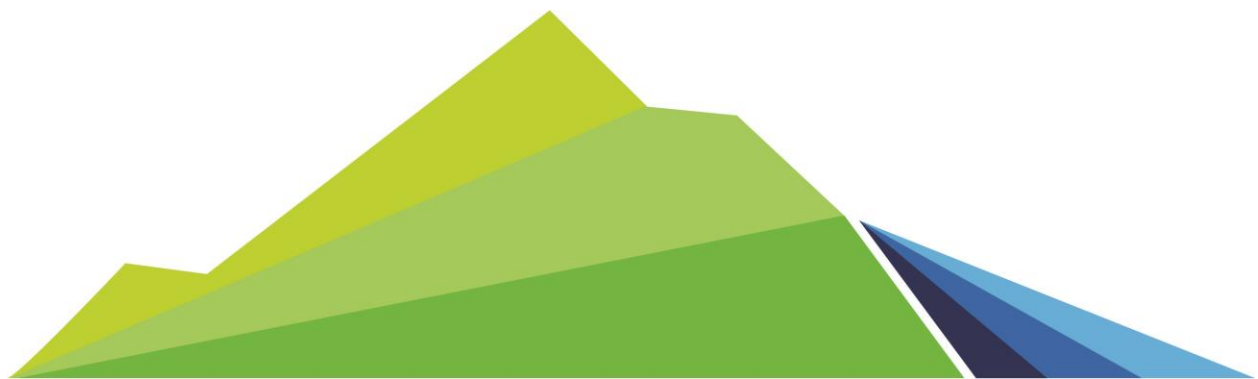


# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



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

## Contents

<b>Housing &amp; Community .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1. Housing .....	4
2. Community .....	17
<b>Economic Development, Planning, and Infrastructure .....</b>	<b>31</b>
1. Economic Development .....	31
2. Planning & Development .....	39
3. Environment .....	46
<b>Transportation, Water &amp; Emergency Services .....</b>	<b>55</b>
1. Transportation .....	55
<b>Organisational Development &amp; Financial Matters .....</b>	<b>67</b>
1. HR & Corporate Services .....	67
2. I.C.T. ....	69
3. Finance .....	70

### **This month:**

#### **Arklow Flood Relief Scheme**

Another milestone was achieved in 2023, with the Minister of State with responsibility for the OPW, Minister Patrick O'Donovan, attending the signing of contracts between Wicklow County Council and Ayesa Consulting Engineers to progress the detailed design and construction for Arklow Flood Relief Scheme.

The Arklow Flood Relief Scheme is part of the Government's €1.3bn investment in flood relief measures under the National Development Plan.

Wicklow County Council, funded by the Office of Public Works (OPW), will undertake engineering works along the Avoca River and surrounds to mitigate the risk of flooding in the Arklow town area in County Wicklow.

The overall objectives and benefits of the proposed Scheme are:

- To provide flood relief measures along the River Avoca and estuary to alleviate flooding.
- To protect residential and non-residential properties from flooding and consequential damage
- To protect infrastructural utility services from flood damage
- To improve the health and safety of the community in high flood risk areas through direct protection from flooding and through reduction of stress and anxiety
- To reduce disruption and disturbance cause by flood events such as evacuations and traffic diversions
- To reduce the risk of environmental pollution such as runoff from hydrocarbons from flooded areas
- To provide the basis for the appropriate maintenance of the Avoca River at Arklow

#### **Safe Routes to School Programme**

Two new Safe Routes to School schemes (SRTS) have been installed at SS Michael and Peter Junior National School and St John's Senior National School in Arklow.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national programme focused on improving safety at the front of schools and facilitating active travel to schools. It has three overarching aims:

- To accelerate the delivery of walking/scooting and cycling infrastructure on key access routes to schools.
- To provide 'front of school' treatments which will enhance access to school grounds.
- To expand the amount of bike parking available at schools.

The two Arklow schools were amongst 932 schools across the country who applied for the programme. This was in response to safety concerns being experienced in the vicinity of the schools over the last number of years.

Ultimately, they wished to create a safer environment for the children attending these schools. Both were selected to participate in Round 1 of the programme.

## Housing & Community

### 1. Housing

	November 2023	November 2022
N0o. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4525	4570
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	158	193
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2501	2679
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	23	22
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	28	30

#### Allocation of Social Housing

	November 2022	November 2023
Wicklow County Council	15	16
Approved Housing Bodies	16	51

#### Social Housing Stock

	November 2023	November 2022
Tenancies occupied	4883	4803
Total weekly rental accrual	323,327.75	314,805.68
Arrears	3,100.996.83	2,968,385.39

MD	Completed in 2023	In progress	Not started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
<b>Arklow</b>	18 (+2)	8 (0)	4 (-1)	0	12 (-1)
<b>Baltinglass</b>	27 (0)	9 (0)	8 (-2)	7 (-1)	24 (+1)
<b>Bray</b>	62 (+23)	11 (-2)	30 (+11)	21 (+1)	62 (+10)
<b>Greystones</b>	10 (0)	6 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	7 (0)
<b>Wicklow</b>	22 (0)	10 (1)	31 (-1)	0 (0)	41 (0)
	139 (+25)	44(-3)	74 (+13)	28 (0)	146 (+10)
Total vacancy as % of Total Stock (total vacancy + occupied tenancies)	2.9% (+0.1%)		Figures in brackets indicate change on last month		

## Housing Maintenance – Boiler Maintenance

Due to the withdrawal of a large Gas boiler maintenance contractor from our Framework we are currently sourcing alternative contractors via [www.supplygov.ie](http://www.supplygov.ie). Meanwhile, planned replacement of our aging gas and oil boiler fleet has been continuing. 100 oil and gas boilers have been replaced around the county using Planned Maintenance funding from the Dept of Housing, Heritage and Local Government and a further 25 are due to be replaced before the end of December 2023.

## Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completed and allocated
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completed and allocated
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completed and allocated
Sheehan Court Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed
Greenhills Road (Affordable	36	Completed
<b>Schemes on Site</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completion anticipated Q1 2024
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2024
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Contractor on site
Merrymeeing Rathnew Phase 2	21	Construction on going
Liam Kavanagh Park Ballynerrin	10	On site completion anticipated Q1 2024
<b>Pipeline Schemes</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	About to commence Section 179a
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Preparing tender documents
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Tenders being analysed
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5
Burnaby, Greystones	75	PPP Bundle 5
Ballinahinch Ashford	25	Section 179a withdrawn
Tinahask, Arklow	75	Design stage.
Sheephouse Arklow	30	Design Stage

## Part V

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	2	18 Delivered, 2 Units delivered June 2023	CALF
Rathnew	3	3 Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Delgany	3	Delivered June 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Delivered Q3 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Delivered May 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	6	Delivered Q4 2023	CALF
Arklow	16	Delivered Q3 2023	CALF
Blessington	5	Delivery Due Q4 2023	CALF
Bray	1	Delivery due Q1 2024	CALF
Delgany	3	Delivered May 2023	WCC
Greystones	1	Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Rathnew	1	Scheduled Q4 2023	WCC
Bray	4	Delivered 2 2023	WCC
Ashford	4	Delivered Q4 2023	CALF
Ashford	8	Delivery due Q4 2023	CALF

## Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Greystones, Ashford, Newtownmountkennedy, Blessington, Baltinglass and Wicklow with delivery ranging from 2023-2025. This includes the units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

## Turnkey

	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	78	Delivered June 2023	CALF
Rathdum	13	Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Delivered Q4 2023	CALF
Arklow	32	Delivered Q4 2023	CALF
Blessington	41	Delivery Due Q4 2023	CALF
Bray	17	Delivery Date Q1 2024	CALF
Ashford	51	Delivered Q3 2023	CALF
Ashford	46	Delivered Q4 2023	CALF
Ashford	10	Delivery Due Q4 2023	CALF

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.

## Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

The Approved Housing Bodies are actively pursuing a number of potential CALF projects and are liaising closely with the Council on a regular basis. The members will be kept updated. Approved Housing Bodies also make applications for CALF acquisitions to to address a particular housing need. To date 6 units have been delivered in the following areas:

CALF Acquisitions 2023	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	2	Delivered Q1 2023	CALF
Blessington	1	Delivered Q1 2023	CALF
Bray	3	Delivered Q3 2023	CALF

**Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)** Wicklow County Council is continuing to support acquisitions under the Capital Assistance Scheme with Dublin Simon, Circle Housing, Ark Housing and Peter McVerry Trust etc. To date, 8 units have been delivered in the following areas:

CAS Acquisitions 2023	No.of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Blessington	1	Delivered Q2 2023	CAS
Arklow	1	Delivered Q2 2023	CAS
Newtownmountkenedy	1	Delivered Q2 2023	CAS
Bray	1	Delivered Q3 2023	CAS
Greystones	1	Delivered Q3 2023	CAS
Bray	1	Delivered Q 4 2023	CAS
Blessington	1	Delivered Q 4 2023	CAS
Wicklow Town	1	Delivered Q4 2023	CAS

## Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands

### Parnell Road (Central Garage site)

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

### Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas

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

### Infill Sites

- Knockroe – Two 4 bed fully accessible homes in progress - expected completion date Q4 2023

- 5a Rednagh Rd – One 4 bed house – Part 8 to commence shortly

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

› Grant funding for private house - €2,352,438.16 - € €2,045,655.40 spent to date

› Grant funding for social house - €818,793.00 - € 691,694.96 spent to date

2023 – 96 open applications (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

2023 - 169 approvals (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

2023 –234 applications paid and closed

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Number of Grants Received/Processed</b>	249	216	266	327	281	436

## 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. The next meeting of the HDSG is due to take place in September 2023. The Implementation plan for Housing People with a disability was launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and workshops are taking place nationwide facilitated by the housing agency regarding the implementation plan. This workshop will take place at the next HDSG meeting to be held in January 2024.

## Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road – 2 x 2 bed properties	Completed and ready for allocation
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Contact on site - expected completion date November 2023
Carrig Eden - 14 units x 1 bed age friendly units	Part 8 complete – design team is being procured at present
Kilcoole Health Centre - 4 no 1 bed apartments	Contact on site - expected completion date September 2024

## Vacant Homes Scheme

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

8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy	<b>House allocated and tenant in situ.</b>
5 Ashwood, Roundwood	<b>House allocated and tenant in situ.</b>
33 Connolly Street, Arklow	<b>House allocated and tenant in situ.</b>
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	<b>House allocated.</b>
2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town	Refurbishment complete.



18 Delgany Glen, Greystones	<b>House allocated.</b>
30 South Green, Arklow	Refurbishment to start shortly.
5 Priory Way, Delgany	Refurbishment to start shortly.
6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Refurbishment to start shortly.
114 Hillside, Greystones	Refurbishment to start shortly.
41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry	Refurbishment to start shortly.
108 Charnwood, Bray	Notice to Enter served July 2023.
10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow	Compensation now agreed.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	Compensation now agreed.
53 South Green, Arklow	Compensation now agreed.
53A South Green, Arklow	Compensation now agreed.
2 Harbour Road ("Merdenville"), Arklow	Compensation now agreed.
36 Wheatfield Bray	CPO published March 2023. Currently engaging with owner with a view to purchase by agreement.
27 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray.	Negotiations under way
1 further CPOs (further house in Bray and Wicklow Town) to be published.	

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

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

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

A grant of up to €70,000 is available.

If the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000, a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 is available.

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

- have proof of ownership or evidence of active negotiations to buy the property (that is, confirmation of engagement from the estate agent or owner of the property) where you are seeking approval in principle for a grant.
- live in the property as your principal private residence or make it available for rent.
- have proof that the property has been vacant for at least 2 years and that it was built up to and including 2007.

Number of Applications	70
Applications in progress/information requested	12
Applications finalised	53
Applications paid	1
Applications withdrawn	4



**KIERSEY WALKER & ASSOCIATES**  
AUCTIONEERS - ESTATE AGENTS - VALUERS  
BUILDING ENERGY RATING (BER) ASSESSORS

Ref. 827

## For Sale

### READY TO BUILD SCHEME

### 5 Serviced Sites for New Homes

@

### Kilcommon, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow.



Five serviced sites within a short distance of Tinahely town centre situated on the Tinahely to Shillelagh Road. These sites are subject to planning permission and proposed purchaser must qualify for the Ready to Build Scheme. For further information please see [Application Form](#) and [FAQ's](#).

