation and sowing.



The Relove Fashion competition 2021/2022 is currently open for entries using a new web portal for entries allowing for the participation of schools across ten local authorities. Twenty six teams have registered to date in Wicklow.

Teacher training was provided on Green School on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October. Twenty nine teachers attended. 14 schools have now been awarded Green Flags.

A new containers has been installed in Arklow recycling centre for the Bikes to Africa project to allow bike be collected from all our recycling centres for repair and shipment to Africa with the Rotary Club.

Work is ongoing on an EPA funded project to develop composting solutions for the management of the high levels of grass production which must be lifted when green space is being managed for pollinators. Three Tidy Town communities have been selected for the project and started site selection and training. They are Greystones, Blessington and Grangecon. The project has been extended to include Hollywood, Delgany and Newtownmountkennedy.

Wicklow County Council is working with eight other local authorities to develop a series of short videos on dog fouling for use on social media. The campaign will include six animated video each of which shows the impact dog fouling has on others using a variety of scenarios. The videos are currently in production.

Wicklow County Council is one of three local authorities involved in an EPA funded pilot on separate collection of textiles which will test different approaches for improving the collection of textiles. Donegal and Clare will test new collection systems while Wicklow will use a communications campaign to increase use of existing textile disposal options. The communications campaign will target one town, for which we will use Arklow, focusing on the charity shops in the town and the recycling centre.

The annual Tree Grant was advertised with a closing date for the 8<sup>th</sup> of October. Grants of up to 75% are provided for trees planted. Twenty nine applicants were successful in being awarded a grant to plant native trees. Municipal districts were consulted on suitability of sites selected by communities.

## Control of Dogs

367 licences were issued in October, with 43% of all licences issued through Licences.ie. A total of 396 licence reminders were sent out for licences due to be renewed in October or early November.

## Control of Horses

During October, 1 horse was seized and impounded. All horses seized to date in 2021, that have not been reclaimed by their owner, have been rehomed.

## Beaches

Wicklow County Council has consulted with people who swim at beaches, lakes and rivers to tell them if they think they should maintain existing designated bathing waters designations or give a new official bathing area designation to areas that are commonly used for swimming, but not identified at the moment. 30 submissions were received and are being reviewed.

## Brittas Bay Carparks

The carpark operator in both Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South has ceased operating as the bathing season is now over.

A review of Waste Management and operations at the South Beach is underway with the intention of improving same.

## Harbours and Ports

### Activity at Wicklow Port

2021	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import or Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan	9	9	0	9	7	2
Feb	9	9	0	9	7	2
Mar	11	11	0	9	9	2
April	11	11	0	11	8	3
May	8	8	0	8	8	0
Jun	11	10	1	12	9	3
July	12	12	0	12	10	2
Aug	9	9	0	9	9	0
Sep	8	7	1	9	8	1
Oct	6	6	0	6	4	2

### 2021 Harbour Projects

#### Repair & Replacement of Fendering – Arklow Harbour

- Installation of new aircraft tyre fendering and vertical steel fendering including all required fixings at selected location at the inner harbour and dock tongue

- 

#### Repaving Section of Quay and Associated Improvements at South Quay, Wicklow

- Saw cutting and breaking out of existing damaged concrete slab while protecting existing infrastructure and installation of 200mm C40/50 concrete slab at South Quay, Wicklow.



- Removal of existing corroded barrier and installation of new handrail in accordance with building regulations.
- Relocation of water supply for harbour users
- Installation of two power pedestals and associated ducts and civil works accordance with ESB minimum specification for MV/LV ducting
- Removal of existing damaged railings and installation of flexi bollards.

### **Ladder Replacement Programme at Arklow Harbour**

- Removal of existing inappropriate ladders installation of 9 galvanised steel ladders with handrails.
- Installation of 3 recessed galvanised steel ladders including associated civil engineering works.

### **Upgrading of slipway at the Inner Dock in order to Improve Accessibility / Safety**

- Design, supply, delivery and installation including anchoring and securing of a rowing pontoon and access gangway at Inner Dock, Arklow.
- Installation of rock armour and repairing of subsidence with mass concrete to protect slipway

### **Repairs & Safety Measures at the Slipways Wicklow Harbour**

- Break out existing damaged and steps slipway at the sailing club and installation of new 26m x 5m 200mm thick concrete slipway and steps with reinforcement.
- Completion of reinforced concrete repair works to existing damaged wall beside slipway to protect slipway.
- Saw cutting of existing slab at Seafront Slipway with 25mm deep at 100mm c/c to add traction to the existing surface.
- Supply and install one galvanised and painted red heavy duty chain.

### **Safety, Accessibility & Amenity Works at Public Harbour, Greystones \***

- Design, supply and installation of a manual steel gate system at the entrance to the northern breakwater at Greystones Harbour including hanging posts and the supply and installation of a panel / railings fixed to side of the gate system extending over the breakwater on the marina side and on top of the wall / antifers on the eastern side.

*\*Revised works following discussion with DAFM*



## Pollution Control

### Bathing Water Monitoring Programme

- 14 Bathing Water samples were collected and tested.
- The Identified Bathing Waters were all excellent: Bray South Promenade Greystones South, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South, Silver Strand and Clogga.
- The Non-Identified Bathing waters were also all excellent: South of Bray Harbour, Kilcoole, The Murrough, The Cove Greystones, Wicklow Harbour, Arklow South and The Cove Arklow.

### Pollution Response & Investigation

- 3 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 7 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 2 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.

### Private Water Supplies

Of the 41 Private water supplies monitored.

- 3 were found non-compliant with pH parametric values
- 7 were found non-compliant with microbiological parametric values
- The water suppliers were informed of the non-compliance and advised to take remedial action.
- 2 boil water notices were issued in respect of non-compliant microbiological quality.

### Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

12 Lakes monitored involving for checking compliance with environmental quality standards

14 Rivers monitored involving 35 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

### Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigative

The New Draft River Management Plan for 2022-2027 2021 has been published and submissions on the content of plan are invited.

### Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

- 36 River/Lake samples taken and analysed upstream and downstream of discharges of public wastewater treatment plants

### Petrol Vapour Recovery Regulations

- 1 Petrol vapour installation was issued certificate of installation.
- 1 Petrol vapour installation was issued certificate of testing.
- 1 Petrol vapour installation was inspected.



## Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2021

- 1 inspection plan prepared.
- 2 septic tank inspections were carried out and deemed compliant.

## Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

- 2 licensed wastewater discharges to waters was monitored and found compliant.
- 2 self-monitored licensed wastewater discharges to sewers were reviewed.
- 1 licence application for wastewater discharge to waters received.

## Planning & Development

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

## Well Grants

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| • Number of New Applications                    | 15 |
| • Number of New Wells Granted                   | 6  |
| • Number of New Pumps Granted                   | 12 |
| • Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.)Granted | 20 |
| • Number of Inspections in advance/after works  | 26 |

## Arklow & Avoca Flood Relief Schemes

The Compulsory Purchase Order was signed by the Chief Executive and nominated member on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 and the Environmental Impact Statement and application to An Bord Pleanala was submitted to An Bord Pleanala on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2021

An Bord Pleanala has indicated that they are collating the submissions and dividing them into “CPO” and “Section 226”, and they will forward them for our information. It is expected that there will be an Oral Hearing as there is at least one objection to the CPO by a landowner of a significant plot of land.

Arklow Municipal District has made a submission to the OPW requesting additional glass paneling to the Scheme at South Quay. Wicklow County Council has been working with the Law Department and the OPW in reviewing the submissions in order to prepare for the expected Oral Hearing

There were 21 submissions on the Planning Application and 9 submissions to the CPO, which are currently being considered.





## 5. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

### Public Lighting

The total number of public lighting faults currently outstanding stands at 344

For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults to same period in the previous three years.

Year	2021	2020	2019	2018
Date	01/11/2021	02/11/2020	04/11/2019	30/10/2018
No. of Outstanding Faults	<b>344</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>481</b>
Difference		55	195	137

	4th October 2021	11th October 2021	18th October 2021	26th October 2021	1st November 2021
<b>Access Issues (Attended)</b>					
<b>Cable Fault (Attend)</b>	11	11	10	10	11
<b>ESB Required (Attended)</b>	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Knock Down (Attended)</b>	24	24	25	25	26
<b>Materials required</b>	2	2	2	2	1
<b>No Supply</b>	3	3	3	3	3
<b>On Hold</b>	8	7	9	10	10
<b>Submitted</b>	12	12	11	11	11
<b>TrafficManagement Required</b>	229	265	251	265	269
<b>TOTAL</b>	8	9	8	10	10
<b>Percentage of lights not working</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>344</b>
	<b>2.00%</b>	<b>2.24%</b>	<b>2.15%</b>	<b>2.26%</b>	<b>2.29%</b>

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)		2	3	3	3	11
Cable Fault (Attend)	2				1	3
ESB Required (Attended)	11		5	3	7	26
Knock Down (Attended)		1				1
Materials required	1	1	1			3
No Supply	3	2	2	3		10
On Hold	2		2	3	4	11
Submitted	43	73	79	30	44	269
TMR	1	1	2	2	4	10
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>344</b>

## Transportation Statistics (General)

	Total 2020	Running total 2021	September	October
Solicitors Queries	842	796	83	58
Road Closure Applications	23	43	9	7
Road Opening Licences	1279	1392	127	104
Abnormal Load Applications	33	48	12	7

## M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The online non-statutory public display of the Preferred Corridor was concluded on 4<sup>th</sup> October. To date over 300 submissions have been received and 92 individual consultation meetings have been held.

Engagement with the Project Team will continue throughout Phase 3 Detailed Design.

The Option Selection report will be finalised following the review of submissions received during public display and will then be made available to the public.

Both the project team and the Land Liaison team are continuing to meet virtually with the public and any interested groups.



Environmental Surveys are continuing on site, with field walkover surveys including Bat, Barn Owl, Hydro Surveys, Breeding Birds, to name but a few. Updates on the surveys that are being undertaken can be found on the project website [www.n11m11.ie](http://www.n11m11.ie).

## **M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme**

An interim bulletin update was published on Friday October 29<sup>th</sup>

Arup Consulting Engineers are progressing with the development of the Phase 2 (Options Selection) and Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation).

A Section 85 agreement between WCC and DLRCC was agreed by the members of WCC and is subject to approval by the members of DLRCC.

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

Substantial completion of the construction contract certified for 24 September 2021. A small number of snagging and outstanding works will continue during November. The road works speed limit order was to be lifted on 01 October 2021, with the exception of the Parallel Service Road which will retain the RWSLO of 50km/h. The speed limit of 60km/h included in the current bye-laws will apply on the N11 mainline. It is intended to amend this bye-law to allow a 100km/h speed limit as intended by the Part 8 for the scheme. This will be further considered as part of the county wide review of speed limits in the coming months.

**N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment –** The scheme is complete. The remediation works on the road surfacing are due to commence on 15 Nov 2021. A tender for the Per Cent Art Feature was published this month.

## **N81 Irishtown West, Whitestown Lower, Hangman's Bend and Tuckmill Lower "N81 Four Studies"**

Following the completion of the Phase 1 (Feasibility Report) for the N81 Tuckmill Lower, Hangman's Bend, Whitestown Lower and Irishtown West projects (the 'N81 Four Studies'); Wicklow County Council has requested approval from TII to progress the scheme to Phase 2 (Route Selection) in accordance with the TII Project Management Guidelines (PMG).

**N81 Pavement Capital Works -** Resurfacing works of 4km of the N81 between Blessington and Russborough House were substantially completed in September 2021.

**N81 Capital Maintenance -** Resurfacing works from Ballinacrow Upper to Saundersgrove Hill and at Hollywood Lower were completed in July 2021. Pavement repair (patching) was completed in Blessington in July

## **N81 Energy Reducing Public Lighting –**

TII have provided funding for energy reducing public lighting schemes at N81 Lambs Junction & Hollywood Junction

Materials (head units) on order by Airtricity and awaiting delivery

## **N81 TII Vehicle Restraint Systems (VRS) Programme 2021**



The contract involves 9 complete barrier replacements and 6 barrier repairs. The contract also involves the provision of temporary traffic management at one site to facilitate a VRS survey and risk assessment.

