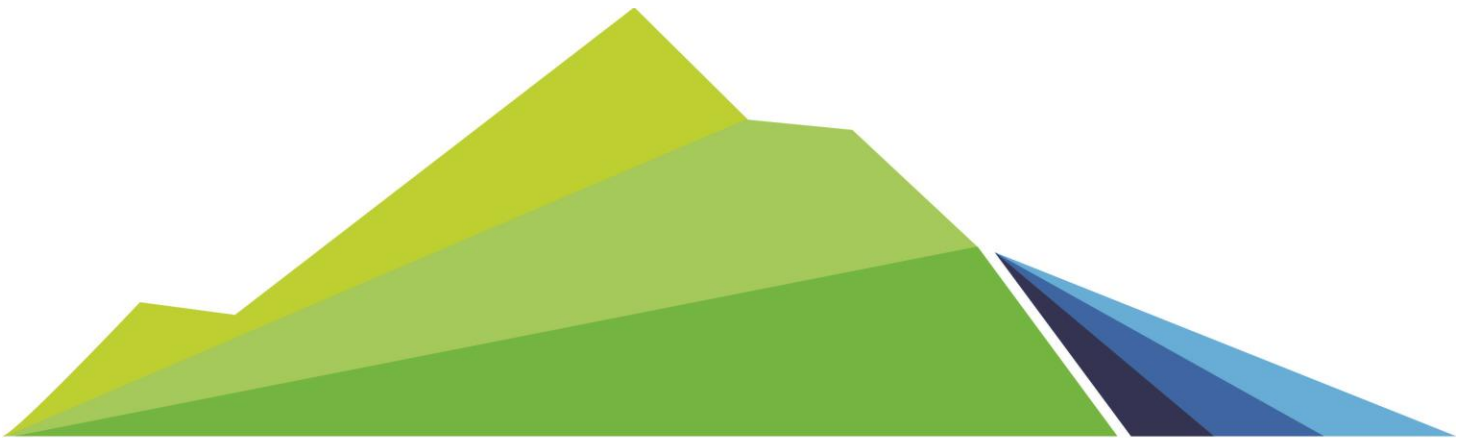


JUNE 2023



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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This month:

€75,000 Healthy Ireland Fund Award

Wicklow County Council has welcomed a €75,000 funding boost under the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) announced by Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, Hildegard Naughton.

Wicklow County Council has a long-standing partnership with Healthy Ireland and has worked collaboratively to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone living in the County.

The award came following an extensive public consultation to identify key priority areas and the 'at risk' groups.

The funds will be allocated to initiatives that support both positive mental health and decrease those at risk of poverty and basic deprivation and targeted at all age groups, particularly children, adolescents and young people, older people, those living in disadvantaged communities and people with disabilities.

Launch of e-bike Service in Bray

Wicklow County Council has officially launched its shared electric bike service in Bray.

The bikes can be found at a variety of designated locations throughout the town and rented by the minute. The service has an affordable €0.18 per minute charge and has been designed to connect to local Dart stations.

Wicklow County Council are hoping the new service fits seamlessly into the local transport offering, and aid the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 which, amongst other objectives, seeks to facilitate a modal shift to more sustainable transport options.

Housing & Community

1. Housing

	May 2023	May 2022
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4465	4530
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	175	231
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2715	2550
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	23	21
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	32	31

Allocation of Social Housing

	May 2022	May 2023
Wicklow County Council	53	16
Approved Housing Bodies	24	26

Social Housing Stock

	May 2023	May 2022
Tenancies occupied	4,810	4,721
Total weekly rental accrual	316,513.91	308,484.46
Arrears	3,173,012.37	2,718,975.66

MD -	Added to list YTD 2023	Completed YTD 2023	Vacant April 2023*	WIP
Arklow	5	5	13	9
Baltinglass	6	9	23	13
Bray	10	23	59	16
Greystones	1	1	5	5
Wicklow*	3	5	45	8
Totals	25	43	145	51

*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
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed
Schemes on Site	Units	CURRENT STATUS
Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build (Changed to Affordable scheme)	36	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	Detailed design stage underway - Contractor appointed
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Construction ongoing
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Preparing tender documents
Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin, Wicklow	10	On site
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Tender advertised
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5
Burnaby, Greystones	75	PPP Bundle 5
Ballinahinch Ashford	25	Design Stage
Tinahask, Arklow	75	Design stage.
Sheephouse Arklow	30	Design Stage

Part V

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	2	18 Delivered, 2 Units Scheduled Q2 2023	CALF
Rathnew	3	3 Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Delgany	3	Scheduled Q2 2023	WCC

Rathdrum	3	Scheduled Q2 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Delivered May 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	6	Scheduled Q2 2023	CALF
Arklow	16	Due for delivery 2023	CALF
Blessington	5	Delivery Due Q2 2023	CALF
Bray	1	Delivery due Q4 2023	CALF
Delgany	3	Delivered May 2023	WCC
Greystones	1	Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Rathnew	1	Scheduled Q4 2023	WCC
Bray	4	Delivered 2 2023	WCC

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	78	Delivery Due Q2 2023	CALF
Rathdrum	13	Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Scheduled Q2 2023	CALF
Arklow	33	Due for delivery 2023	CALF
Blessington	40	Delivery Due Q2 2023	CALF
Bray	17	Delivery Date Q1 2024	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 etc.

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands

Parnell Road (Central Garage site)

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

Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas

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

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

› Grant funding for private house - €2,352,438.16 - €619,676.16 spent to date

› Grant funding for social house - €818,793.00 - €391,786.50 spent to date

2023 - 77 open applications (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

2023 - 97 approvals (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Grants Received/Processed	249	216	266	327	281	205

Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing and Disability Steering Group has prepared the new draft Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2022-2027. The next meeting of the HDSG is due to take place in September 2023. The Implementation plan for Housing People with a disability will be launched in June 2023.

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road – 2 x 2 bed properties	Contractor on site – expected completion in August 2023
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Contractor on site - expected completion date August 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 – contractor about to be appointed

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	ESB re-connected 2 nd June.
108 Charnwood, Bray	An Bord Pleanála decided to confirm the CPO on 25 th of April 2023. Confirmation order advertised and must now allow period for possible application to High Court for Judicial Review.

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 complete.
6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Refurbishment to start shortly.
114 Hillside, Greystones	Deal now agreed. Contract for purchase to close shortly.
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 2022. Compensation now agreed. House to be Vested in WCC (Vesting Order No 3 of 2023) – advertised 3 rd week in April.
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 now completed by Taillte Éireann. Title now registered to WCC. Compensation has now been paid. House shuttered mid May 2023 awaiting refurbishment.
2 Harbour Road (“Merdenville”), Arklow	CPO published Dec 2022. Negotiations underway with owner to agree purchase. Compensation package now finalised June 2023.
36 Wheatfield Bray	CPO published March 2023. Currently engaging with owner with a view to purchase by agreement.
2 further CPOs (further house in Bray and Wicklow Town) to be published.	

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

Derelict Properties

The following four derelict properties have been approved for sale:

Property	Progress
Croneynhorn	Sale approved by the members a the June meeting held on 12/06/2023
Killacloran	Valuation done, applicant has been requested a deposit to progress application
Rednagh Rd	Sale approved by the members a the June meeting held on 12/06/2023
Borkhill	No interested parties

Affordable Housing

Greenhill Road Affordable Housing Scheme was launched to the public for applications on 09/01/2023, and closed on 30/01/2023. There has been a lot of interest from the public and Wicklow County Council received over 140 applications for the 36 properties. Wicklow County Council are currently 'sale agreed' on all the 36 units, and are having an open day on site for clients on Saturday 22nd April. Breakdown of properties that were available are below.

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) – Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

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

A grant of up to €50,000 is available.

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

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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

Number of Applications	2023 to date	2022 (6 Months)
Applications Received	26	18
Applications being processed,	22	13
Applications refused or withdrawn	4	5

Infill Sites

- Knockroe – Two 4 bed fully accessible homes in progress - expected completion date Q4 2023
- 5a Rednagh Rd – One 4 bed house – Part 8 to commence shortly

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 May 2023

Received	Approved in principle
23	5

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	May 2023
Applications Received	400	3
Completed	98	0
Declined	277	3
Ongoing	25	25

Homeless figures

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/05/2023	Year To Date	As at 31/05/2022
No of New Presentations	42	184	45
No. of Repeat Presentations	0	3	3
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	16	72	30
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	32	103	17
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	8	8	0
No. of Children	28	131	47
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	12	56	20
Family Circumstances	10	51	16
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	4	7	2
Mental Health	2	10	0
Risk of Homelessness	3	11	2
Arrears/Loss of Income	1	4	0
Addiction Issues	4	17	1
DV/DA	2	10	2
Medical Issues	3	8	1
Overcrowding	2	11	2
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	6	33	2
ASB:	0	6	0
Rough Sleeping*	6	15	1
Sofa Surfing*	5	22	5
Staying with Family*	7	37	7
Staying with Friends*	1	4	4

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/05/23	
Families	17
Adults	28
Children	53
Single individual	2

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/05/2023								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	21	24	25	5	5	5	5	1
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/05/22								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	23	19	13	7	4	2	2	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, 448 households (326 families & 117 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 31st May 2023. (186 homeless cases, 250 prevention cases to date and 11 direct provision). 129 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

There are 9 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 – Four of the families have now transitioned or are in the process of transitioning to a permanent home and the resulting vacancies are in the process of being occupied with families experiencing or in danger of homelessness

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. There are plans now to move 6 of these persons on to own-front door accommodation which will in turn create space to move further people out of homelessness

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 15 clients under Housing First and it is hoped that at least two further allocations will take place before the end of July 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

Ballintekin – 3 houses	Contractor on site- expected completion date Nov 2023
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Approval received for funding from Department, – Contractor about to be appointed for the scheme.
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses	Due to change in the family circumstances – new site selection is being investigated

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 completed. Surveying of the houses identified for 2023 programme is substantially completed and approx 35 have commenced on site.

This number is broken down as follows –

- Arklow MD 229 No.
 - Baltinglass MD 323 No.
 - Bray MD 614 No.
 - Greystones MD 135 No.
 - Wicklow MD 131 No.
-
- WCC are currently assessing all Displaced Ukrainians persons in the County in order to identify their accommodation needs as well linking them in with all the relevant services and supports within the community.
 - WCC are working through a list of pledged properties within the County and matching families accordingly. As of the 16th June we will have housed 216 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.
 - The Community Reponse Forum continues to meet on a monthly basis.

2. Community

Age Friendly Ireland

County Wicklow Older People's Council AGM

Over 120 older people from across County Wicklow attended the annual general meeting of the Older People's Council. Outgoing Chair of County Wicklow Older People's Council, Mai Quaid, welcomed the new Chair of the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance, Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, to the event in the Glenview Hotel on Friday 26th May. Both welcomed the attendance from a wide range of community groups and networks across the county.

Staff from the multi-agency Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance attended the event to provide information on service and supports for older people, including: Health Service Executive, An Garda Síochána, Citizens Information Services, County Wicklow Libraries Services, Local Sports Partnership, County Wicklow Partnership, Bray Area Partnership and the Public Participation Network.

Alice Corbett, Regional Manager Southeast, for Age Friendly Ireland, provided an update on the new operating guidelines, developed by the National Network of Older People's Councils.

Clodagh Whelan, Age Friendly Programme Manager for County Wicklow, gave an overview of the new County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-27. Pat Brennan and Martina Cronin, members of the OPC Executive group, gave an outline of some of the work done by the OPC since the last AGM, in 2019.



County Wicklow Older People's Council – Induction Day for new OPC Executive

Following the OPC AGM and the recruitment campaign for new OPC Volunteers, an induction session was held in Clermont House on 8th June, for volunteers nominated or expressing interest in active engagement with the Older People's Council Executive group.

