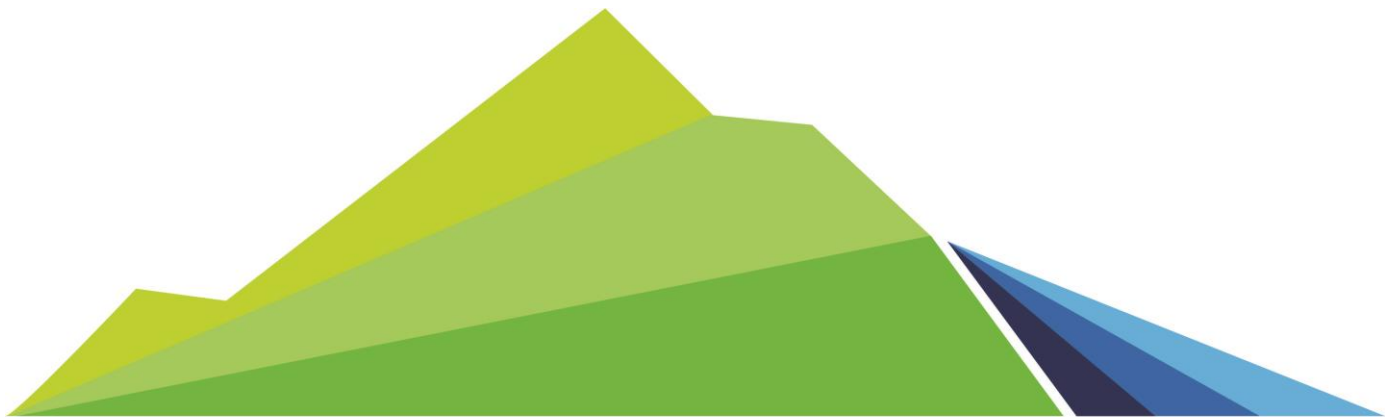




Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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This month:

1. Funding Boost for Wicklow's Built Heritage .

Two projects shortlisted by Wicklow County Council for Russborough House and Killruddery House have been successful in their applications and approved for grant allocations of €50,000 each under the scheme to carry out essential conservation works.

At Russborough House near Blessington, the project will entail the repair and restoration of the original Weir Wall on the estate, a feature dating from the 18th century and located along the N81 road. The restoration of this historic structure will safeguard it for generations to come and importantly, will also allow it to come into public use as part of the upcoming Blessington Greenway.

At Killruddery House, Bray, it is proposed to carry out essential works at the clocktower to arrest the deterioration of stone masonry and iron work. The clocktower, located in the forecourt, houses three rare water powered clocks, one of which was constructed by the 13th Earl of Meath c. 1903-06..

2. Wicklow's First Decarbonisation Zone

Arklow Town has been selected as County Wicklow's pilot decarbonisation zone. Wicklow County Council will now work with all sectors of the community in Arklow to test and measure the process of decarbonising our economy and society. The aim is to create a baseline on how we roll out decarbonisation across the county, ensuring a just transition for all.

The town of Arklow offers great scope in assessing the scale and range of challenge involved in decarbonizing society and our economy while also undertaking measures to protect the environment and make it more resilient for the future. The decarbonisation process will allow the town to focus on positive regeneration of the town, future fitting it for the coming decades.

3. 2021 Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme

Wicklow County Council has been awarded funding of up to €204,000 under the 2021 Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme.

The programme provides funding for maintenance and repair works in addition to supporting the ongoing development and enhancement of harbour facilities including some marine leisure developments.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) co-funds up to 75% of the total cost of approved projects, with the Local Authority providing the balance.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Social Housing Support

	March 2021	March 2020
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS and HAP) *	4,478	4,380
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	275	347
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	2,233	1,785
No. in Long Term Leasing accommodation	16	10
No. in Short Term Leasing accommodation	28	13

2. Allocation of Social Housing

	March 2021	March 2020
Wicklow County Council (including Bray MD)	64	11
Approved Housing Bodies (including Bray MD)	2	2

3. Social Housing Stock

	March 2021	March 2020
Tenancies occupied	4,569	4,464
Total weekly rental accrual	300,639	301,499
Arrears	2,994,968	1,545,393

4. Casual Vacancies/Relets

Municipal District	March 2021	Self isolation units
Arklow	6	1
Baltinglass	6	2
Bray	1	1
Greystones	6	0
Wicklow	29	3

5. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Completed	Units	Current Status
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Completed and allocated
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completed and allocated
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated
Whitehall, Baltinglass	34	Completed and allocated
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completed and allocated
Convent Lands	51	Completed and allocated
Urban Villas (FCA Hall), Wicklow Town	8	Completed and allocated
Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue	20	Completed and allocated
Kilmantan Place, Bray	4	Completed and allocated
Carnew Rapid Build	30	Completed and allocated
Total	219	
Schemes on Site	Units	Current Status
Kilbride Lane Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	23 completed. 19 anticipated Quarter 2 2021
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completion anticipated Quarter 2 2021
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completion anticipated Quarter 4 2021
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow	40	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2022
Ard na Greine, Bray RAPID BUILD	31	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2022
Mountainview, NTMK RAPID BUILD	26	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2022
TOTAL	207	
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Avondale Phase 2 RAPID BUILD	20	Site start anticipated Q2 2021
Greenhill Road Wicklow RAPID BUILD	36	Site start anticipated Q2 2021
Sheehan Court, Arklow	7	Site start anticipated Q2 2021
Cedar Court Bray RAPID BUILD	14	Site start anticipated Q4 2021
Three Trouts Greystones RAPID BUILD	40	Site start anticipated Q4 2021
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Site start anticipated Q4 2021
TOTAL	164	



6. Part V

It is expected that 25 Part V units will be delivered in 2021 dependant on the duration and number of any Covid 19 lockdowns, and how quickly the Developers can remobilise and complete units.

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

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Enniskerry	2	Completed end March 2021	WCC
Wicklow	4	Scheduled Q 2 2021	WCC
Delgany	3	Scheduled end of May 2021	WCC
Greystones	2	Scheduled Q 2 2021	WCC
Wicklow	3	Scheduled Q 2 2021	WCC

Following the government's decision to extend the period for designated essential sites, sites in the Arklow electoral area and the Bray electoral area were issued with letters from The Housing Agency.

The designated essential sites deadline is now 30th April 2021.

The Government announced that construction of residential buildings would re-commence on the 12th April.

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for 43 units in Delgany, Bray, Rathnew, Wicklow, Baltinglass, Dunlavin and Enniskerry with delivery ranging from 2021-2023 – This includes the 14 units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 50 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 is difficult to determine whether they will all proceed or on what timescale.