The contract has been awarded to CHM and works commenced on site on 10 Nov 2021 and will continue into 2022.

### **Sustainable Transportation Measures Grant Schemes**

**Bray Strand Road Cycle Route** – Works are substantially complete on the Seafront Plaza with tree planting, minor repairs and snagging still to be completed.

**Bray Dart Interchange** – Atkins Consulting Engineers are currently finalising the detail design for this project. It is anticipated that the detail design will be completed in November.

**Greystones Transport Study** – A Project Inception Meeting was held in October. Arup have commenced work on the preparation of the Baseline Study Report and Context Report.

**Arklow Transport Study** – DBFL Consulting Engineers have carried out a Baseline Assessment of the study area have issued a draft Baseline Study Report and Context Report to WCC for review.

**Delgany Village Accessibility Scheme** – JB Barry Transportation have been appointed as Consultant for the scheme. A Project Inception Meeting has been arranged to take place in November.

**Pedestrian Access Route Wicklow Train Station** AECOM Consulting Engineers have completed the EIAR Screening Report. Contract has been awarded to IGSL for the Geotechnical scope of work. Consultation is ongoing with landowners. Work is ongoing on the Preliminary Design for the scheme.

**Bus Priority in Little Bray** – Options Assessment workshop held in October. Parking survey has been completed and a report is due to be issued in November.

**Safe Routes to School** – The Green Schools Infrastructure Officer is drafting Delivery Plans for the selected schools. Once received, the delivery plans will be reviewed by WCC and discussed with individual schools. Tender documents are currently being drafted by WCC for Consultants to design all 3 projects under a single contract.

**Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Road Greenway** – RPS Consulting Engineers have provided a revised Options Assessment Report and have addressed NTA comments. Meeting has been arranged with NTA and WCC to review the revised Options Report, and agree on the emerging preferred route.

**Southern Cross Road Improvement Scheme** – JB Barry Transportation has issued a draft Options Assessment Report to WCC and NTA for review. A meeting has been arranged in November to review the Options Assessment Report.

**NTA Active Travel 2021** – There are now 15 schemes listed under the Active Travel 2021 programme with overall funding allocation of €2.077M with Red Lane and Manor Kilbride Schemes now progressing under Active Travel.

**Wicklow County Council Compulsory Purchase Chapel Road Pedestrian and Cyclist Infrastructure Improvement Scheme) No.1 Order, 2021**



Wicklow County Council has prepared and lodged CPO documents with An Bord Pleanála in order to upgrade the existing Chapel Road by the provision of pedestrian and cycle infrastructure to improve traffic arrangements and pedestrian and cyclist accessibility.

The upgrade works include the improvement of the Chapel Road/Convent Road Roundabout, the upgrade of footpaths, the provision of cycle tracks facilities, pedestrian crossings, public lighting, traffic calming measures, new road signs and road markings, new gullies draining to a new storm water collection system, the provision of a 250mm PE4 Bar main along the extent of Chapel Road, the construction of new boundary treatments, new entrances, and landscaping.

Oral Hearing for this scheme was held by An Bord Pleanála on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and awaiting decision on same.

### **Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre Refurbishment Scheme**

A consultant has been appointed to provide Technical Consultancy Services to bring the Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre Refurbishment scheme from Preliminary Design / planning and readiness for application for funding for construction. The scheme intends to undertake works to focus on the enhancement of Newtownmountkennedy town centre to address issues of physical and economic decline with significant levels of vacancy and a lack of focal points in the town centre. Significant traffic management issues have also been identified. At the same time Wicklow County Council intends to provide a relevant and necessary level of community facilities in order to build social cohesion and enable a resilient community.

A meeting with the local community has taken place to hear their expectations / main issues.

### **Arklow Parade Ground Public Realm**

Under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Wicklow County Council received funding for the construction of the Arklow Parade Ground Public Realm. A consultant was appointed to provide Technical Consultancy Services to bring the Arklow Parade Ground Public Realm scheme through all stages. This involves public realm and streetscape improvements to the Parade Ground area and Main Street, amendments to the existing parking arrangements and bus stop on Arklow Main Street.

A contractor has been appointed and the works started in September 2021

### **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

Wicklow County Council is currently advancing on proposals to complete the Blessington Inner Relief Road Project. The completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road will provide a safer transport facility and will take traffic away from the busy town centre. The project will involve the construction of a northern and southern section, which will tie in with existing sections west of the town centre. A consultant has been appointed for the scheme to bring it through all stages of the design / planning and land access.

High level environmental assessments are currently being carried out of the emerging preferred option.

### **Arklow Shillelagh Greenway**

Wicklow County Council issued letters to all landowners along the above route advising that updated additional environmental surveys are required in advance of planning and environmental reports. These have been carried out and documents for planning updated after that.



## **Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge**

Wicklow County Council held a public consultation of the Part 8 process for Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge Project.

This process is currently suspended while An Bord Pleanála considers the request that an Environmental Impact Assessment is carried out for the scheme.

## **Baltinglass Town Centre Plan**

Consultants are progressing through the detailed design of this Public Realm Improvement Scheme with the intention of inviting tenders for construction Q4 2021.

## **Winter Maintenance**

The winter maintenance season commenced on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

To date (11.11.21) no salting has occurred on the roads in County Wicklow.

## **Cunningham's Corner**

As part of Specific Road Improvement Funding, realignment of a bend is required on the R755 Roundwood to Kilmacanoge Road (near Djouce Golf Club) where there have been a number of incidents over the years. Consultants are completing final design option. Agreements have been signed with both affected Landowners. Tree and hedge removal and construction has been completed on site, with stone being installed on new section of road at present.

## **Sally's Bridge**

Construction has commenced at Sally's Bridge to widen the existing junction to improve sight lines and turning movements. Due to insufficient junction width, the bridge parapet wall is being continuously damaged. Drainage works are required as part of this project and are substantially complete. Surfacing works has been complete to reduce grade at junction

## **Bridge Crew works**

The Bridge crew is finishing off re-building a section of damaged parapet at Rednagh bridge, Aughrim. Mullinaveigue bridge parapet, Roundwood was repaired after being undermined. Repair works at Sally bridge parapet are also complete.

