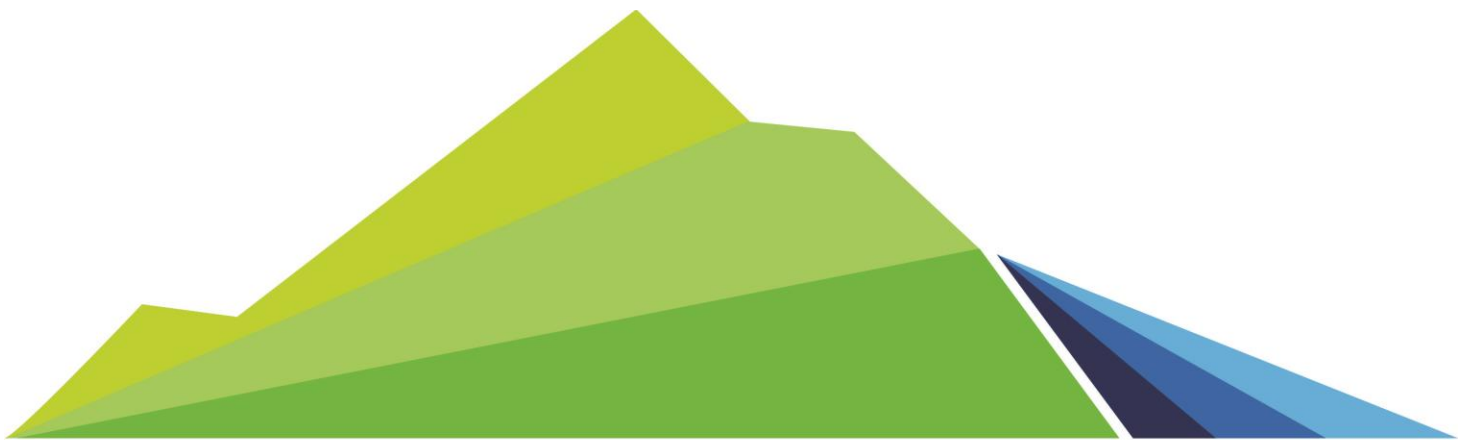


MARCH 2023



Wicklow County Council

Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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This month:

Built Heritage Funding for County Wicklow

Wicklow County Council welcomes the recent announcement of €101,000 funding for built heritage in County Wicklow through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2023.

The BHIS is one of two built heritage funding schemes run by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and administered by local authorities.

A total allocation of €101,000 has been provisionally approved for 19 projects in Wicklow under the BHIS following initial assessment and shortlisting by Wicklow County Council. Projects to be funded include a mix of privately and publicly owned buildings, churches, houses, historic landscape features and monuments.

Long Service Awards

Wicklow County Council recently held an awards night to honour 137 employees who between them have over 4,000 years of local authority service.

On the night long service awards were presented by the Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Emer O Gorman, and the Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, to staff who had 25, 40 and 50 years' service working with Wicklow County Council or other Local Authorities.

The awards event was an opportunity for the Council to recognise and pay tribute to long-serving members of staff, indoor and outdoor, across the many functional areas and the five Municipal Districts of Wicklow County Council including the libraries and the fire service.

Overall ,137 staff were honoured, including: eighty three 25-year awards, fifty three 40-year awards and one, very special, 50-year award.

Housing & Community

1. Housing

	February 2023	February 2022
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	2720	2509
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	190	236
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment		
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	23	21
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	33	31

Allocation of Social Housing

	February 2022	February 2023
Wicklow County Council	21	09
Approved Housing Bodies	03	23

Social Housing Stock

	February 2023	February 2022
Tenancies occupied	4,797	4,659
Total weekly rental accrual	315,011.58	305,498.46
Arrears	3,133,385.32	2,695,018.42

Re-Lets

MD -	Added to list Year To Date 2023	Completed Year To Date 2023	Vacant March 2023*
Arklow	4	5	12
Baltinglass	2	3	26
Bray	8	21	55
Greystones	1	1	5
Wicklow	3	5	45
Totals	18	35	143

*Excludes CPOs. Includes 23 Hillview properties

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
Schemes on Site	Units	CURRENT STATUS
Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build (Changed to Affordable scheme)	36	Completion anticipated Q2 2023
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completion anticipated Q2 2023
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completion anticipated Q2 2023
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completion anticipated Q1 2024
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completion anticipated Q4 2023
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Tender being assessed
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Started on site
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Part 8 confirmed, tender being prepared.
Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin, Wicklow	10	Detailed design being finalised. Site start during Q2 2023
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA.Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Stage 2 received. – part 8 ongoing
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5
Burnaby, Greystones	75	PPP Bundle 5
Ballinahinch Ashford	25	Design Stage
Sheephouse Arklow	30	Design Stage

Public Private Partnership.

- A site at Tinahask in Arklow has been included in Bundle 6 of the PPP Wicklow County Council are progressing with a design on the site in parallel.

Part V

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	2	18 Delivered, 2 Units Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Rathnew	3	3 Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Delgany	3	Scheduled Q2 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Scheduled Q2 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	6	Scheduled Q1/Q2 2023	CALF
Arklow	16	Due for delivery 2023	CALF
Blessington	5	Delivery Due Q1 2023	CALF
Bray	1	Delivery due Q2 2023	CALF
Delgany	3	Delivery Q2 2023	WCC
Greystones	1	Delivered Q1 2023	WCC

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Bray, Rathnew, Wicklow, Rathdrum, with delivery ranging from 2022-2024. 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

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	158	80 delivered Q1 2023 78 due to deliver Q1/Q2 2023	CALF
Rathdum	13	Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Scheduled Q2 2023	CALF
Arklow	33	Due for delivery 2023	CALF
Blessington	40	Delivery Due Q1 2023	CALF
Bray	16	Delivery Date Q3 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.

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

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

Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

- › Grant funding for private house - €2,299,375 (2022 budget figures) - €201,510.39 spent to date
- › Grant funding for social house - €818,793.00 (2022 budget figures) €176,526.10 spent to date
- 142 open applications (some carried over from 2021/2022)
- 216 approvals (some carried over from 2021/2022)

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Grants Received/Processed	249	216	266	327	281	83

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 April 2023

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road – 2 x 2 bed properties	Contractor on site – expected completion in June 2023
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Contractor on site - EXPECTED COMPLETION date 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	Detailed design complete – stage 3 approval received – tender documents being prepared

Vacant Homes Scheme

There are now 17 CPOs underway on long term vacant houses around the county.

30 South Green, Arklow	House now Vested (registered to Wicklow Co Co). Refurbishment to start shortly.
5 Priory Way, Delgany	House now Vested (registered to Wicklow Co Co). Refurbishment to start shortly.
8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy	House allocated and tenant in situ.
5 Ashwood, Roundwood	Refurbishment almost complete.
108 Charnwood, Bray	Oral hearing held by An Bord Pleanála on 17 th August 2021 but no decision yet notified to parties. Still waiting March 2023.

10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow	House now in possession of WCC since 8 th of November 2022. Compensation package to be agreed.
33 Connolly Street, Arklow	Refurbishment underway.
6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Refurbishment to start shortly.
114 Hillside, Greystones	Deal now agreed.
18 Delgany Glen, Greystones	Refurbishment underway.
2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town	House now Vested (registered to Wicklow Co Co). Refurbishment underway.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	CPO confirmed. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry served. In our possession since 28 th of June. Compensation now agreed. Title to be transferred to WCC shortly.
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	House now acquired by agreement with Link Financial and in possession of the Council since 25 th of August 2022.
53 South Green, Arklow	Notice to Treat served 9 th January 2023. Compensation now agreed.
53A South Green, Arklow	Notice to Treat served 9 th January 2023. Compensation now agreed.
41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry	Vesting Order No 1 of 2023 being processed by Tailte Éireann.
2 Harbour Road ("Merdenville"), Arklow	CPO published Dec 2022. Negotiations underway with owner to agree purchase.
CPO No 1 of 2023 to be published Wed 14 th March (house in Bray).	Newspaper ad and site notice due 15 th March.
2 further CPOs (further house in Bray and Wicklow Town) to be published before end of March.	

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

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 has been a lot of interest from the public and Wicklow County Council received over 140 applications for the 36 properties. We are currently in the process of writing out to eligible applicants with housing offers for the site and hope to begin the formal process of selling the houses in the near future. The scheme was very popular and well received locally.

No. of units	Beds	Type	Story	House Price	Minimum House Purchase Price
6	2 bed	Terrace	2 Storey	€280,000	€222,716
6	2 bed	End Terrace	2 Storey	€290,000	€236,702
16	3 bed	Terrace	2 Storey	€315,000	€252,295
8	3 bed	End Terrace	2 Storey	€330,000	€275,618

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), These will be provided directly by the developer . Wicklow County Council also has plans for further developments throughout the county.

Croí Cónaithe (Towns, Cities and Rural)

This is a new scheme announced by the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Govt in July 2022. Up to €30,000 grant available for houses which are:

- Vacant for more than 2 years.
- Built prior to 1993.
- Within a town or village (rural houses not covered initially)
- To be used as the applicant's permanent dwelling.

The grant amount can be increased to €50,000 in cases where the building is Dangerous or Structurally Unsound (requires an Engineers Report). Buildings which are currently non-residential (such as vacant commercial units – shops etc) but which the applicant intends to convert to residential use, can also qualify.

It is intended to revitalise towns and villages by addressing vacancy and dereliction.

The Croí Cónaithe scheme has been extended in November 2022 to include rural locations also, opening up the scheme to derelict farmhouses etc. There has been a lot of interest in this scheme to date.

Number of Applications	2023 to date	2022 (6 Months)
Applications Received	8	18
Applications being processed,	8	15
Applications refused or withdrawn	0	3

Infill Sites

- Blackhills – Two 3 bed semi-detached properties allocated February 2023
- Knockroe – Two 4 bed fully accessible homes has been tendered and a contractor appointed. Contractor commenced on site - expected completion date Q4 2023

Housing Maintenance – Boiler servicing & safety checking campaign

The focus now is on servicing and safety checking of 1416 Oil and 2269 Gas boilers around the county. Contractors are reporting **access rates as low as 60%** which is surprising given the current “Cost of Living” crisis with high fuel costs. It is in tenants’ interests to ensure that they provide access to contractors to service and safety check boilers. Oil boilers in particular will consume more fuel if soot build up is not removed at the annual service. Also important checks and replacement of components such as fuel hoses are carried out on oil boilers which prevents expensive loss of fuel and

environmental damage which is extremely expensive to clean up. All new boilers fitted now are condensing boilers which have higher thermal efficiency and use less fuel.

Local Authority Home loans up to February 2023

Received	Approved in principle
10	0

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	February 2023
Applications Received	395	4
Completed	97	0
Declined	274	1
Ongoing	24	24

Homeless figures for February 2023

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 28/02/2023	Year To Date	As at 28/02/2022
No of New Presentations	36	74	17
No. of Repeat Presentations	0	0	0
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	12	33	7
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	24	41	7
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	0	0	3
No. of Children	20	57	11
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	12	25	2
Family Circumstances	14	26	7
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	1	2	0
Mental Health	2	5	0
Risk of Homelessness	2	3	3
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	2	0
Addiction Issues	6	7	1
DV/DA	3	6	2
Medical Issues	0	1	1

Overcrowding	1	3	0
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	4	13	2
ASB:	3	4	1
Rough Sleeping*	0	3	0
Sofa Surfing*	6	12	5
Staying with Family*	11	17	1
Staying with Friends*	1	2	3

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 28/02/23	
Families	16
Adults	29
Children	47
Single individual	1

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 28/02/23								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	20	24	19	3	3	9	2	2
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 28/02/22								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	15	17	16	6	4	2	1	1

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, 431 households (316 families & 110 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 28th February 2023. (184 homeless cases, 236 prevention cases to date and 10 direct provision). 127 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

Kilmantain Hill has 11 rooms to support persons either homeless or in danger of same,

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 - All of the apartments in the hub are now occupied. One family has now transitioned to a permanent allocation and this vacancy has been filled. There are plans underway to move two further families to more permanent accommodation in the near future thus freeing up accommodation for 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.

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 has made arrangements to 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 Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients.

A homeless outreach service has being 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 to achieve 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 14 clients under Housing First and it is hoped that a further allocation will take place before the end of March 2023. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation – the main issue facing this programme is the availability of one bed units in suitable locations with easy access to services etc.

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

Ballintreskin – 3 houses	Contractor on site- expected completion date August 2023
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Approval received for funding from Department, – Part V111 approved detailed design and tender documents complete - due to the reduction in the number of houses required stage 3 application will have to be re -submitted to the Department.
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses	Due to change in the family circumstances – site selection will need to be reconsidered – consultant appointed to examine same.

Fire safety annual checks on Halting sites for 2022 has been carried out and the 2023 will commence in September 2023.

Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

All 71 properties given approval for energy efficiency fabric upgrade works in 2022 have been substantially completed. Surveying of the houses identified for 2023 programme is substantially completed.

Ukrainian Response

- As of 9th March, the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 1,480 (although we know that there are considerably more in the County)

This number is broken down as follows –

- Arklow MD 240 No.
- Baltinglass MD 326 No.
- Bray MD 622 No.
- Greystones MD 152 No.
- Wicklow MD 140 No.