Turnkey

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



- Negotiations are ongoing with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Approval has recently been received from the Department in respect of 2 Turnkey units in Baltinglass. Units have not commenced construction.
- Approval received from Dept. for 5 Turnkey units in Tinahely. 2 Purchased in October 2020 2 purchase in Quarter 1 2021 with 1 further unit due in Quarter 2 2021 (listed above).
- 2 further Turnkey units under construction in Ballinaclesh.
- A new call for Turnkey units was advertised in January. Closing date for submissions is 30th April 2021.
- Approval has recently been received from the Department in respect of 3 Turnkey units in Roundwood. Expected delivery is 2022.

7. PPP Social Housing Project

Wicklow County Council is including site at Burgage Mor, Blessington in the PPP Bundle 3 which is currently at Design Stage (Wicklow, Kildare, Sligo and Dublin City Councils)

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.

- Acquisition by AHB of 38 turnkey units via CALF in Arklow was completed in Quarter 4 2020
- Construction ongoing on 40 units (including 4 Part V) via CALF Turnkey in Dunlavin.
- Construction ongoing on 28 units in Arklow.
- Acquisition by AHB of 16 Turnkey units via CALF in Baltinglass with a further 48 units (including 4 Part V units and 8 CAS units) to be completed in 2021.
- Construction ongoing on 28 units in Wicklow (including 3 Part V) due for delivery in 2021.

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

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

8. Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

- › Grant funding for private house - €1,952,700 (€352,438.07 spent to date)
- › Grant funding for social house - €472,271.64 - 2020 budget (€129,041.65 spent to date)

167 open applications, of which 50 are 2021 applications (balance carried forward from 2020)

134 approvals on hand (including some carried forward from 2020)



Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing and Disability Steering Group is currently preparing the new Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2022-2027.

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

During recent works on Casual Vacancies/Relets, the Council fenced large sections of existing social housing gardens in order to provide infill housing. This resulted in 3 three infill sites to develop Age Friendly schemes in Greystones. It is proposed to build small A rated units, specifically designed for the older tenant, which will be offered to eligible tenants in the local area, who wish to downsize. The larger property will return to the council for reletting to a family, and the tenant will benefit from being able to remain in their community, in an age friendly designed home with high comfort and low utility costs.

Millbank, Mill Road	Commencing Part 8
Castle Villas	Commencing Part 8
Carraig Eden 14	Architect has been procured and is working on the proposed Part 8 drawings.

Vacant Homes Scheme

The Compulsory Purchase of a long Term vacant house at 30 South Green Arklow passed through An Bord Pleanála without any submissions or objections having been made. CPO Order confirmed

Another CPO for a long term vacant house in Bray will be published in May.

Housing Maintenance - Heating Upgrade Programme

C. 50 gas and oil boilers have been replaced in Council housing stock in 2021 at a cost of over €100,000 54 were replaced in 2020.

New oil / gas heating has been installed in 20 houses so far this year with a further 10 pending.

9. Purchase Schemes

Rebuilding Ireland Homeloan

Received	Approved	Declined	Expired	With HA for FI	Incomplete/ineligible
398	122	159	42	36	39

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	March 2021
Applications Received	290	10
Completed	56	3
Declined	197	5
Ongoing	37	37

10. Addressing Homelessness

	As at 31/03/21	Year To Date	As at 31/03/2020
No of New Presentations	42	107	85
No. of Repeat Presentations	5	18	8
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	13	37	42
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	32	85	47
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	2	4	4
No. of Children	20	61	75
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	8	13	31
Family Circumstances	19	53	42
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	2	3	1
Mental Health	0	2	0
Risk of Homelessness	6	18	0
Arrears/Loss of Income	4	7	
Addiction Issues	0	5	
DV/DA	1	2	
Medical Issues	1	4	
Overcrowding	2	6	
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	3	12	
ASB:	1	1	
Rough Sleeping*	3	9	2
Sofa Surfing*	8	16	6
Staying with Family*	10	30	
Staying with Friends*	3	8	

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/03/21	
Families	13
Adults	32
Children	34
Single individual	4



Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/03/2021								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	14	16	15	2	7	2	2	1
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/03/2020								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	12	15	14	5	2	2	1	2

COVID 19 UPDATE

The Homeless Team continues to provide key support by phone, working from both office and home. B&B proprietors currently retained by the Council are continuing to provide emergency accommodation for homeless clients. All Covid 19 protocols are in place in the facilities.

Self Isolation Units

A number of vacant houses being refurbished for reletting have been kitted out in anticipation of the need for families to self isolate for the required period from emergency accommodation.

Homeless HAP

The Homeless HAP Placefinder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 326 households (249 families & 77 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 31st March, 2021. (147 homeless cases, 175 prevention cases to date and 4 direct provision). 106 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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



Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

Following the advice that Sonas was withdrawing services from Wicklow, the operation of the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow was tendered out to Approved Housing Bodies to operate and manage the facility as a Family Homeless Service.

Refurbishment works on the facility are substantially completed and it is anticipated that furnishings and fittings will be complete in quarter 2 2021.

The family service envisaged is a 6 month STA with key working support to enable families transition from homelessness into Homeless HAP or alternative longer term accommodation. The successful tenderer to operate the facility is Dublin Simon.

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The acquisition and upgrade of a former nursing home in Bray has completed and the facility opened to clients in October. The facility, operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where there are a number of emergency/cold weather Beds (restricted during Covid) and Supported Temporary Accommodation Beds (STA) There is on site keyworking support linking in with clients.

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

The refurbishment completed in March.

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 has been a significant number of move ons from these properties, signalling the success of this model.

Housing First

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

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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 5 clients under Housing First. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation.



11. Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

Ballintekin – 3 houses	Detailed design stage and tender documents completed, stage 3 with Dept Nov 2020, awaiting approval to go out to tender for a contractor in Q2
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 4 houses	Approval received for funding from Department, ongoing discussions with proposed tenants on draft design
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 2 houses	Revised Stage 1 approval received March 2021. Survey of utilities to be carried out.
DPG Woodview,	Works due to commence on extension for disability

Further inspections on the fire safety on Halting sites were completed by members of the Housing section and the fire brigade in Bray. In addition electrical inspections including the installation of smoke alarms has been rolled out.

Covid 19 Update

- Wicklow County Council has put a number of arrangements in place to provide, among other things, services to previously un-serviced sites which will facilitate better sanitation and social distancing.
- Welfare facilities were provided at a number of unauthorised sites.
- Three families from unauthorised sites were provided with housing units.
- Hygiene packs were distributed to all authorised sites and further facilities provided in March.

12. Energy Efficiency

Solar Panel Carport - The local energy supply contract has now been signed with Enerpower. The detailed design works for the project are expected to be completed in January, with the procurement process taking expected to take 8-10 weeks. It is envisaged site works will start in June 2021 and last for a duration of 9 weeks.