Site No. 1 – 0.217 acre (0.088 ha)	Site No. 3 – 0.121 acre (0.049 ha)
Site No. 2 – 0.200 acre (0.081 ha)	Site No. 4 – 0.117 acre (0.047 ha)
	Site No. 5 – 0.140 acre (0.057 ha)

**Guide Price:**     Site No.'s 1 & 2 - €50,000  
                             Site No.'s 3, 4 & 5 - €35,000

Riverside Business Centre, Tinahely, County Wicklow  
Tel: 0402 38899 | Email: [info@kwa.ie](mailto:info@kwa.ie)  
<http://www.kwa.ie>  
A.M Kiersey Limited: C.R.O. reg no: 409002, VAT, reg no: 6429002V. PSRA Registration No: 001217



### Derelict Properties

The following four derelict properties have been approved for sale:

Property	Progress
Croneynhorn	Sale approved by the members at the June meeting held on 12/06/2023 – final stages in progress
Killacloran	Valuation done, application being progressed
Rednagh Rd	Sale approved by the members at the June meeting held on 12/06/2023 – final stages in progress
Borkhill	No interested parties

### **Affordable Housing**

Greenhill Road Affordable Housing Scheme was launched to the public for applications on 09/01/2023, and closed on 30/01/2023. There was a lot of interest from the public and Wicklow County Council received over 140 applications for the 36 properties. Wicklow County Council are currently 'sale agreed' on all the 36 units. – 19 of the sales have now closed.

Wicklow County Council also received approval for future affordable housing schemes in the county in the past month – one development in Rathnew (44) and another in Baltinglass (22),

Baltinglass - Portal closed on 4<sup>th</sup> October for these 22 units. We received 58 applications. Applications have been assessed and we hope to send out letters to the lucky 22 by the end of this week.

Rathnew - Site to be completed approx. August 2024 – properties will be advertised for sale in early 2024

Wicklow County Council also has plans for further developments throughout the county.

### **Local Authority Home loans up to November 2023**

Received	Approved in principle
59	16

### **2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme**

	To date	November 2023
Applications Received	410	2
Completed	101	0
Declined	280	1
Ongoing	15	15

## DECEMBER 2023



### Homeless figures for November 2023

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 30/11/2023	Year To Date	As at 30/11/2022
No of New Presentations	18	321	27
No. of Repeat Presentations	6	18	0
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	9	124	7
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	15	174	19
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	0	20	1
No. of Children	18	242	14
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	5	91	5
Family Circumstances	8	100	12
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	1	19	0
Mental Health	1	29	2
Risk of Homelessness	20	90	2
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	6	0
Addiction Issues	8	40	2
DV/DA	3	21	3
Medical Issues	0	17	1
Overcrowding	4	39	3
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	1	19	1
ASB:	1	7	0
Rough Sleeping*	6	31	1
Sofa Surfing*	2	36	8
Staying with Family*	4	74	5
Staying with Friends*	1	14	2

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

<b>Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/11/23</b>	
Families	16
Adults	25
Children	51
Single individual	0

<b>Bed &amp; Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements &amp; Duration @ 30/11/2023</b>								
	<b>No. of Households</b>	<b>No. of Adults</b>	<b>No. of Children</b>	<b>&lt; 3 mths</b>	<b>3-6 mths</b>	<b>6-9 mths</b>	<b>9-12 mths</b>	<b>&gt;12mths</b>
<b>Household breakdown</b>	19	21	23	4	7	1	4	2
<b>Bed &amp; Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements &amp; Duration @ 30/11/22</b>								
	<b>No. of Households</b>	<b>No. of Adults</b>	<b>No. of Children</b>	<b>&lt; 3 mths</b>	<b>3-6 mths</b>	<b>6-9 mths</b>	<b>9-12 mths</b>	<b>&gt;12mths</b>
<b>Household breakdown</b>	21	26	21	7	6	3	2	3

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 486 households (345 families & 136 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 2023. (204 homeless cases, 270 prevention cases to date and 11 direct provision). 132 properties were sourced by WCC.

## Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

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

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

There are 10 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon, with continuing transition by the clients to suitable, alternative accommodation at the moment.

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

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

It is envisaged that families will avail of the service for circa 6 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**

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

CWI (Cold Weather Initiative )beds are now in operation in San Remo and will continue until April 2024.

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

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

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

### **Other Homeless Supported Accommodation**

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

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

### **Housing First**

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

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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 19 clients under Housing First and it is hoped that at least one further allocation will take place before the end of 2023. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of

## DECEMBER 2023



sourcing of accommodation – the main issue facing this programme is the availability of one bed units in suitable locations with easy access to services etc.

### Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025

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

### Traveller accommodation

#### Capital Programme

<b>Ballintreskin – 3 houses</b>	Completed families moving in after Christmas
<b>Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses</b>	Contractor on site completion date Nov 2024
<b>Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses</b>	Due to change in the family circumstances – new site selection is being investigated

Fire safety annual checks on Halting sites for 2022 have been carried out and the 2023 have commenced.

### Energy Efficiency

#### Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

All 71 properties given approval for energy efficiency fabric upgrade works in 2022 have been completed and it is hoped to complete 90 before the end of 2024.

### Ukrainian Response

- As of 30<sup>th</sup> November, the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 1,738 (although we know that there are considerably more in the County)

This number is broken down as follows –

- Arklow MD 246 No.
  - Baltinglass MD 369 No.
  - Bray MD 753 No.
  - Greystones MD 198 No.
  - Wicklow MD 172 No.
- WCC are currently assessing all Displaced Ukrainians persons in the County in order to identify their accommodation needs as well linking them in with all the relevant services and supports within the community.

## DECEMBER 2023



- WCC are working through a list of pledged properties within the County and matching families accordingly. As of the 30<sup>h</sup> November we will have housed 244 number displaced Ukrainian people into pledged stand-alone Offer a Home properties  
Larger buildings and vacant units are also being identified and explored as potential options for medium to long term accommodation.
- The Community Response Forum continues to meet on a monthly basis



## 2. Community

### **Department of Rural and Community Development Local Enhancement Programme 2024**

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, announced on 6th December 2023 €176,338.11 in capital funding under the "Department of Rural and Community Development Local Enhancement Programme 2024" for Co. Wicklow, €29,389.69 of which will be ringfenced for Women's sheds.

This funding will provide capital supports essential for the many small community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged areas in rural and urban areas.

There will be a particular focus on small capital works/improvements, and the purchase of equipment for community use. The funding may be used, but is not limited to; improved access for persons with a disability; enhancing community participation for disadvantaged and marginalised groups, and improving energy efficiency of community facilities to reduce ongoing costs.

The scheme is designed to ensure local priorities are identified and met, so as to improve and enhance community facilities for all.

This scheme is administered through the LCDC and will be advertised in the New Year. Details of the scheme together with the application form will be available in early January 2024.

### **County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme**

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

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

Healthy Age Friendly Homes (HAFH) Programme is a support coordination programme that aims to enable older people to age in place and reduce the need to transfer to long-term residential care. The Programme is a collaboration between the Department of Health and the Department of Housing and Local Government. It is funded by the Department of Health and operated by Meath County Council, on behalf of all Local Authorities.

The service is designed to enable older people to remain living in their own home for longer. The local coordinator undertakes home visits to older people living in the community, where a needs assessment is carried out, looking at four key areas of supports: housing, health, community/social supports, and technology. Home visits from the local co-coordinator are available to anyone aged 65+years. The rollout of the programme will commence in January 2024, with the local co-ordinator for County Wicklow is appointed.

Meanwhile referrals for the service can be registered with National Office at 046 924 8899 or via email: [healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie](mailto:healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie)

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

The Older People's Council (OPC) Executive Group met on 29<sup>th</sup> November and the next meeting is scheduled for January 2024.

OPC Exec is planning for wider engagement with older people across the county and recruitment of more members of the OPC early in the new year.

### **Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance**

The multi-agency Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance, chaired by the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, met on 12<sup>th</sup> December to review progress on implementation of the County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027.

### **National Age Friendly Achievement and Recognition Awards**

*Beyond the Trees Avondale* was shortlisted for the National Age Friendly Achievement and Recognition Awards, in the Business Innovation Category. The annual Awards Ceremony was held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at Clayton Whites Hotel Wexford.

### **National Award for Age Friendly initiative by Wicklow Library Services**

Wicklow County Council received an award at the annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023, in the Age Friendly Initiative category, for an innovative project delivered through Wicklow Library Service: **Intergenerational Digital Learning Supporting Seniors using their personal Digital Devices**

Wicklow Town Library teamed up with Transition Year students from East Glendalough School to show older people how to use their own device to access the internet and carry out ordinary everyday online activities. The students received training from 121 Digital to become tutors, capable of demonstrating to older people how to carry out various online tasks on their personal laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Then, under the supervision of their teacher, the tutors linked up with their learner in Wicklow Town Library where the learning took place over the course of 6 weeks, in February & March 2023.

The award was presented at the Chamber Ireland Awards Ceremony held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023, at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin 9.



Eimear O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council; Ian Rabott, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; Margaret Breckell, Senior Executive Librarian, Wicklow County Library Service; Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathainleach, Wicklow County Council and Clodagh Whelan, Age Friendly Wicklow.

### **Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee**

Wicklow's first Disability and Inclusion Strategy has been launched, with Wicklow County Council's Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) working towards the development of the strategy since it was established in 2020.

The strategy outlines how Wicklow County Council and its partners intend to make the services they provide equitable and accessible to all. It aims to ensure that persons with a disability have an equal opportunity to pursue their ambitions, realise their potential and live fulfilling lives. Individual actions are

aligned to the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities throughout the document.



Cllr Lourda Scott, Kay O'Connor, Mary Ann Lyons, Michelle Rogers, Cathleen Smith of Wicklow County Council, Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Eamonn Carr, Helen Howes, Clodagh Whelan, Michael Nicholson, Laura O'Callaghan, Cllr Miriam Murphy, Clara Jenkinson and Cllr Melanie Corrigan.

### **CLÁR Funding Scheme**

Rathdrum Cancer Support (€44,034) and Wicklow Irish Community Rapid Response (€50,000) were awarded funding under the CLÁR Funding Scheme (Measure 2: Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders Transport). In total, Minister Humphreys announced over €2 million for 37 Vehicles for Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders throughout the Country.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December by Minister Humphreys announced the successful applications, under Measure 1 CLÁR 2023, for rural sports facilities Knockanna GAA were successful in securing funding of €50,000 toward the cost of resurfacing the car park and a walkway around the pitch, to improve community accessibility.

### **Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023**

Closing date for submissions of Expressions of Interest in the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023 was 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The TVRS23 Projects Assessment and Selection Panel, met in Wicklow County Council, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, to determine which projects will be selected by Wicklow County Council for submission to the Department for Rural and Community Development this year.

All Expressions of Interest were assessed based on the eligibility criteria and priorities contained in the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme Outline. The panel selected 5 projects for development into an application for grant funding. These were submitted to DRCD on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023.

### **Blessington Greenway**

Planning documents were submitted to An Bord Pleanála under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, with a deadline of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

On 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2023, WCC received a request for further information (RFI) from An Bord Pleanála. The Board had sought a response to this RFI request by the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023. However, due to the significant information sought by ABP, an extension to the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 was granted by ABP.

WCC staff, in conjunction with Aecom, the consultants, are continuing to prepare a full comprehensive response to this RFI to meet this deadline.

### **Community Recognition Fund**

The following seven projects are progressing, with completion dates estimated in quarter three 2024.

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

## Pride of Place

On the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024, a Pride of Place award ceremony was held in Wicklow County Council's Council Chamber. This ceremony was arranged to recognise and to congratulate the four winning Wicklow groups, who each won in their nominated categories at the National Pride of Place Awards, on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in Armagh City Hotel. In attendance at the evening ceremony was representatives from each community group, Deputy Jennifer Whitmore, elected members and Council staff members. The Cathaoirleach, Aoife Flynn Kennedy and Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive presented the groups with an award and a gift to mark their outstanding achievement in the Pride of Place 2023 competition.



### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme**

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

The table below is a list of current projects which are being progressed and were funded under the ORIS funding stream:

ORIS Project	Present Position
North Wicklow Trails	New connection almost completed linking the Sugar Loaf to the Vartry Trails. Signage to be installed.
Cloghernia Access, Glenmalure	Works to improve surface and increase traffic safety at the Cloghernia access to Baravore Bridge, Glenmalure. The car park has been upgraded and the access works are still being carried out.
Avonmore Kayak Project	This project is near completion. An extension until March 2024 has been requested from the Department. Railings are being fitted at Rathdrum bridge and privacy screens are now in place at the Meetings of The Waters in Avoca.
Kilmacanogue Nature Trail	Completed. Enhanced links between Wicklow Uplands and the Sugarloaf Way. New signage to be added.
Wicklow Coastal Blueway	A new boardwalk is installed at Greystones South Beach which will make the beach more accessible to all individuals including those with varying degrees of ability. An upgrade of existing facilities is planned for Brittas Bay along with new information boards in conjunction with the guidance of the Heritage Officer. Arklow - Bicycle stands, privacy screens for changing, planting, information boards and cleaning of graffiti are some of the features of the plan in place for The Cove, Arklow Rock and South Beach Arklow.
Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	This project is paused briefly to allow finalising the purchase of third-party land.
Sugarloaf Repair	Work on this project scheduled to commence soon.
Three Trout Route Project Developments	At project design stage with two new bridges to be installed in 2024.
Ballyboy Equestrian Trail	Completed with new signage to be added.