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- 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.
- WCC are working through a list of pledged properties within the County and matching families accordingly. As of the 9th March we will have housed 201 number displaced Ukrainian people into pledged properties
Larger buildings and vacant units are also being identified and explored as potential options for medium to long term accommodation.
- A new National Vacant Home call lead by Local Authorities has been launched, and is currently in place for a property to be pledged directly to Wicklow County Council with a second promotional advertising campaign now running both nationally and locally from 4th -25th March. offerahome@wicklowcoco.ie
- The Community Reponse Forum continues to meet on a fortnightly basis

2. Community

Age Friendly Ireland

County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027

The County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027 was formally launched by Mary Butler, TD, Minister for Mental Health and Older People at County Buildings on 27th February 2023. Senator Pat Casey, Age Friendly Ambassador for County Wicklow, elected representatives, Members of the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance and County Wicklow Older People's Council Executive attended the event.



The Age Friendly Programme Manager presented information on the next steps on implementation to the elected representatives at the Wicklow Council Meeting, on 6th March 2023.

The Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance will meet next on 15th March 2023, to agree work plan for 2023.

Older Person's Council

The County Wicklow Older People's Council Executive will hold its next meeting on 24th March 2023, to agree workplan for 2023 and recruitment plan for new members.

TrioBikes for CommunityCare

Wicklow County Council purchased two triobikes, with funding from the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, to be deployed to two community care centres for the use of older people in their care and vulnerable older adults with limited mobility, for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Service Level Agreements (SLAs) have now been signed with to Baltinglass Community Hospital and Carnew Community Care Centre for use of the triobikes, which be delivered to them as soon as insurance cover is confirmed.



One triobike was delivered to Carnew Community Care Centre in time for the launch of their new 3 year Strategy, by Minister Mary Butler and Senator Pat Casey, and is now in use by trained volunteer pilots for residents at Carnew Community Care Centre.

CLÁR

The Department of Rural and Community Development have advised that a call for applications for CLÁR Funding 2023 is due to open in March.

Wicklow Arts Office

2023 Arts Act Funding

Wicklow County Council Arts Office invited applications for 2023 Arts Act Funding. This funding is designed to support artists, arts festivals, arts participation and art form development across Wicklow.

The scheme was open for applications from 9th January 2023. Arts Act Funding forms part of a wider set of actions initiated and developed by Wicklow County Council directed at supporting quality practice and public participation in the arts in the county. The closing date for applications was 27th February 2023.

Wicklow Arts Office held two Funding Clinics in February 2023 to support artists and communities submit applications for 2023. Over 90 people attended the live sessions and 163 viewed the recordings on YouTube.

This year Wicklow Arts Office received 60 applications for the Artist Award Scheme, 12 applications for Artist & Community Collaboration Award Scheme and 9 applications for Arts Festival Award Scheme. Applications were invited from all art forms including film, music, visual arts, theatre, dance, literature, architecture, animation, performance, circus, traditional arts, music, and drama.

The assessment panel were due to convene on 10th March 2023 to assess all eligible applications and the awarded artists, communities and festivals will be notified by month end.

N81 Knockroe Bends Public Art Commission

In late 2022, Wicklow County Council sought proposals for an imaginative and contemporary sculptural work which capitalises on the natural beauty of the landscape and the built environment of the many historic towns and villages along the N81 route.

This site-specific Per Cent for Art Commission for the N81 Knockroe Bends is located on the N81 south of Hollywood Cross at the junction with the local road L8314. The project consists of a realignment of the N81 over a distance of 0.85km in County Wicklow.

The budget available for the successful artist(s) for the commission is €100,000.00; this was an open call for a two-stage competition.

Four artists were shortlisted and asked to complete Phase 2 of the application process and on 21st February 2023, the assessment panel selected the successful artist for the commission and the artist has been notified.

The Irish Writers Centre - National Mentoring Programme

The Irish Writers Centre's National Mentoring Programme is an opportunity for selected writers across Ireland to receive sustained creative and professional mentoring from an established Irish writer of their choosing.

This year, Wicklow County Council has committed to support up to three writers from County Wicklow. The programme is open to writers of; literary fiction, creative non-fiction, children's / YA fiction, and poetry.

The closing date for applications was 2nd March 2023.

Wicklow Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027

On 23rd February 2023, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media Catherine Martin TD and Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O'Brien TD announced the roll out of 31 new Local Authority Culture and Creativity Strategies 2023-2027 at an event at Farmleigh in the Phoenix Park.

Wicklow's new strategy reflects the creative ambitions of communities around the county which will be supported by the Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027. There will be a greater focus on health and wellbeing, creative industries, climate action, children and young people, and social sustainability. Priority will also be given to develop creative opportunities for marginalised communities and those at risk of disadvantage.

Artist Connect Blog Series

Artists Connect seeks to support artists across all art forms who reside in or are from County Wicklow to connect, share and learn from each other.

The seventh Artist Connect blog entry is by writer, filmmaker and podcaster, Conor Dowling. Conor has directed numerous short films and is the co-creator of the hit podcast 'Fad Camp' on The Headstuff Podcast Network. Read it [HERE](#)

The eighth Artist Connect blog entry is by actor and film maker Brian Matthews Murphy. Brian has written, produced and directed shorts films which have been selected for numerous festivals both in Ireland and around the world. Read it [HERE](#)

News

Voice of the Child Research

Ahead of Cruinniú na nÓg, an annual creative festival for children and young people taking place on 10th June 2023, Wicklow Arts Office invited the children and young people of County Wicklow to have their say. Cruinniú na nÓg provides an opportunity to try out new creative activities and Wicklow Arts designed a survey to determine what activities the children and young people of the county would like to have on the programme with the opportunity to participate closing on 10th March 2023.

Wicklow Sings Festival

Wicklow Arts Office provided support to the Wicklow Sings festival, which returned on Saturday, 11th March 2023 at Temple Carrig School in Greystones.

Established in 2016, this year's festival will bring together 14 of the best choirs in Wicklow, showcasing voices from over 400 people from all corners of the county.

Wicklow Artist Salon

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

This year's programme was curated and facilitated by artists Philip St John, Joanna Kidney and Olivia Fitzsimons. Each Salon focused on a particular topic and featured invited artists to explore important themes affecting the arts in Wicklow and beyond.

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The next Salon event took place on 14th March in the Mermaid Arts Centre with a focus on 'Minding Yourself'.

The line-up included Theresa Nanigian, Visual artist and Executive Coach, in conversation with Jessica Kennedy, Dance artist, Choreographer and Co- Director of Junk Ensemble Dance Theatre Company, Rónán O'Snodaigh, Musician and founding member of Kíla; Emma Finucane, Visual artist.

2023 Artist one-to-one Coaching

Wicklow County Arts Office 'Artist one-to-one Coaching Sessions' returns for 2023.

Designed to cater for a range of artists at different career stages, each successful applicant will work individually with one of our four experienced coaches from the arts and cultural sector. The goals of the sessions are agreed between client and coach.

The panel of coaches this year sees the return of Katherine Zeserson, strategic advisor, coach, facilitator, artist and educator; Susan Coughlan, independent facilitator, coach and arts consultant; Helen Meany, arts writer, arts consultant and coach, and the addition of a new coach Paula Phelan, arts consultant and founder of Traverso Coaching and Training.

Closing date for applications - 16th March 2023.

2023 Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme

Wicklow County Council invited applications under the Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme 2023. This scheme has been put in place to support Wicklow County Council's role in the delivery of the Creative Ireland Programme.

This fund is open to not-for-profit organisations, local community groups, arts, heritage, biodiversity and cultural groups, venues and societies. Applications by individuals must be in partnership with local community, arts, heritage, biodiversity and cultural groups.

Closing Date for Applications - 24th March 2023.

Job Vacancy - Arts Services Coordinator

Wicklow County Council is recruiting an Arts Service Coordinator to work directly on our 'Creative Places Baltinglass' project.

'Creative Places' will promote inclusive opportunities to celebrate Baltinglass people and place. The programme development will ensure that at its core will be a mechanism of listening and responding to the community and artists. It will celebrate the natural heritage and beauty of the town and support social regeneration alongside wider infrastructural regeneration plans.

A wide range of arts and creative experiences underpinned by the principles of socially engaged arts practice and community development will be delivered over a three year period. The post is full time 3 year fixed term tenure.

Closing Date for Applications - 24th March 2023 at 4pm

Blessington Greenway

The Planning application was lodged to An Bord Pleanála on 14th January 2022. A total number of 293 submissions were received by the Bord by the deadline of the 4th March 2022.

The submissions raised were based on the following issues –

- No Toilets – 97

- Traffic Lights/Single Lane Traffic on bridges – 239
- Parking – 94
- Traffic – 98
- Lack of Public Consultation – 137
- Trees – 25
- Fencing – 38
- Environment – 70

The Bord's decision on the application was due on the 7th July 2022, however this was extended to 25th October 2022. To date no correspondence received from the Bord on the submission. It is envisaged that there will be an Oral Hearing for this project. Aecom, the consultants, in conjunction with WCC staff are reviewing the submissions received.

The first Communications Working Group meeting took place on 6th March 2023.

It is proposed to launch a Greenways website over the next few weeks.

Community Awards Scheme 2023

As part of its commitment to supporting local community development, Wicklow County Council operates an annual Community Awards Scheme. The fund for 2023 will be available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area. The maximum grant is €500 for small projects and group running costs. The date for receipt of applications was 4.00 p.m. on Friday 24th February 2023 and the applications are now being listed for assessment.

Community Recognition Fund 2023

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys and Minister of State Joe O'Brien, have recently set out the details of the €50 million Community Recognition Fund that has been allocated across all local authorities.

Wicklow County Council is to receive a total of €1,680,887 from this fund.

The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities, towns and villages which are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants ("new arrivals") including towns identified for the rapid build homes programme. It aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community.

Among the projects that will be supported are:

- The refurbishment of local sports clubs and facilities
- The upgrade of community facilities such as play areas, walkways, parks and community gardens
- The purchase of equipment to benefit local clubs, festivals, music and arts organisations
- The enhancement of school or parish facilities that are open to the wider community after hours or on weekends
- Transport infrastructure such as community vehicles and bus shelters

The funding will be drawn down over 2023 and 2024 with projects being delivered by the local authorities in conjunction with community organisations.

Feedback on this fund was sought through public consultation, the MD's, the LCDC and Elected Members, and a proposal was submitted by the deadline on 15th March 2023.

Community Support Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme 2022

The 2022 Community Support Fund with an allocation of €308,834 for Wicklow is now open for applications. This scheme is administered through the LCDC. Application forms are available on www.wicklow.ie or email cep@wicklowcoco.ie. The closing date for receipt of applications is 4.00 p.m. on Friday 31st March 2023.

County Library Service

Capital Programme Update

De Blacam & Meagher Architects are currently working with their engineering and QS team, finalising drawings to produce Bill of Quantities for the proposed new Aughrim library, which will then proceed to tender for construction.

QS is preparing an updated Cost Report for the proposed Ballywaltrim library. It is planned that, subject to SMT approval, request for grant aid and Stage 2 approval will then be issued to DRCD.



An opportunity to double the size of Blessington library has arisen. The unit directly above the library is now on the market at a cost of €360,000. If purchased, the model used in our other full time libraries would be adopted – items for borrowing on one level and a quieter study area on a separate floor. There would also be direct involvement with WCC Arts Office, and a dedicated community meeting room would be provided. Although it would require upgrade works, including upgraded heating + furniture fit out, this represents a once off opportunity. Blessington library is a victim of its own success since opening in 2006, with annual visits and items borrowed of 65,000+. It has a continuous programme of outreach activities that are well supported by the public. Public correspondence was recently received requesting if the noise level could be

controlled, as it is interfering with capacity to study. The proposed purchase of this unit is included in the 2023 -2025 Library Capital programme.

Outreach activities

The following is a flavour of Wicklow County Council's ongoing outreach activities in libraries across the county

World Book Day Celebrations



David (staff) in Bob the Builder attire with children at Arklow Library

World Book Day celebrations kicked off across libraries in Wicklow on Thursday, March 2nd.

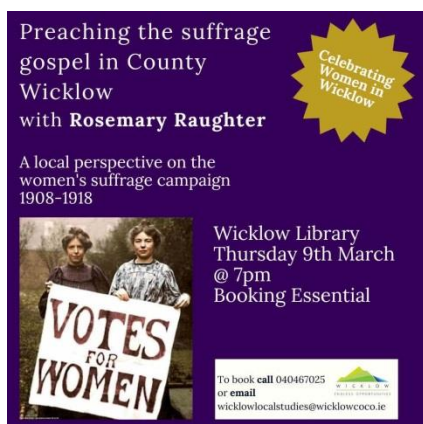
Children were encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character.

Arklow Library hosted a very successful 'Where's Wally' event that saw 125+ children descend upon the staff to join in on the celebrations. Staff in Arklow dressed up for the occasion, donning 'Where's Wally' costumes, A witch costume (from Julia Donaldson's 'Room on the Broom') even Bob the Builder made an appearance (Thank you David W). All children received a free book after successfully completing the challenge.

Carnew Library held a storytime and library information session where children from the local schools visited to learn all about the magic of a library card.

Story times were also held across the library branches; these special stories celebrate the art of storytelling and the written word. It is a magical time where staff gives the gift of a story (or stories) to a group of children, where they can listen and ask questions in a fun filled environment.

International Women's Day at Wicklow Library



Wicklow County Council's Library Service hosted some lovely events to mark this year's International Women's Day.

This year's theme was 'Embrace Equity' and as a service that has removed barriers to membership in terms of fees, designed programmes, facilitated relevant talks on health and driven initiatives such as ensuring the availability of free period products in all branches, we actively support the principals of equity for everyone.