After training on the OPC Guidelines, 14 Members were elected, with 2 representatives from each of the 5 MDs and 4 representing special interest groups. The elected Chairperson is Carina Holmes.

Additional members may be co-opted by the group, following its first meeting scheduled for Friday 18th August 2023.



Census 2022 Preliminary Results - County Wicklow's Age Profile of over 55s

Central Statistics Office published preliminary results for Census 2022 on 30th May 2023. This provides data on population by year of birth.

In County Wicklow, 2,344 people were identified as 85yrs and over, accounting for 1.5% of the population. A total of 23,661 people were 65 and over, accounting for 15.18% of the total population of 155,851. While 42,288 people were 55 and over, representing 27.13% of the population of the county.

Further details below:

Census Preliminary Results 2022							
	Population	Males	Females				
Co. Wicklow	155851	76564	79287	% of Tot			
	Population	Males	Females	Population	Males	Females	
55 and over	42288	20297	21991	27.13%	26.51%	27.74%	
60 and over	32361	15456	16905	20.76%	20.19%	21.32%	
65 and over	23661	11189	12472	15.18%	14.61%	15.73%	
70 and over	16384	7665	8719	10.51%	10.01%	11.00%	
75 and over	10120	4612	5508	6.49%	6.02%	6.95%	
80 and over	5237	2238	2999	3.36%	2.92%	3.78%	
85 and over	2344	902	1442	1.50%	1.18%	1.82%	
		Males	Females				
55 and over	42288	48.00%	52.00%				
60 and over	32361	47.76%	52.24%				
65 and over	23661	47.29%	52.71%				
70 and over	16384	46.78%	53.22%				
75 and over	10120	45.57%	54.43%				
80 and over	5237	42.73%	57.27%				
85 and over	2344	38.48%	61.52%				

Source: <https://data.cso.ie/>

Community Awards Scheme 2023

Over 270 local groups and organisations have been awarded grants by Wicklow County Council as part of the Community Awards Scheme 2023. This is an increase of almost 21 per cent on the number of grants awarded last year.

Wicklow County Council operates this scheme as part of its commitment to supporting local community development and is available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area.

The maximum grant amount is €500 per organisation to assist with small projects and group running costs.

Arts Office

The Wicklow Teaching Residency - Making Music with Trio Táin:

The Wicklow Teaching Residency was a partnership between Wicklow County Arts Office and Music Network, that offered residents of County Wicklow aged 55 and over the opportunity to reconnect with musical instruments they had played in the past.

The residency offered participants free tuition from professional musicians and access to instruments for the duration of the programme.

15 participants partook in the residency which ran from November 2022 to March 2023. Working with the music group Trio Táin, (featuring renowned musicians Aisling Ennis, Vourneen Ryan and Robin Panter), the participants received tuition on harp, flute, recorder, violin and viola and explored many genres of music including baroque, classical, world, folk and pop.

This initiative was funded by Creative Ireland.

Creative Places Baltinglass

'Creative Places' initiative was devised to provide places/communities which had not benefitted from sustained arts investment in the past, to build local arts programmes to benefit the people living in these places.

Supported by the Arts Council, 'Creative Places Baltinglass' is a 3 year community led initiative aimed at building local arts programmes in Baltinglass. The work is intended to build on existing cultural strengths, led by community participation and ideas and supported by artists. The following events and initiatives have been delivered or are currently underway:

Artist Coffee Morning

The Arts Office held the first in a series of Artist Coffee Mornings for West Wicklow artists, musicians, and creative practitioners on Friday 21st April 2023.

With over 50 people in attendance, this event provided an opportunity for artists to meet, converse, connect with members of the Arts Office, and find out more about the plans for Creative Places Baltinglass and the Seed Funding Scheme.

In direct response to feedback from this event, the Arts office held a Seed Funding Clinic on Wednesday 10th May 2023 to provide additional support to prospective applicants.

Bealtaine Tea Dance

In collaboration with Baltinglass & District A.R.A., the Arts Office provided a social tea dance as part of the Bealtaine Festival for Creative Places Baltinglass.

The event proved hugely successful with over 65 senior citizens from the Baltinglass area in attendance attending the event on Wednesday 10th May 2023.

Seed Funding Scheme

The 2023 Seed Funding Scheme was created to support the delivery of the Creative Places Baltinglass initiative and its aims. This fund was open to artists and local community arts, heritage, biodiversity and cultural groups based in Baltinglass. Eleven applications were received and grants of between €500 and €1,000 will be allocated per project following assessment by an independent panel in the next few weeks.

Baltinglass Sings

The Arts Office recently launched the 'Baltinglass Sings' programme as part of Creative Places Baltinglass. Led by Paula Phelan, this series of free weekly singing sessions for ages 18+ years are taking place on Wednesdays from 7pm –8pm in The Lalor Centre (which commenced on 31st May). The group will continue to meet for over the next six weeks up to 28th June.

Creative Places Baltinglass website

The Arts Office recently soft launched www.creativeplacesbaltinglass.ie

Designed to act as a central hub for the community, graphic designer Ronan McDonnell (A Worthy Cause Ltd.), has created a bright, accessible and engaging website where information about Baltinglass, the Creative Places scheme, news and events can be easily accessed by all.

A photocall was scheduled for Saturday 10th June 2023 to coincide with Cruinniú na nÓg at Tearmann Community Garden, Baltinglass to officially launch the website.

The Irish Writers Centre - National Mentoring Programme

The Irish Writers Centre's National Mentoring Programme provides 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 committed to support three writers from County Wicklow;

Abbie White: a fiction and non-fiction writer as well as an occasional poet based in Laragh. After studying creative writing in UCD for four years, coupled with a lifelong passion for creativity, Abbie hopes to publish her work and continue doing what she loves for the rest of her life.

Eleanor O'Reilly: a full time teacher of English and Classical Studies at Gorey Community School, Eleanor is an international Award-Winning writer and novelist. Her debut novel 'M for Mammy' is an Irish Times Best Seller.

Noline Foley: a fiction writer based in Arklow Born, Noline writes about social issues, attitudes, and prejudices in the nineteen fifties and sixties Ireland and has published in Stories from the Waterside, Undercover Wexford and was shortlisted for an Irish Times writing award.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2023

Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of free creativity for children and young people, returned to County Wicklow on Saturday 10th June 2023.

Wicklow Arts Office programmed more than 40 activities, events and workshops in nine areas across County Wicklow including; Arklow, Blessington, Baltinglass, Bray, Dunlavin, Greystones, Rathdrum, Tinahely and Wicklow Town.

The Arts Office partnered with Wicklow Library Services, Mermaid Arts Centre, The Whale Theatre, Arklow Music and Arts, Tinahely Courthouse Arts Centre as well as Wicklow Artists and Community Groups to devise a dynamic programme which engaged an estimated 1,500 children and young people in County Wicklow.

Just one of the many highlights included the Rhyme Island Showcase which took place in Blessington Library. Young residents, aged 10 – 17 years from Kippure Lodge, showcased their recent creations for all to enjoy. Following a highly successful GMCBeats “Song-in-a-Day” workshop with Rhyme Island, Music Generation Wicklow continued to work with young people from Kippure Lodge over six weeks in the lead up to Cruinniú na nÓg. During this time, they created a range of pieces featuring rap, poetry, and song to explore their stories and experiences.

Artist Connect Blog Series

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

The ninth Artist Connect blog entry was provided by writer Niamh O’Connor. Niamh who started her writing life as a crime journalist and worked as the true crime editor for the Sunday World Newspaper for 12 years. She is the author of seven novels and nonfiction books and has been nominated three times for an Irish Book Award.

The tenth Artist Connect blog entry is by Philip St. John and Joanna Kidney. In the lead up to the next Wicklow Artist Salon which took place on 24th June 2023 in the Tinahely Courthouse Arts Centre, reflect on the last year of salons.

Job Vacancy - Creative Community Engagement Officer

Wicklow County Council recently advertised the role of Creative Community Engagement Officer to work with the Culture and Creativity Team to deliver the strategic priorities of Wicklow County Council’s Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027.

The role will involve liaising with local creatives, artists, organisations and staff as well as managing the development and delivery of a programme of projects and events aimed at increasing participation in creative and cultural activities locally.

Closing date for applications was Thursday 15th June 2023.

Upcoming:

2024 Strategic Projects Awards

The Arts Office recently launched the 11th edition of the Strategic Projects Awards Scheme. Open to artists, national resource organisations, individual curators, and / or artist collectives, applications should focus on nurturing practice, enhancing connectivity, generating new perspectives and cultivating new voices within County Wicklow.

As with previous years, two funding streams are available for the 2024 round of Strategic Projects Awards:

Stream 'A' - New applicants and proposals

Stream 'B' - Consolidation / development of strategic projects previously awarded under this scheme

The closing date for applications is Friday 11th August 2023 at 4pm.

Wicklow Artist Salon

The 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.

The next Wicklow Artist Salon is taking place on 24th June from 2pm in the Courthouse Tinahely. Moderated and facilitated by Kate Strain, Curator and Founding Director of Kunstverein Aughrim, the panel includes; Eleanor Phillips, a multidisciplinary artist, and co-founder and current director of Signal Arts Centre; Declan Meade, publisher of The Stinging Fly Press, and Garrett Keogh, an actor, writer and Founding Director of The Gap Arts Festival.

Archives

Finding Wicklow in the Virtual Record Treasury

Wicklow County Archives will host the Virtual Treasury Roadshow - a chance to see the history of Wicklow and its people through the lens of this exciting new online resource.

The event will take place on Thursday, 15th June in the Library, The Mall, Main Street, Wicklow.

A range of speakers will include:

- Ciarán Wallace, Deputy Director, Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland: Ireland's public records: destruction and recovery
- Brian Gurrin, Virtual Record Treasury Research Fellow and Wicklow records in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland
- Catherine Wright, Archivist, Wicklow County Council: Local history resources at Wicklow County Archives

In June 1922 the Public Record Office of Ireland was destroyed in the battle of the Four Courts, the opening engagement of the Civil War. In a single afternoon seven centuries of Irish history went up in flames. The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland is an all-island and international research programme working to digitally reconstruct, as far as possible, these lost archives. By tracking down copies and transcripts in libraries and archives around Ireland and overseas, tens of thousands of documents relating to every corner of Ireland have been recovered, making them available online free of charge.

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, said: *"I look forward to welcoming The Virtual Record Treasury Roadshow to Wicklow, which is the first stop on its national tour. We are very proud that Wicklow County Archives is a participating partner in this important project which has virtually reassembled the Irish archives lost in the fire of the Public Records Office in 1922. Our County Archives has contributed digital versions of the Wicklow Grand Jury records to the Virtual Record Treasury and I look forward to learning about the other Wicklow treasures restored and made available by the Virtual Record Treasury in Wicklow Library on the 15th of June."*

Ms Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, stated: *"The Virtual Record Treasury Roadshow highlights the value of archives to everyone, having reassembled 700 years of Irish archives lost during the Civil War. Indeed, archival sources and especially local authority archives have featured strongly in Decade of Centenaries programmes, which have brought local stories and experiences to life. We are very proud of the collections in our own Wicklow County Archives and look forward to a continuing collaboration between Wicklow and the Virtual Record Treasury project"*.

Attendance is free and all are welcome. Booking is required by contacting: Wicklow County Archives - email archives@wicklowcoco.ie; Tel 0404-67025

County Library Service

Pride Celebrations in Wicklow County Council Libraries

In a spirited display of inclusivity, rainbow and ally flags were displayed in all 13 libraries for the month of June, serving as beacons of support for the LGBTQI+ community.