Miner's Way	Upgrading and resurfacing completed with new signage being added.
Glen Turn Cliff Walk	Completed with new signage being added.
Red Kite Loop Wild Play Area, Avoca	Play structures have been identified and design is currently under way. An extension until March 2024 has been requested from the Department.
Wicklow Uplands	Project nearly completed with a second airlifting of surface materials to the sensitive site in the Wicklow Uplands now scheduled.
Russborough Parklands and House Trail	Upgrading of existing walking trails and installation of a cycle hub.
Coolkenno Equestrian Trail	The aim of this project is to construct an 8km equestrian trail and associated access points.
Roundwood Recreation Area	This multi-use family facility project will include the provision of a bike hub, natural play area, way-marking and information boards. Part VIII process commenced on 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 and a report is being submitted by the Planning section. The closing date for submissions was 1 <sup>st</sup> December, with the Chief Executive Report to issue to the Wicklow Municipal District members prior to the 18 <sup>th</sup> of December MD meeting.
Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme	Accessibility improvement works will be tendered shortly for this project.

## Project Development Measure (PDM) 2023

Under this measure, there were two successful funding applications announced on the 21st of November, by Minister Humphreys, under the Project Development Measure of the 2023 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme:

Project Name:	Project Description (less than 30 words):	Total estimated costs	Amount of ORIS funding received from DRCD
Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan	Recreation Plan for the Lugnaquilla uplands area to manage visitor numbers, land use, habitats and safety in changes to access routes.	€50,000	€45,000
Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan	Recreation Plan to manage and protect the landscape and ensure safe and appropriate recreation.	€50,000	€45,000

## Local Authority Integration Team

A Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) is being established in each Local Authority. The Wicklow LAIT will be up and running in January.

The team will play an important role in the overall integration strategy for the Council and the focus will be on the following cohorts of people:

- Applicants for International Protection (IP Applicants)
- Those with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status
- Programme Refugees
- Beneficiaries of temporary Accommodation (BOTPs)
- 

While the LAITs are not expected to be responsible for the creation or management of the Local Migrant Integration strategies, they will be a key player in the delivery of those strategies.

## Wicklow County Council LAMA Awards Nomination 2023

Wicklow County Council are delighted to nominate Mrs. Paula Boland from Kiltegan village in the LAMA awards 2024.

Paula is an ambassador for her rural village of Kiltegan and over recent years, she has dedicated many hours to the improvement of her village for all the community.

## Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Scheme (LSSIF)

Catherine Martin T.D., Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, and Thomas Byrne T.D., Minister of State for Sport and Physical Education, on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023, announced “Top Up” grant allocations to existing projects under the LSSIF.



The first allocations under the LSSIF were announced in January 2020 with €86.4 million subsequently awarded to 33 different projects. This additional funding amounts to a total of €37.6 million with 27 individual projects benefitting, bringing the total awarded to date to Large Scale Sport Infrastructure funded projects to €124 million.

Two Wicklow projects will benefit from this additional funding, Wicklow Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre receiving an additional sum of €932,423, bring the total funding for this project to €1,796,600 and the Charlesland Athletics Track Scheme funding will increase by €126,390 with a total funding amount €436,032 for this project. It is anticipated that both of these projects will commence in quarter two 2024.



### **Healthy Wicklow**

#### **Funding**

Notification has been received from the Department of Health allocation of funding for 2024 has been increased from €40,000 to €75,000 towards two key performance indicators:

1. Decrease in % of those at risk of poverty and basic deprivation
2. Increase in individual's level of positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality Index



### **Sláintecare Healthy Communities**

- Installation of calisthenics equipment in Ballywaltrim Playground is complete.
- Two-day in-person training on Trauma Sensitive Practice for Early Year's Services will be delivered by Connected For Life on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in the Little Bray Family Resource and development Project.

### **County Wicklow Library Service**

#### **Statistics**

With more than 560,000 visits recorded to Wicklow's 13 libraries & mobile library at the end of November, Wicklow is on target to exceed the previous highest record of 575,000+ visitor numbers of 2019.

Items borrowed from Wicklow's libraries for the same 11 months, exceeded 365,000, and are on target to achieve the 2019 figure of 390,000+. This would make Wicklow County Council the first local authority to regain pre-Covid usage stats, with the national statistics indicating an average of only 70% of the 2019 statistic.



### **Wicklow County Wide Craft Strategy**

An amazing Crafting bonanza of activities facilitated by Wicklow Craft Foundation and funded through LEADER was held in Wicklow's Libraries on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of January with Clay Pottery, facilitated by Hilary Jenkinson at Arklow Library .

This project will see each of our 13 libraries provide the opportunity to adults to engage with a range of different crafts in their area.

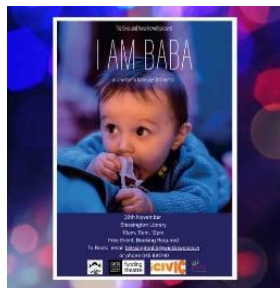
The purpose of this Craft Strategy is to provide a strategic framework to support the ongoing development of a thriving, mature and sustainable craft economy within the county of Wicklow. It will aid a collaborative and visible infrastructure for craft and a support network which encourages and nurtures Wicklow's diverse group of fulltime and part-time Craft Makers, Designers, Artists, Artisans, Educators and Mindfulness Craft Practitioners

A full calendar of events will be shared via press release and social media in the coming weeks.

### **I am Baba – magical experience for babies**

The I AM BABA 2023 tour, co-produced with The Civic Theatre, was successfully funded by the Arts Council, creating a magical journey for the littlest audience members. Over 14 weeks, the enchanting production reached 20 counties, captivating the hearts of more than 1000 babies. Wicklow Library Service played a pivotal role, hosting sessions in four of its libraries, Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington and Wicklow.

Parents and babies alike revelled in the immersive experience of I AM BABA—a captivating blend of live harmony singing and playful objects. Within the specially designed tent accommodating just six babies and their adult guests, jellyfish-like scarves danced, and tiny lights soared, creating lasting memories of joy and wonder. The library sessions became treasured moments of shared delight, fostering a love for the arts from the very beginning.



### **Arklow Library**

There was a diverse array of activities in Arklow Library in December for Family Time at Your Library. Families engaged in educational fun with the Home-school Hub every Friday at 10am, and chilled out during Mini Movies on Fridays at 4 pm. Saturdays were a family affair with a delightful mix of Storytime, arts & crafts at Family Fun Day at 12 pm. For the little builders, the Kids Lego Club get together was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec & 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Babies are in for a treat with sing-along sessions every Thursday at 10 am. Families unleashed their creativity at the T-shirt & Tote Bag Block Printing Workshop on Sat 9th December.

## DECEMBER 2023



Families joined Mrs. Claus for Bedtime Storytime on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, complete with hot chocolate. The AMA Young Performers Choir Concert performed on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December and the Christmas Treats workshop was held on Sat 16<sup>th</sup> December, which featured a sensory-friendly session.

Families celebrated at the Christmas Festival Prize Party with Arklow Town Team on Sat 16<sup>th</sup>.

Individuals delved into their roots with the Family History Advisory Clinic on Tues 5<sup>th</sup> December.

The Wednesday Book Club met on 6<sup>th</sup> December & 3<sup>rd</sup> January, while the Young Adult Diversity Book Club got together on Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> December & 4<sup>th</sup> January.

English Language learners will really appreciate the opportunity to practice their English and increase their vocabulary every Thursday at 7 pm with the conversation group.

Individuals can brought the festive spirit home with the Christmas Table Top Decoration workshop on Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> December. Creative writers are welcome to find out more about the Arklow Library Writers Group. This was held on 19<sup>th</sup> December & again on 9<sup>th</sup> January.

The 402 Arts Collective Exhibition Launched on Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> December.



### Baltinglass Library

Activities for the community of Baltinglass continue to flourish in the library. Weekly crafting and painting opportunities for adults take place on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. During December, the focus was on Christmas creativity with adults taking part in many different projects. These include ribbon embroidery, Christmas bauble making, coffee painting, knitting Christmas tree ornaments and much more. From January 2024, there will be a regular offer of children's and teen activities to encourage hands on creativity with all ages.

Creative Writing takes place on alternate Saturdays, local writers come together to share their work and give each other inspiration.



### Blessington Library

Blessington Library is the place to be for literary and creative enthusiasts. The Writers Group extends a warm invitation to all, beckoning those with a passion for the written word or the curious to give it a try. Monthly gatherings on Thursday evenings provide a relaxing space for creative writers.

For those with nimble fingers and a love for wool, the Crafty Hookers Knitting Group meets every Wednesday at 11 am. All are welcome to join this hour of crafting and chat.

Blessington Library boasts a variety of book clubs for avid readers. Three adult book clubs meet monthly, with options for different schedules - Thursday evening at 6.30 pm, Friday morning at 11 am, and a men's book club at 6.45 pm on Tuesdays. Young readers are not left out, with dedicated book clubs for 8-9 year olds and 10-12 year olds.

The library has Ukulele Sessions on the first Tuesday of the month, led by Rachel Drew of Let's Sing, from 7 pm to 8 pm.

Catering to the littlest customers, Thursdays at the library brings Tummy Time at 11.30 am for babies yet to embark on crawling adventures. Saturdays host the delightful Stay and Play sessions, offering stories, music, and fun for children and parents, followed by an open invitation to linger in the library and forge connections with other families.

During December, the library hosted a number of extra events. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, a Harp and Flute recital with 'The Old Court Duo' was a morning filled with enchanting melodies. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, the Genealogy Advisory Service offered personalised guidance into family tree research with Ita O'Boyle. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, the community was invited to a Christmas Sing-a-long, where families joined Rachel Drew in a sing along featuring Christmas favourites.



### Bray Library

Bray library hosted a Seasonal Wreath Making workshop on 6<sup>th</sup> December in collaboration with Festina Lente. The event kicked off with an enriching session of journaling and intention setting, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The library maintains its focus on literacy and education with its engaging Storytime sessions for primary school students, with five classes visiting each week—one from every local school. The literacy schedule

## DECEMBER 2023



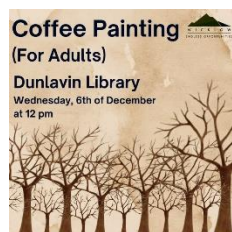
includes Toddler Storytime on Mondays at 10 am, Afterschool Storytime on Tuesdays at 3.30 pm, Afterschool Comic Club on Thursdays at 3.30 pm, STEAM Saturday from 10 am to 12.30 pm, and Teen Comic Club on Saturdays at 3 pm.

Reading enthusiasts of various ages and tastes can indulge in monthly book club discussions. The Junior Book Club meets on the 2nd Monday, where "Sam Wu is not afraid of Ghosts" by Katie and Kevin Tsang was recently explored. Crime Book Club meets on the 2nd Tuesday to dissect "A Killing in November" by Simon Mason. Michael's Book Club gathers on the 2nd Wednesday, discussing "Bad Blood" by Darna Sage. Ruth's Book Club, held on the last Wednesday, recently explored "The Coroner's Daughter" by Andrew Miller. Lastly, the Lit Fic book club, which meets on the last Thursday, delves into the intricacies of "Marzahn mon Amour" by Katja Oskamp. The library, as a hub for literary exploration and community engagement, invites all to participate in these reading activities.

Bray Library celebrated Nollaig na mBan on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January with harp music from Rachel Duffy.

### Dunlavin

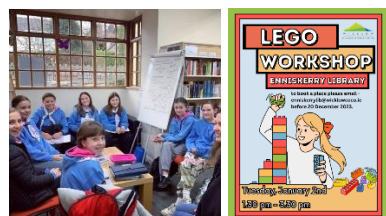
Dunlavin Library hosted a lovely event on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of December. Participants enjoyed a sustainable painting session using only 3 ingredients – coffee, water and paper to create a beautiful watercolour painting.



### Enniskerry Library

Irish Girl Guides Delgany Unit visited Enniskerry Library recently. The unit split in two - half explored the village and practiced their compass skills - while the others visited the library to work on their Book Lover Badge.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> January, Susie Maloney facilitated a LEGO workshop for children from the entire community of Enniskerry with a particular welcome for children who have recently arrived in the locality.