As part of their International Women's Week celebrations, Wicklow Town Library welcomed Historian Rosemary Raughter to present her talk 'Preaching The Suffrage Gospel in County Wicklow' This presentation focussed on the women's suffrage movement in Ireland as it related to Co Wicklow with visits from leading campaigners like Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, Margaret Cousins, Louie Bennett and Charlotte

Despard.



In Blessington Library, local award-winning artists Pauline Cummins and Frances Mezzetti presented their new work 'Walking in the way – Performing Masculinity'. The artists talked about their subversive work where they took on the mannerisms, gestures and physicality of male presence in the public areas of different cities including Dublin, Edinburgh, Belfast, MALAGA, Seville, Istanbul and Derry/Londonderry.

Artists Pauline Cummins and Frances Mezzetti

Digital Training for Older People



An adult learner and student from East Glendalough Post-Primary School

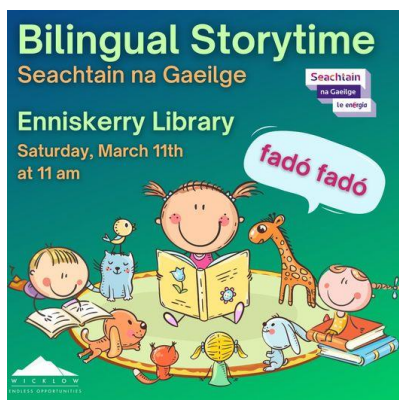
Digital training for older people on their own devices kicked off recently in Wicklow Town Library. Organised in conjunction with East Glendalough School and 121 Digital, reports so far indicate that this model of supporting people to carry out varied tasks on tablets, laptops or smart phones is working well. Wicklow County Council Library Service has long known that many people find the ever-increasing need to be online an uphill battle. A person may own the necessary device but have difficulty figuring out how to use it. As a solution, Wicklow Town Library teamed up with Transition Year students from East Glendalough School to show people how to use their own devices to access the internet and carry out ordinary everyday online activities.

It's a winning formula – the adults gain proficiency in using their device and the students who are now essentially the tutors, experience increased confidence. Best of all is the fostering of a new connection between older people and teens.

Art Exhibition Wicklow Town Library 'The In Between'

This exhibition featuring five artists opened on Tuesday night 14th of March in the gallery space of the library. The paintings from artists Clodagh Mooney, Sylvia Hill, Julio Godoy, Conor Wickham and Kathrina Shine were be on display until Friday March 24th.

Seachtain na Gaeilge



Seachtain na Gaeilge took place in Wicklow Library branches from the 10th to the 17th of March, with storytimes, singing, music and lots more. As part of the celebrations there are two competitions. A poetry competition for pupils in 3rd to 6th class and an art competition with pupils in junior infants to second class, with prizes to be won for both competitions.

Enniskerry Library hosted a special bi-lingual Storytime session with Denise on Saturday morning 11th March.

Conversation Café at Blessington Library



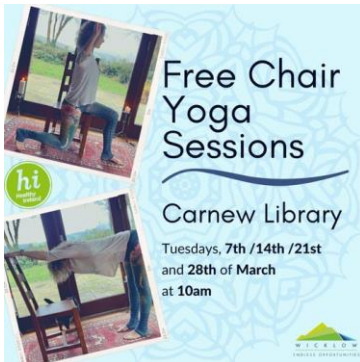
Blessington Library is setting up a conversation café for adult learners. This event is to encourage people learning English as a foreign language to drop in to the library and hone their skills. This will also be a sociable event, an opportunity to join the library and make new acquaintances.

Starting on Saturday, 11th March at 3.15pm, it will run every fortnight after that.

All welcome & no booking required.

Tea, coffee & chats.

Chair Yoga at Carnew Library



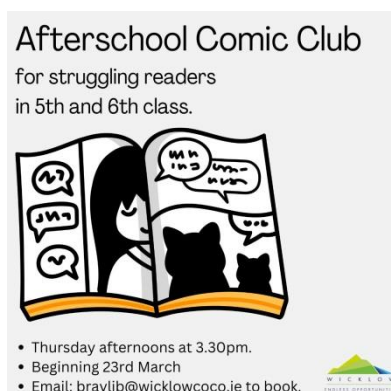
Continuing with our Winter Warmer and Healthy Ireland themes, Carnew Library is hosting a series of Chair Yoga sessions. The next three classes take place on 3 Tuesdays in March, the 14th/21st and 28th, at 10 am. Yoga teacher, Alyth McCormack will provide free chair yoga sessions using poses similar to those in the image for adults only.

Alzheimer's Tea-Party at Arklow Library



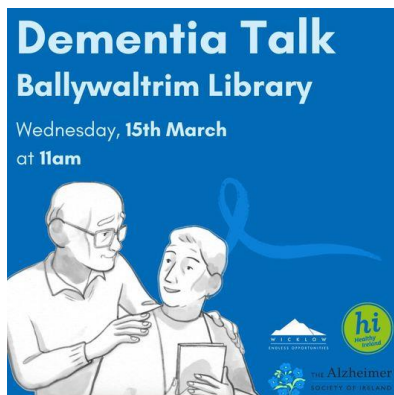
Arklow Library in partnership with the [alzheimer society of Ireland](#) and the HSE have invites all carers, clients and interested adults to a Tea party and Information session on Wednesday, March 22nd from 2 - 4 pm. A warm welcome awaits along with nostalgic guitar music, information table and library resource demos.

After School Comic Club for Struggling Readers



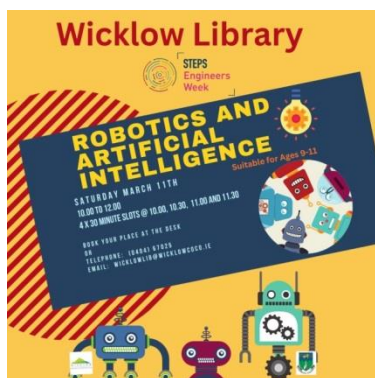
Bray Library is delighted to announce a weekly after-school comic club for struggling readers and dyslexic children in 5th and 6th class. Each month participants will bring home a different graphic novel and come to the library each Thursday at 3.30 pm to discuss, debate and make their own comics. All books and materials will be provided by the library, with thanks to Creative Ireland , Wicklow Arts Office and facilitator Elida Saumande. Please email braylib@wicklowcoco.ie to book a place.

Dementia Talk at Ballywaltrim Library



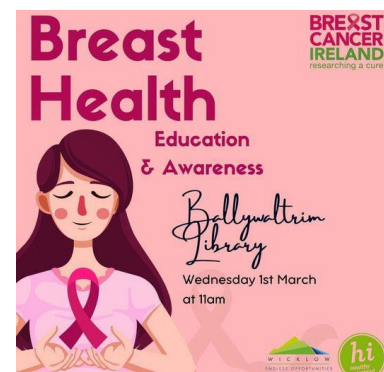
On Wednesday 15th March at 11 am in Ballywaltrim Library, Kate Cowell, Dementia Adviser with The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, provided an information morning which will cover signs & symptoms, brain health and then she gave a little talk on the very important service they provide to family and carers nationwide.

Engineers Week – Robotics Workshops



Robotics and Artificial Intelligence workshops took place on Saturday, March 11th, from 10 am - 12 pm in Wicklow Library and in the afternoon from 2.30-4.30 in Arklow Library. (Workshops are in 30-minute time slots). These are fun interactive workshops demonstrating how simple robots can be created and manipulated. Suitable for ages 9-11

Breast Cancer Awareness Talks



Practitioners from Breast Cancer Ireland will be visiting four of our libraries in March. First up was Ballywaltrim Library on March 1st at 11 am. Women of all ages are encouraged to come along for this valuable and informative talk. The co-ordinator, will demonstrate, with a medical mannequin, how to perform a self-breast examination and the eight signs and symptoms to look out for.

This talk is potentially life-saving as the aims are to educate women of all ages about the importance of good breast health. Should an abnormality occur, it will be identified early, and the treatment outcome will be a lot more positive.



Healthy
Wicklow

Healthy Ireland



Hello Wicklow How Are You?

Hello, How Are You? Is a campaign about connection and engaging in open conversations about mental health. The campaign asks individuals, communities, workplaces, friends & family to say Hello and ask the question 'How Are You?' in a meaningful way. Asking this small question and having one conversation can make a real difference in someone's life. Creating, maintaining and staying connected with others helps tackle loneliness, creates a sense of belonging and purpose and builds relationships.

You don't need to be an expert to have a meaningful conversation. By using the HELLO Steps – Hello, Engage, Listen, Learn, Options you can feel supported in asking the question. Let's make saying Hello and asking How Are You? An everyday question that keeps us connected.

SAVE THE DATE – 30th MARCH 2023

Keep updated on events happening around the County – www.hellohowareyou.info

Local Sports Plans

In accordance with the National Sports Policy, each Local Authority it to take the lead on developing a Local Sports Plan, this is to be delivered by end 2023. It will involve multiple agencies and sections within the Local Authority.

Sports & Recreation Masterplan Development for Brides Head, Wicklow and Rathdrum

Repucon consultants are currently making contact with clubs and community groups to discuss the potential developments needed in Brides Head and Rathdrum to complete their Sports & Recreation Masterplan for the area.

Recruitment

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership were successful in receiving funding from Sport Ireland to host a 'Physical Activity for Health Officer'. This position is currently advertised and will be filled in the first half of the year.

Active Girl Guide

- Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership held our first 'Active Girls Guide. Over 100 Teenage Girls attended the Event in BIFE



- Talks were on Sports Nutrition & The Female Cycle and the activities were Calisthenics & Intro to Weightlifting.
- Thanks to all the BIFE Staff and Students and to Charlie Batt who was MC for the day.
- Mary Hulgaine was the Key Note Speaker for the day. Feedback so far has been really positive.



Marathon Kids

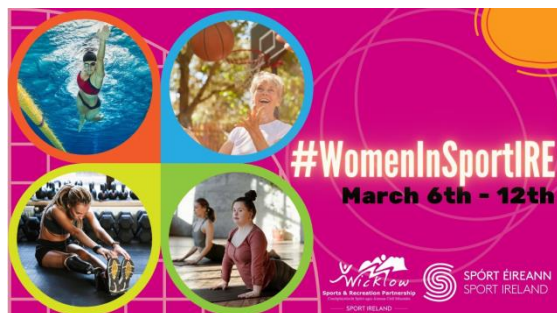
Marathon kids is a 6 week activity programme delivered in schools. Wicklow has **750** children signed up to take part from schools in Arklow, Rathdrum, Rathnew, Tinahely, Shillelagh and Carnew. The event will culminate in a full schools event in Arklow where David Gillick, former Irish Olympian will attend and deliver a coaching session for the children.

The schools that are taking part include:

Name of School	Area
St Coens Rathnew	Rathnew, Wicklow MD
Gaelscoil Chill Mhantain	Rathnew, Wicklow MD
Tinahely	Tinahely, Baltinglass MD
Crossbridge	Tinahely, Baltinglass MD
Coolfancy	Tinahely, Baltinglass MD
Scoil Mhuire Na Naird	Shillelagh, Baltinglass MD
Carnew National School	Carnew, Baltinglass MD
Rathdrum Boys School	Rathdrum, Arklow MD
St Saviours	Rathdrum, Arklow MD

Our Ladys School Rathdrum	Rathdrum, Arklow MD
St Josephs Templeraíney	Arklow, Arklow MD
Carysfort	Arklow, Arklow MD
St Johns SNS	Arklow, Arklow MD
Scoil Naisunta Naomh Padraig Bearncle	Arklow, Arklow MD

Women in Sport 6th – 12th March



Introduction to Trail Running Webinar and Meet-Up - Online

Girls Kickboxing & Self Defence Taster Session- Bray Bowl

Women's Kickboxing & Self Defence Taster Session - Bray Bowl

Women's Taekwondo Taster Session - Coral Leisure Arklow

Women's Handball Taster Session - Coolboy Handball Club

Girls Handball Taster Session - Coolboy Handball Club

Women's Social Soccer Session - Bray

Pilates - Hollywood

Wrap - Up Women in Sport Week - Celebration Hike 'The Spinc' Glendalough

Sport Ireland Menopause and Physical Activity Webinar

Community Programmes

Activity	Venue	When	
Indoor Volleyball	Coláiste Chill Mhantain	Tues 10 th Jan	16-20 people taking part each week – there is a problem with long term use within the school
Walk 'n Talk for Parents in Rathdrum	After School Drop off in Rathdrum	Tues 21 st Feb	10 people, including 6 Ukrainians with no English
Intro to Mini Tennis	Coral, Arklow	Wed 22 nd Feb	6+7 years @ 3.10 8+9 years @ 3.50 13 children taking part at each session
Adult Inclusive Dance for people with a disability	Coral Arklow	Fri 24 th Feb	@ 11:15am, this is a continuation of the previously successful programme.
Table Tennis Coach Training	Coral, Arklow	Mon 27 th Feb	@ 6:30pm This training is open to teachers and clubs and is currently sold out at 16 places with a waiting list
Men on the Move	Charlesland, Greystones	Mon 27 th Feb	@ 7.30pm A Mens over intro to Exercise programme
Junior Badminton Coaching for 6 weeks	Coral Arklow	Wed 22 nd March	@ 3.10 3 rd & 4 th Class @ 3.50 5 th & 6 th Class The aim is to reignite the underage Badminton team in Arklow, in conjunction with the club
Sports First Aid	St. Marys's College, Arklow	Wed 22 nd March	@ 6.30pm We agreed at our Sports Forum in Arklow that we would offer a First Aid Course each ¼ to clubs and this is number 2, number 1 was sold out.
SG 3	Online	Tues 3 rd March	@6.30pm
Sports Inclusion Disability Awareness	Online	Wed 22 nd March	@7pm
SG1	Online	Tues 28 th March	@ 6.30
Community Walking Leader Training	Croghan Industrial Estate, Arklow	Sat 1 st April	@ 10am
SG1	Online	Wed 5 th April	@ 6.30

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP Annual Plans 2023 have now been presented to and approved by Wicklow LCDC. Both Partnerships are currently rolling-out full implementation of all actions.