**Machinery Yard** – Working with Climate team in relation to installing EV chargers in Council depots across the county. Nissan and Peugeot Electric Vans has been road tested within the Municipal Districts. The Maxus e deliver 3 and e deliver 9 were on trial in the last few weeks. Feedback from all Departments expected is almost complete.

The EV charger contractor has been appointed. SEE Airtricity is the preferred contractor. EV chargers to be installed in 6 depots across the county. Works have commenced on site with 5 chargers complete.

Capital replacement programme for replacement of the fleet is currently being worked on and with the Environment Section on the purchase of a new truck for the Pure Project. We are also hoping to purchase an artic tipper trailer for hauling salt/road making materials.

As part of compliance with RSA regulations, trial of Fleet Maintenance systems is ongoing in the Machinery Yard.



**Pro Works** – trial has proved very successful. Pro-Work to roll out to the roads section and Municipal Districts. Tablets have been rolled out to some staff in Roads. Training took place in October.

**Surface Dressing:** Works programme for 2021 complete and after care sweeping has finished also.

**PLEEP – (STET)** The tender for the appointment of a Consultant to manage the process from Stage (i) preliminary report, Stage (ii) preparation of Tender Documentation including any design works and Stage (iii) Tender for the “Works” (was published on e-tenders on 23 October 2020. 3 tenders received by return date of 24 November 2020. ARUP was appointed. Draft tender documentation issued to WCC for review at the end of June and comments returned. The target for the publication of the tender for the “Works”- Stage (iv)-(V) is the end of July 2021 with tender return at end of October 2021. Award date of Works contract will be mid Q1 2022.

## Fire Service

### Operational Fire Statistics October 2021

	Total stations	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baitinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Call sign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
<b>Two Stations Mobilised</b>											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	2	1	1								
Fire Domestic	2	1	1								
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	14	2	4	1	3	2		1	1		
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	2			1	1						
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	0										
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	0										
Fire Alarm or CO <sub>2</sub> Activation	14	5	4	1	1	1	1	1			
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	8	1	4		1		1	1			
Fire Chimney	4	1	1	1							1
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	50	38	4	4		1		2		1	
Fire Vehicle	5	3	1			1					
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	3	2	1								
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	11	1	4	3		3					
Garda Assist	1			1							
Electrical Incident	0										
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	1	1									



Oil Spill / Road Hazard	2		1						1		
Animal Rescue	2		2								
Lock In / Lock Out	3	3									
False Alarm – Good Intent	0										
Malicious False Alarm	0										
<b>Mobilised into other County</b>	<b>3</b>					1	1	1			
<b>Times Stations mobilised</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

There were **117 incidents** attended during the month of October 2021. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **127 occasions** including 3 incidents in other counties.

40% of all mobilisations were bonfires

30% of all mobilisations were bonfires in the Bray Station area

25% of all mobilisations were bonfires on the Boghall road / Oldcourt area of Bray

Operational activity for the month of October **was up 9% on the preceding month** (September 2021 – 117 mobilisations). The increase was generally characterised by an increase in outdoor fires / bonfires (up from 32 to 50).

Operational activity for the month of October 2021 **was down 18% on the equivalent month in 2020** (October 2020 – 154 mobilisations). There was a decrease in fires in rural fires (down from 20 to 8) however there was an increase in bonfires (up from 45 to 50).

### Sample Incidents (October 2021)

- 14/10/2021 Greystones and Bray crews were mobilised to a kitchen fire in Farrankelly. Fire extinguished no injuries.
- 20/10/2021 Greystones and Rathdrum crews were mobilised to a single vehicle RTC in Annamoe, where a jeep had left the road and came to rest on its roof. There were 5 casualties.
- 21/10/2021 Bray and Greystones crews attended a 4 car RTC, at Junction 6 on N11.
- 22/10/2021 Rathdrum and Arklow crews attended a single car RTC at Balleese, Rathdrum. The car had come to rest on its roof. There was one casualty trapped.
- 31/10/2021 Dunlavin and Baltinglass crews were alerted to a 2-car RTC in the town of Dunlavin.

### Incidents in County Kildare (1-incident):

- 15/10/2021 Blessington and Dunlavin crews were mobilised to a domestic house fire in Ballymore Eustace. A car on fire beside a house was endangering the property.

### Incidents in County Wexford (1-incident):

- 17/10/2021 Arklow crew were mobilised to alarm activation in Courtown which materialised to be a small electrical fire in a basement.

### General

60 Firefighters attended Emergency Traffic Management training courses in Greystones in October and a further 24 firefighters will attend two more courses planned for November. This essential training prepares firefighters to safely operate at road based incidents.

The Training Centre in Bray which has undergone refurbishment works funded by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management hosted Clare County Fire and Rescue Service for two weeks of Breathing Apparatus Refresher training. This was following by Cork Fire Brigade who



# NOVEMBER 2021



delivered a two week Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers course for 12 new full time firefighters as part of their initial training.

At the request of the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management training developed by Wicklow Fire Service in dealing with Electric Vehicle incidents was delivered to Fire Officers from Connacht in Sligo Fire Service supported by Wicklow Instructors. This training has been attended by more than 200 Instructors and Officers from across the County in recent months in Bray, Nenagh and Sligo.

## Fire Prevention Statistics October 2021

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	12		5		6
Regularisation Certificates					1
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	4		1		4

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District	3		1	3	
Circuit		2	1	2	
Dangerous Substances Act					
Explosive Act					

## Fire Prevention Statistics September 2021

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	5		2		3
Regularisation Certificates				1	
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	2		2		4

Note: An extension of time was agreed with the applicant on 13 occasions during the month



Licensing	Received	Inspected	Further info / adjourned	No Objection letter
District	10	59	1	56
Circuit				
Dangerous Substances Act		1		
Explosive Act				

## Commencement Notices for Oct 2021:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 28

- 5 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 16 Opt Out Declarations
- 3 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 4 Seven day Notice

## Submission Statistics

- 58 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 46 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 13  
No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
  - 3 are Compliance Documentation (23%)
  - 7 are Opt Out (54%)
  - 3 Without Compliance Documentation (11%)
  - 3 Seven Day Notice (23%)
- 20 Valid Commencement Notices
- 52 new build residential Units (23 of which are one off houses) & 94 Apartments
- Invalidated CNs for October = 4

## Certificates of Completion processed in October 2021

- 12 New No. of CCC submitted
- 26 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid

## Submission Statistics

26 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 9 No CCCs submitted in October 2021
- 17 No CCCs submitted in September 2021



## 4 Revised Info Requests from October

\*\*BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Building Control has continued to increase site inspections in October including a joint inspection with members of NBCO (National Building Control Office) in early October. Specific high risk sites were selected for this joint inspection including timber frame, 3 storey dwellings & previous experience of non-compliances with Assigned Certifier. Section 11 Compliance requests have been issued to sites where non-compliances have been observed during inspections.