## DECEMBER 2023



### Greystones Library

The Cool Food Christmas Cookery Workshop took place on Saturday 16th December as part of our celebrations for Family Time at your Library.

Author Sam Blake did a reading, followed by a question and answer session on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December as a thank you to all our book clubs.

Sustainable Sewing will commence in January and run for 3 sessions. Participants will turn old garments or fabrics into bags, clothes and jewellery.

### Tinahely Library

Tinahely Library invites families to get into the festive spirit with a Christmas Arts and Crafts event happening at the library! Whether you're a seasoned crafter or just looking for a bit of escapism this event is for you. No prior skills required—just bring your enthusiasm, and we'll provide the materials. 12th Dec Christmas Arts & Crafts

Simona reads to babies and toddlers every Wednesday morning at 10.00, all babies and minders welcome!



### Wicklow Library

December was a winter wonderland of activities at Wicklow Town Library.

The exhibition featuring the works of local artists Conleth Gent and Andrew Halada, ran from December 12th - 28th. Originating from Co. Wicklow, these visual artists specialise in sculpture.

Local historian, Bill Nelson unravelled the captivating tale of the Junkers air crash in the Wicklow Mountains in 1946—an audience of 35 turned out for this truly informative and interesting talk.

For anyone interested in creating some Christmas decorations, adults indulged in a bauble-making workshop on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December.

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, families attended a unique t-shirt and tote bag block-printing workshop, blending creativity with practicality. This activity was part of the Family Time at Your Library annual programme.

Film enthusiasts cosied up for the film club on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, immersing them in the magic of cinema.

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of December, the library became a culinary haven with a Christmas canapé demonstration and tasting, tantalising taste buds and whetting appetites.

Embracing the spirit of giving, the library hosted a toy swap on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of December encouraging families to trade gently used toys—a sustainable and heart-warming way to share the joy of Christmas.

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, children's movie time was held, where the whole family could attend.

Concluding this festive line up on 20<sup>th</sup> December was an enlightening talk by Jim Scannell who delved into the rich history of Christmas in Wicklow with a perfect blend of education and holiday cheer.



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

There has been a successful tenderer selected in each of the Wicklow SICAP Lots for the SICAP 2024-2028+ contracts and the winning bidders have received their letter of award. In relation to Lot 15-1 which covers the Bray & Greystones MD areas the programme implementer will be Bray Area Partnership. In relation to Lot 15-2 which covers the Arklow, Wicklow and Baltinglass MD areas the programme implementer will be Co. Wicklow Partnership. Contracts to be signed shortly.

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

Consultations: Greystones-Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan; National Disability Strategy; WCC Climate Action Plan; South East Fisheries LAG Strategy; National Adult Literacy Strategic Plan; Bright Light Blueway Information evening; National Strategy for Migrant Integration; An Garda Síochána Strategic Plan for 2025 – 2027; We Act Survey - Future of the Community Sector; Parentingsupport.ie – Review; HSE Mental Health Engagement and Recovery (MHER) Strategic Plan.

Training Opportunities: Member's Information/Training Session – 'Dealing with Financial Institutions for Nonprofit Organisations' on 6th December.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: Community Monuments Fund (CMF); Built Heritage Funding Grant Schemes; Fund to support Men's Sheds; Children's Disability Service Grant Fund; Local Bereavement Development Grants; Festivals Investment Scheme; Movement for Good; EIL Explore Fund; Community Climate Action Fund; The Hybrid Social Finance Loan for Social Enterprises; Clann Credo – Community Loan Finance; LAWPRO Community Water Development Fund; Climate Energy Fund; Trinity School of Education/Leavers Climate Action Project; LEADER funding.

See [www.countywicklowppn.ie](http://www.countywicklowppn.ie) and Wicklow PPN Facebook page for further information on above and more.



## **Economic Development, Planning, and Infrastructure**

### **1. Economic Development**

#### **Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2029**

The Local Economic and Community Plan Framework (LECP) was approved by the elected members of Wicklow County Council and the first two-year implementation plan is currently being finalised.

#### **Town Regeneration**

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

Blessington is a pathfinder town and is the first to receive funding for a Town Centre First Masterplan. The masterplan will provide Blessington with a clear framework to positively develop the town now and into the future.

The draft masterplan has been received and is with the Planning Department and Town Regeneration Office for observations and corrections.

##### **Blessington Town Team**

A working group made up of members of the Blessington Town team has been established to oversee the implementation of the Town First Policy.

##### **Arklow Town Team**

The Arklow Town Team is busy preparing for the Christmas festivities incorporating the charming streets and magical lights.

##### **Bray Town Team**

Discussions are continuing on the future establishment of a Bray Town Team.

##### **Greystones Town Team**

“Christmas in Greystones” has been well attended and the “Christmas Plaza Market” will open every weekend up to Christmas.

### Wicklow Town Team

**The Wicklow Murals – South Quay Connectivity Project:** All six murals have been completed along the connectivity route.

A smaller scale mural trail (12 locations) has also been commissioned and commenced and when added to the six larger scale murals will form a full walking 'creativity' focused trail for families.

The steel and bronze wire sculptor Heron by local Wicklow Artist, Emma Jane Rushworth has been erected at the leisure area side of the Scouts Hall. It is set in Wicklow granite overlooking the Quays.

Under this project, a Corten fabricated steel ship has been mounted to the wall on the side of the Town Hall which leads to the port area. This is softly lit from behind to ensure it will not impact on wildlife.

### Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

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

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

**Blessington RRDF:** Blessington has been awarded over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) to be used for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a vacant/derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway.

**Baltinglass RRDF:** The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow have come in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the necessary technical plans are complete in order for the works to commence. Works on the Public Park and playground are underway.

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



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

**URDF Call 3:** The URDF announced recently that Wicklow will receive €2.5 million to assist long term vacancy and dereliction. Four properties have been chosen (two in Arklow and two in Wicklow) and the process has commenced in acquiring these properties. An information gathering notice has been published on a number of the properties seeking information to be directed to the Council.

DHLG&H have stated that funding is available to identify more properties based on residential capacity, town centre location, and whether they are located close to a URDF supported project.

In early 2024 it is expected that the Minister will be announcing a Call 4 Funding.

**Bray Harbour Improvements:** A tender will be issued when the URDF funding has been confirmed for the next phase of the project. A business case has been sent to DHLG&H and a tender brief is being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for the proposed works.

### **Tourism**

**Social Media Campaign:** The final focus of the three month social media campaign will be on Christmas and will finish at the end of December 2023.

**Radio Show on French Radio Station:** Wicklow featured on Sud Radio, one of France's leading regional radio stations. 'Le Monde à Découvrir' 'Winter in Ireland' was the theme of the show. This was a fantastic opportunity to raise the profile of Wicklow as a year round outdoor destination and shows the very good relations Wicklow has with Tourism Ireland's office in Paris.

**Christmas in County Wicklow:** Wicklow Tourism is promoting Christmas in Wicklow through social media channels, from shopping in Wicklow to the magnificent Christmas lights in the towns to the top Christmas events taking place including the magical trip to visit Santa.

### **Abbey Grounds, Wicklow**

Regular meetings continue to take place with the Project Management Team for the Abbey Grounds. A structural engineer and quantity surveyor has been appointed to progress the works on the Coach

House/Café. Public lighting design, mechanical and electrical works for the project is advancing also. A detailed archaeological survey of the existing ruins is being carried out.

### **Wicklow County Campus Masterplan**

Wicklow County Council will use the Masterplan to act as a catalyst for economic development in the county and attract investment and further development. Expected delivery of the Masterplan is the end of January 2024.

### **Special Projects**

**Greystones Enterprise Hub:** The purchase of the Enterprise Space in Greystones has completed and work is underway to prepare for fitting-out the building.

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

**Carnew Remote Working Hub:** A tender has issued for the design of the former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew for the provision of a remote working hub and ancillary facilities.

**Marketing Plan:** It is expected that a consultant will be appointed before the end of 2023 to develop a Marketing Plan for County Wicklow, highlighting the availability of Remote Working Hubs and Broadband Connection Points.

### **Offshore Renewable Energy**

The Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Network continues to meet regularly and engage with the offshore renewable energy companies who are developing proposals off the coast of County Wicklow.

### **Skills Strategy**

The Draft Skills Strategy has been presented to the Skills Taskforce and is under final review. It is expected to launch early in 2024.

### **Food and Beverage Strategy**

Work continues on the development of an Action Plan to achieve objectives set out in the Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy.

Wicklow Naturally plans to outsource the production of highly engaging short videos to be put out on social media. To help increase the reach for those videos, Wicklow Naturally has a new TikTok channel where the videos are initially tested before sharing on Instagram and Facebook. The first video featured Wicklow Wolf Brewery. The overall campaign will be reviewed early in the New Year.

### **Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS)**

A Priming Grant of €199,600 was awarded to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG from Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS) for the provision of Design Services for a Food Incubation Development Hub at Wicklow County Campus.

### **Glendalough Masterplan**

A photo call for the launch of the Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park Visitor Executive and Management Masterplan is taking place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 at the Glendalough Visitor Centre, Glendalough.

## Local Enterprise Office

LEO Objectives
<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>

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	-35/ €950,895 -8/ €12,829.95	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	27/ € 659,731 2/ € 2,642
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			

METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	44	60	31
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	84 / 7 programmes	120	73
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	653	1200	751
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	8	20	24

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	498	500	568

## DECEMBER 2023



Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	426	390	502
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METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021/2022	2022/2023	Year to Date 23-24
No. of Secondary Student Participants	900	1100	1028

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2022	2023	Year to Date 2023
Number of Applications	Programme review	Programme review	Programme review

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2022	2023	Year to Date 2023
Trading Online Vouchers	67 Total value: € 138,464	38 (meet demand)	78

Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	11	11
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Micro Assessment by a Green Expert	9	17	5
No. of Companies who have undertaken a DigitalStart Assessment by a Digital Expert	4	6	1

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	15	11	5

## DECEMBER 2023



### November 2023 Events:

- Over 100 female entrepreneurs joined a celebration of National Women's Enterprise Day on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at Powerscourt House to listen to the inspirational stories of guest speakers Anna Daly, TV presenter and entrepreneur and Elaine Geraghty, CEO of Ardmore Studios.
- The official launch of Clermont Screen Hub took place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October. The Hub was officially opened by Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Minister Simon Coveney, Minister of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment and Minister Simon Harris, Minister of Further Education.
- Export Development Programme commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> November with 8 Wicklow based participants. This is a 2-month programme of 6 workshops and a number of one to one mentor sessions which will culminate in each participant having a Export Strategy for their business to start their internationalisation journey.

### December 2023 Activities

- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out several times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Business Advice Clinics continue to run 3 days per week to provide advice to those individuals hoping to start a business and to assist existing businesses grow and develop.
- The Owner Manager Development Programme (15 week programme), with 17 participants, concludes on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.

### Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Autumn/Winter Business and IT Skills training programme is nearing completion. The training programme for Spring 2024 has been prepared. Courses are open for bookings through our online portal on [www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow](http://www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow).

## 2. Planning & Development

### Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

**Healthy Placemaking, Climate Action** and **Economic Opportunity** are the three overarching cross-cutting themes that inform and shape all aspects of the plan. The plan also includes the Core Strategy and the Settlement Strategy for the County.

The plan also includes the **Town Plans** for the following settlements: - Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, Ashford, Aughrim, Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely, Avoca, Donard, Newcastle, Roundwood, Shillelagh and Laragh- Glendalough.

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 as altered is available to view here –

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

### Variation No. 1 to the CDP (Rathdrum Town Plan)

Variation No. 1 to the County Development Plan was adopted and came into effect on 6th November 2023. The variation is in relation to Rathdrum Town Plan and has rezoned 0.81ha of land at Ballygannon, Rathdrum, from 'RN – New Residential' to 'OS2 – Passive Open Space' and amended the written text of the Rathdrum Town Plan to reflect the changes consequent from the rezoning.

The Variation process and the Wicklow County Development Plan as varied is available to view here - <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-CountyPlans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Variation-to-the-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

### Local Area Plans

There are 5 Local Area Plans in Wicklow for the following settlements – 'Bray Municipal District', 'Wicklow Town - Rathnew', 'Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole', 'Arklow & Environs' and 'Blessington'. We are in the pre-draft stage for preparing a new plan for 'Wicklow Town - Rathnew', 'Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole' and 'Blessington'.

### Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan

Pre-draft consultation closed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 for the new Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan, with 84 submissions received. A well-attended public information day was held on 14 September 2023. All valid submissions are currently being reviewed and considered and a draft plan is being prepared. Once the draft plan is prepared it will go out on public consultation for 6 weeks with submissions invited from everyone.