The end of year reports for 2022 submitted by both Partnerships have now also been approved by the LCDC. The assessment overall of both reports has been very positive with over-achievement of Key Performance Indicators. In 2022 the SICAP programme in Wicklow supported over 1,000 disadvantaged individuals and 43 local community groups.

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Consultations: Law Reform Commission Consultation Paper on Liability of Clubs Societies; Ireland's Voluntary National Review of the SDGs; Dublin Array Wind Farm Public Consultation; Reált na Mara Offshore Wind Farm; Mobile Phone & Broadband Annual Stakeholder Forum; South Irish Sea Windfarm; Community Recognition Fund; Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II.

Training Opportunities: Learning & Capacity Building for Volunteer involving Groups; One to One Digital Tuition for Adults (Wicklow Library); SDG Advocate Training; Community Impact Network Training.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: C&V Sector Energy Support Scheme; Arts Act Fund; Musical Capital Scheme; Community Water Development Fund; Community Enhancement/Support Fund; Headstart Fund; Community Recognition Fund; Arts Council Young Ensembles Scheme; RTE Toy Show Fund; Fit for Life Awards; HSE National Lottery Grants; ERASMUS+ Youth Participation.

See www.countywicklowppn.ie for further information on above or email info@countywicklowppn.ie

LECP Report

Development of new LECP

A draft framework of the objectives and actions of the new LECP has been prepared and the LCDC are now at the stage of finalising the development of the community element of the plan.

Economic Development, Planning, and Infrastructure

1. Economic Development

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Economic)

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). LECPs detail how Local Authorities will support economic and community development in their areas.

The next Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2029 will set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of County Wicklow, both directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

Wicklow County Council appointed a team of consultants from People and Place to assist with the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029. The timeline for completion of the Plan is the end of 2023. The Economic Development unit has been engaging with the business community, government and local agencies to help identify priorities for the County over the lifetime of the plan.

5 High Level Goals have been agreed as follows:

- Health, Resilience and Well-Being
- Enterprise, Innovation and Creativity
- Climate Action
- A connected County and Equality
- Diversity and Just Transition

Dr. Kathy Walsh from People and Place gave a presentation to the recent EDES SPC meeting on the progress to date. All relevant aspects of the National Policy Context, National and Regional Policy Context and County and Local Policy and Strategy had been considered and the following LECP Vision has been developed.

“Our vision is for a vibrant and sustainable County which provides a high quality of life and well-being for all; which values socially inclusive urban and rural communities; is driven by a dynamic and innovative economy’ promotes sustainable development and the rights of all; building on the County’s unique and rich natural and cultural heritage”

Town Teams

Under the Government policy, Town Centres First, the establishment of Town Teams is encouraged and we are likely to see more Town Teams in situ over the coming years.

Town Teams in Wicklow have been operating since 2016. In 2021 Wicklow County Council appointed Mr Allen McAdam of MCA Consulting to conduct the review the results were published in 2022. The result of the review was presented to the elected members at their October meeting.

The review has been presented to the Town Teams and it is proposed to have a plenary session with all Town Teams early in 2023 when the Town Regeneration Officer is in place.

Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington has been awarded funding of €100,000 to develop a Master Plan for the town under the Town Centre First policy. This will also allow plans for projects identified as part of the drive to become e-Greenway ready to be advanced.

This initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future – the Government’s ambitious five-year strategy designed to reimagine and revitalise rural Ireland. It is also linked to the Government’s Housing for All strategy and a key component of the Town Centre First policy.

Wicklow County Council will work closely with local community groups, retailers and members of the Town Team in devising and delivering on the objectives of the Masterplan building on the very comprehensive Health Check carried out by Future Analytics.

Arklow Town Team

The February meeting for members of the Arklow Town Team was held on the 22nd February 2023. The Town Team has been involved in the following projects recently:

The Harbour to Headwaters Project

The River Tourism project is due to be launched on the 22nd March 2023. The exciting Biodiversity Trail includes 14 locations across the region from the Harbour in Arklow right up along the river catchment to the Headwaters of Glenmalure; you can find information panels specific to each of those points on the River network.

Painted Playground Project, Seaview Avenue

A Special launch date will be announced shortly.

MARCH 2023



International Women's Day March 2023

A lunch was held in the Arklow Bay Hotel on 8th March to celebrate International Women's Day, and the theme for this year is "Embrace Equity". A raffle was held on the day with proceeds going to the Turkey and Syrian Earthquake relief fund. The Town Team thanked all who attended and supported the raffle which raised a total of €941 for the Turkish and Syrian Earthquake appeal.

Flower Basket Scheme

The Town Team look forward to continuing the scheme for 2023. The Flower Baskets provide beautiful colour and are a welcome addition.

An application was made to the Heritage Council Community Scheme for funding to enable enhancements to the Arklow Pottery Website which will include audio recordings of past workers, improved accessibility for visually impaired persons as well as data entry of new patterns. Decision on the application will be due by early April.

Greystones Town Team

Greystones Town Team CLG held their AGM in the Whale Theatre on Wednesday 1st March 2023, with the presence of committee members and stakeholders.

The newly elected chairperson is Tom O'Mahony and newly elected director to the Greystones Town Team CLG is Anna Mazzarotto.

A presentation was made to outgoing chair Dermot Dwyer, as acknowledgement of his immense contribution to the town team.

Wicklow Town Team

The Wicklow Town Team held an information day at Holly's/Lloyds Pharmacy in Wicklow town on Saturday 25th February. This gave the team the opportunity to highlight some of the projects achieved since the establishment of the Town Team and explain some of the current projects that are in the pipeline and what is involved in getting them across the line.

While there are excellent working groups within the team, the information day was also used as a call out for new membership particularly in the age groups from 18 to late 30s.

The Part 8 Application to Reconnect Wicklow Town Centre and the South Quay through its network of laneways passed by the Wicklow Municipal District Members in January is now underway. The project seeks to reanimate and revitalise these important central links between South Quay, Harbour and Port, Main Street and Market Square through lighting and some large scale public artwork. The theme throughout the project will have a local and maritime focus. The works will include some lighting improvements and associated site works at the following key locations.

- Scouts Hall
- Red Door
- Doctors Steps
- Salthouse Lane
- Quarantine Hill
- Market Street

This Placemaking Project seeks to reanimate and revitalise the important links between the Main Street and the busy South Quay. The project intends to maximise on the assets and the potential of Wicklow Town creating brighter and more colourful public spaces that are pleasant and attractive to visit and pass through.

Tourism

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

The current strategy sets out a number of challenging but achievable priorities along with a series of detailed actions to be implemented over the lifetime of the strategy.

The Key Priorities are:

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

Tender documents are being prepared seeking consultants to develop a new Tourism Strategy to replace the current strategy taking into account the changes in tourism post Covid 19 and the focus on sustainable tourism.

Below are some of the many projects Wicklow Tourism has been working on recently:

Press Releases and Articles:

Top Ireland Golf Holes in Wicklow – Front 9

Welcome to Wicklow, a golf lover's paradise located on the east coast of Ireland. With its stunning coastal and mountainous landscapes, it's no wonder that Wicklow is a must-visit destination for golf enthusiasts. Wicklow offers an extensive range of world-class golf courses, each with its unique challenges, stunning scenery, and remarkable holes that will leave you in awe. The following article will help you explore the best golf holes in Wicklow that you won't want to miss!

<https://visitwicklow.ie/top-ireland-golf-holes-in-wicklow-front-9/>

St. Patrick's Day Parades in Wicklow – 2023

A full list of the various parades around Wicklow can be found here: <https://visitwicklow.ie/event/52123/>

Cocaine Bear Shot in Wicklow

The film “Cocaine Bear” has created a buzz among moviegoers due to its unusual premise and real-life inspiration. The movie is based on the true story of a black bear that consumes a large amount of cocaine which was dropped from a drug smuggler’s airplane in the rural areas of Georgia in the 1980s. Powerscourt Waterfall and Avoca Mines were chosen as locations to represent the Georgian wilderness where the real-life incident took place and Clermont House at Wicklow County Campus in Rathnew was also used as a location for key indoor scenes. <https://visitwicklow.ie/cocaine-bear-shot-in-wicklow/>

Bray Included in Top 14 Underrated Destinations by TimeOut:

Bray has been named one of the 14 most underrated travel destinations in the world by TimeOut. The leading global media brand recently released the list that includes locations around the world including Mongolia, Mexico, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, Australia, Finland, UK or Greece.

<https://visitwicklow.ie/bray-within-top-14-underrated-destinations-by-timeout/>

Spanish Radio:

The office of Tourism Ireland invited Wicklow Tourism to participate in a programme and podcast on Spanish national radio RNE Radio 5. The programme is dedicated to trails. Wicklow created 3 episodes focussing on the Wicklow Way, The Spinc and Glenealo Valley and the Sugarloaf Way. The first two have been released and can be accessed below:

- <https://www.rtve.es/play/audios/caminantes/caminantes-wicklow-way/6823495/>
- <https://www.rtve.es/play/audios/caminantes/caminantes-valle-glendalough/6829248/>

Social Media:

The Facebook Reach in February was 37,471 down 58% from the previous period. Instagram reach was 9,309, up 0.4% from the previous period. Over the next few months, the focus will be on creating quality content (mostly video reels) and with special focus on the Wicklow Passport.

Wicklow County Campus Masterplan

The Wicklow County Campus Masterplan will focus on developing Wicklow County Campus as a Centre of Excellence in Enterprise, Education, and Innovation in County Wicklow. Wicklow County Council will use the Masterplan to act as a catalyst for economic development in the county and attract investment and further development.

A first meeting has been held between Wicklow County Council and the project team, which consists of MOLA Architects as project leader, supported by a team consisting of a Transport Engineer, Landscape Architect, Ecologist, and a Quantity Surveyor.

Stage 1 – Data Collection and Analysis has begun and will be completed by mid-March. The project is expected to be complete early in Q3 of 2023.

Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

The purchase of the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow completed in August, and it is intended that the space will be enhanced and redeveloped into the Abbey Gardens and Event Space, through Destination Towns funding provided by Fáilte Ireland. The Parochial House has been retained by St. Laurence O'Toole Diocesan Trust and a separate entrance way will be provided as part of the redevelopment.

The redevelopment will include converting the existing Coach House for use as a Café / Retail / Exhibition space and public toilets, installing a natural amphitheatre arrangement to provide for public performance events, a new pedestrian access, pathways for improved accessibility, and public seating.

Following the Archaeological investigations / in the Abbey Grounds and the discovery of medieval remains on the site other options will now have to be considered for the redevelopment of the Abbey Grounds. The target for completion of this project is Q3 2023.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

Fáilte Ireland, in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the Office of Public Works (OPW), the National Monuments Service (NMS), and Wicklow County Council commissioned Consarc Design Group with a multidisciplinary team to deliver a Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan for Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park and Visitor Orientation Recommendations for Co. Wicklow.

The Consultants have presented the Draft Plan to the Councillors and the consultation period ran from 11th November 2022 until 18th January 2023. Following the completion of the consultation period, the final plan will be produced taking account of the feedback received.

Outdoor Performance Space

The letter of Contract Award for design Consultants issued to the successful tenderer on the 30th March. The successful tenderer is Vincent Hannon Architects. Meetings have taken place with Strand Road residents, Royal Marine Terrace and Martello Terrace. Site meetings have taken place with the Design Team, Council officials and representatives from the Mermaid Theatre where the different canopy options were discussed. The project team continue to consult with experts

in this industry on the different styles of canopy options available. When the final design is agreed drawings will be prepared and presented to the Members prior to commencing the Part 8 process.

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

Blessington has been awarded just over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). This will be used for a major regeneration of Blessington Town Centre and related projects. It will be utilised for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway. This strategic funding along with the planned completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road and the funding for the Blessington Lakes eGreenway will help achieve Wicklow County Council's long-term vision for Blessington and enhance Blessington as a place to visit. Combined with the proposals for developing a Masterplan for Blessington, this project will add to the quality of life of the entire community by optimising digital connectivity, supporting employment and skills and enhancing the public realm in line with the objectives that underpin "Our Rural Future" Ireland's Rural Development policy.

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 an application for additional funding has been submitted to the DRCD.

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Arklow and Wicklow URDF projects completed. Bray Harbour and Bray Public Transport Bridge in progress (design/planning stage). A non-statutory public consultation in respect of Bray Harbour was held in December.

A 3rd round URDF scheme has just been announced. The purpose of the scheme is to address long term vacancy and dereliction. It is intended that the scheme will fund local authorities to acquire long term vacant/derelict properties for refurbishment/repurposing and to bring them back into use primarily for housing. From the proceeds of the sale of the first round of refurbished properties local authorities will build up a revolving fund for the development of a rolling programme to address long term vacancy in the county

A briefing for the scheme has been held and the initial application for Wicklow has been submitted, including potential sites/buildings and a staffing submission. Some of the URDF team are due to visit Wicklow to review existing projects and details of our application.

It is likely that later in the year there will be a further call for URDF projects along the more traditional lines.