Extra activities to celebrate Pride included book displays, showcasing LGBTQI+ literature and emphasising the significance of representation and empathy. From moving stories to empowering memoirs, these books offer readers the chance to see LGBTQI+ individuals reflected in literature and gain a deeper understanding of others' experiences.

At select libraries, book clubs delved into literature that raised insightful discussions and encouraged a deeper understanding of diversity. LGBTQI+ books took centre stage, allowing readers to explore different perspectives and expand their horizons.

Young children delighted in colouring pages adorned with Elmer the Elephant, a symbol of individuality and the celebration of differences.

To spread the Pride spirit far and wide, each library offered Pride badges and bookmarks.

Through rainbow flags, enlightening stories, thought-provoking discussions, colourful activities, and empowering literature, they illuminated the path toward a more inclusive and understanding society.



Summer Stars Summer Reading Initiative

The Library's annual Summer Stars reading Initiative kicked off in mid-June and is due to last all summer! Summer Stars is the public library national summer reading programme for children that runs from the 12th of June until the end of August. All children throughout the county are invited to join the adventure and to enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading and writing over the summer. Summer Stars is non-competitive and every child who reads even one book/e-book is regarded as having completed the programme – and it's all completely free!

Wicklow Libraries have decided to maximise the fun by focussing on rewarding children's efforts by including all participating children in a number of draws for experiences at some of our well known attractions this summer. Included will be tickets for Wicklow Gaol, Greenane Maze, Clara Lara and Beyond the Trees, Rathdrum.

Children will also receive a reading card, bookmark, pencil, stickers and a medal for their efforts.



Little Library Bag Initiative

All children starting school in September 2023 can get a free Book Bag at their local library.

The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a partnership between libraries and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy.

As part of the initiative, a 'My Little Library Book Bag' is available free for every child starting school in 2023 to help them to prepare for this big step. Children and their parents or guardians can collect the bags at any library throughout Wicklow.

Each My Little Library Book Bag contains:

- Three books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself
- A story card on going to the library
- A postcard the child can write or draw on and send to their new teacher, or bring to give to the teacher on their first day at school
- Their very own library card and special 'My Little Library' cardholder

Children due to attend a Gaelscoil will receive a bag with 3 Irish Books.



Women's World Cup Activity Book

With the Ireland Women's National Team set to make their major tournament debut at the World Cup in July, the curiosity of children will be sated with this free activity book that aims to promote literacy and reading in a fun, interactive way as part of the national Right to Read programme.

The book, which features player profiles, puzzles, statistics, games and lots more, will be available from libraries nationwide through the Summer Stars reading programme.



Cruinniú na N-óg

Wicklow Libraries embraced the spirit of Cruinniú na N-Óg wholeheartedly, hosting a vibrant array of events across the county.

It was a tremendously busy day and these are only some of the activities!

In Arklow and Dunlavin, the rhythmic beats of drumming workshops resonated, as young participants immersed themselves in the joy of percussion. Also in Arklow, talented young singers stepped onto the stage, relishing the opportunity to showcase their voices to an appreciative audience.

The enchanting tale of "The Lonely Beast" served as inspiration for budding artists in Greystones. Guided by their imagination, these young creators produced great beast pieces and had a lovely time thanks to White Doodle Workshops.

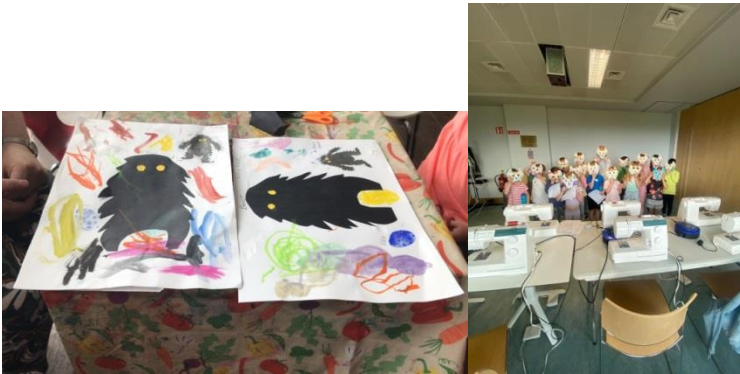
Blessington opened its doors to sewing workshops, where young enthusiasts discovered the magic of needle and thread uniting the art of sewing to make a magical creation of their very own (Hedwig the Owl!)

At Bray Library, a day of toy upcycling workshops unfolded, transforming old toys into new treasures. Young minds tapped into their ingenuity, embracing the challenge of breathing new life into forgotten playthings.

From Kippure Lodge, a group of determined young residents had spent the past five weeks crafting a special "Song in a Day." Despite the daunting challenges they faced, they united their voices in a resounding rap song entertaining a rapt audience in Blessington Library.

Children in Wicklow Town had a golden opportunity to enjoy the crafts of Origami and Felting – creating beautiful folded sculptures and felted wool vases.

Cruinniú na nÓg in Wicklow was a testament to the power of creativity, providing a platform for children and young people to express themselves, learn new skills, and forge lasting connections. It was a day where imagination soared and where dreams were nurtured.



Comics Plus online Comics just launched

Wicklow County Council Library service has introduced an exciting new online resource called "Comics Plus" to give library members access to a wide range of comics, graphic novels, Manga, and Anime. This initiative aims to make these captivating visual stories easily available to all library patrons, young and old, for free using the new 'Library Pass' app.

With your library card, you can now dive into a world of imagination and explore the rich and diverse universe of comics and graphic novels. This digital collection opens up endless possibilities for readers, allowing them to embark on thrilling adventures and discover unique characters and stories.

For children with dyslexia, these visual masterpieces offer special advantages. The combination of pictures and text helps enhance their reading skills and encourages a love for storytelling. Additionally, these comics provide a refreshing alternative to traditional books without images, offering a new and engaging reading experience.



Funding for Power Up Licences – for English Language Learners

We are thrilled to share that we have received funding from the Adult Literacy for All funding call to acquire PowerUp literacy licenses. These will assist individuals who are learning English as a second language. These licenses will be available through Fáilte Isteach and County Wicklow's Adult Education Centres, in the near future. By using these licenses, learners will be able to improve their grammar, expand their vocabulary, and enhance their overall language skills.

Cosplay Pageant in Wicklow Town Library

The library in Wicklow town has brought back their Cosplay Club, providing an exciting opportunity for teenagers to express their creativity by dressing up as their favourite characters from books, films, or video games. They are very busy

preparing for the upcoming Cosplay Pageant, scheduled for July 4th. Workshops for 13 – 16 year olds take place in the library from 3.30-5 pm.

During their club meetings, the participants learn various skills related to cosplay. They explore sewing techniques to create their costumes and learn make-up application to portray their chosen characters. Additionally, they practice public speaking, as they have to share information about their character with the audience.

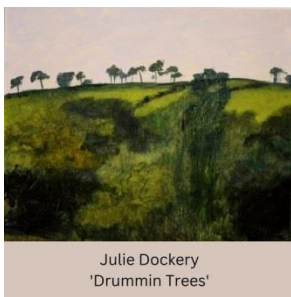
Last year's cosplay workshops were a tremendous success, and this year promises to be even better. We aim to inspire young cosplayers, nurture their creativity, and provide a supportive environment for them to express themselves. Whether you're passionate about gaming, anime, movies, or comics, this event is the perfect platform to showcase your fandom and connect with like-minded individuals.

The winner of the pageant will receive tickets to Dublin Comic Con 2023.



Julie Dockery - Art Exhibition Greystones Library

Running throughout the month of June, Greystones Library hosted a debut solo exhibition of wonderful Wicklow inspired paintings by artist, Julie Dockery.



Film Club Baltinglass Library

Baltinglass's new Film Club is gaining momentum with an attendance of 20 at the recent showing of An Cailín Ciún.

The most recent film was shown on 16th of June and featured a Sundance Award winning film about a teenage girl sent to a conversion camp by her conservative parents.

John, May, James and Me – Readings from the play at Greystones Library

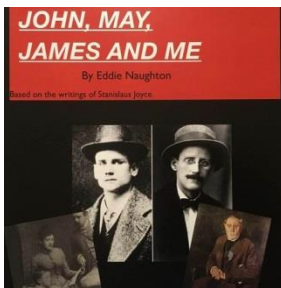
Pat Nolan visited two of our libraries in June - Arklow Library on 13 June, and Rathdrum on 14 June. He read from a new play by Eddie Naughton, titled 'John, May, James and Me' which tells the story of James Joyce from the point of view of his brother Stanislaus.

Stanislaus Joyce was the younger brother of the famous writer James Joyce. Born in Dublin, Stanislaus was seen as a close confidant and supporter of his brother. He was three years younger than James and they spent much of their childhood together. Just like James, Stanislaus developed a rebellious attitude towards their native Ireland. In 1905, he decided to join James in Trieste, where James had settled.

Stanislaus wrote an unfinished memoir called "My Brother's Keeper," which serves as the basis for the play "John, May, James and Me" by Eddie Naughton, along with other writings.

The play explores the dynamics of the Joyce family, as seen through the perspective of Stanislaus. It portrays their father, John, a charismatic but unreliable character from Cork, and their long-suffering mother, May.

Furthermore, the play delves deep into the relationship between the two brothers throughout the years, highlighting their trials and challenges, as well as their moments of joy. It ponders the unique experience of having a literary genius as a sibling and the complexities of trying to protect him from self-destruction while preserving his remarkable talent.



Nature Café Greystones Library

Nature means different things to different people. This event explores how we all feel about nature – are we optimistic for the future or are we concerned? The Nature Café provides a safe space for conversations about nature. In small groups, participants can openly discuss their hopes, fears, dreams, frustrations, and desires related to nature. It's okay to express genuine emotions, even with strangers. Past participants have found the experience cathartic, refreshing, and surprisingly enjoyable.



Training your Dog at Ballywaltrim Library

Ballywaltrim Library was delighted to host Philip Davis, a dog trainer from Good Dog Training on Saturday 17th June for a talk on all things canine.

Philip shared his knowledge of dogs, gained over 20 years of working with them, as well as behavioural advice.

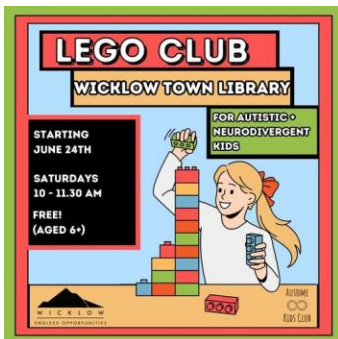
Philip has even had success in training dogs to behave impeccably at weddings!

Lego Club at Wicklow Town Library

Wicklow Town Library launched their first LEGO Club for Neuro- divergent Children on 24th June.

This LEGO Club, designed specifically for neuro-divergent children introduces children to a world of bricks and imagination, where building becomes a source of joy, growth, and friendship.

Children aged 6 plus experienced a multitude of benefits. LEGO building enhances concentration, boosts problem-solving skills, and nurtures fine motor abilities. But it doesn't stop there; this club creates a platform for self-esteem to flourish. But it's not just about building alone. The LEGO Club fosters social opportunities, creating an inclusive environment for making friends and building together. Children can collaborate, communicate, and learn the value of sharing ideas. It is a space where differences are celebrated, and connections are formed.



Healthy Ireland & Sláintecare



Healthy
Wicklow



Sláintecare.
**Healthy
Communities**

€75,000 HEALTHY IRELAND FUND AWARD

Wicklow County Council has welcomed a €75,000 funding boost under the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) announced by Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, Hildegard Naughton. Wicklow County Council

has a long-standing partnership with Healthy Ireland and has worked collaboratively to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone living in the County.

The award came following an extensive public consultation to identify key priority areas and the 'at risk' groups. The funds will be allocated to initiatives that support both positive mental health and decrease those at risk of poverty and basic deprivation and targeted at all age groups, particularly children, adolescents and young people, older people, those living in disadvantaged communities and people with disabilities.