There was a slight increase in invalidation of notices this October, this was due to inexperience and submission in errors by the end user, Building control have advised users on new submission requirements.

CCC submissions have increased with the completion of 58 new residential units in October.

### **Drinking Water and Wastewater Service Update**

#### **Ballyconnell WwTP Upgrade**

The plant has new primary tank, aeration tanks, control panels, chemical storage and treatment works. Clean water test was successfully carried out on 03/09/2021. Connection works are complete. Plant is in operation. Inlet screen has been installed during September. Works on the new plant are completed.

#### **Arklow WwTP**

The €139 million Arklow Wastewater Scheme formally commenced on the ground with a sod turning ceremony at the old Wallboard Factory site in Arklow on 30<sup>th</sup> August. WCC Water services staff are participating in “workshops” with Irish Water as per Irish Water’s Capital Project’s technical governance procedures. There may also be other more informal interactions with project participants on the ground. Works are progressing and the demolition of the Old Wallboard Factory has already commenced. When completed, the new treatment plant will result in significant improvements to water quality in Arklow by ending the discharge of raw sewage directly into the Avoca River, safeguarding the environment and facilitating growth and development in the town.

#### **Blessington WwTP Upgrade**

The upgrade to the Blessington WWTP is due to start in Q4 of 2021 to be completed in Q4 of 2022. The Upgrade will increase the PE into the plant and allow planning applications that have been granted, subject to planning permission to be progressed. Veolia are the main contractor for the upgrade and the Designers are Nicholas O’Dwyer.

#### **Aughrim WwTP**

The Fine Bubble Diffuser Aeration (FBDA) contract has been awarded in Q2 of 2021. New control panel was installed on 13/09/2021 by DDC Limited. New roof has been installed on the control house by Wexford Piping & Fittings Limited. Overhead electrical power line shut down required for crane works.

Installation works commenced on 18/10/2021. The plant was drained down on the Monday in advance of the installation works. The old motor and aerator were lifted out on the 19<sup>th</sup> via a crane and the new fda system was lifted in the same day. Install works took 3 days and the plant was back in operation on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **Aughrim Wastewater Treatment Plant**

The plant was recently selected for funding under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, Irish Water’s scheme to support growth in smaller towns and villages and is currently progressing through the necessary stages including detailed design, planning, procurement and construction.

## Drinking water

### **Barndarrig PWS Rationalisation.**

IW has confirmed that funding is available for the Barndarrig PWS Rationalisation Scheme. The scheme will see the installation of 3.1Km of 160mm PE watermain between the Redcross PWS and the Barndarrig PWS. Both Barndarrig PWS and Redcross PWS will effectively become one single PWS. These works will provide security of DW supply in Barndarrig. Ward and Burke will be carrying out the Construction Works. The finalised design has been agreed in consultation with water services staff. Construction Works are commencing on-site on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The scheme has an expected completion date of Q4 2021.

### **Roundwood PWS Rationalisation.**

IW has confirmed that funding is available for the Roundwood PWS Rationalisation Scheme. The scheme will see the installation of 3.7Km of 180mm PE watermain from Vartry reservoir to Roundwood. The Roundwood PWS will now become part of the Greater Dublin Area DW network. These works will provide security of DW supply in Roundwood. Ward and Burke will be carrying out the Construction Works. They will consult with water services staff to agree a finalised design in the next few weeks and the scheme should be completed by the end of Q1 2022.

### **Vartry Plant upgrade works.**

A new Water Treatment Plant (WTP) has been constructed at the Vartry Treatment Plant site. The new WTP will replace the existing WTP when it is fully commissioned. The construction works for the new WTP are in their final phase. The sand filters and other vital equipment in the plant have been upgraded/replaced in the last few months. The new filters have been commissioned. The new plant is now sending treated water into the supply on a 24/7 basis since Monday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. The plant is now treating a similar quantity of water as the old Vartry Plant with possibility to treat approximately half of that quantity again. Extensive sampling of the water will take place throughout November.

### **Dunlavin PWS Rationalisation and Growth.**

IW has recently confirmed that they will construct a new 7km watermain connection from Co. Kildare to Dunlavin. This will allow IW to decommission and remove the existing Dunlavin WTP, Reservoir and associated watermains. This will provide security of DW supply in Dunlavin where there is currently very little spare capacity. The Construction Works should commence in early 2022 and a consultant will be appointed by the end of Q3 2021.

### **Key Performance Indicators (KPI's):**

Under the Annual Service Plan with Irish Water, Wicklow County Council continues to be scored on Key Performance Indicators. The KPI performance score for Quarter 1 was 90.7%, for Quarter 2 was 80.8% and for Quarter 3 was 89.2%. The overall score is comprised of a range of KPI scores for the quarter. In Quarter 3 the total number of favourable KPI's was 15, and 2 were unfavourable. While with respect to operational measures 34 were favourable, 4 were marginal and 5 were unfavourable.

- A score of 100% was achieved for Notice of Planned Works
- A score of 100% was achieved for Notification of Interruptions
- A score of 100% was achieved for microbiological compliance in the drinking water supply
- A score of 98.05% was achieved for the chemical compliance in the drinking water supply



- A score of 100% was achieved for Waste Water Treatment – UWWTD (Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive)
- A score of 97% was achieved for Waste Water Treatment – WWDL
- A score of 93.5% was achieved for Financial – Operational Expenditure Control.