Bray Harbour Improvements

URDF Funding of €7,140,00 approved (75% match funding for total spend of €9,520,000) Consultants RPS appointed July, 2021 to undertake analysis of the terrestrial harbour environment with a view to presenting an options appraisal to complement ongoing marine work.

The requirement for additional environmental assessments was identified in the draft Feasibility Report. RPS was requested to carry out an EIA Scoping Exercise as an add-on to their current engagement. A draft EIA has been received which has been reviewed. A public information day and presentation to the elected members was held on 6th of December. In line with the EIA Regulations the report was submitted to An Board Pleanála requesting a formal scoping opinion in accordance with Article 95 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), in respect of this project. The District Engineer is working on the preparation of tender documents to engage Consultants to prepare detailed design and produce contract documents.

Land Management

Wicklow County Council Economic Development Unit are progressing the acquisition of Enterprise Space in Greystones from Cairn.

A tender was published on eTenders to find a property consultant to take approx. 4.7 acres on the Mill Road, Greystones to market and seek proposals to include a hotel, some residential, and possibly some retail/office space. This contract will be awarded in mid-March.

Contracts have been signed for the sale of circa 1 acre of land at Lugduff, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow to Automatic Plastics for the purpose of expanding their business and the creation of employment opportunities.

A Deed of Right of Way has been signed in respect of lands owned by Wicklow County Council at Sea Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow to Artemis Kent in consideration of €60,000.

Offshore Renewable Energy

The area of offshore renewable energy is rapidly evolving. Due to the number of projects proposed off the coast of Wicklow it is important that the County engages with the process to enable the community of Wicklow to benefit from the opportunities arising while mitigating against any likely impacts that any offshore renewable project will have.

Key milestones have been:

- The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme Consultation. Wicklow County Council made a submission strongly supporting the case for the funds created as a result of the offshore renewable energy projects to be managed and distributed locally rather than centrally.
- The adoption of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021 aimed at harnessing Ireland's offshore wind potential while protecting our marine environment.
- The Marine Area Consent process is now open for relevant projects, it should be noted that the Arklow Bank Wind Farm, which is Ireland's first offshore wind farm, is at an advanced stage of planning and has been operating under an earlier consent regime. SSE has recently announced its intention to apply for a larger more ambitious project under the new MAC scheme.
- An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission to SSE Renewables to develop the onshore grid infrastructure necessary to connect the 800MW Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park.
- Codling Windpark has submitted their Marine Area Consent application, this is a very significant milestone in the development of Ireland's largest offshore windfarm.
- Shelmalere Offshore Windfarm (DP Energy Iberdola) has completed consultation on its EIAR
- Bord na Mona Ocean Winds Réalt na Mara Offshore Windfarm has delivered a number of community engagement clinics and is seeking to further engage with the local authority.
- Energia is hosting monthly information clinics in Wexford and South Wicklow in respect of the South Irish Sea Project

The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (ORESS) Auction opened on 11th January 2023. The Community Benefit Fund (CBF) associated with the ORESS Auction will be significant. The Draft Terms and Conditions of the ORESS and the Rulebook for the CBF scheme have been published. The outcome of the auction will be known in Q2 2023.

In addition, the OREDP II (the Government's Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan is currently at public consultation stage.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow County Council appointed James Burke Associates (JBA) to carry out a review of The Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy 2019-2021 and to develop an Action Plan going forward. The new Plan will build on the original Plan but will also focus on Climate Action and development of the Food Incubation Hub and on Food Poverty. A meeting was held in March with James Burke to discuss and review outputs from the stakeholder meeting, to review progress on original goals and actions and to agree steps to final action plan.

An RIDF application has been submitted for funding for two days of activities around October Feast to support Agri-Food Tourism in County Wicklow.

Skills Taskforce for County Wicklow

The Skills Taskforce has members from Wicklow County Council, the Training and Development sectors, as well as members representing the Film, Food and Renewables sectors.

A Request for Tender for a Skills Audit and Strategy was published in January and contracts will be signed in mid-March. An initial meeting will then be arranged with the contractor to agree a methodology, timescales, and outputs.

Broadband Connection Points (BCP) and Remote Working Hubs

A tender will be published in Q2 of 2023 for the development of a marketing plan for all present and future Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) and Remote Working Hubs in County Wicklow, following a grant of €50,000.00 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme from the Department of Rural and Community Development for this purpose.

Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS)

A Priming Grant of €199,600 has been awarded to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG from Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS) for the provision of Architectural Design Services & Project Design Preparation (including Part VIII) for a Food Incubation Development Hub at Wicklow County Campus comprising regional infrastructure of scale for agri-food and drinks SMEs including specialist food production units, co-working innovation kitchens, and scaling and growth support services.

This funding will allow for plans to be primed for the full implementation of the Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation Centre. It will enable the recruitment of a project manager to advance plans for the centre, retention of an architect led design and multi-disciplinary team to prepare plans, appointment of a financial team to complete a business model and a financial analysis review, and the launch of a promotional awareness campaign.

The Wicklow Naturally Food Hub is expected to realise the following benefits within 3 years:

- Build sectoral improvement and smart specialisation with clear and achievable targets:
 - 4 food and drinks production tenants embedded in 4 independent food production units, creating 40 new jobs;
 - Development kitchen for product development, training, and small-scale production enabling 40 new food and drink start-ups to create 80 new jobs;
 - 1500 industry professionals participating in training/networking events;
 - 70 food and drink professionals attending regular networking events;
 - 30 businesses receiving business growth mentoring support;
 - 20% reduction in costs of new concept development for early stage start-ups;

- Facilitate food businesses to grow and develop their business by engaging with students academics and specialist mentors, through SETU and the Local Enterprise Office which are co-located on the Campus, to work on innovation led projects and avail of management capability training.
- Unlock real growth and scale in such a dense area of population as the mid-east region;
- Lever the benefits of affordable food infrastructure close to Dublin to attract new, innovative food businesses to relocate.

Wicklow County Campus is working towards a zero-carbon status in the near future through the use of solar energy and biomass heating systems and this will carry forward to the Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation Hub, helping to deliver on the Government's Climate Action Plan 2019 and the European Green Deal plan to build a fairer economy while protecting our planet.

The Food Hub will facilitate the development of scalable, sustainable, and profitable food businesses across the mid-east by providing the physical environment to choreograph opportunities for food entrepreneurs to interact with each other and will support Wicklow food and drink companies to adjust, pivot, or reposition themselves to respond to new market realities arising from Covid-19, Brexit, and other market changes, including climate change/sustainability, innovation, and digital transition.

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"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	-28/ €748,180 -8/ €12,829.95	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	3/€114,750.00 1/€ 2,500.00

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 44 programmes.		60	13
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	84 / 7 programmes	120	15
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	653	1200	139
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	8	20	6

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	73

MARCH 2023



Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	426	390	79
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METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021/2022	2022/2023	Year to Date 22-23
No. of Secondary Student Participants	900	1100	1138

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)	14

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	15	5
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Micro Assessment by a Green Expert	9	17	0
No. of Companies who have undertaken a DigitalStart Assessment by a Digital Expert	-	6	4

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	4

March 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.
- 3 LEO clients were part-funded to exhibit at the DCCOI Showcase B2B trade fair at the RDS in January 2023
- The first seminar in the collaboration of LEO Wicklow and Network Ireland Wicklow (women in business network) took place on 26th January. The topic was 'Networking Skills' and 30 businesses women from all parts of Co. Wicklow attended.
- The LEO is continuing its one-to-one intensive support of 6 Wicklow based companies who are developing new export markets.
- Organisation and promotion to all local media and partners is underway of Local Enterprise Week in March.
- The Student Enterprise programme County final took place in Wicklow County Campus on the 2nd of March. This included 21 schools and 1,138 students over the duration of the programme. The winners will be going forward to represent Wicklow in the national final in Croke Park on Friday May 5th.
- As part of Local Enterprise Week we hosted an online seminar, Go Green. With speakers from Enterprise Ireland, SEAI, Sustineo (a sustainability consultancy) and a local case study, attendees learned about the impact greening their business can have. The aim of this is to promote our Green for Micro programme.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Spring/Summer Business and IT Skills training programme has been published on the LEO website and now underway. A wide range of core business skills training courses are on offer from February through to June. Courses are open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow. Interest in training has increased up since last year with booking registrations looking strong.

Recently held courses include:

- Canva for Business, 8th February 2023
- Bookkeeping for Small Business, 13th & 15th February
- Pathway to Start Up Workshop, 21st February
- Small Business Accounts, 27th February, 1st March
- Start Your Own Business Course, started 7th March, Fully Booked
- Digital Marketing Clinics, 1st March & 7th March, Fully Booked

2. Planning

Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

The County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 has been updated online to include the Ministerial Direction. The updated plan can be found here-

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

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

- This plan also includes new **Town Plans** for the following settlements:- Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, Ashford, Aughrim, Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely, Avoca, Donard, Newcastle, Roundwood, Shillelagh and Laragh-Glendalough.
- This plan is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), an Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as well as a number of other important appendices.
- As part of the making of the new County Development Plan, the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and the Schedule of Tree Preservations Orders have been amended, including the making of additions, deletions and amendments to existing entries. The RPS is included in Appendix 4 of the published County Development Plan. Owners and occupiers of relevant structures have received a separate written notification with regard to this.

Local Area Plans

Work has commenced on the preparation on three new LAPs for Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole, Wicklow Town & Rathnew and Blessington. The team are at the data gathering and surveying stage, and are currently consulting with all internal departments and state agencies. It is intended to start pre-draft plan public consultation in Q2 2023.

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

Residential Zoned Land Tax

This is a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes, and which will in time replace the Vacant Site Levy, was enacted as a part of the Finance Act 2021, as referred to in Circular NRUP 06/2021 of 22 December 2021. The aim of the tax is to activate and bring forward the development of housing on lands which are suitably zoned and serviced, as indicated on maps that have been prepared and published by local authorities for their respective functional areas. These maps were published on Wicklow County Councils website on 01 November 2022. The

legislation also sets out certain lands which are to be excluded from the scope of the tax. The tax measure is intended to encourage activation of existing planning permissions on lands which are identified as being in scope and to incentivise owners of suitable lands without planning permission to commence the process of engagement with Planning Authorities.

While residential zonings which include existing dwellings are to be included on the map(s), where connected or able to be connected to services, permanently occupied residential premises which are liable for Local Property Tax will not be liable for the tax.

The Minister has issued guidelines under Section 28 of the PDA to provide guidance to planning authorities in the preparation and publication of maps to identify lands in the scope for this new RZLT.

The 'in scope' maps went on display on 01 November 2022, with submissions invited up to 01 January 2023. Advertisements were placed in local papers and on the local radio station as well as Wicklow County Council social media. 75 submissions have been received and all submissions have been published on the Wicklow County Council website.

More information can be found online at the following link <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax>

Wicklow Heritage & Biodiversity Office

Heritage: A funding application made to The Heritage Council's County Heritage Plan (CHP) fund on 23/01/23 for the following:

- Glendalough Community Excavation and outreach;
- Continuation of Barn Owl Project;
- East Coast Nature Reserve seasonal nature events;
- Support for Heritage and Biodiversity Plan reviews
- Outreach and communications.
- Community Archaeologist Part Time post.

Archaeology: Community Monuments Fund- CMF 2023 announced by National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government in Q4 2022. Local Authorities were invited to submit project applications. The scheme is co-ordinated on behalf of Wicklow County Council by the Heritage Office with applications invited by deadline of 27th Jan 2023. Applications accepted from private landowners, community groups, public authorities and other custodians of archaeological heritage. 12 projects were prepared for submission by 14/02/2023 deadline; mix of public and privately owned monuments.

Architecture: Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes 2023 opened for applications in Q4 2022 Closing date for applications was 27th Jan 2023. Co-ordinated by the Heritage

Office on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage underway. 34 applications received to BHIS, 19 shortlisted for a total budget of €101,000. 5 projects submitted under HSF by deadline of 10/02/23.

Biodiversity Plan Fund: €100,000 available to each LA from NPWS, Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government. Proposals currently in preparation to consolidate existing projects and develop new as follows: Continuation of Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project and Behind the Beach programme; initiate pond restoration pilots at selected locations on Council owned lands; undertake a county hedgerow survey; collaborate with Bat Conservation Ireland on developing new survey methodology; and undertake a year- long public outreach events, training and workshops. Closing date 24/02/23.

Historic Towns Initiative (HTI): Heritage Office worked with Arklow MD to develop a project proposal and application to the Heritage Council's HTI scheme. Submitted on 02/02/23. Capital project seeking €150,000 to develop heritage led regeneration at three medieval sites in Arklow.

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 28th February 2023
Received (Valid)	165

A total of 95 valid applications were received during February as follows:

Type of Development	28 th February 2023 Number Received
Individual Houses	20 (16 refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	05
Agricultural Structures	0
Commercial	05
Other Developments**	65
Total	95

* Large housing development

23/172, Joseph and Maria Kinsella, 16 dwellings and 12 apartments, Parkmore, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow

23/175, Papaver Limited, 27 dwellings, Killmacullagh, Main Street, Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow

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

Decisions issued in respect of 82 applications in February

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	15 (8 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	66
Other Developments Requiring EIA	01
Total	82

Decisions issued to February 2023

	28/02/2023
Total Number of decisions issued	155
Total Number of decisions to grant	127
% Grant Rate	82%
No of applications withdrawn	18 (8 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

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

ABP-313314-22 – Lands at Fassaroe and Monastery, Bray (650 Units) Members Meeting 10/5, CE forwarded 07/06 – 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, CE report forwarded 22/06

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 4th October, CE report submitted 21/11

Strategic Infrastructure Development

An Bord Pleanala 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

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

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 – PA submission submitted to ABP 10/1/23

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.