Energy is to be supplied over a 20 year period at a fixed unit rate

Enerpower are planning on installing additional EV Car Chargers with the system also.

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 1 - Lot 1 88 houses in Bray and Greystones – awaiting determination of Department regarding repointing of properties.

Lot 2 90 houses in Arklow, Wicklow and West Wicklow commenced in December 2020 and all tenants have been contacted in this regard.

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2 - Contractor has commenced on site on 20 properties in Wolfe Tone Square West, Bray, to be completed in late Q1 2021.

Examining properties in West Wicklow/Glenealy for next tender.



13. Community, Cultural & Social Development

Community Awards Scheme 2021

The annual Community Awards Scheme closed for application on Friday 23rd April, 2021 and applications are currently being assessed.

CLÁR Programme for 2021 – Closing date for Applications

The 2021 CLÁR programme will be delivered through four separate Measures as follows;

- Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measure
- Measure 2: Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities
- Measure 3: Community Wellbeing Measure
 - (a) Community Gardens & Allotments
 - (b) Mobility and Cancer Care Transport

Measures 1, 2 and 3(a) are delivered through the Local Authorities (LAs) and the closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 07 May 2021.

Measure 3(b) Mobility and Cancer Care Transport – Applications due Friday 07 May 2021

Recognising the critical role that volunteer organisations play in the provision of vital services to vulnerable sectors of the community; and the level of interest in this particular funding stream, CLÁR 2021 once again sees the allocation of funding for Mobility and Cancer Care Transport support.

CLÁR Innovation Measure – Expressions of Interest due Friday 07 May 2021

This is a special measure which provides funding for innovative or pilot projects that address specific challenges faced by communities in CLÁR areas.

County Wicklow Library Service

Statistical Returns 2020

The challenges of Covid 19 have meant that all services have had to reinvent themselves in order to be meaningful to the public. This meant bringing many services online and promoting the online services available. Our library staff ensured our libraries were to the fore in being ready for reopening at whatever level permitted, whether Click & Collect, open for browsing or for full services. Wicklow County Council's response to these challenges is reflected in the statistical returns for 2020, which have been released by the LGMA. Statistics also reflect the focus of the library Social Media Team in constantly promoting our services and ensuring the public are aware of the range of resources available. In all categories, we have been in the top half of the 30 library authorities (Galway City & County operates as a single library authority, meaning that while there are 31 local authorities, there is one fewer library authorities). In addition to this, Wicklow County Council is in 1st position nationally for public access to E-books and downloadable audio books and is in 2nd place for active membership, in 2020. This statistic records the number of users who engage with their library service (borrow an item, or download an item/use Wi-Fi in a library building, etc.). In summary, statistics were as follows:



2020 Statistics	National Avg / 1000 Population	Wicklow / 1000 Population	Position Nationally
Active Members	129	159	2*
Physical Items Borrowed	1036	1328	4**
E-books & E-audio books	341	491	1
E-newspapers read	431	510	8
E-language courses studied	8.7	8.2	13
Universal Class (online study courses)	147	180	11

*Dun Laoghaire Rathdown in 1st position

**Clare, Cork County & Dun Laoghaire Rathdown in 1,2,3 respectively

In addition to online databases that are subscribed to nationally, and managed by LGMA, Wicklow County Council has a number of online resources that proved very popular in 2020. These include

- “Find My Past” genealogical website, which recorded 9,500 searches from September to December 2020 and is averaging 5,000+ monthly searches in 2021
- “Vision Net” business database, which proves very popular with the business community. Being of a more specialized nature than some of the other products, it still recorded almost 1,300 searches in 2020, by Wicklow library members

All of the above are available to the public for free via their library card. Just contact library staff for a Login PIN.

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland/Healthy Wicklow

Action - Healthy Towns

A 6 week online Pilate’s course is running at the moment in conjunction with HD Fitness. 160 participants have registered for this course. Under this action a new set of playground stencils have been ordered to loan out to schools and clubs.

Action - Urban Outdoor Recreation Initiative

Under this stream of funding a new Table tennis table was delivered to The Vault in Arklow and Connect in Bray in April.

Keep Well Campaign

Staying Connected & Minding Your Mood Theme

Photograph Competition - The subgroup launched a photograph competition celebrating the Staying Connected & Minding Your Mood Theme since the start of Covid. The winner will receive €100 gift

APRIL 2021



voucher and four runners-up will receive €50. Closing date for submission of photographs was 21st April 2021 at 5pm. We have had a huge response received with 50 entrants so far with a week to go.

Talk to Tom Website – A dedicated website “Head Space” is under development and near completion by Talk to Tom, a suicide prevention organisation based in Gorey and opening premises in Arklow shortly.

Sports Partnership Update April 2021

Training & Education

Date	Course	Location	No's
06/04/21	Sports Inclusion Disability Awareness Online Workshop	Online (sold out)	31/31
10/04/21	Online Sports First Aid	Online	11/12
12/04/21	Safeguarding 1 – Child Protection	Online (sold out)	12/12
19/04/21	Cara – Inclusive Fitness Training	Online (spaces available)	13/20
22/04/21	Building Mental Toughness - Online Webinar by Lorna Lawless	Online (spaces available)	94/100
26/04/21	Sports Inclusion Disability Awareness Online Workshop	Online (spaces available)	25/30

Programmes

- 6 week ‘Online Pilates with HD Fitness’ twice a week Monday and Wednesday started on 5th April and is running until 12th May. A total of 160 people have signed up to avail of this programme.
- In collaboration with the Great Place to Work Committee and due to popular demand the Lunchtime Stretch with Jo will continue to run every Monday for 6 weeks from 12th April from 1pm -1.30pm. Contact wicklowlsp@wicklowcoco.ie for Zoom link.
- A 6 week ‘Recliner to 3K’ online programme commenced on the 12th April with Blessington Women’s Shed and 57 women have signed up to take part.
- Easter Inclusive Camp for Children and Teenagers with a Physical or Intellectual Disability. Ran over the 2 weeks of Easter these daily online zoom classes included Yoga, Dance and Fun Fitness. With 25 participants signing up the tutors delivered joyful classes with the opportunity for teenagers to chat, giving a community dynamic to the whole experience.
- Young Adult Inclusive Classes continued each week for the month of April. Many of the 15 participants joined from their HSE Day care centres as well as from home. These 45 minute online classes included Chair Yoga, Dance and Fun Fitness.

Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN):

- New PPN members: Blessington Men’s Shed and Avoca Men’s Shed

- Funding Opportunities: WCC Community Grants; Covid Stability Funding; Community Heritage Grants; Fund for Community Development Pilots; Community Monuments Fund; Ireland Funds.



- Public consultations: National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities; National Dialogue on Climate Change; NPWS Stakeholder Survey; LGMA online local government website.