## **Leakage Reduction.**

The delivery of a secure, adequate and resilient water supply will require considerable capital investment to overcome shortcomings in the current Drinking Water (DW) supply. The Roadmap for dealing this is outlined in the National Water Resource Plan (NWRP). This will be outlined in greater detail when IW produces the Regional Water Resource Plans (RWRPs) for the four regions in the state. This is a work in progress.

One of the useful tools in the delivery of a secure adequate and resilient water supply is leakage reduction. A considerable amount of the pipes in the DW network are very old and these are prone to high leakage levels.

There are two primary figures of interest in the treatment of DW. These are Water Production and Distribution Input (Demand). The units of measure vary according to the network size. The Unit of measure for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), the largest Water Network on the island is Megalitres per day or MI/d. One Megalitre is one million litres. Most of Wicklow's supply is within the GDA as it includes Raw Water intakes from the Blessington Lakes and Vartry Schemes. The Unit of measure would be cubic metres per day on smaller DW schemes in County Wicklow.

Distribution Input (Demand) includes measured water usage for metered properties as well as an estimate of water usage at unmetered properties together with water leakage and what is known as unaccounted for water. The later figures are very low in general.

IW provides a lot of resources addressing water leakage. Each local authority is set a target for leakage reduction during the calendar year. There are two leakage programmes and these apply throughout the County in the GDA and non-GDA areas... Works are carried in pursuit of these programmes by Wicklow County Council crews and by Ward & Burke, Contractors who have a Contract with IW.

## **First Fix.**

The 2021 leakage reduction target for Wicklow County Council (WCC) under First Fix is 0.16 MI/d. The Current Savings achieved under the First Fix programme up to October is 0.971 MI/d. WCC has exceeded the target by 0.811 MI/d.

## **Find and Fix.**

The leakage reduction target for Wicklow County Council (WCC) under Find and Fix is 1.46 MI/d. The Current Savings achieved to date up to October is 2.40 MI/d. WCC has exceeded the target by 0.94 MI/d.

## **New Water Mains.**

These works include Water Mains Replacement, Back Yard Services and Lead Mains Replacement. Water Mains Replacement leads to leakage reduction due to replacement of old with new mains. This includes the recent installation of a new Water Main on the R762 in Delgany. Back Yard Services (BYS) involve the laying of new Water Mains in front of domestic properties as well as a new service connection together with the decommissioning old Water Mains which traditionally were laid at the



rear of properties. Many of these have high leakage due their age and also following from extensions that were built over the mains. Lead Mains Replacement is a health issue but many of these have high leakage. The leakage savings in all three programmes is measured through a reduction in Distribution Input (Demand) due to the near zero leakage in the new water main.

## Parking Income

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	<b>690,873</b>
Greystones Municipal District	<b>213,225</b>
Wicklow Municipal District	<b>238,913</b>
Arklow Municipal District	<b>142,958</b>
Parking Permits	<b>57,315</b>
Parking Fines	<b>271,419</b>
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	<b>1,614,702</b>



## Organisational Development and Financial Matters

### 1. HR and Corporate Services

#### Recruitment

The following interviews were held in October:

- Caretaker (Bray MD)
- Foreman Craft
- Craftworker Carpenter

#### Employee Numbers

	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021
<b>Employee Numbers</b>			
<b>Managerial/Administrative</b>	296	297	304
<b>Professional/Technical</b>	123	118	121
<b>Outdoor</b>	268	264	261
<b>Temporary/Seasonal</b>	51	71 (increase relates to lifeguards)	49 (reduction relates to lifeguards)
<b>Non DOHPLG</b>	8	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>743</b>

#### Access to Information

##### F.O.I. Requests

October 2021: 8	October 2020: 8
Jan - October 2021: 84	Jan - October 2020: 111



## Ombudsman Requests

October 2021	3
January to October 2021	23

October 2020	1
January to October 2020	19

## Press Releases

October 2021 – 10 Press Releases

## Register of Electors

The 2022/2023 Draft Register was published on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 in line with statutory regulations. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 Emergency we are limited in the number of areas we can distribute the Register to. The Register is available for inspection in each of the Municipal District Offices and at the Customer Service Hub in County Buildings. The Draft Register was issued to all Council Members, TD's and Senator via email. The total number of Electors on the 2022/2023 Live Register of Electors is 102,235 and there are 206 polling stations in Wicklow.

The Franchise staff will continue to strive for excellence on the Register of Electors database. We are continuing to accept applications from 18 year olds and new residents moving into the county in the event that an electoral event occurs and there is a requirement for a Supplement Register. We will continue to make contact with new housing developments and urban areas where new developments are coming on stream in an effort to get new residents register. The Draft Special Voters will be issued to each of the Nursing Homes in the County which we are now updating with new residents.

We will continue to work on areas where there is a lack of Eircodes and dates of birth. Wicklow Co Co are now one of the lead authorities in Eircode coverage on their register with over 99% of the electorate having an Eircode attached to their Register of Electors entry. We are continuing to assist the LGMA in their exercise to have other Local Authorities achieve similar Eircode coverage on their own Register of Electors.

We have an ongoing social media presence encouraging electors to use [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) to check that they are registered to vote. It is hoped that once Covid restrictions are lifted that we will be in a position to establish voter registration days in schools, shopping centres and libraries.

## Customer Service Innovation Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2021 - Quarter 3			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	34,452	Motor Taxation	2,084
No. of Emails	2,929	Revenue	604
No. of Elected Members	458	Social Housing Applications	192
CRM Cases	2,319		





## 2. I.C.T.

### Handover of Backup and Disaster Recovery Solution

- Successfully implemented new Backup and Disaster Recovery Solution, both hardware and software
- Testing of Solution and training of staff ongoing
- Handover of Solution to WCC.

### IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 30 tickets a day, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is underway.
- The upgrade of PC's in libraries general offices continues and due to complete by end Q1 2022

### Domain Migration

- Server migration is almost complete.