E-Planning Project

The roll out of the ePlanning system is underway with the intention of going 'live' in April 2023.

The project will include the following elements:

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

- Referrals to all prescribed bodies and the receipt of their submissions would be electronic.
- Electronic transfer of planning files to An Bord Pleanála following an appeal.

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

Planning Enforcement

New Files	10
Advisory Letters	28
Warning Letters	11
Enforcement Notices	6
Legal Files	0
Closed	15

Vacant Sites

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
Arklow	7
Baltinglass	1
Bray	4
Greystones	4
Wicklow	6

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

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

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Wicklow	1
Baltinglass	1

Short Term Letting – 01/02/23 – 28/02/23

Applications for registration received in February 2023	2
Complaints received in February 2023	0
Warning Letters issued in February 2023.	0
Enforcement Notices issued in February 2023	0
Legal proceedings in February 2023	0
Files under Investigation as of 28/02/23	53

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

3. Environment

Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created	162
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	117
No of Litter Fines Issued	6
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	3
No. of Warning Letters Issued	1
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	3
No. of Burning Applications Received	66
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	2
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	3
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	36
Income - Litter	€700.00
Income- Waste Management	€200.00

Court Cases

Six cases were listed for mention under the Litter Pollution Act. One case was heard, with a fine of €150 levied and costs of €100 awarded to the council.

Three cases were listed for mention under the Waste Management Act. One fine was paid prior to the hearing, one case was heard and judge directed the defendant to clean up the site within a set timeframe. In another case, receipts were produced to the satisfaction of the council and the case was satisfactorily resolved.

In the final case, the defendant pleaded guilty to handing over his waste to an unauthorised collector and costs of €450 were awarded to the council.

Climate Action

Climate Action Plan

Ministerial Instruction, to enter the statutory plan making phase, was received on 24th February 2023. Wicklow County Council must have the LA CAP complete and adopted on or before the 23rd February 2024.

KPMG have delivered the draft Baseline Emissions Inventory and Climate Change Risk Assessment and will now develop the Summary Report on the Evidence Base. The Summary Report is a key output in these early stages of the process and is produced from the collation and analysis of the evidence base taking policy context into account. The Summary Report will form the basis for the stakeholder engagement.

A tender has been published to appoint a consultant to carry out SEA/AA through all steps of the process.

New posts for the Climate Action Team

The following posts have been advertised and the recruitment process is ongoing:

- Community Climate Action Officer
- Climate Action Coordinator
- Climate Action Officer

The Biodiversity Officer and the Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer have been appointed.

Mid-East Energy Unit

The inaugural meeting of the Mid East Energy Unit Steering Group was held on 22nd February.

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.

Interviews for the Regional Energy Officer and the Energy Officer will take place in March.

Bicycle Parking

Work is underway to identify suitable locations to install bicycle parking at public buildings, car parks and amenities.

EV Charge Point (EVCP) Infrastructure

Wicklow County Council is collaborating with Easy Go to build on the existing EVCP infrastructure in the County. Municipal District Engineers will work with Easy Go to identify suitable locations for installations.

The Green Team are working on a number of initiatives:

- Promoting the SEAI Reduce your Use for energy saving measures.
- Looking into the use of Eco friendly cleaning products for our buildings.
- Recently sought support from the SMT to finalise and rollout the Paper Policy for the organisation.

Conservation Management Plans

Work is continuing on the development of Conservation Management Plans for Bray Head, Wicklow Head and Clermont Campus.

Environmental Awareness

- The annual Tidy Towns, Estates and Sustainable Development Awards were presented in County Buildings on Monday the 13th of February. The work of Tidy Towns was recognised through the Main Street awards. Tidy Towns groups, businesses and schools were recognised for the work to deliver projects that deliver on the UN sustainable development goals.
- Thirteen schools commenced composting training funded by Wicklow County Council with support from the Eastern Midlands regional waste management office. The training provides five online sessions with two site visits to each school and will include provision of some tools.
- Work continued with Bolt and Bray Municipal District on preparation of the roll out of an ebike scheme in the town of Bray. Identifying existing bike parking facilities and potential virtual parking spaces was completed. An agreement between Bolt and Wicklow County Council on the operation of the service is being negotiated.
- An electric bike has been purchased by Wicklow County Council to be used by Greystones Tidy Towns as a demonstration of modal shift in transport. The bike will be branded to highlight its role in reducing emissions before being used in litter control and landscaping works by volunteers with the Tidy Towns group.
- Preparations have commenced for National Tree Week 2023. 800 trees have been ordered through the Tree Council of Ireland and these will be distributed to groups in the county for planting.
- The 2023 National Spring Clean campaign has been launched.
- A sensor activated audio messaging campaign was used at several locations to remind people to keep bottle bank sites clean.
- A series of three webinars to explore waste segregation, waste prevention and food waste is planned with funding from the Eastern Midlands regional waste management office. We will partner with Sustainable Travel Ireland based in Kilcoole for delivery of the webinars. One initiative which will be incorporated into the second webinar is the promotion of a deposit return scheme for coffee shops. Training will also be provided on waste segregation and waste prevention.
- Wicklow is participating in the Rubbish Film festival with Create Schools based in Clermont. The schools participation is funded by Wicklow County Council. Six schools have received training on making a short film from Createschool based in Clermont. Each school will submit a short film on the theme of waste and a poster.
- Two entries from Wicklow have been selected as finalists for the Relove Fashion Competition.
- Wicklow County Council has been asked to participate in a research project with UCD which will explore methodologies for observing carbon emission in communities in the European coastal Atlantic area. The project

will create a digital platform to monitor CO2. The research team is interested in measuring emissions from a harbour and will look at Arklow harbour.

Sustainable Energy Committees

Wicklow County Council is working with the Energy Team, Dunleer and several Wicklow SECs to identify householders looking to retrofit their homes and work with them by guiding them through the process from start to finish. Six households have undertaken to have an energy audit undertaken of their home with a view to identifying works to be carried out.

Greystones SEC is leading on a solar meitheal project which aims to group householders looking to install solar panels on their properties together as one project with the aim of getting a better price while also help to ensure all household get a quality installation. Several SECs are participating.

Claims for funding of the Blessington and Enniskerry energy master plans with grants to cover costs paid by SEAI have now been made with grant payments received.

Work is near completion on the Energy Map Plans for High Park. In Arklow survey work is being undertaken.

A new application for an Energy Master Plan has been received from Carnew Community Care.

Newtownmountkenedy, Blessington, Glenmalure, Greystones, Enniskerry, Wicklow and Laragh have also completed Energy Master Plans.

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

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

Private Water Supplies

- 1 Do Not Consume Notice placed on a Private Water Supply with non-compliant nitrate in their water supply.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

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

- **Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations**
- 2 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.
- **Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026**
- 1 Inspection Plan prepared
- 23 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems carried out.
- 17 Domestic waste water treatment systems found complaint.
- 6 Advisory notices were issued in respect of Domestic waste water treatment systems found non-complaint.
- 13 Public engagement activities were undertaken to promote awareness and improve compliance.

Well Grants

- 22 New Water Grant application received
- 0 New Well granted
- 3 New Pumps granted
- 4 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 12 inspections in advance/completion of works

Petrol Vapour Recovery

- 1 Installation issued with certificate of installation certificate.

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 1 Installation issued with certificate of compliance certificate.

Smokeless Coal Regulations

- 7 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

Planning & Development

- 12 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural, commercial and forestry development.
- 2 environmental reports on compliance with planning permission conditions were completed.

Harbours and Ports

Wicklow Harbour – Cargo 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

Control of Dogs

Lambing Season

Wicklow County Council continued its collaborative partnership with the ISPCA, the IFA and Wicklow Uplands Council to ensure a proactive approach to Control of Dogs during lambing season. The Council launched its media campaign in February, sending out a clear message to all dog owners to keep their dogs under effectual control at all times and to remind dog owners of their responsibilities and the vulnerability of sheep to dog attacks during lambing season.

Dog Licences

289 dog licence reminders were sent out during February 2023. 313 licences were purchased, with 131 (or 42%) of all licences purchased via the Licences.ie portal.

Caravan Parks

Application forms were sent out to approximately 30 caravan parks for renewal of their licence for the 2023 season. Parks are entitled to open from 17th March.

Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Public Lighting

For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults. Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **399 – 2.62%** Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attend)	3	1	11	1	2	18
Cable Fault (Attend)		1	2		2	5
ESB Interface reqd						0
ESB Required (Attended)	7	5	5	8	6	31
Knock Down (Attended)						0
Materials required	1	1				2
No Supply	1	1	1	3	2	8
On Hold		3	7		3	13
Submitted	33	43	101	73	53	303
TMR	6	6	3			15
Tree cutting required	1	1			2	4
Grand Total	52	62	130	85	70	399
Percentage Not Working	1.76%	2.58%	3.90%	3.06%	1.91%	2.62%

Date	20/02/2023	27/02/2023	06/03/2023	13/03/2023
Access Issues (Atten)	15	16	17	18
Cable Fault (Attend)	5	5	7	5
ESB Interface reqd	8	4	0	0
ESB Requ (Attended)	32	32	32	31
Knock Down (Attended)	0	0	0	0
Materials required	2	2	2	2
No Supply	8	8	8	8
On Hold	13	13	17	13
Submitted	376	361	323	303
TMR	15	14	14	15
Tree Cutting Req	5	5	7	4
TOTAL	479	460	427	399
PERCENTAGE NOT WORKING	3.15%	3.02%	2.81%	2.62%

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) Update:

KLS ASD Joint venture are the works contractor for the PLEEP contract. Initial surveys of existing networks to begin in Jan 2023 once all insurances and bonds have been agreed by the PLEEP team.

Survey works of our network are programmed to start in in Q3/4 of 2023. Installation works to begin Jan 2024 based on current programme. All dates subject to change.

Speed Limits

The special speed limit bye-laws were adopted at the February Council meeting with effective dates of 1st June for standard limits and 1st August for periodic limits. Signage requirements has been assessed and a tender process for the procurement of both regular signs and periodic signs will be undertaken.

Transportation Statistics

	Total 2021	Total 2022	Total 2023	December 2022	January 2023
Solicitors Queries	923	838	129	76	53
Road closure applications	53	78	7	3	4
Road Opening licences	1575	1414	288	127	161
Abnormal Load applications	54	60	8	3	5

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website 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. 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 option took place in November 2022. Submissions were received up until 22nd December 2022.

The Option Assessment and appraisal process has identified that bus priority measures are preferred within the following sections of the corridor:

- Sub-Scheme A northbound and southbound – Loughlinstown Roundabout to Junction 6 (Bray / Fassaroe)
- Sub-Scheme C northbound only – Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) to Junction 8 (Glenview)

The viability of delivering bus priority within Sub-Scheme B will be further examined to identify the optimum solution to meet the project objectives. This work is expected to build upon the analysis undertaken to date on the N11/M11 BPIS and J4 to J14 Schemes.

The Options Selection Report is being finalised following the completion of the public consultation and consideration of the submissions received. The final Options Selection Report is expected to be published in 2023

The public consultation information is available to view on the BPIS project website www.n11m11bpis.ie. This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

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 draft report concluded that the change in junction layout does not change the noise levels at nearby properties when compared to the previous layout. However when road traffic speeds are increased to 100km/h along the N11, noise levels were elevated at the nearest noise sensitive locations by up to 4.5 dB Lden. This would cause a potentially significant impact to the receptors along the N11. Following on from this report, feasible noise mitigation measures are now being investigated. The design and construction of noise mitigation measures is subject to funding being allocated.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The tenders for the Per Cent Art Feature are being procured by the Arts Officer. A Design & Delivery Competition for new public sculpture is currently underway.

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

Following completion of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Phase 1 feasibility studies (N81 Four Studies – Feasibility Report), Wicklow County Council will now look to progress the following two projects:

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

Tenders have been received from Technical Advisors to undertake planning and design services under TII Project Management Guideline Phases 2 to 4 (inclusive). It is expected to complete the appointment of Technical Advisors and commence Phase 2 early in 2023.

N81 Pavement Capital Works

Resurfacing works of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove is expected to be carried out in 2023.

N81 Bus Stop at Hollywood

Following comments received from TII, further work is being undertaken to look at the proposal in more detail. The scope of the study has been extended to consider possible improvements for vulnerable road users at the junction. TII have provided funding for this further study.

Bridge Rehab Works:

The Bridge crew to completed the re-building a section of damaged parapet at Coates Bridge. A VRS was installed at this location due to repeated bridge strikes.

Removal of vegetation to be carried out on a number of bridges around the County to ascertain their condition.

Repairs to the parapet have been carried out to the Balamise and Kilbride bridge. Re-building of part of the parapet and installation of rubbing strips were completed at Ballyderry Bridge. Some small scour works were completed as well

DDTAS approval for Bridge Rehab works were finalised by February 2023.

Machinery Yard :

Working with the WCC Climate team in relation to installing EV chargers across the County alongside a commercial operator. Proposed locations have been agreed with MD staff, but are subject to change depending on ESB Network supply at the proposed location.

A review of contract details to take place as soon as possible with all involved.

These additional EV chargers, alongside the EV chargers installed in 6 WCC depots across the County would leave the EV infrastructure in Wicklow in a really good place.

From this, WCC would hope to replace some of its existing fleet with Electric Vehicles in 2023. We have seen from EV trials that WCC daily operations would be affected if the EV charging infrastructure is not in place.