- Ongoing participation by Wicklow PPN in Social Justice Ireland's training workshops on; Creating Capable Communities; Local Government Structures Explained; Effective Submissions; Local Authority Budgeting.

Wicklow Community Call

The Community Call Helpline continues to operate from 9-5 Monday to Friday. There is a steady number of calls for requests mainly for information, shopping and delivery. The helpline also refers callers to befriending services when appropriate. There is strong evidence that the links have been established between those who need help and volunteers showing which demonstrates the resilience of communities in the county. The latest lockdown has understandably seen a reduction in the number of volunteers.

The Community Response Forum continues to meet fortnightly to co-ordinate the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and address any issues arising.

The Keep Well campaign is rolling out. A number of resources have been made available on www.wicklow.ie to address 'Staying Connected', 'Minding your Mood', 'Keeping Active', 'Eating Well' 'Getting Creative' and 'Your County'. The resources have been promoted through social media and conscious of those not online, we are using local radio, leaflets and recently Christmas cards were distributed with information regarding the helpline and the Keep Well campaign. Further actions are being developed to promote the campaign and helpline, to ensure that those who need help can access it.

Vaccination Roll-out

Wicklow County Council stands ready to assist our HSE colleagues in the Vaccination roll out and, if called upon, will assist in the staffing of the Two vaccination centres in the County, in Greystones and Arklow.

A number of our Library staff have offered to assist at the centres.

The Community Call Freephone line will remain open and ready to assist those in need of transport for their vaccination appointments.

Working with our partners on the Community Response Forum, a number of volunteer drivers are available to assist with transport.

As always, the Civil Defence volunteers will also assist wherever possible.



LECP Update

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

Regeneration Funding Schemes:

Rural Regeneration Development Fund 2019/2020 (RRDF)

Area	Overview of Proposal	Funding Awarded
Baltinglass	Work ongoing on restoration of the Courthouse reuse as a library/Heritage and Digi-hub with outdoor event space Consultants working on public Realm enhancement, parking improvement, pedestrian crossings, ramps, boardwalk and riverside fencing	€2.7mn (total cost €3,566,968)
Newtownmountkennedy	Consultants being appointed for Main St. Design; mobility /transport plan; community facilities	€357,750

Both projects are underway but progress has been affected by COVID-19 restrictions

Town & Village 2020

This funding scheme supports economic and social development projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000.

This year there are two elements to the Scheme.

1. 2020 Accelerated Measure

This measure aims to assist communities and local businesses in the delivery of projects that address the short term challenges of social and economic recovery following the COVID-19 emergency. The focus is on adapting to public health requirements, particularly social distancing.

Funding is available up to €25,000 - €40,000 in exceptional circumstances

2. 2020 Town and Village Main Scheme

Round 1 Accelerated		
Dunlavin	Shop Local campaign	Funded €4,500
Roundwood	Public realm	Funded €36000
Comm Centres	Adaptations for COVID measures for 10 centres	Funded€16,200
Round 2 Accelerated – August 14th		
Enniskerry	Car parking improvements, new footpath, new public seating, signage &	Funded €39,600

	shopfront improvements	
Ballinaclesh	Renovations to community centre	Funded €39,600
Laragh	Improvements to pedestrian movements; provision of safe pedestrian spaces and public awning	Funded €24,300
Tinahely	Tinahely Men's Shed building refurbishment after a fire	Funded €4,950
Baltinglass	Painting and planting scheme	Funded €9,000
App	App to encourage shop local – county wide	Funded €22,500
Round 3 Accelerated >10,000 – August 28th		
Kilcoole	Age Friendly benches	Funded €18,000
BCPs	Fit out for BCP centres	Funded €40,000
Rathdrum	Age friendly benches and bus shelter	Funded €24,000
Round 3 Accelerated <10,000 – August 28th		
Greystones 2020/MD	Footpath improvement around Burnaby Park	Funded €40,000
Arklow MD	Biodiversity project	Funded €35,550
Wicklow MD	Outdoor Shelter/awnings	Funded €40,000

Town & Village Main Scheme – September 30th		
Stratford	Community shop/cafe/offices/living over the shop/playground	Funded €199,800
Laragh	BCP and remote working hub Brockagh	Funded €100,000
Enniskerry	Public realm enhancement	Funded €98,000
Avoca	Public realm and recreation facility works	Funded €68,455
Annamoe	Public realm enhancement	Funded €100,000

CLAR 2020

Wicklow county council have successfully secured €60,000 for two projects under the CLÁR programme last year.

Knockananna Community Group and Askanagap secured funding for carparks

Goal 2: Promote Active Citizenship and Public Participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making



Age Friendly Programme

Age friendly in conjunction with an Garda Síochána are doing a county wide promotion of the Older Persons Register. Proposing radio/newspaper items.

OPC members are teaming up with Comhairle members to participate in the time capsule project.

Preparations are underway for the reconnect with the OPC event in May

Comhairle na nÓg

The Comhairle na nÓg, through the Coordinator, are taking part in the COVID-19 Community Response Forum, bringing the perspective of young people.

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

Public Participation Network (PPN)

- New PPN members: Blessington Men's Shed and Avoca Men's Shed
- Funding Opportunities: WCC Community Grants; Covid Stability Funding; Community Heritage Grants; Fund for Community Development Pilots; Community Monuments Fund; Ireland Funds.
- Public consultations: National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities; National Dialogue on Climate Change; NPWS Stakeholder Survey; LGMA online local government website.
- Ongoing participation by Wicklow PPN in Social Justice Ireland's training workshops on; Creating Capable Communities; Local Government Structures Explained; Effective Submissions; Local Authority Budgeting.

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

1. Healthy Wicklow Strategy

Round 3 of Programme is underway but implementation has slowed down because of COVID-19. An extension to 31st December 2021 has been granted. €30,000 has been allocated to a number of groups under the Healthy Ireland Mental Health Small grants Scheme.

Under the Healthy Ireland Fund, Wicklow County Council has received €67,225 to help with the 'Keep Well' campaign. This is a national campaign, part of the government plan for 'Living with COVID-19' focused on 5 major themes:

- Keeping Active & Being Outdoors – even during winter it is important to help physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Keeping in Contact – staying connected with people and addressing isolation as person-to-person connection is important to our wellbeing



- Switching Off and Being Creative - Switching Off and Being Creative or learning something new, getting back to nature and finding ways to relax
- Eating Well – by nourishing your mind and body we can positively impact our physical and mental wellbeing.
- Minding Your Mood – relaxation, mindfulness and asking for help if needed.

2. Migrant Integration Strategy

The DRAFT Migrant Integration Strategy has recently been completed and was presented to the LCDC and to the full Council. The next step is the preparation of an implementation plan.