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

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

### Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan

The review of the existing plan has commenced and preparation of a new Local Area Plan for the settlements of 'Greystones-Delgany' & 'Kilcoole'. An online consultation portal has been created for this pre-draft stage. The closing date for submissions is 31st January 2024. Public open days are scheduled for Greystones and Kilcoole in January 2024.

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

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

### **Blessington Local Area Plan**

The team are at the data gathering and surveying stage and are in the process of preparing the online consultation web portal for the pre-draft consultations for Blessington. It is intended to start pre-draft plan public consultation for Blessington in Q1 2024.

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

The current LAP's for these three settlements, as well as the Arklow and Environs LAP and Bray MD LAP are available to view [here](#)

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

### **RZLT – Residential Zoned Land Tax**

The RZLT is a tax aimed at activating serviced and residentially zoned land for housing. Local authorities are responsible for identifying the land that is liable to pay the RZLT. The final RZLT 2024 maps were published on 1st December 2023. The Minister has advised that the first liability date for the tax is proposed to be deferred from 1st February 2024 to 1st February 2025. The RZLT maps will be updated annually.

All relevant information and the final RZLT 2024 maps are available to view [here](#) –

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

### **Vacant Site Levy**

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

More information can be found online at the following link

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

### **Heritage & Biodiversity Office**

**National Biodiversity Action Plan Funded projects: All projects listed below are complete and recoupment claims have been submitted to NPWS.**

- Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project
- County Wicklow Hedgerow survey;
- Woodland Monitoring project (bats)
- Wicklow Pond Restoration



**County Heritage Plan (CHP):** The programme of activities for all projects listed below is complete and recoupment claims submitted to The Heritage Council

- Glendalough Community Excavation and outreach:
- Wicklow Barn Owl Project:
- Seasonal nature workshops; Programme of monthly, free, family friendly events at East Coast Nature.
- Our Wicklow Heritage communications programme
- Community Archaeologist Part Time Service

**Conservation Management of Council owned lands (Climate Action):** Complete, report adopted by Bray MD at meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Archaeology:** Community Monuments Fund- CMF 2023 Five projects were undertaken under the CMF. Total funding allocation €156,331; Drumgoff Barracks €5,000; Kilpipe Church and Graveyard €30,523; Newcastle Castle €29,982; West Wicklow Historic Graveyards €30,000; Derralossary Church and graveyard interpretation €12,669, Arklow Castle €48,157. All projects complete, recoupment claims, and final reporting submitted.

**Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture):** 17 built heritage conservation projects were completed under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) representing a spend of the entire Wicklow allocation of €101,000. 1 Historic Structures Fund (HSF) project completed for Crusher House, Barravore (stream1) €35,000.

**New Built and Archaeological grant funding programmes for 2024 announced.** Advertisements and PR issued for Community Monument Fund 2024 , Built Heritage Investment Scheme & Historic Structures Fund 2024 . Closing dates for members of the public 19<sup>th</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> January respectively.

## Development Management

### Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
Received (Valid)	1,345

A total of 123 valid applications were received during November as follows:

Type of Development	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 Number Received
Individual Houses	30 (25 refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	07
Agricultural Structures	00
Commercial	09
Other Developments**	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>

*\*\*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.*

## Large Housing Developments

PRR23845, Russelstown Property Development Ltd, 95 residential units, Ballyraine Upper, Arklow  
PRR23/854, Rycroft RW Limited, 80 residential units, Rossana Lower and Newrath, Rathnew

## Decisions issued in respect of applications in November 2023

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	02
Individual Houses	01 (01 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	71
Other Developments Requiring EIA	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

## Decisions issued between January to November 2023

	<b>30/11/2022</b>
Total Number of decisions issued	985
Total Number of decisions to grant	814
% Grant Rate	83%
No of applications withdrawn	

## Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanála

### Strategic Housing Development

- ABP-313229-22 – Lands at Coolagad, Greystones (586 Units) Members Meeting 27/4/2022, CE report forwarded 30/5/2022
- ABP-313314-22 – Lands at Fassaroe and Monastery, Bray (650 Units) Members Meeting 10/5/2022, CE forwarded 07/06/2022 – ABP unable to determine within the 16 weeks statutory timeframe.
- ABP-313442-22 – Lands at the former Heiton Buckley site on Castle Street, Bray, (139 Units) Members Meeting 10/05/2022, CE report forwarded 22/06/2022
- ABP-314686-22 Lands at former Bray Golf Club Lands, Off Ravenswell Road and Dublin Road, Bray, Co. Dublin and Co. Wicklow, (586 Units), Members meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022, CE report submitted 21/11/2022

### Strategic Infrastructure Development

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

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

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

### Substitute Consent

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for the remainder of the development on lands at Ashford, Co. Wicklow - ABP-312283-21 refers.

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

### EPlanning

The ePlanning system went live on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 with applications being submitted online almost immediately. Since going live **49.31%** of applications have been received online (941 received in total: 464 through eplanning and 477 hard copy). The month of September showed for the first time, online applications exceeding hard copy applications 53.03% to 46.97% and October increased to 55.73%, November was an even 50% applications received through the eplanning system.

There has been a mix of application types received including:

- One off houses/extensions
- 26 apartments in Bray
- 68 dwellings in Rathnew
- 7 new houses in Greystones
- Coastal defence works and commercial units
- 12 residential apartments in bray
- Installation of an aircraft noise monitoring terminal at Roundwood
- Change of use of Boswell House Ancillary Building and The Stables to 7 apartments providing short stay residential accommodation
- Construction of 131 parking spaces which includes 24 electrical charging points at Templaraine, Arklow
- Construction of 30 no. dwellings, Wicklow Town
- 397sqm industrial unit in Kilcoole
- Erect 14,500m2 of photovoltaic panels, Arklow
- Large Scale Residential Development – 352 residential units, Tinakilly, Rathnew
- Erecting a 21m high multi-user monopole structure together with antennas, dishes & associated telecommunications equipment, Delgany
- Construction in 2 phases of three storey split level school building at Loreto Secondary School, Bray.
- The installation of 3,492sqm of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on ground mounted frames on an agricultural plot within the existing complex at Shelton Abbey Open Prison, Arklow.

## Planning Enforcement

New Files	7
Advisory Letters	35
Warning Letters	8
Enforcement Notices	2
Legal Files	0
Closed	14

## Vacant Sites

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

01 sites on appeal to ABP – Section 9 (Notice of Entry)

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

## DECEMBER 2023



### Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	1

### Short Term Letting – 01/10/23 – 31/10/23

Applications received for Registration in October 2023	2
Complaints received in October 2023	0
Warning Letters issued in October 2023	2
Enforcement Notices issued in October 2023	0
Legal proceedings in October 2023	0
Files under investigation as of 31/10/2023	55

### 3. Environment

#### Litter/Waste Management

LITTER/WASTE ENFORCEMENT	
No. of Complaints Created	114
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	170
No of Litter Fines Issued	6
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	1
No. of Warning Letters Issued	4
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	0
No. of Burning Applications Granted	29
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	6
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	2
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	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	17
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	3
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	8
Income - Litter	€1,200.00
Income- Waste Management	€4,768.72

#### Climate Action

##### Update on posts for the Climate Action Team

- Biodiversity Officer (position offered)
- Environment Awareness Officer (advertised)

#### Climate Action Plan

The Public consultation of the Plan, SEA and AA closed on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Approximately 49 submissions were received, with 20 submitted through the Consultation Hub.

The Chief Executive Report will be presented at the CABA SPC on 6<sup>th</sup> December, the PDE SPC on 14<sup>th</sup> December and then circulated to all members. The draft plan will be placed on the January meeting for resolution of the full Council.

The Plan is statutory obliged to be adopted by the 24<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Community Climate Action Programme**

Funding of €646,000 allocated to Wicklow. This programme will be launched on the 6<sup>th</sup> December with Communication campaign and Grant Application Pack.

### **Climate Adaptation**

#### **Coastal Erosion**

Wicklow County Council continues to reduce and manage the risk of flooding in developed areas by cooperating with other agencies in implementing government policy in respect of the management of Coastal and Fluvial Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion Risk

It is a priority of Wicklow County Council to work in conjunction with Irish Rail on the East Coast Coastal Erosion Study (ECRIPP East Coast Railway Infrastructure Protection Project) and seek funding from OPW as appropriate

Wicklow County Council has tendered for consultants to carry out a Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study for Brittas Bay and Ennereilly Beaches with a closing date in December.

Applications for funding from the OPW under Minor Works are also being progressed for the following:

- Brittas Bay and Ennereilly Beaches (Funding submitted to OPW)
- Arklow North Beach (OPW have indicated that WCC can apply for funding for a Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study, this is being progressed currently)
- Greystones North Beach (Funding submitted to OPW)

### **Mid-East Energy Unit**

The Mid-East Energy Unit Steering Group meeting took place in September in Clermont Campus followed by site visit of energy improvements and biomass heating system.

- ISO 50001 training ongoing for the 3 local authorities
- Draft appraisal reports compiled by CODEMA to inform the pilot project for swimming pool energy upgrades
- Ongoing energy review and collaboration with Wicklow, Kildare and Meath Energy Officers. Monitoring and Reporting review now completed for Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.
- Fortnightly meetings held with Energy Officers (Meath, Kildare & Wicklow), technical working group meetings also ongoing.
- Collation of energy projects across the region for 2024/2025 with support from SEAI Pathfinder
- Attended the annual District Heating conference in Dublin to inform District Heating projects in the region

### Wicklow County Council Energy

- A Wicklow Energy Team meeting was convened in November, the energy team outlined the current status of ISO 50001, challenges faced, planned energy projects and the council's Significant Energy Users to the team
- SEAI ISO 50001 - Wicklow County Council has signed up to the SEAI ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme, a year-long programme which will allow the Council to apply for ISO 50001 accreditation and hosted the last meeting of the SEAI ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme. The Energy Team is preparing for the final day 10 in December, working with appointed ISO mentor on action plan. Currently tendering for 3 year certification process.
- The Energy Office is currently working with its energy partners CODEMA to develop a pipeline of projects to reach our 2030 targets. Targeting large energy users across the council's building stock.
- Ongoing communications with Coral Leisure & Shoreline Leisure, addressing challenge of decarbonising the swimming pools. Currently preparing feasibility studies on leisure centre upgrades.
- Tender issued for the decarbonising project for Bray Fire Station, tender process currently ongoing
- Updating Energy Elephant to include all energy users

### Environmental Awareness

- An adaption of the "Freshwater Detective" training (developed as part of the East Wicklow Rivers Trust's Small Streams Characterisation Programme) was held in Ballyraine café in Arklow on 06.11 and was attended by students from Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir. This training was facilitated by the AEAO and the Community Water officer from LAWPRO.
- The last of the scheduled bicycle repair and maintenance workshops organised by the- AEO and delivered by an instructor from the Bray Wheelers cycling club will be held on Sat. 18.11, bringing the total number of workshops completed to seven. More workshops may be scheduled depending on demand, as they have proved to be popular.
- Tidy Towns awards have been judged and awards are being finalised. Awards are allocated in multiple categories and a ceremony will be planned for early January 2024 to present these awards.
- The 2GoCup scheme, funded as part of the Green Hubs initiative, has now been replicated in Blessington (four outlets) and is currently being rolled out in Dunlavin. It is hoped that this will continue to gain traction in communities throughout the county.
- A final promotional push is underway to bring more schools into the 2023 Relove Fashion competition.
- Annual tree grant applications are being processed and are currently with the relevant MDs for a review of planting locations.
- The composting for schools programme has been launched for this academic year, with 12 schools already signed up, and potentially more to be added.



## Harbours and Ports

### Harbour Projects

Arklow Harbour	Grant Available	Project Update
Inner Harbour Arklow pontoon	€286,355	Pontoon is fully installed. Water and electricity to be connected from the quayside
South Quay Arklow Storage facilities	€391,025	Construction is well underway. Expected completion Jan 2024
Arklow Harbour welfare facilities	€100,000.00	Unit is construction. To be installed in December.
Wicklow Harbour Navigation aids	€50,000	This project is completed. The lighthouse will also be repainted in the coming months.
South Quay Wicklow Harbour pontoon	€52,000	Installation is complete.
North Quay, Wicklow - additional quay space	€120,000.00	Works are underway to be completed mid December
Wicklow Harbour - concrete works	€150,000	Works completed on surface of Packet Pier. Concrete pumped into West (new) Pier to repair damage under water level. Project Completed.
Wicklow - welfare facilities	€100,000	The unit has been delivered. Currently being commissioned. Some site works remaining to be completed.