We will be looking at replacing some of the larger pick up fleet also in 2023 as part of a replacement plan. 2 large trucks have been added to the fleet to replace older vehicles. These trucks are ex Fingal County Council trucks will form an important part of the Winter Maintenance fleet.

We are currently looking to trial HVO (Hydrated Vegetable Oil) in some vehicles, as a substitute to diesel. HVO has a much lower CO2 footprint than diesel but it is currently more expensive to buy.

Working with Pro-Works and a number of other LA's on a Fleet Maintenance system for the Machinery Yard, as part of compliance with RSA regulations. Progressing with the Pro Works system in order to reduce number of systems being used.

Winter Maintenance

Season ongoing with a week of low temperatures in Dec 22 contributing to over 800tn of salt being used in this short timeframe. Salt stocks are being continuously replenished by our own WCC fleet.

Works progressing with the TII and DDTAS on funding for brine saturation systems and the upgrade of our gritter fleet to brine capable machines. Tender for the brine saturation stations have been completed and are awaiting approval to proceed by DDTAS.

Arklow Public Realm

Parade Ground Public Realm works has substantially been completed and snagging of the project has also been completed. The project is now in the 12month defects period.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

The route options continue to be revisited for a few sections of the proposed greenway route with updated ecological surveys just having been completed on those sections. Work continues is preparing documents and report to identify the emerging preferred route for the Greenway. It is currently planned to hold a public consultation on the emerging preferred routes in Q2 of 2023.

Baltinglass Town Centre Plan

Wicklow County Council has conducted the procurement process for a contractor and submitted the Tender Report and recommendation. Additional funding is required over and above the original allocation and reports have been prepared and submitted to aid those discussions.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

Currently detailed design along with the preparation of associated documents including the preparation of the CPO documentation is ongoing to allow the scheme to proceed to statutory approval. As the project may impact on the Poulaphuca SPA, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required to be prepared. Statutory approval will be sought from An Bord Pleanála.

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

Consultants continue to proceed with the detailed design with the preparation of the tender documents.

Redford Junction

Work has commenced in the preparation of detailed design and the preparation of tender documents to allow the project to proceed to construction.

Winter Maintenance

The winter maintenance season commenced on the 15th October 2022 and will continue until the end of April 2023. It was particularly mild for the most of February with temperature only reverting back to season averages towards the end of the month. Consequently salting of routes occurred on 8 nights in the last period with 54 individual routes salted.

SUMMARY OF SEASON TO DATE (Up to and including 26/02/2023)	
No. of Weeks Completed to date (out of 28 weeks)	19
No. of Days Completed	133
Total number of salting nights	44
Percentage no. of Nights when salting occurred	33.08%
Total number of routes salted	473
Total estimate tonnage used	2028.1

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Wicklow County Council has just recently appointed consultants to this project. The consultants have commenced work on the project which includes data gathering and are arranging for detailed environmental surveys to be done which will feed into the development of the routes options study.

Blessington eGreenway

Planning documents under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act were lodged with An Bord Pleanála with the end date - 4th March 2022. No update has been received yet from An Bord Pleanála on a likely decision date. It is still anticipated that an oral hearing will be required by ABP before any decision is made.

Active Travel Updates

NTA 2023 Funding Allocation

On Wednesday 1st February, the Department of Transport announced the National Transport Authority funding allocations for Active Travel projects nationwide. In total, €290m has been allocated for walking and cycling infrastructure. Wicklow County Council were allocated €8.4 million for 2023, across 39 projects.

1. Bray Seafront Plaza
2. Bray DART Interchange
3. Active Travel Bridge (Wicklow Train Station to PAR)
4. Killarney Road Active Travel Route
5. Bray Bridge footbridges and tie ins
6. Bus Priority in Little Bray
7. Arklow Local Transport Plan
8. Greystones Local Transport Plan
9. Bray Main St. Bus Priority & Decongestion
10. Convent Avenue to Vevay Crescent Permeability Scheme
11. River Dargle Cycleway
12. Delgany Village to Mill Rd Active Travel Elements

13. Active Travel Pathfinder: Rocky Road (Access to Train Station)
14. Dublin Road to Wexford Road
15. Blessington Main St to Deerpark
16. Greystones Active Travel - Pathfinder Project
17. Cycle parking provisions in Wicklow
18. Safe Routes to School Programme - St. Kevin's NS
19. Safe Routes to School - St. John's National School
20. Safe Routes to School - SS Michael & Peter's Junior School
21. Safe Routes to School - Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath
22. Safe Routes to School - Greystones Educate Together
23. Safe Routes to School - Kilmacanogue NS
24. Safe Routes to School - Scoil Nioclais Naofa
25. Safe Routes to School - Temple Carrig School
26. Arklow North Cycle & Pedestrian Improvements
27. Ashford to New Developments (Urban) Footpath
28. Convent Road One Way Active Travel Scheme
29. Wicklow Rathnew Local Transport Plan
30. Kilcoole Rd Pedestrian & Cycle Improvements
31. Ballyguilemore Footpath
32. Arklow South Cycle & Pedestrian Improvements
33. Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme
34. Priory Road Footpath
35. Glenart Pedestrian Link
36. Active Travel - Kindlestown Road Cycle Scheme
37. Wicklow Train Station Park & Ride
38. Baltinglass Active Travel River Crossing Study
39. Wicklow County Council - Rapid Deployment Active Travel Measures

Recently Completed Projects

Footpath Improvements Deputy's Pass, Glenealy (Arklow MD)

This scheme provides 511m of upgraded footpaths with public lighting along the R-752 between Deputy's Pass and Glenealy Railway Bridge.

Projects Under Construction

Glenart pedestrian link (Arklow MD)

Pedestrian accessibility link improvements at the rear of the Woodlands housing development located between Lamberton and Glenart. The works will involve the construction of a pedestrian access ramp and the installation of public lighting along the scheme. Works began in January. The works are 40% complete and will be completed by the end of March.

Arklow North Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

The design 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. Works are progressing well on site. The cycle lane is substantially completed on the West side of the road and is due to be completed by May.

Ashford to New Developments footpath (Wicklow MD)

Improve pedestrian facilities along the R-764 by widening the footpath and upgrading the public lighting. Works will begin with the next week to start placing stone on the wall next week and will take 6-8 weeks. Work will be complete by May.

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. Initial works began in January 2023, with clearing of the verge. Works are now progressing with public lighting and drainage.

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. Works commenced on site in mid-January and will take approximately 4 months to complete.

Footpath Improvements Valley Heights, Carnew (Baltinglass MD)

This scheme will provide 161m of upgraded footpaths (including public lighting) along the L-72274 between Valley Heights Housing Estate and Carnew National School. Works are currently ongoing.

Kilcoole Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements (Greystones MD)

Provision of 500m of new footpath and 500m of cycle track along the R-761. Works commenced on site this week by the in-NTA deliverables team and will be completed by end of April.

Public Consultations

Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme (Greystones MD)

Public consultations closed on Monday 30th January. Nine submissions were received, and a report is being prepared.

Arklow Transport Study (Arklow MD)

Public consultations on the transport study for the Arklow area closed on Monday 30th January. In total, 452 submissions were received. Reports are currently being prepared by consultants.

Safe Routes to Schools – St. Kevin's National School Greystones and Hillside Estate (Greystones MD)

Consultations between residents of Hillside Estate in relation to the possibility of a new access point closed on Monday 23rd January. 83 submissions were received with a report being drafted on the feedback. Initial data shows that 62.7% of those who completed the survey do not want the access point to be constructed.

Fire Service

	Total stations	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Call sign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	5	1	1	1	1		1				
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	14	2	1	3	3		2	2	1		
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	4	1	1	1	1						
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	4			2	1	1					
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	2							1	1		
One Station Mobilised											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	15	6	4	1	2					1	1
Fire Outdoor Rural: Gorse / bushes	7	3			3		1				
Fire Chimney	6	1	1			1		1	2		
Fire Small Urban / bin / skip / bonfire	28	6	10	8		1				2	1
Fire Vehicle	8		3	3				1			1
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1	1									
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	10	3	1	1			1		4		
Garda Assist	0										
Electrical Incident	1					1					
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	1		1								
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	1		1								
False Alarm – Good Intent	7	2		1	1	2		1			
Malicious False Alarm	0										
Mobilised into other County	16	1	1				6	6	1		1
Times Stations mobilised	130	27	25	21	12	6	11	12	9	3	4

There were **116 incidents** attended during the month of February 2023. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **130 occasions** including 13 mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of February 2023 **increased by 7% (8 mobilisations) on the preceding month** (January 2023: 122 mobilisations). More stable weather saw a reduction in fallen tree incidents (-10), there was also a reduction in attendance at domestic fire (-8), RTCs (-10), alarm activations (-8) and chimney fires (-7). However there was an increase in vehicle fires (+12) and a significant increase in malicious outdoor fires in urban areas (+18). In addition response by Wicklow crews to neighbouring counties increased (+13). A campaign on social media, radio and newspapers appears to have had a positive effect on the number of incidents involving malicious fires in urban areas currently being attended.

Operational activity for the month of February 2023 **was up 19% (21 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2022** (February 2022: 109 mobilisations). There was a decrease in alarm activations (-13), trees down (-13), malicious false alarms (-4) and chimney fires (-3). There was an increase in malicious fires in urban areas (+20), incidents in other counties (+10), vehicle fires (+9), domestic fires (+6).

Sample Incidents (February 2023)

- 14/02/2023 Rathdrum and Wicklow Town crews attended a single vehicle RTC at Ballydowling, Glenealy.
- 17/02/2023 Dunlavin and Baltinglass crews prevented a shed fire spreading to a neighbouring house at Stratford.
- 21/02/2023 Rathdrum crew attended an overturned tanker on the Wicklow gap. The vehicle's contents had to be transferred to another tanker before the vehicle could be recovered.
- 22/02/2023 Blessington and Dunlavin crews attended an overturned car near Russborough House.
- 23/02/2023 Dunlavin and Baltinglass crews attended a 2-car RTC at Loughmogue, Dunlavin.

Sample Incidents in County Kildare (10-incidents total):

- 10/02/2023 Blessington crew supported Naas crews at an alarm activation in a petrol station in Ballymore Eustace.
- 11/02/2023 Dunlavin crew supported crews from Athy and Monasterevin at a hay-barn fire with farm machinery near Moone.
- 11/02/2023 Blessington and Dunlavin crews attended an alarm activation in Ballymore Eustace.
- 13/02/2023 Blessington and Dunlavin crews attended an alarm activation in Ballymore Eustace.
- 14/02/2023 Blessington crew attended an alarm activation in Ballymore Eustace.
- 20/02/2023 Blessington crew attended an alarm activation in Killeel.
- 24/02/2023 Dunlavin crew supported crews from Newbridge at a 2-car RTC at Kilrush on M9.
- 25/02/2023 Blessington crew attended an alarm activation in Ballymore Eustace.
- 26/02/2023 Dunlavin crew attended an outdoor fire at Yellowbogcommon.
- 27/02/2023 Baltinglass and Dunlavin crews attended a single vehicle RTC at Carrigeen.

Incidents in County Carlow (1-incidents):

- 09/02/2023 Tinahely crew supported a crew from Tullow at a domestic house fire on the outskirts of the town.

Incidents in County Carlow (1-incidents):

- 08/02/2023 Bray and Greystones crews attended reports of smoke in an apartment building at Wilford Court.

General

- For the last 12 months Wicklow Fire Service has partnered with the Air Corps and Maynooth University to enhance how technology can be used to fight wildfires. It was announced that Maynooth University were overall winners out of 10 teams competing in a Science Foundation Ireland / Defence competition. The university has been awarded an additional €1 million in funding to progress the project.
- A QQI accredited Firefighting Skills Course (Recruits) began on 20th February to with 4 students from Wicklow.

- Forklift refresher training took place during the month.
- 12 firefighters in the County completed a Community CFR Instructor course during the month and can now deliver this training on a voluntary basis to the community.

Fire Prevention Statistics February 2023

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	7		10		26
Regularisation Certificates					
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	2		3		10

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 11 planning files during the month of February 2023.

The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 11 of these files.

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

Building Control Statistics February 2023

Commencement Notices for February 2023:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 40

- 9 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 22 Opt Out Declarations
- 6 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 3 Seven day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 55 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 80 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 32 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 9 are Compliance Documentation (28%)
 - 19 are Opt Out (60%)
 - 1 Without Compliance Documentation (3%)
 - 3 Seven Day Notice (9%)
- 26 Valid Commencement Notices
- 138 new build residential Units
- Invalidated CNs for February = 2

• **Certificates of Completion processed in February 2023**

- 9 New No. of CCC submitted
- 7 Required Revised Information
- 8 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 26 new residential units plus 62 new apartment units.

Submission Statistics

8 No. Validated CCCs related to;
6 No CCCs submitted in February 2023
2 No CCCs submitted in January 2023

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Building Control continues to experienced high construction activity & completion of units since January 2023. 138 new residential units in were notified to LA for Commencement. 26 newly completed residential units and 62 new apartment units were submitted, assessed and validated in February.

Building Control continued with site inspections in February to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 6 No. Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests were high in February for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 80% of Commencement Notice submissions & 78% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. It should be further noted that some Opt Out Submissions are requiring 2 to 3 Revised information requests which results in submissions being assessed 2 to 3 times to ensure compliance prior to commencement.