3. County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy – Wicklow Naturally

Wicklow County Council was awarded Leader funding for the implementation of the Food and Beverage Strategy. Consultants were appointed in 2019 for 2020 and proceeded to roll out the Food and Beverage Strategy in spite of the challenges presented by Covid 19. The consultants are on hand to assist with various aspects of the project.

Highlights of the Programme

- The creation of a Wicklow Food and Beverage brand Wicklow Naturally and the establishment of a network of 100 members consisting of producers, the hospitality trade, retailers and service providers.
- The creation of a website and associated social media
- Producer events (pre lockdown)
- Production of labelling and promotional material
- Launch of the Wicklow signatures dishes – featured on Nationwide
- Participation in a US PBS TV network – Ireland County by County.
- Engagement with food writers
- Engagement with the Aldi Grow programme
- Development of a business plan for a food incubation hub
- Formation of a company limited by guarantee
- Participated in the “Love Local” campaign
- Food Poverty and Food Sustainability

Stage 1 of the mapping initiative for Food Poverty Initiative is complete. A coordination plan is being drawn up and an activity calendar for 2021 is planned.

October Feast

Approximately 35 events were held in October, the online events were tremendously successful resulting in 1,227,909 engaging with the website or social media during the course of the month.



Events included

- Food demonstrations
- Foraging Tours
- Meet the Maker events
- Demonstration videos

Next Steps

Preparing an application for funding for 2021 for the administration of the company and the development of the brand, representation at events, etc.

Goal 4: Develop a vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector

Bray Area Partnership has teamed with Southside partnership and was successful in securing Dormant Accounts funding for a social enterprise support project. SEED, Social Enterprise Expansion and Development, provides both mentoring and training to Social Enterprises in the North Wicklow area.

County Wicklow Partnership's social enterprise project is providing support and training to social enterprises in the rest of the county. It also provides start-up funding through the LEADER Programme.

A Rural Youth Online Social Enterprise Entrepreneurial Training Programme
Covid 19 Training Support Programme for new and existing Social Enterprises in Co Wicklow.



Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

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

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

Retail

Bray Central

Bray Central remains closed in line with Government guidelines. Oakmount, the developer, are awaiting a re-opening date so that construction may commence to achieve practical completion.

Town Teams

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

Arklow Town Team

Arklow Town Team joined with Glenart College to submit an application to LEADER for funding to build a Community Biodiversity Garden. They are delighted to announce that they will receive €4,200 for the project. The aim to build a biodiversity garden while educating the students about community, gardening, the environment, biodiversity and many other life skills.

The Arklow Town Team International Women's Day event raised €1,708.30, which will be divided between the Bray Women's Refuge and an Arklow Town Team project. The custom made medals were posted out to all participants.

All LEADER funded projects are progressing well which include the Arklow Bridge – Flower Irrigation System, Harbour to Headwaters project and the Visit Arklow Website. Arklow Town Team hopes to launch all three projects in the coming months.

Bray Town Team / Bray Reopening Committee

Bray Town Reopening Committee have agreed the following actions as the government restrictions are relaxed.



- Deep Clean of main retail area footpaths
- Installation of new social distancing street graphics
- Erection of new directional signage for tourist attractions in the town
- Awareness campaign for shop local with new graphics and posters for the Main Street and surrounding area.
- Examining new social distancing ideas for Bray Seafront (ground graphics)
- Painting of Main Street public lighting poles
- Installation of hanging flower baskets on Main Street

Blessington Town Team

At a recent meeting of Blessington Town Team the following items were considered:

- Members received a detailed presentation from Virgin Media on their proposals for the roll out of broadband services to various estates and businesses in the town. There was a discussion on the importance of broadband for working from home, schooling and businesses.
- Blessington Tidy Towns updated members on their activities and the plans for the future. The issue of litter was highlighted as a major concern especially at weekends.
- Supporting local businesses and service providers in a concrete fashion was discussed by members. The importance of supporting local was highlighted as being vital
- Blessington Access Group are launching the Blessington Accessibility Audit Report on the 21st April. The launch will be performed by Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly and will include a presentation from Paudie Healy, Universal Access and Pierce Healy, Disability Federation of Ireland
- Blessington and District Forum updated the meeting on the development of the Blessington Women's shed which is the first Women's shed in Wicklow.
- Healthy Blessington projects are being rolled out in partnership with Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership.
- There was unanimous support from members for the proposal to develop a community bookshop in the town.

Greystones 2020

Greystones 2020 is in the process of forming a company and renaming as Greystones Town Team. Company Directors, Secretary and Members are currently being appointed and Greystones 2020 will be formally dissolved once the new CLG is in place.



In the meantime the interim Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are working with a number of committees and working groups which are progressing a range of projects and are also reaching out to the local community to strengthen the membership of the new town team”.

The following committees have been established:

- Finance Sub- Committee/Secretariat
- Events, PR, Digital and Sports
- Business/Retail and economic development
- Public Realm/Tidy Towns
- Arts/ Culture/Tourism/infrastructure/Heritage

Wicklow Town Team

Wicklow Town Team met recently and discussed updates on a number of projects including:

- The Abbey Grounds
- The Heritage Walk
- Park and Ride
- Community Power Scheme/Sustainable Energy Community
- East Coast Greenway
- Proposed development of a Youth Theatre

Wicklow Town Team are currently reviewing new team recruitment to ensure a proper succession and to provide for a young, vibrant and solid structure going forward.

The final arrangements are being put in place for the completion of the Heritage Walk which will include videos and audio links to the maps. The Lecterns and Information Boards have now been delivered.

Town Re-opening Committees

Following the success of the Bray Re-opening Committee, Wicklow County Council proposed the establishment of re-opening committees in each Municipal District – the purpose of these committees is to support businesses as they re-open and to encourage members of the community to support local business. Membership of the Re-Opening Committees consists of the MD Cathaoirleach (Chair), MD Manager, MD Administrator, MD Engineer, Chair of the Town Team, Representative of the Chamber of Commerce and An Garda Síochána. A plenary town re-opening meeting will be organised once arrangements for the lifting of the current Covid 19 restrictions are known.



Outdoor Dining

Application fees for use of public footpaths or spaces by local businesses during COVID-19 are being waived by Wicklow County Council for a further period to the end of August 2021. The Council is anxious to assist and support businesses in the recovery period arising out of the pandemic. One of the measures that the Council is keen to support in the recovery is the use of public footpaths and/or public space for local businesses which may require the use of these spaces, particularly as outdoor seating areas while restrictions are ongoing. The Council is advising businesses that such activity can be permitted by our Planning Department under a Section 254 licence. The application form and further information is available on the Wicklow County Council website: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Planning-Applications/Apply-for-Planning/Licence-Application-Section-254>

Applications for funding under the Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business Scheme opened on the 12th April and will remain open until 30th September 2021.