## DECEMBER 2023



### Wicklow Harbour – Cargo Movements

#### Harbour Movements

Month/ Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-23	7	4	3	10	7	3
Feb-23	9	6	3	12	7	5
Mar-23	7	5	2	9	6	3
Apr-23	7	6	1	8	6	2
May-23	7	5	2	9	6	3
Jun-23	5	4	1	6	4	2
Jul-23	8	4	4	11	7	4
Aug-23	8	7	1	9	8	4
Sep-23	8	4	4	12	8	4
Oct 23	9	7	2	11	7	4
Nov 23	8	6	2	10	0	0
<b>2023 Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>34</b>

### Pollution Control

#### Pollution Response & Investigation

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

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

- 1 Verification inspection to confirm compliance with Advisory notice was carried out.

#### Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

#### Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

- 12 Inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.
- 0 Inspection of farm carried out on foot of pollution complaint.

#### Private Water Supplies

- Several Private water supplies monitored and results awaited.
- 0 Boil water/Do not consume restrictions placed on private water supplies
- 1 Boil water /Do not consume restrictions lifted from private water supplies after remedial actions and compliant verification testing were undertaken.

#### Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 7 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 58 Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.

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

- 4 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.

#### Well Grants

- 18 New Water Grant applications received
- 3 New Well granted
- 18 New Pumps granted
- 31 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 29 Inspections in advance/completion of works

### **Petrol Vapour Recovery Regulations**

- 0 Stage II Petrol Vapour Recovery pump installation issued with certificate of testing.
- 1 Stage I Petrol Vapour Recovery underground tank applications assessed.
- 15 Stage II Petrol Vapour Recovery pump installation was inspected.
- 0 Stage I Petrol Vapour Recovery underground tanks were inspected.

### **Deco Paint Solvent Regulations**

- 3 Vehicle refinisher installations inspected.
- 2 Vehicle refinisher installations issued with certificate of compliance.
- 5 Paint retailers inspected
- 1 Vehicle refinisher installations issued with letter.
- 32 Dry Cleaner installations inspected
- 1 Dry Cleaner installations issued with certificate of compliance.

### **Solid Fuels Regulations**

- 21 Inspections of wholesalers, retailers and distributors of solids fuels.
- 1 information campaign conducted.

### **Planning & Development**

- 20 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural, commercial and forestry development.
- 3 compliance checks on conditions relating to existing permissions

### **Control of Dogs**

#### **Dog Licences**

303 reminders for dog licences were sent out in November 2023.

663 dog licences were renewed, 604 general and 59 lifetime licences. 338 licences were purchased on-line at [licences.ie](https://licences.ie). This figure of 663 is a 50.3% increase on the amount of licences purchased in November 2022. A social media campaign has been running regarding the Dog Wardens calling to locations in the north of the country, which appears to have an impact on the amount of licences purchased.

#### **Blue Flags**

Applications have been submitted to An Taisce for renewal of blue flags at Brittas Bay North & South and Greystones South. Closing date for this application was 30<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Green Coast Awards**

The Green Coast Award recognises beaches for their clean environment, excellent water quality, natural beauty and effective and appropriate management to ensure the protection of the natural environment.

Green Coast Award sites are exceptional places to visit and enjoy our rich coastal heritage and diversity.

An important aspect of the Green Coast Awards is the involvement of Clean Coasts Groups of which there are currently over 1800 comprised of tens of thousands of volunteers nationwide.

These volunteers participate in community clean-ups and in cooperation with Local Authorities help sensitively manage their local beaches throughout the year.

**To be considered for the award, beach applicant sites should be:**

- Managed carefully and in close consultation with conservation organisations to account for their environmentally sensitive nature as part of a management plan.
- Cleaned of litter sensitively, without removing natural debris such as driftwood and seaweed.
- Assessed for the visual impact on the surrounding landscape of facilities and signs that may be present on the beach.

The award, which is operated by An Taisce's Environmental Education unit with the support of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Fáilte Ireland, encourages community involvement through the setting up of Clean Coasts Groups.

Clean Coasts Groups formulate their own aims, objectives and activities to clean up and protect their adopted stretch of coastline with the support of An Taisce's Coastal Programmes Officers.

Applications for a Green Coast Award are made to an Taisce and include the completion of an application form, a beach management plan and the submission of water quality sample results.

An application has been submitted for a Green Coast award at Arklow beach to An Taisce by Arklow Coast Care.

The application was facilitated by Wicklow County Council.

Results for both the Blue Flag and Green Coast Award will not be advised by An Taisce until May 2024.

Wicklow County Council intends to promote the Green Coast Award throughout the coastal districts in 2024, commencing with Greystones in January.

Active Clean Coast Groups interested in applying for a Green Coast award should engage with the Environmental Services section in Wicklow County Council, should they wish to pursue this award from an Taisce.

### **Projects Office**

#### **Whitestown Remediation Project**

The draft remediation plan has been presented to the court and has been approved in part. Preparation of the tender documents is on hold pending Court hearing.

## DECEMBER 2023



### **Avoca Mines Remediation Project**

The Council is working in Partnership with DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project

**Arklow Flood Relief Scheme** Planning Application and CPO has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. Approval has been received from OPW to move onto the next stage and appoint Byrne Looby Partners Ltd to carry out the detailed design and tender stage of the project. Contract signing will take place in December 2023.

A tender has been published for an archaeological underwater survey.

## Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

### 1. Transportation

#### Public Lighting Maintenance

The tender for the maintenance of public lighting in Co. Wicklow has been issued, and the tenders have been assessed. A new PL maintenance contract is in place, with a contract length of one year with a maximum two possible annual extensions.

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **311 – 2.03%** of total stock of 15,341. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we are currently drawing up a program with the ESB to repair these faults. For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults over the previous weeks.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	4	3	14	1	4	26
Cable Fault (Attended)	2	1	3		4	10
ESB Interface Required	2	2	12	4	4	24
ESB Required (Attended)	10	14	6	14	12	56
Knock Down (Attended)						0
Materials Required	2	4	4		2	12
No Supply		1	1	1		3
On Hold	4	4	8	2	8	26
Submitted	28	37	33	15	30	143
TMR	4	2			1	7
Tree Cutting Required	1	2	1			4
<b>Grand Total</b>	57	70	82	37	65	311
<b>Percentage Not Working</b>	1.87%	2.89%	2.43%	1.32%	1.76%	2.03%

Date	20/11/2023	27/11/2023	04/12/2023
Access Issues (Attended)	23	23	26
Cable Fault (Attended)	10	10	10
ESB Interface Required	26	25	24
ESB Required (Attended)	61	61	56
Knock Down (Attended)	0	0	0
Materials Required	10	12	12
No Supply	3	3	3
On Hold	29	30	26
Submitted	166	178	143
Traffic Management Required	2	3	7
Tree Cutting Required	9	5	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>311</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE NOT WORKING</b>	<b>2.21%</b>	<b>2.28%</b>	<b>2.03%</b>

## Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The survey element of the above project commenced on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November in Arklow MD. This is the initial phase of the project, and the fitting of lanterns will follow on in due course.

## Speed Limits

The speed limit signage is currently being erected by each Municipal District throughout the County. The tender for the periodic speed limit signs at schools was won by PWS Signs Ltd. Work has commenced on the fitting of sockets for the signage, with the signs due to be erected by Christmas.

## Transportation Statistics

	Total 2021	Total 2022	Total 2023	October 2023	November 2023
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	923	838	964	<b>91</b>	92
<b>Road closure applications</b>	53	78	40	<b>3</b>	1
<b>Road Opening licences</b>	1575	1414	1867	<b>68</b>	120
<b>Abnormal Load applications</b>	54	60	51	<b>6</b>	7

## Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	<b>978,502</b>
Greystones Municipal District	<b>283,577</b>
Wicklow Municipal District	<b>382,442</b>
Arklow Municipal District	<b>217,731</b>
Parking Permits	<b>98,600</b>
Parking Fines	<b>455,556</b>
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	<b>2,416,408</b>



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

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website [www.n11m11.ie](http://www.n11m11.ie) on 14 December 2021. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in 2021. Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation was due to commence in Q1 2022. The scheme is currently suspended as no funding was provided to continue during 2022 or 2023. The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet with the public and any interested parties.

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

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

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

Following further analysis, an emerging preferred option for the provision of bus priority measures between Junction 6 (Fassaroe) and Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) have now been identified. A Public Display event was held in the Glenview Hotel on 12th September 2023. The display presented the overall preferred option for the BPIS between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview). The public display documents are available to view on the project website [www.n11m11bpis.ie](http://www.n11m11bpis.ie). The deadline for receipt of submissions on the emerging preferred option was extended by 3 weeks to the 3rd November 2023. The Project Team are now considering all submissions received.

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

A noise assessment for the 7 no residential properties to the east of the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The options review and design commenced in March 2023 following confirmation of funding from TII. Site investigation works were completed in November 2023. This information is currently under review by the Design Team and is necessary to inform the final design option selected.

### **N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment**

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

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

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

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

The Phase 2 Options Selection work is currently progressing under TII's Project Management Guidelines.

### **N81 Pavement Capital Works**

Resurfacing works of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove is now expected to be carried out in Q1 2024.

### **N81 Rural Traffic Calming & Bus Stop at Hollywood**

The Feasibility and Options report was finalised and approved by TII in November 2023. TII have also approved funding to proceed with the design phase in accordance with TII Standards. Wicklow County Council will now progress this project to the design phase to be followed by any necessary statutory approvals process.

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

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

TII have indicated that they do not support the proposed additional access to the N81. As a result, the option for a parking facility accessed from the N81 has been discounted from the current scheme. A way forward is to consider suitable parking locations that can be accessed from the regional/local road network.

### **N81 Blessington Gateway Project**

The Feasibility and Options report was finalised and approved by TII in October 2023. TII have also approved funding to proceed with the design phase in accordance with TII Standards. Wicklow County Council will now progress this project to the design phase to be followed by any necessary statutory approvals process.

### **N11 Pavement Resurfacing Works**

N11 surfacing works between junctions 7 and 16 were completed by the N11 maintenance contractor over the period from May to September 2023. Surfacing works were also completed between Junction 5 and Junction 7 on the N11/M11 during September and October 2023. These works were carried out at night to minimise traffic disruption.

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

Proposals for bus-based Park & Ride facilities are being progressed adjacent to the N11/M11 at Junctions 6, 11 and 16.

A part 8 for the Park and Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe commenced on Wednesday 23rd August 2023 with plans and documents on public display until Wednesday 20th September 2023. Submissions or observations were accepted on or before 12 noon on Wednesday 4th October 2023. The Chief Executives report was presented to the full council meeting of Wicklow Co. Co. on the 6th November 2023 where it was passed following a vote by Council.

### **Arklow Public Realm**

The Parade Ground Public Realm works have reached a significant milestone, with substantial completion and successful snagging. Currently, the project is in the 12-month defects period, during which any necessary remedial works are addressed. The Contractor referred the project to Conciliation where meeting took place on the 17th and 18th October, final settlement agreement confirmed in October. Following a meeting with DoHLGH, Project Completion Reports were submitted with additional funding requested.

### **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

After the successful non-statutory public consultation, we are currently reviewing submissions received as part of the public consultation process. We are in the final stages of Phase 2 Options Selection, which will determine the preferred route for the Greenway. Following this, we will proceed to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation.

### **Baltinglass Town Centre Plan**

The consultants are actively engaged in preparing documents for the delivery of a revised tender package for the town centre works, focusing on a reduced scope. Simultaneously, they are conducting a value engineering exercise specifically targeted at this aspect of the project. The objective is to bring the scheme within the budget limits currently in place. Reduced scope town centre works presented at Baltinglass Municipal District meeting. Final tender package issued by Arup. The direct labour crew have met regarding the undergrounding of utilities to de-risk project. Setting out of services by direct labour crew has been carried out. Meeting took place with ESB, Eir, Enervio to check provisions for utilities Arup to make design changes to advance undergrounding. Arup progressing contract documents for undergrounding element of works.

### **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

The current focus of the project is on the detailed design phase, including the preparation of associated documents such as the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) documentation. These efforts are crucial to advance the scheme towards obtaining statutory approval. Given the potential impact of the project on the Poulaphuca Special Protection Area (SPA), it is necessary to prepare a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to assess and document any potential effects on the SPA. Once the detailed design and associated documents, including the NIS, are completed, the project will proceed to seek statutory approval from An Bord Pleanála.

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

The CPO Notice to Treat was issued on all landowners in October 2023. There is active engagement between Wicklow Roads Project staff and landowners who are part of the CPO, with a number of landowner meetings taking place on November and December. Consultants are making steady progress in the detailed design phase and are currently focused on preparing the tender documents for the construction phase which are anticipated to be issued in January 2024. Simultaneously, we are in the process of developing tender documents for the appointment of a consultant to oversee the works during the construction phase.