Sláintecare healthy Communities

Seed fund project proposals were submitted to the Department of Health on 6th June for approval. The projects are:

- Feasibility study for estate enhancements and development of a health and wellbeing hub
- Installation of a new garden in Little Bray Family Resource Centre that will include a new crèche space and accessible, sensory garden.
- Provision of trauma training for early year's services
- Provision of a grant payment to Bray Area Partnership for the CARA project
- Provision of period poverty resources
- Provision of play therapy resources for two community crèches in Bray and the Bray Traveller Community Development Project
- Roll out of a physical literacy programme in early years services and primary schools
- Facilitating a place-based assessment of Ballywaltrim and Little Bray using the Place Standard Tool.

Pride of Place

The Co-Operation Ireland Pride of Place Competition 2023 opened for nominations on 12th May 2023. The purpose of the competition is to acknowledge the work being done every day by communities all over Ireland.

This year, Wicklow County Council has entered 4 nominations:

ENTRY	CATEGORY
Greystones Tidy Towns	Creative Place Initiative
ReWild Wicklow	Climate Action and Biodiversity
Hollywood Village	Population - 0-500
Avoca Village	Population - 500-1500

Over two days in September, each entrant will have the opportunity to make a full presentation on their category to the Pride of Place Judges Panel.

The winners of the National Pride of Place Competition will be announced at an Awards Ceremony in Armagh on Friday 10th November 2023.

Blessington EGreenway

On 16th of March 2023, WCC received a request for further information (RFI) from An Bord Pleanála. The Board had sought a response to this RFI request, by the 8th June 2023. However, due to the significant information sought by ABP, an extension to the 29th January 2024 was granted by ABP. WCC staff, in conjunction with Aecom, the consultants, are preparing a full comprehensive response to this RFI to meet this new deadline.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

The 2023 SICAP Mid-Year Review process is currently underway with both Partnerships completing their Financial & Monitoring Reports for June 15th. The LCDC and Pobal will then review all information submitted in order to assess progress to date and resolve any issues. Final approval date by the LCDC is July 28th.

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN):

Consultations: Irish Council for Civil Liberties Freedom to Advocate Survey; Small Business and Community Organisation Awareness and Preparedness for Cyber Attacks Survey; Co Wicklow Partnership LEADER Funding Public Meetings; Wicklow PPN Strategic Plan; South East Windfarm Clinics; National Waste Management Plan; Community & Voluntary Organisations Public Liability Insurance Survey; Co Wicklow Climate Action Plan; WCC Identification of Bathing Waters.

Training Opportunities: Youth Engagement Training; Financial Resilience Training for Charity Staff and Community Groups; Overview of Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: Community Safety Innovation Fund; Human Rights & Equality Grant Scheme; Clár Programme; Heart of the Community Fund; Tidy Towns Heritage Award; Arts Council Funding; Children's Promise Grant; KWETB Local Youth Club Grant; International Protection Integration Fund; Ireland Against Racism Fund; Baltinglass MD Festival Fund; Patagonia Environmental Grants; 2023 Community Centres Investment Fund; Active Citizenship and Equality Based EU Funding; Sports Energy Support Scheme; Coca Cola Fund; AIB Community €1million Fund

See www.countywicklowppn.ie and Wicklow PPN social media channels for further information on above and more.

Economic Development, Planning, and Infrastructure

1. Economic Development

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 – 2029 (LECP) is in the final stages of completion. The purpose of the LECP is to 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 by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

The LECP will be developed in two sections to allow for flexibility and adaptability:

- 1) Strategy, with the high level goals and objectives for a period of six years
- 2) Implementation Plan, with actions, for a period of two years (renewed every two years)

The Economic and Enterprise Development SPC has the remit for the development of the economic element of the LECP and has held a number of meetings and workshops to achieve this. The LCDC has the remit for the development of the community element of the LECP. The Advisory group will oversee the process.

The LECP is developed from three main elements (i) data and evidence from the socio-economic profile of the county (ii) consultation (iii) national and local strategies, policies and plans. From this five main themes emerged and have been agreed. The objectives and actions are being finalised under these integrated themes:

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

The LECP Strategy Framework is completed and will go to the LCDC for sign off on 24th May, followed by the EDES SPC for sign off. Then it will be presented to the five MDs and EMRA (to ensure it complies with the RSES) – then to full Council meeting.

The Implementation Plan is being developed at present – this is 80% complete.

Following the last round of consultation with the LCDC a number of further indicators were requested. They are being added to the socio-economic profile at present. The LECP will now in have an extensive new section on data regarding

Environment and Agriculture and further detail on HAP, Incomes, Homelessness and Social Housing. The SCOT analysis has also been updated following feedback from the LCDC and PPN re environment, agriculture, just transition, migration.

This data will also benefit the Local Authority Climate Action Plan and the CWP LEADER Strategy.

Town Regeneration

Town Teams

There are four Town Teams in the County, with one to be developed in Bray.

Meetings have been held with the town Team Chairs and the MD Administrators to gain background information on the Town Teams, their expectations, issues, composition and work at present. Meetings have been held with the Town Teams in Blessington and Wicklow with further meetings planned for Greystones and Arklow.

Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington is a pathfinder town. It is the first to receive funding for a Town Centre First Masterplan for Blessington. The process of developing the plan will commence shortly.

Blessington Town Team

Town Centre First policy

Ms. Deirdre Whitfield, Wicklow County Council, Town Regeneration Officer gave an update on Blessington Town First Policy. Ms Whitfield informed the meeting that Blessington is one of the towns chosen as a pilot town for the Town centre First Policy scheme and funding has been awarded accordingly. In her report she outlined that the The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community

Digital Town Blueprint Report

Professor Theo Lynn gave a presentation on the Blueprint 2023 Town Report on the Digital Readiness and Infrastructure for Connectivity for Blessington

Arklow Town Team

Arklow Pottery Website Project – The Town Team are delighted to have received additional funding for the Arklow Pottery Website. The funds from The Heritage Council will cover an audio series and we'll be working with The Treasure Vox. The Town Team are currently looking for participants who wish to have their stories recorded.

The Town Team will also be getting more photography done to add to the patterns database and making improvements to the accessibility of the website for all users. There will be a public engagement event on Saturday 24th June in Arklow

JUNE 2023



Library, 12 to 4pm, where we will screen an Arklow Pottery film and Allison Ryder will show people how to navigate the website.

Medieval Abbey Lane Project – The Town Team in partnership with the 402 Art Collective were also delighted to receive support for funding through the Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme 2023. Work is on-going to design a mural for the area.

Painted Playground Project, Seaview Avenue – A launch of the Colour Court in conjunction with the Colour Club and Healthy Wicklow, will take place on July 2nd. We hope to have some special guests on the day that will showcase some exciting drills and skills!

Flower Basket Scheme – The baskets are coming along nicely and we hope that they will be in bloom shortly to bring some added colour to the Main Street in the Town. The Town Team appreciate the support from all the traders and sponsors of the scheme

Greystones Town Team

Work continues on a number of projects by Greystones Town Team

Wicklow Town Team

The Wicklow Mural Project will focus on maritime themes. This initiative has been launched by the Wicklow Town Team and Wicklow Municipal District in conjunction with the Walls Project and will see murals designed at the Doctors Steps, Salthouse Lane, Quarantine Hill, Market Square and the Scout Hall in the coming months.

An open call for multidisciplinary artists, who have speciality in working with “large scale public realm murals” has been issued to local, national and international artists who wish to be part of the projects, with all applications required to have a proven track record showing their experience and ability to work on this scale.

Following the submission period, the chosen artist will be invited to respond to an overall theme of ‘Maritime’ with their inspiration highlighting a reflection of Wicklow’s heritage and historical links to the Irish Sea. The overall essence of this project is to reanimate and revitalise the important links between the Main Street of Wicklow town to the South Quays, harbour and Market Square.

The project will be managed by Waterford based creative arts agency, The Walls Project who have vast experience of community arts projects and have a rich proven track record in creation of numerous murals in Waterford city.

The Wicklow Town Team also plans to apply for LEADER funding for a Pump Track in the autumn.

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 have been published 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, Wicklow Outdoors, Screen Induced Tourism and Food and Beverage Tourism. The tender is expected to be awarded end August.

See below some of the actions Wicklow Tourism have been working on:

Press Releases and Articles:

- **Greystones: Top Things to See & Do**

With a stunning varied coastline, diverse culinary scene, rejuvenating health and wellness options, and charming boutique shopping experiences, Greystones is an ideal day trip destination. Greystones is accessible by train from Dublin City Centre with day long hourly connections.

Read more at <https://visitwicklow.ie/greystones-top-things-to-see-do/>

- **3 Days Wicklow Passport Itinerary – Dublin Gazette**

We recently partnered with the Dublin Gazette to promote the Wicklow Passport. The feature was partly sponsored by Wicklow County Council, and through advertising from the tourism trade in Wicklow. The plan was to design a 3-day itinerary around Wicklow, and invite someone to go around, record their experience and share that experience. The Wicklow Passport works really well with children and teenagers, and we were keen to test how the Wicklow Passport would perform with parents and grandparents.

Read more at <https://visitwicklow.ie/3-days-wicklow-passport-itinerary-dublin-gazette/>

- **N81 Road: West Wicklow Heritage Route**

Welcome to the N81 Road, a scenic route that takes you on a journey through time showcasing Ireland's 5000 years of history. This road is an excellent way to explore some of the country's ancient monuments and landmarks while enjoying the stunning landscapes of West Wicklow. From Blessington to Rathwood, you will find plenty of attractions that will captivate your attention.

Read more at <https://visitwicklow.ie/n81-west-wicklow-heritage-route/>

- **Peaks & Passage Tombs: Seefin, Seefingan and Seahan**

This post was created in collaboration with HeritageHiking, a citizen heritage project showcasing the unique

history and mythology of the Wicklow Mountains. To discover more hidden stories of the Wicklow Mountains. The first blog focusses on the passage tombs above Blessington.

Read More at <https://visitwicklow.ie/peaks-passage-tombs-seefin-seefingan-and-seahan/>

- **Rainy Days in Wicklow**

County Wicklow is a must-visit tourist destination, featuring awe-inspiring landscapes, picturesque drives, and an abundance of fun-filled outdoor activities. Regardless of the weather outside, Wicklow has a variety of options that promise to keep the whole family entertained. We have curated a list of some of the Garden County's must-visit rainy day activities.

<https://visitwicklow.ie/rainy-days-in-wicklow/>

Social Media Report 13th May – 13th June:

- **Website:** 58,062 Users (+5,97%), 73,783 Sessions (+7.33%), 139,375 Pageviews (+5.58%)
- **Social Media Reach:** Facebook: 166,688 (-8%%) – Instagram 15,245 (-22.5%)
- **Followers:** Facebook: 33,968 (+189) – Instagram: 11,922 (+177)

EcoTrail Advertising:

- **Outsider Online Magazine (Ireland)**

Outsider magazine has been featuring EcoTrail Wicklow on their web and social media. Read more at <https://outsider.ie/challenges/ecotrail-wicklow-everything-you-need-to-know/>

- **Revista Trail (Spain)**

Revista Trail is a leading online Spanish magazine dedicated to Trail Running. We have partnered with them to run a couple of articles promoting the Race and destination.

Read more at: <https://revistatrail.com/eco-trail-wicklow-irish-trail/>

- **Women's Running magazine (UK)**

Keen to push the event through the UK, we have partnered with Women's Running mag to feature and promote the race. The article was written by a UK based female journalist that participated at EcoTrail Wicklow last year.