Faite Ireland in partnership with local authorities across the country is working to assist town centre hospitality businesses to increase their outdoor seating capacity while providing a safe environment for shoppers and diners. The key aim of the scheme is to provide support to individual hospitality and tourism businesses towards the cost of equipment to provide additional outdoor seating and facilitate individual businesses to increase their outdoor dining capacity for the summer of 2021.

In order to place furniture in public places, applicants must firstly have applied for and been granted a Section 254 licence by Wicklow County Council. The Section 254 licence fee has been waived for table and chair street furniture applications in 2021.

Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme and Urban Animation Scheme

Faite Ireland has launched two new funding schemes for local authorities to enhance the outdoor dining experience in the county and to animate the urban areas in towns. Applications are being prepared, in collaboration with the Municipal Districts and Town Teams.

Tourism

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

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



The Key Priorities are:

- Develop New Accommodation
- Develop Key Towns as Visitor Hubs
- Develop a Masterplan for Glendalough
- Grow Thematic Experiences
- Market our County by Developing A Common Narrative

A Tourism Implementation Group has been established to oversee these actions and drive all sectors towards helping Wicklow achieve the target of **€200m in tourism revenue by 2023**.

Wicklow Passport:

Wicklow County Tourism Alliance has prepared extensive local and national promotional activities which will be launched as restrictions are eased and businesses begin to re-open. This is complemented by a social media campaign. The objective for 2021 is to grow the number of Stamping Locations around the County and encourage as many visitors as possible.

VisitWicklow.ie Website:

Wicklow County Tourism Alliance is currently developing strong editorial content for the website to help showcase and promote the various Wicklow Themes. Themes worked on include Wicklow Walks, Cycling in Wicklow, Wicklow Family Activities, Wicklow Gardens, Wicklow Foods and Flavours, etc. while communications are also ongoing with the members to update and enhance the information on the site.

Wicklow Outdoors:

Digitisation of the Wicklow Walks are being finalised, with updates to the visitwicklow.ie website. Initially the Wicklow Way will be focussed on to coincide with the release of the Wicklow Way videos being produced by Wicklow's Recreation Officer. Over the next few months, this will be extended to include some of lesser known walks around the County.

Celtic Routes Project:

Funding of €1,917,770 for the second phase of the Celtic Routes tourism project has been secured for Ireland / Wales's tourist project, Celtic Routes. This is a partnership project between Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire County Councils and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority in Wales and Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford City and County Councils in Ireland. It is a branded collection of tourism experiences encouraging travelers to visit Ireland and Wales to discover the Celtic spirit by suggesting immersive and authentic experiences in West Wales and South East Ireland. A toolkit is available for



businesses and destinations with guidance and ideas about how they can create their own Celtic experiences and contribute to the success of the project.

The Celtic Route Partnership project has released an online platform to access the database of imagery that has been produced over the past year. The imagery has been used to support the extensive promotional campaign that is undergoing, including high quality and high resolution photos and videos.

Accommodation: The County Wicklow Accommodation working group are progressing with planning the next steps in order to develop a prospectus aimed at tourism providers to invest in County Wicklow.

Destination Town Funding: An application to Failte Ireland on behalf of Wicklow Town was made in respect of Destination Town Funding and funding has been awarded to develop visitor amenities in the Abbey Grounds. The tender process closed on 31st March 2021, with the successful company due to be appointed in the coming weeks.

Ireland - County by County

Wicklow featured in a recently launched 'Ireland - County by County' travel series which will be extensively aired throughout the US television network. Featuring 10 counties, this exciting new television showcase the best of Ireland county by county to television audience's right across the United States. The Wicklow episode follows Ciara Whelan as she discovers the incredible paintings at Russborough House; takes some unusual furry friends for a walk; hikes in the spectacular Glendalough National Park; enjoys some Wicklow Naturally produce at the stunning Killruddery House, and much more. Ciara also becomes a Wicklow Ambassador as she collects the various stamps for her Wicklow Passport.

Introduction to Sustainable Tourism

Sustainable tourism was the subject of a free Webinar held on Tuesday, 16th March 2021 organised by Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Tourism Alliance. The Webinar was aimed at helping Tourism Businesses in County Wicklow to start their journey to sustainability. Sustainable tourism practices will help Wicklow businesses to be more cost and operations efficient and offer a great opportunity for growth while reducing the impact on the environment. The webinar was set up to offer participants an understanding of sustainable tourism, how it can save money, reduce impact and improve reputation.



Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

A Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan for Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park has been commissioned by Fáilte Ireland, working with its strategic partners the Office of Public Works (OPW), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Coillte along with the National Monuments Service and Wicklow County Council. The aim of the Masterplan is to improve the visitor experience in Co Wicklow and the consultant team, led by Consarc Design Group, are asking the public for their input into the project.

The Public Consultation period for the Masterplan for Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park has now ended apart from some further engagement with stakeholder groups. Findings will be presented to the Glendalough Local Advisory Committee and to Wicklow County Council in due course.

Covid 19: Failte Ireland, Wicklow County Council, LEO Wicklow are providing a range of supports and advice for tourism providers and are following all advice and guidelines set out by NPHET and the Government.

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

There are currently three 2018 URDF projects underway; Arklow Historic Town Core, Wicklow Library and Fitzwilliam Square and the Bray Public Transport Bridge.

Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration

Funding of €7.14m has been announced for the Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration Project from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and this funding has the capacity to unlock the great potential of Bray Harbour and surrounding area. The harbour, its piers and adjacent lands are a major asset for Bray and this funding will facilitate an integrated scheme to develop the harbour and associated public realm works to provide a vibrant waterfront area with excellent connectivity between the promenade, the town centre the Dublin Road area and beyond.

Arklow Historic Town Core: The tender closed recently on eTenders and a Tender assessment to appoint a contractor will be carried out in the coming weeks.

Fitzwilliam Square Public Realm and Wicklow Library: Fitzwilliam Square is largely completed, with some minor outstanding works to be concluded, once Covid restrictions are eased. Completion of the



Library has been delayed due to Covid restrictions it had been due to open in July 2021. Completion is anticipated by the end of Q3 2021.

Bray Public Transport Bridge: it is the Councils intention to advertise the Part 8 for this project within the next number of weeks.. (The current planning permission would expire prior to the substantial completion of the bridge). Detailed design will continue and it is planned to go to tender for the construction of the bridge later this year.

A Rural Regeneration Development Fund application (RRDF) which had been submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development seeking funding for the development of a multi-use Community and Enterprise Centre in Rathdrum was unsuccessful. Preparations have begun to improve and enhance this application so that it can be re-submitted in the next round of applications.

Maritime

Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow

The Strategic Review authored by Gavin Doherty Associates has identified ways in which the economic base of County Wicklow can be strengthened through its ports and harbours and has formulated recommendation for Wicklow County Council. The review was endorsed by the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC in March 2020.