### **Wicklow Greystones Greenway**

Wicklow County Council has recently engaged consultants Atkins for the project and their work is already in progress, focusing on data gathering. Additionally, the consultants are actively organizing detailed environmental surveys, which will play a vital role in shaping the route options and conducting constraint studies.

In April, a productive meeting took place with Irish Rail concerning the East Coast Rail Infrastructure Protection Project. During this meeting, an agreement was reached to facilitate the sharing of environmental data, fostering collaboration between the involved parties.

Meeting with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) took place in June. The meeting provided an opportunity to engage with the NPWS and discuss important aspects related to the project.

Atkins and Irish Rail consultants Jacobs are in communication regarding environmental surveys with a further joint meeting taking place in late August. Constraints Report has been finalised. Landownership maps are being completed. Draft Stage 1 Route Corridor Assessment issued from Atkins. Draft public consultation material is being developed. Independent agronomist appointed for the scheme.

### **Blessington eGreenway**

Under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, we have formally submitted our planning documents to An Bord Pleanála. Given the need to conduct comprehensive additional surveys and generate a substantial volume of supporting material, An Bord Pleanála has granted an extension to the submission deadline, now set for January 2024. We are currently in the process of finalising the reports, documents, and drawing responses, aiming to submit them to An Bord Pleanála before the January 2024 deadline.

### **Active Travel Updates**

#### **Projects under Construction**

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

The construction of cycle and pedestrian facilities on the R-772 Dublin Road. The scheme involves construction of a footpath and segregated cycle facilities on the R-772 between the M11 Junction 11. The works are substantially completed.

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

Provision of 2.8km of segregated cycle track along the R-772 Wexford Road, Arklow between Knockmore Roundabout and M11 Junction 21. The scheme will also construct 1.4km approx. of pedestrian footpath. Works continue to progress, with drainage and utility works on northbound carriage to be completed. Accommodation works have been completed on the southbound carriageway. Preparations will begin for slipform kerbing on the northbound carriageway.

### **Bellevue Junction Improvement works in Delgany (Greystones MD)**

Upgrading of the junction of the R-762 and Bellevue Hill. The project will improve pedestrian accessibility and safety and enhance village centre aesthetics by widening and landscaping the paved pedestrian areas, upgrading public transport facilities, undergrounding services, and upgrading public lighting. Surfacing was recently completed.

### **Kilcoole Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements (Greystones MD)**

Provision of 500m of new footpath and 500m of cycle track along the R-761. Works are being progressed by the NTA deliverables team. Works are substantially completed.

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Front of school implementation works are substantially completed. Waiting on ESB power disconnection for signage. High friction surfacing has been completed. Remaining signage to be installed once available.

### **Safe Routes to Schools: St. Johns Senior National School, Arklow (Arklow MD)**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Front of school implementation works are substantially completed. High Friction Surfacing (HFS) will be completed once weather permits most probably spring 2024 subject to funding.

### **Safe Routes to Schools: SS Michael and Peter Junior School (Arklow MD)**

Proposals to improve road safety and make the areas adjacent to the schools safer, so that children can be encouraged and facilitated to walk and cycle to the schools safely. Construction works are substantially completed. High Friction Surfacing (HFS) will be completed once weather permits most probably spring 2024 subject to funding.

## **Project Updates**

### **Bray Dart Interchange (Bray MD)**

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. Drainage laid across the level crossing by Irish Rail contractor. David Walsh Civil Engineering appointed as contractor. ER and RE appointed. Works are expected to start in January 2024.

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

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle facilities along Marlton Road, Rocky Road, R-750 and Station Road to provide strategic routes to Wicklow Train Station. Feasibility report completed. Surveys ongoing for Baseline assessment. Rapid Build Options Assessment Report issued to NTA for approval.

### **Greystones Active Travel - Pathfinder Project (Greystones MD)**

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to Greystones Train Station. The spine route extends from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Centre. The project will include improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Design of pedestrian crossings on Charlesland Dual Carriageway agreed with NTA. Rapid Build Options Report for the main spine route approved and work has commenced on design. Tender documents to be completed for procurement of traffic signals. Works are expected to start in January 2024.



### **Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme (Greystones MD)**

Provision of improved pedestrian facilities and public realm improvements. Part 8 report issued to Members and will be brought to December DM for approval.

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

Provision of new pedestrian facilities and road safety improvements along the Ballyguilemore Road between Carrig View and the entrance to the proposed new St. Patricks GAA Pitch. The scheme includes for new footpaths and road widening works. Further Ecology surveys have been completed to address comments raised in Part 8 submissions. Part 8 report approved by members. Design to be finalised.

### **Convent Road (Greystones MD)**

Design and implementation of safety and accessibility improvements on Convent Road. Work to commence on preliminary design. Options assessment complete. Meeting held with Council Members to present to preferred option. Meeting held with DCC to go through the design and discuss their concerns. Part 8 approval will be required.

### **Imagery**

#### **Safe Routes to Schools – St. John’s SNS, Arklow** **Coolgreaney Road - Before and After**



**Safe Routes to Schools – SS Michael and Peter, Arklow**  
**Castle Park School entrance – Before and After**



**St. Mary's Road School Entrance – Before and After**





### Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

The Bridge crew has completed repair and maintenance works at 15 bridges and another 1 has commenced in recent days. A 2nd crew from the non-national road section is working on bridges during November and December. Several bridges with recent damage following storms have been notified. These are currently being assessed for works next year.

### Machinery Yard

Works continue on the maintenance of council vehicles, plant and machinery. Winter maintenance machines are currently out in the districts as the season has started. The Consultant, appointed to compile the licence application for Dangerous Substances (oil, fuel, etc.), made a site visit this week. A response to issues arising is currently being put together. Bill Redmond and Chris Kavanagh completed IMI EV maintenance training in preparation for EV in 2024.

### Invasive Species (Japanese Knotweed)

The list for next year has commenced with recording of queries from the public. Several sites have been notified to us and will be assessed prior to the 2024 works.

### Winter Maintenance

The season started on Monday 15th October. 11 call outs up to December 6th. Of these, 3 were double runs. Salt supplies are currently being topped up from the national centres. 600 tonnes were collected in November and a further 600 tonnes have been ordered for collection next week.

### DTTAS Claims for 2023

The deadline for payments and claims passed on December 5th. Following the excellent work by Districts staff and Roads staff, all claims have been submitted for this year. Thanks to all involved.

### Fire Service

#### Operational Fire Statistics November 2023

There were **106 incidents** attended during the month of November 2023. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **135 occasions** including **8** mobilisations in other counties. On one occasion an incident commander requested additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance due to the scale of the incident encountered (see domestic house fire on 24/11/2023 below).

Operational activity for the month of November 2023 **decreased by 20% (-34 mobilisations) on the preceding month** (October 2023: 169 mobilisations). Most of this decrease can be accounted for by a reduction in bonfires and similar outdoor fires set maliciously on and around Halloween (monthly decrease -32 mobilisations). While there was an increase in fire in buildings (+13 mobilisations), fire in vehicles (+6 mobilisations), entrapments (+4 mobilisations) and oils spills (+4 mobilisations) this was balanced by a decrease in road traffic collisions (-4 mobilisations), alarm activations (-9 mobilisations), flooding incidents (-6 mobilisations) and other false alarms (-9 mobilisations).

22% of mobilisations across the county were to RTCs, 14% of mobilisations were to fires in buildings, 14% were to alarm activations, 10% to vehicle fires, 8% to outdoor fires started maliciously and 5% were to ambulance assist incidents.

Operational activity for the month of November 2023 **was down 2% (-3 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2022** (November 2022: 138 mobilisations). There was an increase in fires in buildings (+6 mobilisations), an increase in entrapments (+5 mobilisations), oil spills (+4 mobilisations) and alarm activations (+3 mobilisations). There was a corresponding decrease in rural fires (-4 mobilisations), small urban fires (-4 mobilisations) and tress down (-3 mobilisations).

## Sample Incidents (November 2023)

- 03/11/2023 Rathdrum and Wicklow town crews attended a fatal RTC at Ballyknockan, Ballinaclesh following a collision between a motorcycle and a van.
- 04/11/2023 Greystones and Wicklow town crews attended a potentially serious domestic fire in Kilcoole.
- 15/11/2023 Carnew and Tinahely crews attended a fatal agricultural accident at Coolafancy.
- 24/11/2023 Rathdrum and Arklow were initially mobilised to a domestic fire at Ballinabarney, Rathdrum. The fire involved an oil tank that created a fireball. An additional crew from Wicklow Town was mobilised and the water tanker from Greystones. The fire was successfully contained and extinguished.
- 28/11/2023 Bray and Greystones crews mobilised to a well-developed fire at Ballywaltrim Heights. Firefighters in breathing apparatus extinguished the fire. There was extensive damage to the house and smoke affected neighbouring properties.

### Incidents in County Kildare (1-incidents total):

- 10/11/2023 Dunlavin crew were mobilised to an electrical incident in Newbridge.

### Incidents in County Wexford (7-incidents total) examples:

- 18/11/2023 Arklow crew supported the Gorey crew at a single vehicle RTC involving a patient extrication at Scarnagh.
- 18/11/2023 Arklow crew supported the Gorey crew at a 2-car RTC at Ballymoney.
- 22/11/2023 Arklow crew attended a fatal incident involving a tractor at Killinierin.
- 23/11/2023 Arklow crew supported Gorey crew at a fatal RTC involving a pedestrian in Gorey.
- 23/11/2023 Arklow crew supported Gorey crew at a domestic fire in Gorey.

### Fire Prevention Statistics November 2023

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	11	1	3	0	6
Revised FSCs	0	0	2	0	4
FSC 7-Day Notice	2	0	4	0	8
Regularisation FSCs	1	1	1	1	0
DACs	13	0	8	0	18
Revised DACs	1	0	0	0	3
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0	0	0

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 37 planning files during the month of November 2023.

The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 37 of these files.



Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	8	0	0	3	3
Circuit	3	0	0	0	3
Dangerous Substances Act	0	1	2	0	0
Explosive Act	1	0	0	1	0

## **Building Control Statistics November 2023**

### **Commencement Notices for November 2023:**

Commencement Notices Submitted: 33

- 7 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 19 Opt Out Declarations
- 4 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 3 Seven Day Notice

### **Submission Statistics**

- 58 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 70 % of Commencement Notices (23No.) required at least one issue of Revised Information. 30% of those (7No.) required further RI request

Of the 23 requiring Revised Information;

- 3 are CN with Compliance Documentation (13%)
- 16 are CN Opt Out (70%)
- 17 is CN without Compliance Documentation (0.4%)
- 3 are Seven Day Notices (13%)

Submitted CNs this period related to;

26 Residential Developments of which;-

- 4 are Multi- Residential Unit Developments;
- 11 are One-Off Residential Units;
- 11 are Extensions to existing Residential Units;

7 Non-Residential Developments.

0 CNs received and Invalidated in November

\*Above figures exclude assessment/validation/invalidation during November of RI responses for Submissions initially received in prior months. For Commencement Notices only, BCMS retains the initial submission date regardless of the number of BCA, RI requests.

## **Civil Defence**

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November Wicklow County Council held an awards night to honour more than 40 Civil Defence Volunteers for their dedicated service to the community of County Wicklow. This annual event is an opportunity to recognise and pay tribute to long-serving Volunteers across County Wicklow.

On the night, long service awards were presented by the Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Emer O’Gorman, and the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, to Volunteers who had 10, 20 and 30 years’ service. The outstanding award presented on the night was to Sheila O’Neill who received a long service award for 60 years’ service with Wicklow Civil Defence. These awards demonstrate the commitment and enthusiasm of the volunteers to the Civil Defence organisation.



## Organisational Development & Financial Matters

### 1. HR & Corporate Services

The following interviews were held in November 2023:

- Shortlisting Civil Defence Officer
- Clerical Officer
- Librarian
- Senior Library Assistant
- Executive Engineer
- Biodiversity Officer

#### Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023
Managerial/Administrative	301	304	316	318
Professional/Technical	126	131	134	143
Outdoor	262	260	260	263
Temporary/Seasonal	37	35	68 *	64
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>793</b>

\* Increase due to lifeguards (lifeguards retained for 1<sup>st</sup> week of Q3)

#### **Freedom of Information**

November 2023: 5	November 2022: 11
January - November 2023: 97	January - November 2022: 78

#### **Ombudsman Requests**

November 2023: 2	November 2022: 1
January – November 2023: 28	January – November 2022: 35

#### Press Releases

November 2023 – 12

#### Register of Electors

Online applications via [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) continue to be received and processed daily.