Tourism Ireland Press Trip

- **Trek Magazine & Grand Reportage**

Trek and Grand Reportage are two leading outdoor magazines in France. The combined print run is around 90,000 copies. In partnership with Tourism Ireland's office in France, we help design an itinerary and welcome a journalist to walk the Wicklow Way over five days. The result is a 12-page feature on both magazines.

Unfortunately, the publication is not available online but we're planning to organise a press release to share with local news outlets.

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.

The project team 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 completed, and the project is now nearing the end of Stage 2, with a few Masterplan options presented to the Economic Development and Enterprise Support team for consideration. The project is expected to be complete towards the end of Q3 of 2023.

Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

The purchase of the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow was completed in August 2022 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 friary contained within the Abbey Grounds is a Recorded Monument afforded statutory protection under the National Monuments Acts and it is also listed as a Recorded Protected Structure WTC-RPS24 in the County Development Plan 2021-2027.

Following Archaeological investigations in the grounds and the discovery of medieval remains an archaeological report and archaeological impact statement and alternative proposals have been submitted to The National Monuments Services (NMS). The NMS have confirmed that the project can proceed in accordance with the detailed methodology and mitigation strategy outlined proposed by the archaeologist.

A meeting has been held with the MD team, staff from Wicklow County Council and the architects with a view to getting the project underway immediately in order to achieve completion by Q4 2023.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

The SEA consultation process was concluded in January. This process included submissions received through community meetings, online meetings and through a public questionnaire. Submissions were also received from statutory bodies.

Since January the masterplan team have been compiling and cataloguing these submissions and working on making the necessary changes to the masterplan and to accompanying statutory documents such as the Environmental Report and the Natural Impact Statement.

As a consequence of having made changes to the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which will be complete by end of June, the team will now make a notification to the Minister under Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011). The Department will now have a second period in which they can respond to the revised NIS. This process normally takes about 6 weeks.

In parallel with work on the NIS and Environmental report the masterplan team have also created some proposals concerning the implementation stage. A MOU has been drafted outlining how the masterplan partners could work together in the delivery of the masterplan.

A final meeting of this phase of the masterplan will be convened in September upon approval of the NIS, at which the masterplan will be signed off along with the revised NIS/ Environmental report and MOU and next steps discussed.

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. Following a meeting with the URDF Team, Bray Public Transport Bridge is under review.

A third 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.

A public information day and presentation to the elected members was held on 6th of December, 2022. A draft EIA has been received and reviewed in line with the EIA Regulations the report was submitted to An Board Pleanala requesting a formal scoping opinion in accordance with Article 95 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), in respect of this project.

A presentation was made to the department responsible for URDF funding for the project, which outlined the outcome of the feasibility study. Feedback was favourable and approval is awaited to progress to tendering for consultants.

Special Projects

Wicklow County Council Economic Development Unit are progressing the acquisition of Enterprise Space in Greystones from Cairn. A call for funding from Enterprise Ireland to support this project is expected at the end of June.

A tender has been awarded to Savills 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. The project is currently in information gathering stage prior and will begin an initial market sounding exercise in the coming weeks.

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.

Wicklow County Council is working with a business working in the Offshore Renewable Energy Sector, chamber representatives and representatives from the education sector SETU to establish an offshore renewable energy network aimed at addressing 3 key issues

- Ports
- Education and Skills
- Supply Chain

A major milestone in May was the announcement that the Dublin Array and Codling Windparks have received consents to supply power to the state. These projects are now preparing planning applications. The Arklow Bank (SSE) was unsuccessful at the ORESS auction but intends to proceed to planning stage and is exploring other options open to them.

Representatives from some of the energy suppliers have been engaging with Wicklow County Council since the ORESS auction.

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, to review progress on original goals and actions and to agree steps to final action plan. A draft review has been submitted and will be reviewed by Wicklow Naturally and put before the members of Wicklow County Council in Q3 of 2023.

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.

The contract for a Skills Audit and Strategy was awarded to KPMG Ireland, who presented to the Skills Taskforce in mid-May, outlining the project plan and timelines.

This project is now proceeding to public consultation stage, via Wicklow County Council's portal and advertised on radio and social media, to seek employer and employee views on what skills and/or skills shortages exist in County Wicklow.

Broadband Connection Points (BCP) and Remote Working Hubs

A tender will be published in the Summer 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 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	12/ €283,118.50 2/ € 2,642.00
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 programmes.	44	60	13
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	84 / 7 programmes	120	43
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	653	1200	292
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	8	20	12

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	223

Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	426	390	189
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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)	33

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	7
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Micro Assessment by a Green Expert	9	17	1
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	5

Upcoming June 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.
- LEO Wicklow to host a Roundtable meeting on the Gig Economy. In attendance will be organising partners LEO Meath, Mid East Skills Forum, Screen Ireland, The Screen Guilds, Film and TV Crew Academy and the financial institutions. The objective for the event is to demonstrate the importance of the Gig Economy in an Irish and Global context and to articulate the value and vibrancy of the Irish Screen Sector and the importance of 'gig working' or free-lance working to the industry with the aim of starting a conversation with financial institutions and gain advice as to how those working in the sector can better represent themselves and demonstrate their ability to pay / repay loans and /or track savings.
- 1st June: National Enterprise Awards at the Mansion House. WHC Labs are representing Co. Wicklow at this gala event.
- National Competition for the Student Enterprise Programme on 15th May at Croke Park.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Spring/Summer Business and IT Skills training programme has been concluded and was a great success. The Autumn/Winter Programme is under development and will be published on the LEO website during the summer.

Recently held courses include:

- Digital Marketing Clinic. 10th May
- A Laypersons Guide to Income Tax. 17th May
- TOV Seminar, 24th May
- Unlocking AI: A closer to look at Chat GPT webinar, 30th of May

Forthcoming training includes;

- In Partnership with Intreo: Employers information Roadshow on 25 May, outlining business supports around employing.

2. Planning

Forward Planning

Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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

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

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 in the process of preparing a consultation web portal for the pre-draft consultation. It is intended to start pre-draft plan public consultation in Q3/Q4 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.

The current LAP’s for these three settlements, as well as the Arklow LAP and Bray MD LAP are available to view here <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans>

RZLT – Residential Zoned Land Tax

This is a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes, and which will in time replace the Vacant Site Levy, it 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 from 01 November 2022 to 01 January 2023, with submissions invited. Advertisements were placed in local papers and on the local radio station as well as Wicklow County Council social media. 75 submissions were received and all submissions have been published on the Wicklow County Council website. All 75 submissions have been assessed and responded to, before 01 April 2023, with a determination letter as to whether the lands in question are to remain in scope or be removed from the final map. Land owners had the option to appeal the determination decision to ABP, with 18 appeals made in relation to RZLT sites in Wicklow. All queries on appeals should be referred to ABP.

Supplemental RZLT maps were published on 01 June 2023, which include additional land identified as being in scope, over and above the lands which has already been included on the draft maps. Wicklow County Council has NOT published a supplemental map as no additional land met the criteria for inclusion in the supplemental maps. The Final maps will be published in December 2023.

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

Heritage & Biodiversity Office

National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund

Confirmation of funding received for all projects applied for, as follows:

Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project €34,170 – Project underway. Volunteer sea buckthorn day held in January. Conservation grazing took place in February-March. New interpretation for entrances to North and South Car parks due to be installed shortly. Ecological assessment commenced and community outreach elements planned for August- October.

County Wicklow Hedgerow survey €20,000 Ecological consultants approved, field work to commence end of June.

Community Outreach Programme €18,830 Programme of activities, workshops and outreach events held for National Biodiversity Week and throughout year

Woodland Monitoring project (bats) €7,000 Commenced with initial training session with Bat Conservation Ireland and NPWS staff on 31st May.

Wicklow Pond Restoration project €20,000 Initial ecological assessments underway

County Heritage Plan (CHP): Funding allocation of €57,000 confirmed from The Heritage Council for the following actions in 2023:

- Glendalough Community Excavation and outreach Planning elements completed, project will take place in August
- Wicklow Barn Owl Project Over 50 nest boxes installed, GIS recording database created by WCC, fieldwork and monitoring underway currently.
- Seasonal nature workshops Programme planned with BWI, July to Dec
- Support for Heritage and Biodiversity Plan reviews current proposal for SMT approval
- Our Wicklow Heritage communications. Ongoing. Hosted launch of Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) on 31st May in Brockagh Centre. Director of National Museum, Chair and Chief Executive of The Heritage Council and representatives from 31 community network partners throughout Ireland attended.
- Community Archaeologist Part Time post. De Faoite Archaeology engaged for one year. Fieldwork and community outreach underway. Event planned in Arklow for European Archaeology Days on 18th June

Archaeology: Community Monuments Fund- CMF 2023 is co-ordinated on behalf of Wicklow County Council by the Heritage Office. Applications received from private landowners, community groups, public authorities and other custodians of archaeological heritage. Five projects were approved for a total budget of €108,174 as follows; Drungoff Barracks €5,000; Kilpipe Church and Graveyard €30,523; Newcastle Castle €29,982; West Wicklow Historic Graveyards €30,000; Derralossary Church and graveyard interpretation €12,669. Projects ongoing.

Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture): 34 applications received to Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) by deadline 30/01/23. Following an assessment process 19 projects were shortlisted for the total county Wicklow budget of €101,000 (includes €5,000 for Thatch), and funding has subsequently been confirmed for all these projects by the Department. There were 7 applications under the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant scheme. Following assessment 5 projects were submitted to the Department and funding allocations have been confirmed for the following 2 projects; Crusher House, Barravore (stream1) €35,000 and Cronroe Gardeners cottage (vernacular) €10,000. Projects ongoing

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31st May 2023
Received (Valid)	487

A total of 124 valid applications were received during May as follows:

Type of Development	31 st May 2023 Number Received
Individual Houses	25 (24) refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	08
Agricultural Structures	01
Commercial	08
Other Developments**	82
Total	124

***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 applications in May,

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	02
Individual Houses	22 (5 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	81
Other Developments Requiring EIA	01
Total	106

Decisions issued between January to May 2023:

	31/05/2022
Total Number of decisions issued	415
Total Number of decisions to grant	360
% Grant Rate	87%%
No of applications withdrawn	

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 Pleanala 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 long-term 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 Pleanala has received an application for proposed development primarily comprising of the provision of a new 110 KV substation with Gas Insulator Switchgear (GIS) technology and two 110kV underground transmission cables (connecting to existing 220kV overhead lines to the northwest of the proposed substation) along with associated and ancillary works at Bogland, Kish, Cooladangan, Ballintombay, Ballyroonaun and Ballynattin, Co. Wicklow – ABP determined application without an oral hearing.

Substitute Consent

An Bord Pleanala 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 Pleanala 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, Redcross, Co. Wicklow.

E-Planning Project

The ePlanning system went live on 17th April 2023 with applications being submitted online almost immediately. Since going live 38.7% of applications have been received online (253 received in total, 98 through eplanning & 155 hard copy) There has been a good mix of application types including One off houses, Extensions, 26 apartments in Bray, 7 new houses in Greystones, coastal defence works and commercial units.

Planning Enforcement

New Files	17
Advisory Letters	16
Warning Letters	12
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	2
Closed	11

Short-Term Letting – 01/05/23 – 31/05/23

Applications received for Registration in May 2023	6
Complaints received in May 2023	
Warning Letters issued in May 2023	0
Enforcement Notices issued in April 2023	
Legal proceedings in May 2023	0
Files under investigation as of 31/05/2023	51

Vacant Sites This programme is still ongoing as it will not be replaced by the RZLT until January 2024. All sites currently on the register will be inspected in 2023, and if they remain vacant, will be issued with a 'demand for payment' for the calendar year 2022.