Opt Out submissions are both extensions and single unit dwellings, generally from BCMS users who are unfamiliar with both BCMS and Building Regulations which leads to Building Control resources being directed to resolving both

administration and technical issues with Opt Out Submissions. NBC&MSO Quarterly Newsletter dated September 2022 has requested LA's to focus resources on compliance with Building Regulations in Opt Out Submissions, Wicklow Building Control continue to perform rigorous assessment of submissions at commencement stage and onsite presence during constructions. These methods remain the best way to promote compliance with Building Regs.

Building Control staff attended a NBCO CPD Day event on Construction Product Regulations also in February. Register was free and online content available for non-LA persons working in construction. As part of Wicklow's Building Control Market Surveillance, this CPD day event details were circulated to Engineers, Architects, Building Surveyors & Energy Consultants who have regular submissions to Wicklow.

Civil Defence

Callout & Assists

- Assisting Wicklow Gardaí with a Missing Person Search in Newcastle, Wicklow.
- Assisting Wicklow Hospice in Avondale with a charity race event (half marathon & 10k race).
- Provide ongoing support to the HSE in Shoreline Leisure with the supply of a backup generator for Vaccine refrigerators.

Gardaí	Local Authority	Fire Service	HSE	Charity	Other
1	-	-	1	1	-

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	153,190
Greystones Municipal District	45,380
Wicklow Municipal District	54,626
Arklow Municipal District	34,183
Parking Permits	17,115
Parking Fines	70,369
Wicklow County Council	374,864

Organisational Development & Financial Matters

1. HR & Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in February 2023:

- Community Climate Action Officer
- Permanent, Temporary & Substitute Part Time Branch Librarians
- Quantity Surveyor.
- Executive Engineer
- Part Time substitute School Traffic Warden.
- Shortlisting Clerical Officer
- Shortlisting Assistant Staff Officer
- Shortlisting Staff Officer
- Shortlisting Senior Staff Officer

Employee Numbers

	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022
Employee Numbers				
Managerial/Administrative	303	298	301	296
Professional/Technical	117	116	126	131
Outdoor	273	264	262	260
Temporary Seasonal	44	69 (Increase due to Lifeguards)	37	33
Non DOHPLG	6	6	5	4
Total	743	753	731	724

Access to Information

Freedom of Information Requests

February 2023: 8	February 2022: 10
January – February 2023: 17	January – February 2022: 19

Ombudsman Requests

February 2023: 3	February 2022: 2
January – February 2023: 6	January – February 2022: 6

Press Releases

February 2023 – 7

Register of Electors

On March 8th 2023, The Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar and the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman announced the government’s intention to hold a referendum on gender equality as recommended by the Citizens’ Assembly on Gender Equality and the Special Joint Oireachtas Committee on Gender Equality.

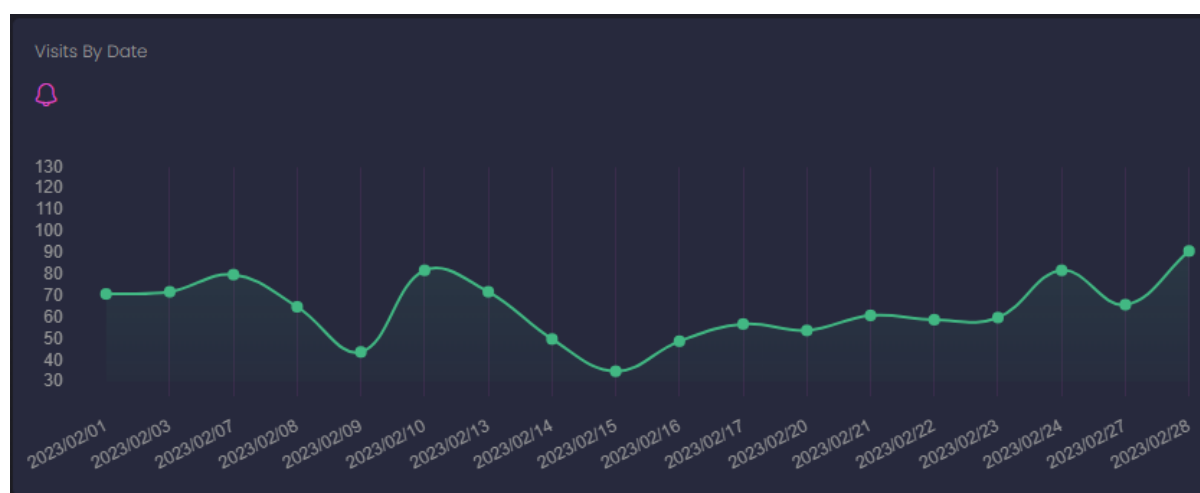
This referendum will be a great opportunity to see how well the new online Electoral Registration system functions or highlight any issues that require rectification in advance of a General Election in March 2025.

Following a recent Electoral Change Network meeting the accuracy of the Electoral Register over 30 Local Authorities was discussed; Wicklow County Council scored 93% accuracy for Dates of Birth & Eircodes, 98% for Dates of Birth and 95% for Eircodes.

Customer Service Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2023 - February			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	6,191	Motor Taxation	1,768
No. of Emails	1,470	Revenue Transactions (includes phone payments)	1,543
No. of Elected Members Emails	102	Social Housing Applications	47
CRM Cases	112		

Total in person visits for February 2023 – 1,150



2. I.C.T.

Blended Working

The IT Department continue to plan and support the additional business needs required by implementation of Blended Working:

- Blended model for return-to-work arrangements
- Remote Working Requirements for staff of Wicklow County Council
- Government Networks
- Phone Systems
- Call Conferencing
- Communications and awareness

System updates

Continuedly sourcing and implementing new processes and systems to improve end user experience while adhering to industry best practice.

IT Helpdesk

- 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.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is continuing.
- Agresso tasks have been now assigned to the Helpdesk.

GIS & Systems Analysis

- Continued testing of a new Severe Weather Management System by members of the MEM team in conjunction with Galway County Council.
- Final maps for the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 have been published.
- Submissions for the RZLT is ongoing and are currently being mapped on the RZLT interactive mapping system.
- The draft version of the Barn Owl spatial management application has been completed and further amendments are being applied to the application.
- Development of an online consultation hub has commenced. The Hub will be used to engage with the public on several topics from up-and-coming Local Area Plans.
- Migration of the primary County Development Plan datasets to Ireland's Open Data Portal is ongoing.

Customer Service Delivery

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

eServices

Wicklow.ie – pageviews from June 1st, 2021, to May 31st, 2022, were 1,240,168 This is a decrease in unique pageviews of 17% compared the same period the previous year.

- Social media accounts – followers to date
 - o Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 11,107 followers. This is an increase of 36 followers or .3% on the previous month.
 - o Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 7703 followers. This is an increase of 21 followers or .3% on the previous month.
 - o Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 2843 followers. This is an increase of 35 followers or 1.25% on the previous month.
- The Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie continues to feature in enhanced consultation campaigns. These have included–
 - o Redford Junction Part 8
 - o County Wicklow Disability, Inclusion and Access Strategy
 - o Draft Customer Action Plan
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month.
 - o #KeepWell
 - o #OutdoorsForEveryone

3. Finance

Revenue Account

Due to year-end adjustments that are currently being carried out as part of the 2022 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) process, we are not in a position to provide February 2023 expenditure figures in the normal format at this time. This situation will be regularised during the Quarter 1 period. The below table outlines the 2023 adopted budget by service division.

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT			
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BUDGET SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION 2023			
	Expenditure	Income	NET
	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	€
Housing and Building	42,194,421	(46,575,078)	(4,380,657)
Road Transport & Safety	24,371,150	(16,722,878)	7,648,272
Water Services	5,649,853	(6,606,528)	(956,675)
Development Management	14,288,049	(8,574,520)	5,713,529
Environmental Services	13,559,916	(2,628,049)	10,931,867
Recreation and Amenity	8,984,450	(1,085,428)	7,899,022
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,106,287	(1,049,228)	1,057,059
Miscellaneous Services	9,728,355	(13,260,436)	(3,532,081)
Central Management Charges	21,746,281	(1,050,000)	20,696,281
Local Government Fund		(13,821,571)	(13,821,571)
Commercial Rates		(31,405,046)	(31,405,046)
	142,628,762	(142,778,762)	(150,000)

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st February 2023 to 28th February 2023.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2023					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2023	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 28/2/2023
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	22,710,494	19,738,572	(16,972,721)	0	25,476,345
Road Transport & Safety	(30,934,587)	854,179	(410,688)	0	(30,491,096)
Water Services	(11,166,139)	44,862	(6,334)	0	(11,127,610)
Development Management	(35,248,297)	307,964	(754,451)	0	(35,694,784)
Environmental Services	978,380	385,339	(386,273)	0	977,446
Recreation and Amenity	1,296,951	469,496	(79,480)	(50,000)	1,636,968
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,751,679)	20,029	0	30,913	(1,700,737)
Miscellaneous Services	(19,623,574)	(4,635,977)	600	1,554,806	(22,704,145)
	(73,738,451)	17,184,464	(18,609,345)	1,535,719	(73,627,612)

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2023										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2023	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 28/02/2023	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	4,590,519	31,339,711	0	0	0	35,930,230	(2,899,269)	33,030,962	665,849	8%
Rents & Annuities	3,313,735	3,013,254	0	(4,842)	0	6,322,147	(2,725,651)	3,596,496	0	43%
Housing Loans	440,112	199,834	0	0	0	639,947	(492,089)	147,858	0	77%

NB The rent collection percentage is below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2023

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 10th 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	7,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	63,500
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
Total	269,197	243,197	426,778	246,197	250,197	1,435,566

Capital Investment Programme 2022-2022

The Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024 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 March 21st 2022. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL	Dev Charges ¹	Loan	Grant Aid ²	Other ³	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	107,820,000	104,427,500	107,603,750	319,851,250	-	26,000,000	288,594,000	5,257,250	319,851,250
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	24,647,487	29,100,107	16,356,902	70,104,496	14,713,521	7,795,000	42,632,508	4,963,467	70,104,496
WATER SERVICES	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	-	-	300,000	-	300,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	6,550,000	10,178,000	5,962,000	22,690,000	2,897,800	2,000,000	9,627,200	8,165,000	22,690,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	2,920,000	10,850,000	28,550,000	42,320,000	-	-	32,060,000	10,260,000	42,320,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	11,281,823	22,079,000	12,091,000	45,451,823	9,525,870	-	35,025,953	900,000	45,451,823
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	5,150,000	16,900,000	30,682,946	52,732,946	4,585,368	-	41,647,210	6,500,368	52,732,946
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	200,000	200,000	200,000	600,000	-	-	-	600,000	600,000
OVERALL TOTAL	158,669,310	193,834,607	201,546,598	554,050,515	31,722,559	35,795,000	449,886,871	36,646,085	554,050,515

Capital Funded Projects

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
NRGF	Blessington Greenway	€15,000,000	€0
URDF	Arklow Historic Town Core	€3,134,684	€783,671
URDF	Wicklow Town - Library and Fitzwilliam Square	7,034,879	€2,407,470
URDF	Bray Public Transport Bridge	€8,600,000	€1,000,000
URDF	Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration	€9,520,000	€2,380,000
RRDF 2019	Blueprint for Baltinglass	€3,566,968	€891,742
RRDF 2020	Placemaking Newtownmountkennedy	€477,000	€119,250
REDF	Wicklow County Campus - Content Creation Hub	€3,500,000	€2,000,000
Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns	Abbey Grounds Wicklow Town	€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
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	€190,700	€38,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Avondale Avonmore	€20,330	€2,033
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Trail Digitising	€19,600	€1,960
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Tinahely	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Stratford	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Long Distance Video	€21,400	€2,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Brockagh Mountain Access	€11,100	€1,110
ORIS Measure 1 2020	People Counters	€22,000	€2,200
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Sean Lenihan	€21,200	€2,120
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Glenmalure Bridge	€12,500	€1,250
ORIS Measure 3 2020	Bright light Blueway	€554,820	€55,482
Sports Capital Programme	Charlesland All Weather Pitch Refurbishment -	€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	€1,646,052	€493,816
LSSIS	Charlesland Running Track	€411,674	€123,502
CLAR 2019	Rathcoyle NS	€55,556	€2,778
CLAR 2019	Knockananna	€46,000	€3,000
CLAR 2021	Knockananna community allotment	€10,830	€1,083
CLAR 2021	Askanagap	€55,557	€5,557
CLAR 2021	Knockananna	€27,514	€2,501
Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2022	Wicklow Libraries	€26,500	€2,650
	Sub-Total	€56,705,032	€11,312,089

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
T&V 2018	Blessington	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2018	Wicklow	€150,000	€30,000
T&V 2019	Dunlavin	€26,216	€2,623
T&V 2019	Coolkenno	€30,000	€3,000
T&V 2019	Aughrim	€119,500	€17,925
T&V 2019	Redcross	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2019	Delgany	€37,000	€3,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Bundled	€28,000	€2,800
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Dunlavin	€4,950	€495
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Roundwood	€40,000	€4,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Ballinaclash	€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	Ballinaclash	€70,000	€7,000
T&V 2021	Donard	€29,000	€2,900
T&V 2021	Wicklow	€245,931	€24,593
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	€50,000	€5,000
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	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Ballyboy Equestrian Trail	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Glen Turn Cliff Walk	€33,300	€3,600
ORIS 2022 M1	Miners Way	€28,000	€2,800
ORIS 2022 M1	Red Kite Loop	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	West Wicklow Access Points	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Wicklow Uplands	€33,000	€3,300
REISS (REDF)	Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation and Innovation Centre	€249,500	€49,900
	Total to date	€59,816,421	€11,670,872