We are continuing with our weekly social media campaign. We also forwarded static images to TD's, Councillors and Senators to share on their social media platforms. Letters, forms and posters have issued to all transition, fifth and sixth year heads to encourage voter registration from 18 year olds and pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds. We have also liaised with all sports clubs in the county and requested that they put our media images on notice boards within the club facilities.

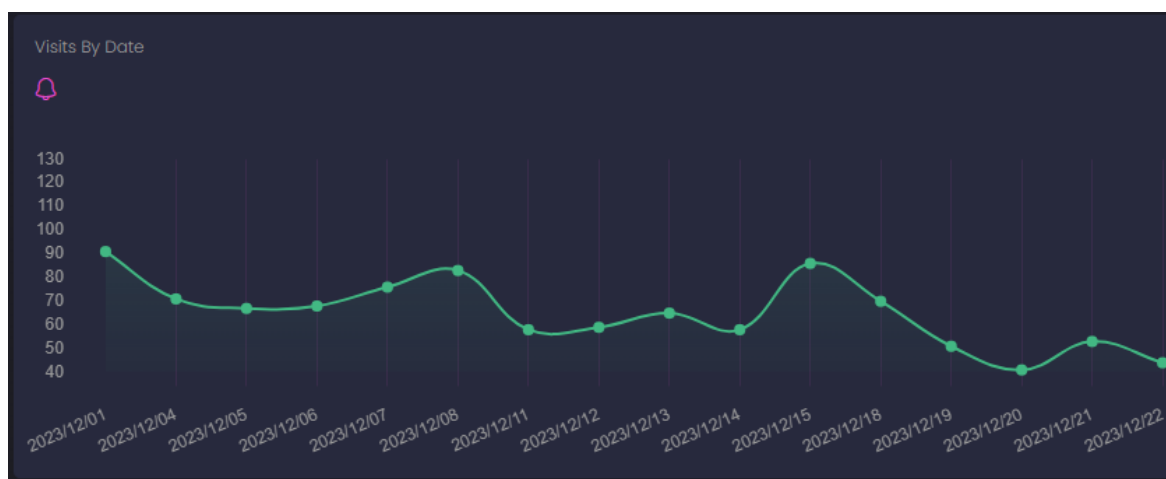
Wicklow County Council is the first local authority in Ireland to roll out the new software release of the new iReg database, having been involved in its development and testing and it is providing greater assistance in processing applications. This includes a quicker turnaround time and if there are queries regarding any aspect of the application we can contact the applicant much quicker to resolve any issues. This new system also provides for easier processing of applicants from other counties by automatically notifying the other local authority that the applicant has moved to Wicklow and to remove them from their database.

The Boundary Commission Report was issued at the end of August 2023, and we await the legalisation in relation to these changes.

## Customer Service Innovation Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2023 – December			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to 0404 20100	6,364	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,203
No. of Customer Service Emails received	200	Revenue Transactions	1,431
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	14	Housing Counter Visits	210

Total in person visits for December 2023 – 1,041



## Communications

All-Ireland Community & Council Awards 2024 – 24 nominations submitted.

## 2. I.C.T.

### Operations

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

### GIS & Systems Analysis

- The final version of the **RZLT** database was returned to the Department.
- **BER** data from iHouse now available on the Housing GIS Viewer.
- **Greystones LAP Online Portal** went live last Wednesday.
- **LAP Geodatabase** is now live within the Forward Planning section and is currently being populated.
- **Transport Study** commenced for Wicklow LAP. Initial Isochrones for bus stops have been processed.

### Infrastructure

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

### 3. Finance

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2023							
	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	38,800,854	42,194,421	92%	(42,484,132)	(46,575,078)	91%	(3,683,278)
Road Transport & Safety	24,456,559	24,371,150	100%	(17,345,327)	(16,722,878)	104%	7,111,232
Water Services	4,588,747	5,649,853	81%	(5,400,838)	(6,606,528)	82%	(812,091)
Development Management	14,517,020	14,288,049	102%	(9,561,842)	(8,574,520)	112%	4,955,178
Environmental Services	12,420,935	13,559,916	92%	(2,189,848)	(2,628,049)	83%	10,231,088
Recreation and Amenity	8,490,875	8,984,450	95%	(1,115,739)	(1,085,428)	103%	7,375,135
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,654,567	2,106,287	79%	(726,188)	(1,049,228)	69%	928,379
Miscellaneous Services	8,796,597	9,728,355	90%	(12,461,157)	(13,260,436)	94%	(3,664,561)
Central Management Charges	19,699,167	21,746,281	91%	(939,255)	(1,050,000)	89%	18,759,912
Local Government Fund				(12,669,773)	(13,821,571)	92%	(12,669,773)
Commercial Rates				(28,674,222)	(31,405,046)	91%	(28,674,222)
	<b>133,425,321</b>	<b>142,628,762</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>(133,568,323)</b>	<b>(142,778,762)</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>(143,002)</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 1st November 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

#### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2023					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2023	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/11/2023
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	17,814,239	87,411,151	(82,490,858)	(527,040)	22,207,492
Road Transport & Safety	(37,383,838)	10,693,088	(4,706,999)	(441,360)	(31,839,109)
Water Services	(13,023,496)	211,691	1,531,468	(157,640)	(11,437,977)
Development Management	(26,681,391)	5,632,383	(14,322,883)	(400,076)	(35,771,968)
Environmental Services	276,031	4,294,932	(3,399,495)	(551,250)	620,218
Recreation and Amenity	(2,034,378)	2,838,671	(945,029)	(322,587)	(463,322)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,040,366)	1,409,858	(251)	(294,424)	(925,182)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,515,300)	(2,772,702)	(854,311)	959,934	(13,182,379)
	<b>(73,588,498)</b>	<b>109,719,073</b>	<b>(105,188,359)</b>	<b>(1,734,443)</b>	<b>(70,792,227)</b>

## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2023										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2023	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/11/2023	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	4,598,635	31,609,924	(32,122)	(526,200)	(41,897)	35,608,339	(28,495,914)	7,112,426	349,858	81%
Rents & Annuities	3,281,584	16,119,906	0	(31,918)	0	19,369,572	(15,866,358)	3,503,214	0	82%
Housing Loans	440,112	2,199,494	0	0	0	2,639,607	(2,364,736)	274,871	0	90%

**NB** Rates accrual represents full year accruals while rents and loans are accruals year to date. The rates collection, rent collection and housing loan collection percentages are below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

## General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2023

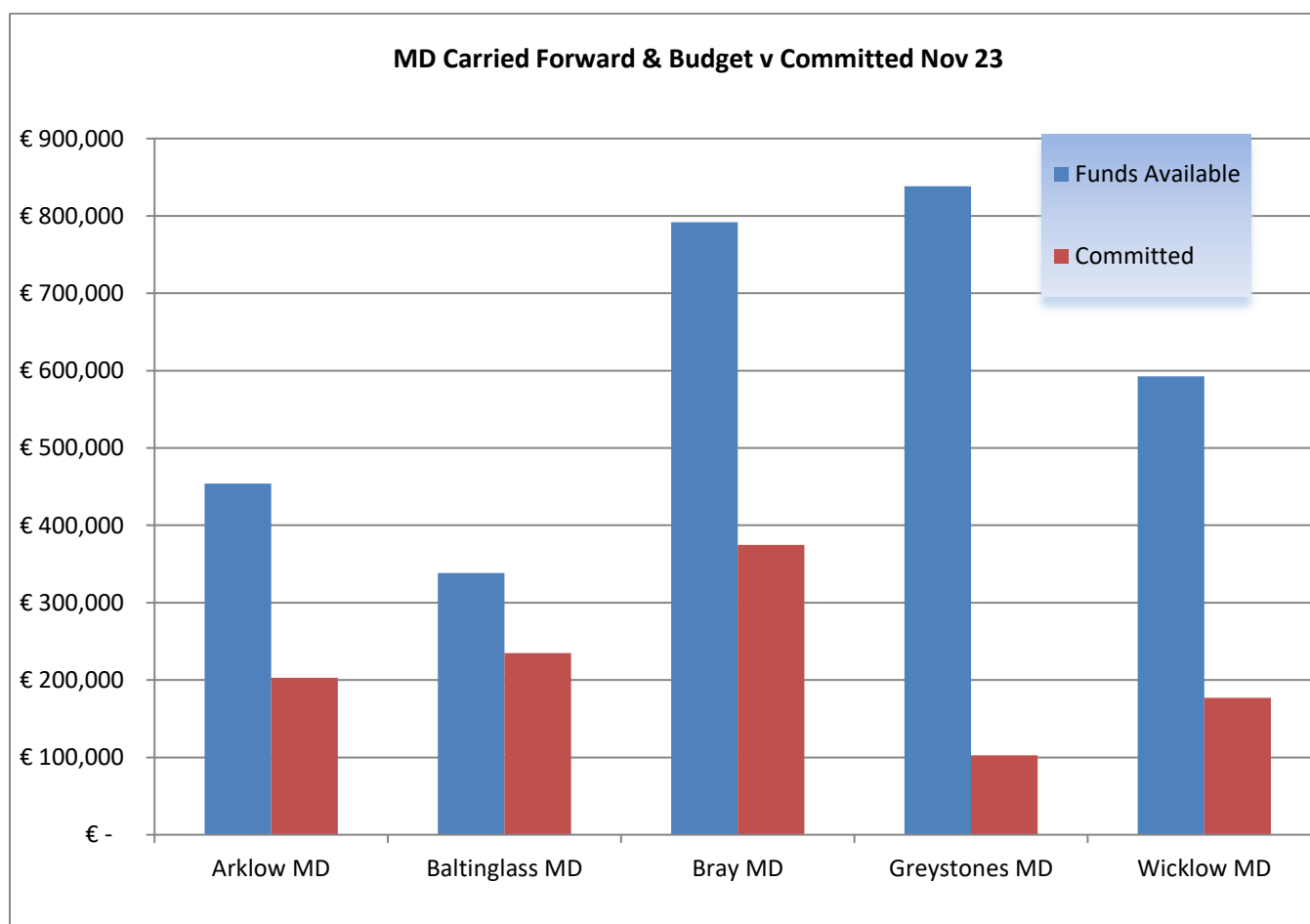
The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% resulted in an additional €1,110,384 in the Revenue Budget for 2023. This money was ring-fenced for Discretionary Funding in the Municipal Districts. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2023 is set out below:

Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	34,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	10,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	66,500
Christmas Festival	20,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	80,000
Festivals / Other	5,000	10,000	32,000	10,000	5,000	62,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Discretionary Funding	208,197	208,197	353,278	208,197	208,197	1,186,066
<b>Total</b>	<b>269,197</b>	<b>246,197</b>	<b>426,778</b>	<b>246,197</b>	<b>250,197</b>	<b>1,438,566</b>



Municipal District carried forward allocation and budget '23 and expenditure for 2023 is as follows:

Municipal District	C/F from 2022	Adopted Budget 2023	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	184,779	269,197	453,976	202,782	251,194
Baltinglass MD	92,215	246,197	338,412	234,622	103,790
Bray MD	365,206	426,778	791,984	374,690	417,294
Greystones MD	592,012	246,197	838,209	102,801	735,408
Wicklow MD	342,471	250,197	592,668	176,999	415,669
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,576,683</b>	<b>1,438,566</b>	<b>3,015,249</b>	<b>1,091,895</b>	<b>1,923,354</b>





## Capital Investment Programme 2023-2025

The Capital Investment Programme 2023-2025 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL	Dev Charges <sup>1</sup>	Loan	Grant Aid <sup>2</sup>	Other <sup>3</sup>	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	131,973,000	111,600,000	110,500,000	354,073,000	-	30,000,000	317,055,000	7,018,000	354,073,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	22,234,170	50,280,424	55,097,634	127,612,228	28,687,388	7,000,000	83,774,840	8,150,000	127,612,228
WATER SERVICES	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	-	-	300,000	-	300,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	13,400,000	2,650,000	2,935,000	18,985,000	1,400,000	-	11,870,000	5,715,000	18,985,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	5,630,000	18,200,000	29,350,000	53,180,000	-	-	42,630,000	10,550,000	53,180,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	9,420,327	10,297,355	13,975,000	33,692,682	13,370,536	-	19,522,146	800,000	33,692,682
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	3,375,000	12,772,000	18,300,000	34,447,000	1,781,250	-	29,229,650	3,436,100	34,447,000
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	800,000	400,000	400,000	1,600,000	-	-	-	1,600,000	1,600,000
OVERALL TOTAL	186,932,497	206,299,779	230,657,634	623,889,910	45,239,174	37,000,000	504,381,636	37,269,100	623,889,910

## Capital Funded Projects

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

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