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
Arklow	7
Baltinglass	1
Bray	3
Greystones	4
Wicklow	6

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

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

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Wicklow	1
Baltinglass	1

3. Environment

Litter/Waste Management

No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	66
No of Litter Fines Issued	12
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	9
No. of Warning Letters Issued	2
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	2
No. of Burning Applications Granted	0
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	7
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	22
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	7
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	5
Income - Litter	€900.00
Income- Waste Management	€4,700.00

Court Cases

Litter Management

- 1 case in for mention.
- 4 cases were adjourned.
- 2 cases were heard where defendants were fined €450 and €1,000 respectively. Costs were also awarded to the Council.

Waste Management

- 1 file was listed
- 1 file was adjourned
- Defendant was granted the benefit of the probation act and ordered to pay €2,000 to the court poor box and costs of €650 awarded to the Council
- Defendant pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay €5000 to an environmental charity and costs of €1200 awarded to the Council. The case was adjourned for a further 4 weeks in order that the defendant can completely clean up the site.
- In another case, a bench warrant was issued as the defendant did not appear.

Whitestown Remediation

The draft remediation plan has been presented to the court. A contractor has been appointed to carry out advance works on the site. This entails the excavation and disposal of waste material, which lies in the vicinity of a pylon on the site, and the work is being carried out while ESB Networks has the line de-energised.

Climate Action

The Members received a presentation on the Climate Action Plan at the Council Meeting on 12th June. We have a very tight timeline to develop and adopt the Climate Action Plan – one year from 24th February 2023 which was the date of the Direction from the Minister so the plan will be coming before the members in January 2024.

Extensive stakeholder engagement commenced in May with the different sectors, including Social Partners, PPN, Agriculture community, Business sector and Environmental groups. There is an online survey on the consultation hub, which also targets a good representation of different sectors. As we are aware that climate action has been well covered in previous consultations (LECP and CDP for example), we are capturing that information.

Internal stakeholder engagement with the Directorates is ongoing with the remaining workshops taking place in June.

Update on posts for the Climate Action Team

- Community Climate Action Officer - commenced
- Climate Action Coordinator – recruitment process underway
- Climate Action Officer - commenced
- Regional Energy Manager - commenced
- Energy Officer – commenced

Mid-East Energy Unit

SEAI ISO 50001 - Wicklow County Council has signed up to the SEAI ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme, a year-long programme which will allow the Council to apply for ISO 50001 accreditation and hosted the last meeting of the SEAI ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme.

The Council is currently working with our energy partners CODEMA to develop a pipeline of projects to reach our 2030 targets and are also collaborating with OPW and ZEV1 on delivering projects in Wicklow

SEAI EV Trial- The SEAI EV Trial is ongoing, currently driven over 2,000km reducing transport carbon emissions in Wicklow by 0.2tCO₂ in 2 months.

Energy Site Visits - The Council's Energy Team and Housing Department hosted site visits from our colleagues in Tipperary and Fingal County Council to view the Solar Car Park and Clermont Biomass,

Conservation Management Plans - The Bray Head and Clermont conservation plans are in draft format. A walk over tour of Bray Head to discuss management recommendations with key stakeholders took place in April.

Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

The Request for Tender for a Consultant is being prepared for publication in June.

Environmental Awareness

- The team is currently liaising with the scouts, recycling centres and school to arrange the annual school book sale.
- Applications have been invited for the **Tidy Towns Sustainable Development Competition** under the category of Housing Estates - closing date 09/07/23
- The **Energy Awareness Day** is taking place on the 24/06/23 in Wicklow and Greystones
- The **Green Schools awards** were held on 25th May in Meath, and 20 Wicklow schools received a Green Flag.
- **Landuse Change** (incl. Agriculture and Water) sectoral engagement training workshop took place in Portlaoise on 31st May 2023, organised by CARO. This involved presentations on relevant national and regional priorities relating to Landuse Change (including Agriculture and Water), followed by facilitated workshop sessions in groups to develop and agree actions as options for the Local Authority Climate Action Plans.
- **Awards for the Rubbish Film Festival** were distributed to the respective winners in Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew, East Glendalough Wicklow, and Temple Carrig in Greystones.

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 15 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 9 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 2 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 5 Noise pollution complaints closed.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared
- 9 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems carried out.
- 8 Domestic waste water treatment systems found complaint.
- 1 Advisory notices were issued in respect of Domestic waste water treatment systems found non-complaint.

- 1 Verification inspections to confirm compliance with Advisory notices were carried out.
- 9 Public engagement activities were undertaken to promote awareness and improve compliance.

Licensed discharges to Waters

- 6 licensed discharges to water/ground were monitored and deemed satisfactory
- 4 licensed wastewater discharges to water/ground non-compliant and were required to take corrective action.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

Private Water Supplies

- 40 Private water supplies monitored deemed compliant with drinking water limits
- 6 Private water supplies deemed non-compliant and requested in writing to address microbiological/chemical non-compliances.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 2 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 36 Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 2 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken. Well Grants
- 22 New Water Grant applications received
- 3 New Well granted
- 13 New Pumps granted
- 17 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 28 inspections in advance/completion of works

Petrol Vapour Recovery Regulations

- 1 Petrol Vapour Recovery installation issued with certificate of testing.

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 2 Vehicle refinisher installations issued with certificates of compliance.
- 5 Vehicle refinisher installations issued with reminder letters.
- Smokeless Coal Regulations
- 5 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.

Planning & Development

- 15 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural, commercial and forestry development.

Bathing Waters

- Pre-season sampling of identified bathing water took place on 22nd May.
- Bray South, Greystones South, Silver strand and Clogga – Excellent

- Brittas Bay South – Poor on 22nd May with subsequent sample on 25th May Excellent.
- Do not swim notice issued for Brittas Bay North on 25th May and lifted on 27th May upon HSE advice.

Investigation undertaken did not find source – bathing profile indicate the pressures on water quality include domestic wastewater, agricultural run-off and faeces from dogs and animals.

EPA recently published the Bathing Water in Ireland 2022 Report.

The public are invited to give their opinions on bathing waters in popular use that they would like to see designated (regulated) as official bathing waters in the 2024 season.

Control of Dogs

Dog licences

A total of 231 reminders for dog licences were issued in April 2023. 479 licences were issued, 434 yearly and 45 lifetime. 209 of these licences (43.6%) were purchased online.

Beaches and Blue Flags

Lifeguards

Lifeguards have been appointed and induction will take place prior to the season commencing on Thursday 1st June 2023.

Blue Flag Beaches

Wicklow has successfully retained the Blue Flags at beaches at Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Greystones South. The presentation of the Blue Flags took place on Friday 19th May at Donabate Beach. The season will run from 1st June to 15th September.

Identification of Bathing Waters 2023

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

If you are a regular swimmer and want to help your Council decide which bathing areas should be classified as such, it might be helpful to consider the following:

- How your swimming area has been used up to now;
- How many people use the site;
- What facilities exist at the site and how accessible it is;
- Any safety issues.

Advertisements were placed in the national newspapers, and on Wicklow County Council social media, requesting any interested parties to apply. Closing date is 28th September 2023.

Harbours & Ports

Arklow Harbour	Grant Available	Project Update
Inner Harbour Arklow pontoon	€200,000	Tender awarded, awaiting installation
South Quay Arklow Storage facilities	€325,000	Tender advertised
Arklow Harbour welfare facilities	€100,000.00	Location has been selected at Memorial garden. Contractor has been appointed
Wicklow Harbour Navigation aids	€50,000	Project underway, main structure almost refurbished. New light and glass to be fitted.
South Quay Wicklow Harbour pontoon	€52,000	Pontoon has been purchased. Awaiting finalisation of Foreshore licence before installation can take place.
North Quay, Wicklow - additional quay space	€120,000.00	Tenders received under assessment
Wicklow Harbour - concrete works	€150,000	Concrete replacement works completed on Packet pier. Repairs to take place to North Pier after summer season.
Wicklow - welfare facilities	€100,000	Location has been selected beside steps to the beach at harbour office. Contractor has been appointed

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
Mar-23	7	5	2	9	6	3
Apr-23	7	6	1	8	6	2
May 23	7	5	2	9	6	3

Avoca Mines Remediation Project

The Council is at the final stages of agreeing an SLA with the DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project and is preparing tender documents for consultants, based on the draft SLA.

Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

1. Transportation

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 **197 – 1.29%** of total stock of 15,243. 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 (Attended)	2	3	5	1	1	12
Cable Fault (Attended)	1	1	6		3	11
ESB Interface Required	1	3	13	8	3	28
ESB Required (Attended)	7	9	10	9	9	44
Knock Down (Attended)						0
Materials Required	2	1	1	1		5
No Supply	1	1	1	1	2	6
On Hold	1		6		3	10
Submitted	3	15	22	6	15	61
TMR	6	3	3	1	1	14
Tree Cutting Required	2	2	1	1		6
Grand Total	26	38	68	28	37	197
Percentage Not Working	0.87%	1.57%	2.03%	1.00%	1.00%	1.29%

Date	22/05/2023	29/05/2023	06/06/2023	12/06/2023
Access Issues (Attended)	16	16	12	12
Cable Fault (Attended)	7	8	11	11
ESB Interface Required	32	30	32	28
ESB Required (Attended)	41	41	42	44
Knock Down (Attended)	0	0	0	0
Materials Required	4	4	5	5
No Supply	6	6	6	6
On Hold	8	8	9	10

Submitted	105	84	66	61
Traffic Management Required	8	8	10	14
Tree Cutting Required	4	4	4	6
TOTAL	231	209	197	197
PERCENTAGE NOT WORKING	1.52%	1.37%	1.29%	1.29%

Transportation Statistics

	Total 2021	Total 2022	Total 2023	April 2023	May 2023
Solicitors Queries	923	838	394	73	101
Road closure applications	53	78	18	3	3
Road Opening licences	1575	1414	854	94	135
Abnormal Load applications	54	60	20	4	1

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 or 2023. The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet with the public and any interested parties.

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

A non-statutory public display on the emerging preferred option took place in November 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 needs further examination 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. Currently, TII funding has been allocated to progress sub-schemes A and C only.

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 options review and design commenced in March 2023 following confirmation of funding from TII. Site investigation works will commence at some of the locations over the coming weeks which will inform the final design option selection.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

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

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

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

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

Technical Consultants have been appointed to undertake planning and design services under TII Project Management Guidelines Phases 2 to 4 (inclusive). The topographical survey works are currently ongoing along the project extents.

N81 Pavement Capital Works

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

N81 Rural Traffic Calming & Bus Stop at Hollywood

Option selection and design work is currently ongoing. TII have provided funding for this study.

N11 Pavement Resurfacing Works

N11 surfacing works between junctions 7 and 16 will be carried out by the N11 maintenance contractor over the period from May to September 2023. A traffic management plan will be in place and works will be carried out at night to minimise traffic disruption.

N11/M11 Park & Ride Facilities

The NTA are currently progressing with proposals for bus based Park & Ride facilities adjacent to the N11/M11 at Junctions 6, 11 and 16. It is anticipated that some proposals will progress to statutory approvals during 2023. A project briefing by the NTA Park & Ride Team and WCC Officials for the Fassaroe Junction 6 Park and Ride location was provided to Bray MD at the June Municipal District Meeting. A further briefing to all Wicklow Co. Co. Councillors will be scheduled during June 2023.

Arklow Public Realm

The Parade Ground Public Realm works have reached a significant milestone, with substantial completion and successful snagging. Currently, the project is in the 12-month defects period, during which any necessary remedial works are addressed. As part of this process, remedial works on the pavement surface were carried out in the second week of May.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

We are currently in the process of reviewing route options for specific sections of the proposed greenway route. As part of this review, updated ecological surveys have been conducted for those sections. Our team is diligently working on preparing the necessary documents and reports to identify the emerging preferred route for the Greenway.

In line with our commitment to stakeholder engagement and transparency, we are planning a public consultation on the emerging preferred routes. This consultation is scheduled to be held in the third quarter of 2023.