### Implementation of ePlanning

- Systems and Project Plan in Place to rollout ePlanning

### GIS & Systems Analysis

- Arklow Decarb zone data collection exercise has commenced.
- Development of an interactive walking trails portal is ongoing.
- New OGC standards WMS/WMTS from the OSi has been integrated into our GIS systems.
- Post processing of National Tree Datasets procured from BlueSky has been completed.
- Migration of inhouse datasets to the cloud environment has been completed.

### Business Systems/Applications Development

- Arklow Municipal District's Road's Section is collaborating with the inhouse Applications Development Team, to design and develop a new generation of "Smart" mobile data collection applications.
- The Applications' Team, in collaboration with the H&S Team, successfully designed and rolled out an online bookings system which facilitated the distribution of the flu vaccine to local authority staff.

### Customer Service Delivery

- Support for the Customer Service Innovation Hub is ongoing. The Customer Service project requires a high level of IT collaboration with both hardware and software elements integrated into the Hub.
- Work continues with the business process mapping and DPIA's are being carried out for each process as it arises.
- Avaya IP Office Phone System has been modified to integrate the Avaya Contact Centre Select Hardware Appliance and software. This has led to greater integration with call reporting systems and has improved customer service delivery.

### eServices

Wicklow.ie – pageviews from November 1st, 2020, to October 31st, 2021, were 1,453,480. This indicates an increase of 8.37% in unique pageviews compared the same period the previous year.

- Social media accounts – followers to date
  - o Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 10,406 followers. This is an increase of 102 followers or 1 % on the previous month.

# NOVEMBER 2021



o Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 7,420 followers. This is an increase of 24 followers or .32% on the previous month.

o Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 2512 followers. This is an increase of 24 followers or 1% on the previous month.

- The Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie continues to feature in enhanced consultation campaigns. These have included–
  - o Age Friendly Survey
  - o Part 8 – The Library Baltinglass
  - o Part 8 – Abbey Grounds Wicklow
  
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month.
  - o #KeepWell
  - o #OutdoorsForEveryone

The IT department co-ordinated and implemented the use of hybrid meetings for Wicklow County Council's monthly meeting in October as well as several hybrid meetings for the municipal districts ensuring participants can safely meet while adhering to current covid guidelines.

## Response to COVID-19

The IT Department continue to support all the systems setup to respond to the additional business needs arising from the response to COVID19:

- Small Business Assistance Scheme – Support for applications and backend systems integration continues.
- Community Call Helpline remains in place with support to the helpline staff
- Remote Working Requirements for staff of Wicklow County Council
- Blended model for return-to-work arrangements
- Government Networks
- Phone Systems
- Call Conferencing
- Communications and awareness
- Laptops procured and configured to support remote working for key staff in vital business areas.
- Remote working licencing has increased in all business areas with ~300 WCC users now having the facility to work remotely using a combination of Citrix and Cisco.



## 3. FINANCIAL

### Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST OCTOBER 2021							
	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	23,158,085	28,035,818	83%	(27,136,612)	(33,580,464)	81%	(3,978,527)
Road Transport & Safety	17,249,922	22,299,168	77%	(10,995,501)	(15,497,938)	71%	6,254,422
Water Services	4,237,269	5,823,666	73%	(5,222,975)	(6,857,035)	76%	(985,706)
Development Management	11,479,309	11,471,622	100%	(7,369,194)	(6,226,652)	118%	4,110,115
Environmental Services	9,913,675	11,897,222	83%	(1,606,860)	(2,069,370)	78%	8,306,815
Recreation and Amenity	6,562,003	7,946,046	83%	(892,320)	(882,197)	101%	5,669,684
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,178,946	1,496,632	79%	(674,867)	(834,228)	81%	504,079
Miscellaneous Services	16,070,807	10,447,823	154%	(14,251,742)	(7,747,758)	184%	1,819,065
Central Management Charges	15,964,965	19,212,563	83%	(843,676)	(1,000,000)	84%	15,121,289
Local Government Fund				(10,005,748)	(12,006,898)	83%	(10,005,748)
Pension Levy				0	0		0
Commercial Rates				(26,731,684)	(32,078,021)	83%	(26,731,684)
	<b>105,814,980</b>	<b>118,630,560</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>(105,731,179)</b>	<b>(118,780,561)</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>83,802</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 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST OCTOBER 2021					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2021	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/10/2021
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	17,611,344	48,786,159	(53,900,805)	(534,750)	11,961,948
Road Transport & Safety	(44,050,309)	14,045,490	(8,260,083)	(97,917)	(38,362,819)
Water Services	(11,018,071)	295,123	(1,306,351)	(15,000)	(12,044,299)
Development Management	(8,802,936)	537,227	(447,248)	(1,060,308)	(9,773,264)
Environmental Services	1,504,016	2,803,561	(2,503,699)	(519,375)	1,284,503
Recreation and Amenity	(1,312,600)	2,684,273	(2,252,149)	(127,892)	(1,008,368)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,234,386)	276,315	0	(191,993)	(1,150,064)
Miscellaneous Services	(16,085,971)	2,197,538	(2,125,573)	(1,147,207)	(17,161,212)
	<b>(63,388,913)</b>	<b>71,625,687</b>	<b>(70,795,907)</b>	<b>(3,694,442)</b>	<b>(66,253,576)</b>