Key Recommendations:

- To maximise the Offshore Wind Opportunity
- To investigate the feasibility of a new harbour facility at Wicklow
- Aquaculture Support
- Marketing Strategy for County Wicklow as a Coastal Tourist Destination

The Strategic Review is at the core of the applications made under Climate Action and URDF funding.

Offshore Wind Energy

Seven Offshore Projects have been designated Relevant Projects by the government and are in line to receive a valid grid connection offer. Six of these projects are in the Irish Sea with four off the coast of Wicklow:

- Dublin Array RWE (2 projects Bray and Kish Banks)
- Codling Wind Park Fred Olsen/EDF (2 projects, Codling I and Codling II)



The Development of the designated Relevant Projects is dependent on the enactment of the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill, 2020 expected in 2021.

- The expansion by SSE Renewables of the Arklow Bank wind Farm is proceeding under an extant consent process. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage had last October granted a foreshore licence to carry out site investigation works in an area off the coast at Arklow, however this has been challenged in the High Court by an environmental activist. Separately, the developer of the project SSE Renewables proposes to make an application to Wicklow County Council for the development of the offshore operations facility at Arklow Harbour. SSER plan to locate their sub-station at Avoca River Park. SSE Renewables will be submitting an application to An Bord Pleanála in respect of the onshore grid connection within the coming week.
- Investigations by Codling Windpark are ongoing no decision has been made in respect of the Operations and Maintenance base has been made as yet.
- A further large scale offshore wind farm proposal has been announced. This is in respect of a development by Ocean Winds titled the Cailleach Wind Farm off Bray Head. It is likely to of similar scale to the Codling Wind Park.
- Investigations by the Dublin Array are ongoing.

Key Milestones

- The anticipated enactment of the Marine Planning and Development Bill
- The Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) Auction whereby the companies bid for a grid connection.

The estimated value of each of the above projects is between €1 and €2 billion. In addition to the benefits provided to the community, including investment, employment, training and skills development, and the opportunity to develop Wicklow as a Centre of Excellence for Offshore Wind Energy, a mandatory Community Benefit Fund must be provided by all RESS projects. This will be of significant value for the County Wicklow community.

Council officials are engaging with Enterprise Ireland and the educational bodies with regard to developing a business cluster and skills and training requirements.

Maritime Business Development Group

The next Maritime Business Development Group meeting will take place over the summer. Due to Covid restrictions this meeting will be held remotely.

APRIL 2021



Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow Naturally CLG meets on a monthly basis and are working on a number of key projects including accessing funding for a Co-ordinator position, planning a social media strategy, improving website content, producing a newsletter on progress to date and increasing membership.



2. 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
	2020	2021	2021
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 27/€663,778.00 - 3/€3,850	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	-9/ €179,394 -2 €3,150 (to date)
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
	2020	2021	2021
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	64	60	16
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	75	75	29
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	1542	1000	342
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	12	3



METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2020	2021	2021
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	1302	100	318
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	803	600	180 (including Brexit mentoring)

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2020/2021	2021/2022	Year to Date
No. of Secondary Student Participants	962	1000	962

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

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2020	2021	Year to Date 2021
Trading Online Vouchers	430	70	77

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

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2020	2021	2021
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	21	23	3



April 2021 Activities

- ✚ The March Network of Entrepreneurial Women network meeting took place via Zoom on 7th April
- ✚ Brexit / Customs one to one advice Clinics are ongoing with dedicated Advisor working with companies to help them adapt to new regulations following Brexit.
- ✚ There continues to be a high level of demand for business advice clinics which are currently being run remotely. Additional Clinics are being provided to ensure that demand is being met.
- ✚ Applications for the Trading Online Voucher Scheme continue to be submitted with 77 approved to date for 2021. The grant has now reverted to 50% from 1st January 2021.
- ✚ Weekly newsletter is circulated to clients on supports, training courses, events and other relevant information.
- ✚ Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- ✚ The Lean for Micro Programme has nine companies participating and the programme is currently mid way.
- ✚

Training

The Spring Summer 2021 training programme offers a combination of core training courses, digital marketing clinics and Covid Crisis related courses to LEO clients.:

Courses that have taken place in the last month include:

- Maximising Sales on your website and social media channels took place on 1st April.
- Essential Idea exploration: Tools and techniques to test the market was delivered to full capacity on 13th April.
- Due to demand an additional Start Your Own Business Course commenced 14th April and was booked out.

Upcoming courses include the following:-

- ✚ Northern Ireland: Gateway of opportunity to exporting workshop is taking place on 12th May.
- ✚ Business Planning and Accessing Finance is taking place on 18th May.
- ✚ Customs Mentoring sessions are taking place 26th May for 7 client companies.
- ✚ A Start Your Own Business course scheduled to commence 6th May is fully booked.

Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.

Training

The Spring Summer 2021 training programme offers a combination of core training courses, digital marketing clinics and Covid Crisis related courses to LEO clients.

Local Enterprise Week took place 1st to 5th March during which the following events took place:-

APRIL 2021



- Digital Marketing Clinics – 6 Clients
- Start Your Own Business – 15 Clients
- Customs Mentoring Sessions – 6 Clients
- Customs Workshop – 11 participants
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar – 53 participants
- Lead Yourself, Lead Other, Lead Your Business – 20 participants.

9 businesses participated in a Business Planning and Accessing Finance Course on the 9th March.

2 LEO Wicklow clients took part in a Regional Food Starter Course on the 9th March arranged by Kilkenny LEO.

Customs Mentoring sessions Took place on 23rd March for 7 client companies.
Instagram for business scheduled for 23rd March, SEO for Website scheduled for 25th March and Maximising Sales on Your Website & Social Media Channels on the 1st April are all fully booked.

Upcoming courses include the following:-

Due to demand an additional Start Your Own Business Course has been scheduled to commence 14th April for 10 mornings.



3. Planning and Development

County Development Plan Review

Notice to review the current County Development Plan 2016 - 2022 and prepare a new County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 was given on the 6th November 2019. Closing date for submissions was Friday 10th January 2020. 156 submissions were received.

All of the submissions are available to view on the website:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-PlansStrategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2021-2027/IssuesPaper>

The First Chief Executive's Report was issued to the Elected Members on Friday 12th June 2020. This Report forms part of the statutory procedure for the review of the existing plan and the preparation of the new plan. Its purpose is to report on the outcome of the statutory consultation process and to set out the Chief Executive's opinion on the issues raised in the submissions received.