Baltinglass Town Centre Plan

The consultants are actively engaged in preparing documents for the delivery of a revised tender package for the town centre works, focusing on a reduced scope. Simultaneously, they are conducting a value engineering exercise specifically targeted at this aspect of the project. The objective is to bring the scheme within the budget limits currently in place. Meeting was scheduled and held with Baltinglass Municipal District to agree reduced scope. We are currently in the process of preparing the tender documents.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

The current focus of the project is on the detailed design phase, including the preparation of associated documents such as the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) documentation. These efforts are crucial in order to advance the scheme towards obtaining statutory approval.

Given the potential impact of the project on the Poulaphuca Special Protection Area (SPA), it is necessary to prepare a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to assess and document any potential effects on the SPA.

Once the detailed design and associated documents, including the NIS, are completed, the project will proceed to seek statutory approval from An Bord Pleanála.

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

The consultants are making steady progress in the detailed design phase and are currently focused on preparing the tender documents for the construction phase.

Redford Junction

The project is currently underway and we have commenced the preparation of the detailed design and tender documents. This essential work will pave the way for the project to move forward into the construction phase.

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

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

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

Looking ahead, a meeting with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has been scheduled for June. This meeting will provide an opportunity to engage with the NPWS and discuss important aspects related to the project.

Blessington eGreenway

Under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, planning documents were officially lodged with An Bord Pleanála, with a deadline of 4th March 2022. Subsequently, on 16th March 2023, An Bord Pleanála issued a request for further information, and the response was initially due by 8th June 2023. In order to accommodate the extensive additional surveys and the substantial volume of material to be produced, an extension was granted by An Bord Pleanála. The revised submission deadline has been set for January 2024. Work continues in preparing the response for An Bord Pleanála.

Bridge Rehab Works:

The Bridge crew has completed repair and maintenance works at 3 bridges in the Dunlavin/Donard areas. The crew are currently working through the remaining bridges due for repair/maintenance this year.

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.

Working with TII and DTTAS on seeking funding for Brine station installations. Hopefully approval to be given very soon to proceed.

The trial for fuel derived from 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. Trial to commence the coming weeks as soon as the storage tank is installed.

The project with Pro-Works and a number of other LA's on a Fleet Maintenance system for the Machinery Yard is continuing and nearing completion, as part of compliance with RSA regulations. We are progressing with the Pro Works system in order to reduce number of systems being used.

Surface Dressing-

The season started on the 12th of June with the planned roads in Wicklow MD nearing completion. The crew will then move to the Arklow MD area followed by the other areas earmarked for surface dressing.

Active Travel Updates - June

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. The pavement has been reinstated on Glenart Drive, with the pedestrian ramp completed and handrails installed. Topsoil on verges to go in and grass seed planted. Project should be finished in the coming weeks.

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, with ongoing construction works on southbound footpath and cycle track and completion of kerbing installation on the southbound carriageway. Works should be substantially completed by mid-July.

Ashford to New Developments footpath (Wicklow MD)

Improve pedestrian facilities along the R-764 by widening the footpath and upgrading the public lighting. Project substantially completed and is now opened for use. Accommodation works are in progress and are expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

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. Progressing well, with kerbing installation and footpath construction to take place on the southbound carriageway, as well as accommodation works at two residential properties.

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. Construction works to continue.

Kilcoole Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements (Greystones MD)

Provision of 500m of new footpath and 500m of cycle track along the R-761. Works are being progressed by the NTA deliverables team will be completed in three sections/phases. Works have been completed in phase one. Works are progressing in Phase 2 with ongoing works at the bus stop, and construction of the retaining wall and footpath.

Project Updates

Bray Dart Interchange (Bray MD)

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. Tender assessments to be completed with the successful tenderer notified. Licence agreements to be finalised with CIE as well as agreements with landowners.

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Work is ongoing on the detail design and procurement. Work is due to be undertaken in July and August.

Safe Routes to Schools: St. John's Senior National School, Arklow (Arklow MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Work is ongoing on the detail design and procurement. Work is due to be undertaken in July and August.

Safe Routes to Schools: Kevin's National School, Greystones (Greystones MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Work is ongoing on the detail design and procurement. Work is due to be undertaken in July and August.

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle facilities along Marlton Road, Rocky Road, R-750 and Station Road to provide strategic routes to Wicklow Train Station. Consultants to revise Rapid Build Option Assessment Report based on WCC feedback, and to be issued to the NTA for approval.

Greystones Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Greystones MD)

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to Greystones Train Station. The spine route extends from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Centre. The project will include improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Rapid Build Options Assessment Report being prepared for issue to NTA for approval. Proposals for the pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway approved by NTA. Detail design to commence.

2. Emergency Services

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics May 2023

	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	19	5	6	3	1	2		1	1		
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	15	2	4	2		2	2	1		1	1
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	2			1	1						
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	5	1	1	1		1	1				
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	0										
One Station Mobilised											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	17	5	4	2		2	1		1	1	1
Fire Outdoor Rural: Gorse / bushes	8	1	2	2			2	1			
Fire Chimney	0	0									
Fire Small Urban / bin / skip / bonfire	13	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	2		
Fire Vehicle	3	1			1						1
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	0										
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	16	4	3	2		1	2	2	2		
Garda Assist	2	1				1					
Electrical Incident	1	1									
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	1		1								
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	1			1							
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	0										
False Alarm – Good Intent	0										
Malicious False Alarm	1					1					
Mobilised into other County	4						1	3			
Times Stations mobilised	108	24	24	15	4	11	10	9	6	2	3

There were **85 incidents** attended during the month of May 2023. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **108 occasions** including 4 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 May 2023 **was largely unchanged (108 mobilisations) on the preceding month** (April 2023: 112 mobilisations). Within the unchanged number there were fluctuations between incident types. For example there was an increase in 12 mobilisations to building fires accounted for by 5 incidents of malicious fires started in Kindlestown House, Delgany with crews from Greystones and Bray mobilised on all occasions. Gardai and property owner were notified in the hope of preventing access and identifying culprits. There was also an increase in Ambulance Assists by 6 to the highest activity level this year. There was a reduction of 11 mobilisations to RTCs and understandably chimney fires were down by 6.

Operational activity for the month of May 2023 **was down 23% on the equivalent month in 2022** (May 2022: 141 mobilisations). The reduction in mobilisations can be mainly accounted for by: Road Traffic Collisions (-9), alarm activations (-8), gorse fires (-7).

Sample Incidents (May 2023)

- 19/05/2023 Arklow and Rathdrum crews attended a fire in a kitchen in a domestic property in Woodlands Avenue, Lamberton, Arklow.
- 20/05/2023 Blessington and Dunlavin crews attended a single car RTC at Kilbride where one casualty was assisted.
- 21/05/2023 Baltinglass and Dunlavin crews attended a domestic fire at Eadestown, Stratford, outdoor decking on fire.
- 26/05/2023 Bray and Greystones crews attended a 2 car RTC at Junction 7 on the N11 with one patient trapped.
- 26/05/2023 Greystones and Wicklow Town crews attended a domestic fire in Kilcoole.
- 30/05/2023 Carnew and Tinahely crews attended a single vehicle RTC near Tinahely.

Incidents in County Kildare (4-incidents total):

- 06/05/2023 Blessington crew assisted crews from Naas at a 2-car RTC at Punchestown. Two casualties were trapped and required extraction.
- 09/05/2023 Dunlavin crew assisted crews from Naas a single car RTC at Calverstown.
- 25/05/2023 Dunlavin crew assisted Monasterevin crew a 2-car RTC on Standhouse Road, Newbridge.
- 31/05/2023 Dunlavin crew assisted crews from Naas at a 4-car RTC on the M9, Junction 2, southbound.

General

- Two 2-day Breathing Apparatus refresher courses were held in Bray in May which completes statutory training for all trained firefighters in the county. This training takes place on a 2 year cycle.
- Cardiac and Emergency First Responder refresher courses took place in Arklow Fire Station to recertify firefighters.
- Wicklow Fire Service had one instructor and one student on the National RTC Course held in Nenagh Fire Station during May.

Fire Prevention Statistics May 2023

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	9	0	9	0	20
Revised FSCs	1	0	0	0	0
FSC 7-Day Notice	11	0	0	0	0
Regularisation FSCs	0	0	0	0	0
DACs	14	0	5	0	10
Revised DACs	0	0	0	0	1
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0	0	0

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 17 planning files during the month of May 2023. The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 15 of these files.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	6	1		1	
Circuit					
Dangerous Substances Act					
Explosive Act	6			6	

Building Control

Building Control Statistics May 2023

Commencement Notices for May 2023:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 54

- 13 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 26 Opt Out Declarations
- 8 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 7 Seven day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 48 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 74 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 40 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which

11 are Compliance Documentation (27%)

18 are Opt Out (45%)

4 Without Compliance Documentation (10%)

7 Seven Day Notice (18%)

- 46 Valid Commencement Notices
- 165 new build residential Units and additional 22 Apartments
- 15 Non Res new builds
- Invalidated CNs for May = 1

- **Certificates of Completion processed in May 2023**

- 21 New No. of CCC submitted
- 16 Required Revised Information
- 20 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 60 new residential units plus 5 Non Res. Build

Submission Statistics

20 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 16 No CCCs submitted in May 2023
- 3 No CCCs submitted in April 2023
- 1 No CCCs submitted in March 2023

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Building Control continues to experienced high construction activity & in particular completion of units. 165 new residential houses and 22 apartments were notified to LA for Commencement & 60 newly completed residential units plus 5 non-residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in May.

Building Control continued with site inspections in May to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite. Building Control has also been focusing on resolving previously issued Section 11 Compliance Requests through correspondence, discussion and persuasion with Assigned Certifiers and Developers to achieve compliance.

Revised Information requests were high in May for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 74% of Commencement Notice submissions & 76% 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.

Civil Defence

Callout & Assists

- Assisted with darkness into light in Baltinglass on the 6th may providing first aid cover and safety cover.
- Civil Defence attended the 40th anniversary of the Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue Team at their base in Trooperstown .
- Provided first aid cover for the Splash & Dash event on the Blessington lake on the 20th May

Gardaí	Local Authority	Fire Service	HSE	Charity	Other
-	-	-	-	1	2

Organisational Development & Financial Matters

1. HR & Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in May 2023:

- Arts Service Co-Ordinator
- Retained Firefighter (Greystones)
- Temporary Senior Executive Officer
- Physical Activity for Health Officer
- Senior Executive Technician
- Craftworker/Fitter
- Caretaker Grade 3 (County Buildings)
- Station Officer Blessington & Tinahely

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023
Managerial/Administrative	303	298	301	304
Professional/Technical	117	116	126	131
Outdoor	273	264	262	260
Temporary/Seasonal	44	69 (Increase due to Lifeguards)	37	35
Non DOHPLG	6	6	5	5
Total	743	753	731	735

Access to Information

Freedom of Information Requests

May 2023: 12	May 2022: 4
Jan – May 2023: 50	Jan – May 2022: 35

Ombudsman Requests

May 2023: 1	May 2022: 4
January – May 2023: 10	January – May 2022: 14

Press Releases

May 2023 –17

Register of Electors

Online applications via www.checktheregister.ie continue to be received and processed daily.

A new multi media platform advertising campaign will commence on June 19th for a number of weeks. This campaign will be a more deliberate messaging for PPSN, DOB, Eircode. We expect to see a significant spike in online applications once the advertising campaign launches.

In conjunction with this national media campaign we will be also be advertising through print and social media platforms. We hope to have a presence at the Tinahely Agricultural Show and have offered our services on a voluntary basis to the Department to assist in manning a Check The Register stand in the Government tent at The National Ploughing Championships and await feedback from the Department on this.