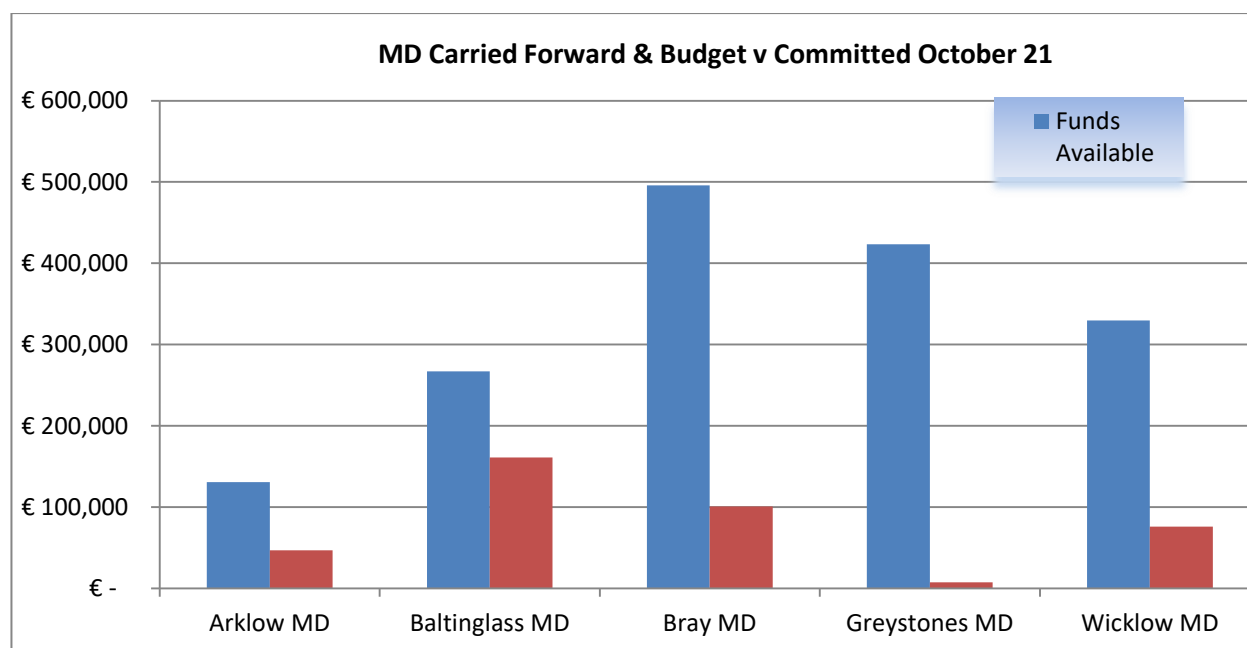
## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2021										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2021	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/10/2021	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
<b>Rates</b>	8,194,672	32,065,945	2,110	4,710	(7,442,235)	32,825,203	(21,481,635)	11,343,568	1,907,201	69%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	2,735,687	14,154,580	0	(30,683)	0	16,859,585	(13,722,111)	3,137,474	0	81%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	446,214	1,726,387	0	0	0	2,172,601	(1,727,879)	444,722	0	80%

**Twelve Month Rates Waiver:** A waiver of commercial rates was applied to specified businesses for the first, second and third quarters of 2021. This 9-month waiver has modified criteria and accordingly is a separate, standalone waiver scheme to the previous 2020 scheme. There was no application process required for this scheme. Wicklow County Council automatically applied a 100% credit in lieu of commercial rates for the quarter periods to eligible properties. An extension to the commercial rates waiver was announced in Budget 2022. This waiver is for Q4 2021 and will be “targeted at the hospitality, arts and certain tourism related sectors.”

## General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2021

The Discretionary Funding allocation for 2021 was decreased in line with the 2021 LPT rate reduction. The 2021 funding provision consists of mainly General Municipal Allocations used to support local groups and initiative etc. There was no public realm funding allocated this year, however unspent monies in this area from 2020 have been made available to Municipal Districts in 2021. The Level 5 Covid restrictions on construction which were in place up to May 4<sup>th</sup> prevented any public realm works being carried out up to that date.





Municipal District	C/F from 2020	Adopted Budget 2021	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	76,907	54,000	130,907	46,753	84,154
Baltinglass MD	245,041	22,000	267,041	161,265	105,776
Bray MD	433,456	62,500	495,956	100,986	394,970
Greystones MD	392,553	31,000	423,553	7,300	416,253
Wicklow MD	296,693	33,000	329,693	76,110	253,583
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,444,650</b>	<b>202,500</b>	<b>1,647,150</b>	<b>392,415</b>	<b>1,254,735</b>

## Capital Investment Programme 2020-2022

The Capital Investment Programme 2021-2023 for Wicklow County Council which details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was approved by the Members at the Council meeting of March 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.

The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL	Dev Charges <sup>1</sup>	Loan	Grant Aid <sup>2</sup>	Other <sup>3</sup>	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	149,460,000	148,060,000	147,760,000	445,280,000		30,000,000	360,740,000	54,540,000	445,280,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	33,009,134	16,435,578	14,227,500	63,672,212	11,045,290	7,795,000	41,907,749	2,924,173	63,672,212
WATER SERVICES	150,000	150,000	150,000	450,000			450,000		450,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	2,340,000	8,178,000	6,300,000	16,818,000	1,097,800	-	10,114,200	5,606,000	16,818,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	1,250,000	4,010,000	11,775,000	17,035,000			16,210,000	825,000	17,035,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	4,583,594	25,749,891	17,823,000	48,156,485	9,439,775	-	37,696,710	1,020,000	48,156,485
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	1,150,000	25,320,000	27,062,946	53,532,946	4,647,869		43,837,209	5,047,869	53,532,946
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	1,950,000	2,200,000	2,200,000	6,350,000			2,325,000	4,025,000	6,350,000
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>193,892,728</b>	<b>230,103,469</b>	<b>227,298,446</b>	<b>651,294,643</b>	<b>26,230,734</b>	<b>37,795,000</b>	<b>513,280,868</b>	<b>73,988,042</b>	<b>651,294,643</b>



## 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	€3,500,000	€2,000,000
Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns	Abbey Grounds Wicklow Town	€620,000	€120,000
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
ORIS 2018	Avonmore Way Link Bridge	€490,000	€98,000
ORIS 2018	Vartry Reservoir Walks & Car Park	€197,131	€39,426
ORIS 2018	St. Kevin's Way	€200,000	€40,000
ORIS 2018	The Spinc	€200,000	€50,400
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	€310,700	€38,140
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	€554,820	€55,482
Sports Capital Programme	Charlesland All Weather Pitch Refurbishment -	€59,271	€5,927
LSSIS	Wicklow Swimming Pool	€1,646,052	€493,816
LSSIS	Charlesland Running Track	€411,674	€123,502
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



Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
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
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilmacanogue Nature Trail	€20,000	€18,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Lacken Mass Path	€18,000	€16,200
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilcoole Mass Path	€13,000	€11,700
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Avonmore Kayak Project	€16,500	€14,850
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Age Friendly Triobikes for older people	€23,160	€20,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Keadeen Access	€13,500	€12,150