During the summer months we will be visiting Nursing Home facilities and making direct contact with Disabled Postal Voters. In September we will be engaging with Secondary Schools to register 18 year olds, as per the Department's Guidelines on the new Publicity Campaign and to provide information on adding 16 and 17 year olds to the Pending Voters List.

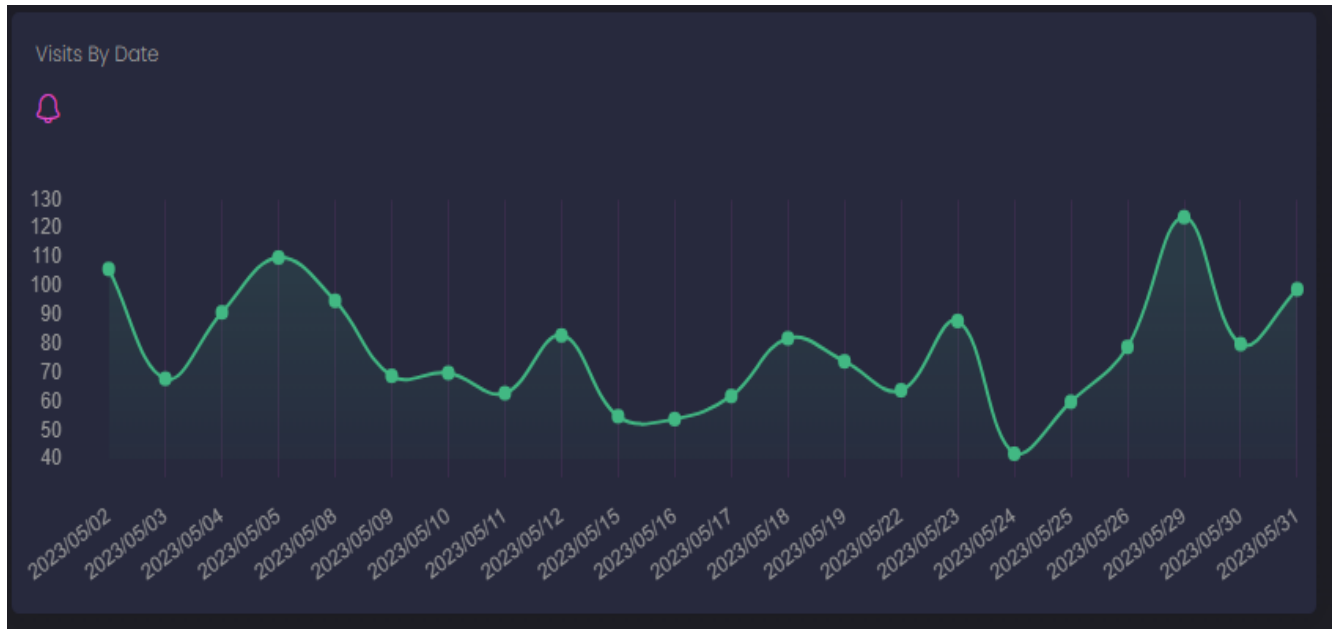
We are constantly in contact with our colleagues in other Local Authorities in the exchange of ideas and information on ensuring that all aspects of information regarding registering to vote are practiced.

The Boundary Commission Report is due to be published at the end of June and we anticipate a significant amount of work to be carried out as a result of this report.

Customer Service Innovation Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2023 - May			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	8,460	Motor Taxation	1,722
No. of Emails	1,230	Revenue Transactions (includes phone payments)	1,507
No. of Elected Members Emails	35	Housing Counter visits	252
CRM Cases	69	Social Housing Applications • To be processed: • To be checked and validated: • Awaiting further info:	20 20 66

Total in person visits for May 2023 – 1,718



2. I.C.T.

Operations

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 50 tickets a day this month, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- A new Helpdesk Management Portal is currently being configured which should improve the workflow process of tickets.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is continuing.
- Deployment of devices is continuing, upgrading of hardware stock and new starts.

GIS & Systems Analysis

- **County Development Plan (2022-2028)** - Currently preparing Proposed Variation No 1 and are drafting the documents for adoption.
- **Local Area Plans** – Continue supporting the Forward Planning section with the preparation of LAPs, in particular environmental assessments for various plans.
- **Planning Consultation Hub** – Final version of the application has been agreed and currently in final development.
- **Open Data** - All County Development Plan datasets have been uploaded to data.gov.ie and interested 3rd parties have been notified.

Infrastructure

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

3. Finance

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MAY 2023							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	16,418,050	42,194,421	39%	(17,672,638)	(46,575,078)	38%	(1,254,588)
Road Transport & Safety	6,841,350	24,371,150	28%	(2,307,886)	(16,722,878)	14%	4,533,464
Water Services	2,167,893	5,649,853	38%	(2,692,658)	(6,606,528)	41%	(524,765)
Development Management	5,803,249	14,288,049	41%	(3,981,771)	(8,574,520)	46%	1,821,478
Environmental Services	4,546,962	13,559,916	34%	(511,658)	(2,628,049)	19%	4,035,303
Recreation and Amenity	3,316,050	8,984,450	37%	(300,276)	(1,085,428)	28%	3,015,774
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	700,573	2,106,287	33%	(272,332)	(1,049,228)	26%	428,241
Miscellaneous Services	871,845	9,728,355	9%	(2,300,749)	(13,260,436)	17%	(1,428,904)
Central Management Charges	8,476,724	21,746,281	39%	(227,741)	(1,050,000)	22%	8,248,982
Local Government Fund				(5,758,988)	(13,821,571)	42%	(5,758,988)
Commercial Rates				(13,058,213)	(31,405,046)	42%	(13,058,213)
	49,142,696	142,628,762	34%	(49,084,911)	(142,778,762)	34%	57,785

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 May 2023 to 31st May 2023.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MAY 2023					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2023	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/05/2023
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	17,814,239	32,894,108	(30,192,929)	(182,000)	20,333,417
Road Transport & Safety	(37,383,838)	4,576,528	(641,330)	(101,000)	(33,549,639)
Water Services	(13,023,496)	69,564	(86,805)	(17,500)	(13,058,238)
Development Management	(26,681,391)	152,397	(6,426,168)	(154,663)	(33,109,824)
Environmental Services	276,031	1,840,482	(991,173)	(183,750)	941,590
Recreation and Amenity	(2,034,378)	584,082	(98,655)	(148,587)	(1,697,538)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,040,366)	200,051	(251)	(167,837)	(2,008,402)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,515,300)	(3,793,558)	(272,355)	1,602,279	(12,978,934)
	(73,588,498)	36,523,655	(38,709,666)	646,942	(75,127,567)

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST MAY 2023										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2023	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/05/2023	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	4,598,635	31,339,711	13,028	23,176	0	35,974,550	(13,047,213)	22,927,336	570,481	37%
Rents & Annuities	3,281,584	7,390,390	0	(6,684)	0	10,665,291	(7,050,639)	3,614,652	0	66%
Housing Loans	440,112	794,089	0	0	0	1,234,201	(1,031,802)	202,399	0	84%

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

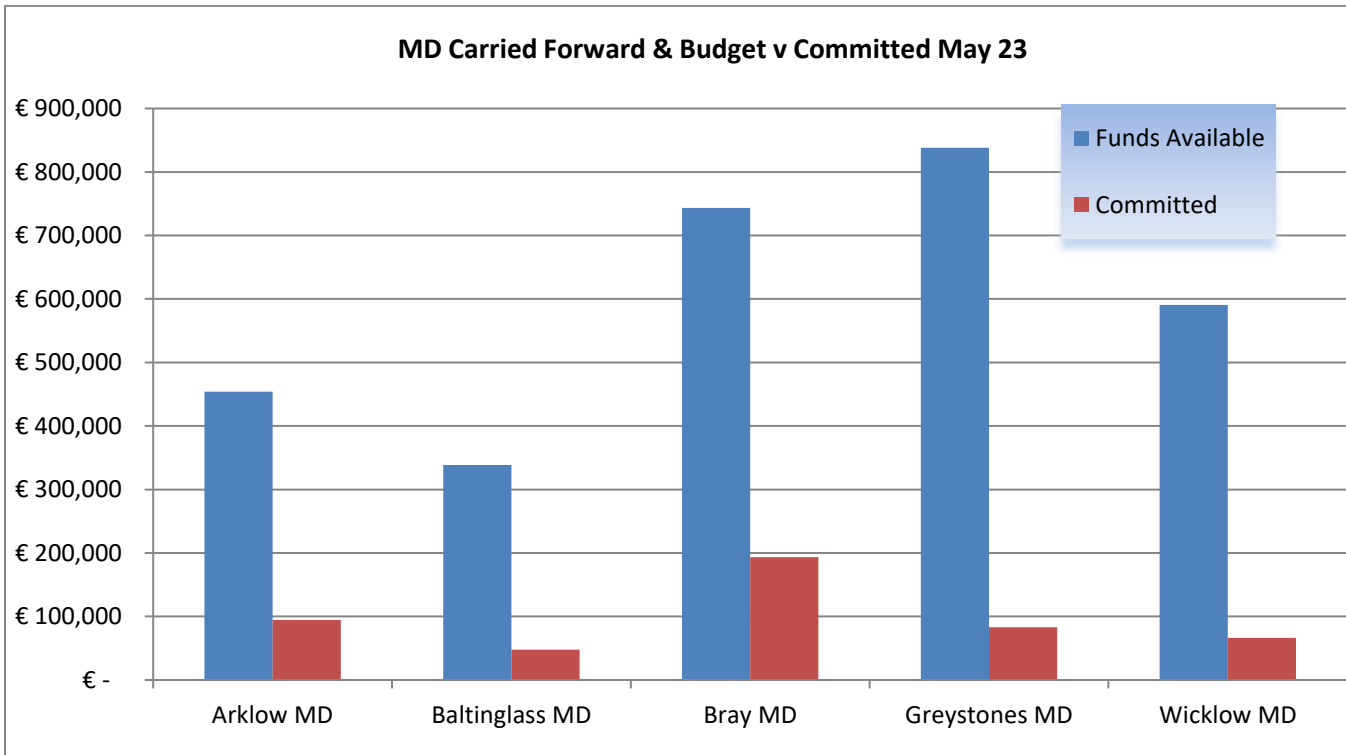
General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2023

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 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	10,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	66,500
Christmas Festival	20,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	80,000
Festivals / Other	5,000	10,000	32,000	10,000	5,000	62,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Discretionary Funding	208,197	208,197	353,278	208,197	208,197	1,186,066
Total	269,197	246,197	426,778	246,197	250,197	1,438,566

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

Municipal District	C/F from 2022	Adopted Budget 2023	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	184,779	269,197	453,976	94,551	359,425
Baltinglass MD	92,215	246,197	338,412	47,632	290,780
Bray MD	365,206	378,392	743,598	193,152	550,445
Greystones MD	592,012	246,197	838,209	83,088	755,121
Wicklow MD	342,471	250,197	590,668	66,157	524,511
Total	1,576,683	1,388,180	2,964,863	484,581	2,480,282



Capital Investment Programme 2023-2025

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

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

Capital Funded Projects

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
NRGF	Blessington Greenway	€15,000,000	€0
URDF	Arklow Historic Town Core	€3,134,684	€783,671
URDF	Wicklow Town - Library and Fitzwilliam Square	7,034,879	€2,407,470
URDF	Bray Public Transport Bridge	€8,600,000	€1,000,000
URDF	Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration	€9,520,000	€2,380,000
RRDF 2019	Blueprint for Baltinglass	€3,566,968	€891,742
RRDF 2020	Placemaking Newtownmountkennedy	€477,000	€119,250
REDF	Wicklow County Campus - Content Creation Hub	€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)	Ballinacash	€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	Ballinacash	€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