The report is available to view on the website:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-RegionalCounty-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2021-2027/Stage-2>

The Proposed Draft County Development Plan was issued to the members on 16th March 2021 - The proposed draft shall be deemed to be the draft development plan, unless, within 8 weeks of the submission of the draft development to the Members, the Planning Authority, by resolution, amends that draft development plan

At the monthly meeting of Wicklow County Council to be held on May 10th the members will vote on any proposed amendments

Thereafter the draft plan will go on public display for 12 weeks

Wicklow Heritage & Biodiversity Plans

County Heritage Plan allocations received from The Heritage Council for the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan actions in 2021 (€30,000). Heritage Forum Meeting held 30th March.

Application for funding to implement Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan submitted to the National Biodiversity Action Plan fund by 26th March

Community Monument Fund (CMF); This grant scheme is co-ordinated by the Heritage Officer on behalf of the National Monuments Service DHHLG. The scheme was advertised in early March, applications invited by 12th April. Following assessment applications will be shortlisted and forwarded to Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government by 30th April

Wicklow Swift Project underway: co-ordinator in place to liaise with groups, nest boxes to be distributed to suitable locations.

Biodiversity Awareness programme: 'Spring into Nature' programme running Feb – May, includes the production and free distribution of publications (Wicklow Wildlife posters and Gardening for Wildlife booklets and other Wicklow habitat guides) and the hosting of free nature themed zoom evening talks (supported by the Healthy Ireland programme). Talk on Wicklow Swift Project held on 20th April, 50 people attended.



Know Your 5 K – Free online course to assist individuals to research their locality in county Wicklow over 5 sessions. Course provider Irish Archaeological Fieldschool (IAFS), course ran 6th to 21st April. 30 participants. The outcome from the training will promote engagement with Our Wicklow Heritage, the online community Heritage website for county Wicklow.

Our Wicklow Heritage: One additional community heritage website launched as part of the OWH network on the theme of Rathdown Ancient Heritage, under the aegis of Greystones Tidy Towns. ICAN (national) meeting held 24/03

Local Biodiversity Action Plans for towns and villages in County Wicklow: A joint action with County Wicklow Partnership supported by the LEADER programme. Due to commence Spring 2021. Expressions of interest submitted by 79 community groups.

Protected Structures Grants: The Heritage Office co-ordinated application to the BHIS and HSF schemes on behalf of Wicklow County Council Planning Section. Approval of €72,000 allocation received for 10 projects, applicants notified. Await outcome of applications under HSF.

Planning Applications

A total of 130 valid applications were received during March, these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	26 (23 refer to rural Hse applications)
Housing Developments*	03
Agricultural Structures	05
Commercial	06
Other Developments**	90
Total	130

* Large hsg Development

PRR 21/35 73 dwellings, Broomhall, Wicklow – Broomhall Estates
PRR 21311, 92 dwellings, Knockadosan, Rathdrum, Oakway Homes

**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 90 applications in March, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	06
Individual Houses	28 (22 refer to a rural Hse)
Other Developments	53
Other Developments Requiring EIA	03
Total	90

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



	31/03/2020	31/03/2021
Total Number of decisions issued	225	247
Total Number of decisions to grant	188	211
% Grant Rate	84%	85%

No. of Applications withdrawn

March 11 (05 refer to rural hse applications)

*Withdrawals may not have been lodged in the month of January.

Planning Enforcement

Enforcement

New Files	18
Advisory Letters	25
Warning Letters	08
Enforcement Notices	02
Legal files	00
Closed	20

Court Cases:

4 Cases listed in the Circuit Court adjourned by Courts due to current restrictions.

Vacant Sites

25 no. sites now stand on the Register.

02 Section 15 Demand Notices Issued

€927.50 levy received (payment plan in place)

3 sites referred to Law Department for debt collection proceedings regarding levy

Derelict Sites

02 No. of sites on Register

01 site removed from Register

01 Notice served (Section 8(3) removal from Register)

Short Term Letting:

The short term letting team is in place.

- 8 Applications for Registration received in 2021.
- Total received to date: 45(20 from 2019 and 17 from 2020 and 8 from 2021)
- Total files from 2019 is 27
- Total files from 2020 is 69
- Total files from 2021 is 16
- 3 complaints received in 2020
- 2 complaints received in 2021
- 8 warning letters issued
- 4 properties from 2019 being investigated at present.
- 40 properties from 2020 being investigated at present.
- 33 properties from 2021 being investigated at present.
- UD files created from 2020 in 2021 is 8

4. Environmental Services

Waste Management

No. of Complaints Opened	161
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	252
No of Litter Fines Issued	14
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	2
No. of Warning Letters Issued	3
No. of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	12
No. of Burning Applications Granted	14
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	0
No. of Notices issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	8
No. of Notices issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of fixed penalty notices issued	1
No. of files prepared for Court included in Court lists	53
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	5
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	4
Income – Litter	€3,550.00
Income – Waste Management	€2,100.00

Climate Action

The Climate Action Team is currently made up as follows

- Mary Cahill – Climate Action Officer
- Jim Callery A Environmental Awareness Officer
- Deirdre Burns Heritage Officer
- Pam O'Reilly Assistant Staff Officer

Priority Action items:

- EV Chargers will be installed at Shoreline Greystones, and the area office in Blessington in the coming weeks. The charging point at Main Street Blessington has been delayed due to lead in time for a new ESB connection.
- A tree Policy to be drawn up for the County. UCD Landscape architecture department has been appointed to co-ordinate the tree management policy for Wicklow County Council - a draft policy document has been received and is currently being reviewed by officials and this will be out for public consultation in the coming weeks
- Woodland Creation Project: All departments were asked to identify public lands which could be suitable for community woodlands. CARO have issued guidance on this project which is being funded by the DAFM. The Climate Action Officer is liaising with Teagasc advisor to appraise each identified site. Three proposed parcels of land have been forwarded to Teagasc to carry out a desk top study on their suitability for the scheme.
- A Foamstream machine has been purchased from Furlong Equipment Ltd and will initially be deployed in the Bray Municipal District. – the purchase of a trailer for transportation of the machine and training on the use of the machine has been delayed due to COVID restrictions.

- The roll out of the national training programme has commenced and training will continue online for all staff throughout 2021.
- Arklow has been selected as the first Town for the Decarbonisation Zone Project. The first stage of the project is to produce an Implementation Plan before the end of 2021.

Energy

- BEC 1121 application as set out below have been approved and with the support of 3 Counties Energy agency all projects are being progressed. .

LOCATION	PROJECT
Clermont	Heating Controls
	PV Panel
Wicklow Town Hall	PV Panel
	Lighting Upgrade
	Windows/Doors Upgrade
Bray Civic Offices	PV Panel
	Heating Controls
	Lighting Upgrade
Bray Depot	PV Panel
	Lighting Upgrade
Tinahely Area Office and Fire Station	Lighting Upgrade
	Insulation Upgrade
	Insulation Upgrade
	PV Panel
Greystones Library	Lighting Upgrade
	Windows/Doors Upgrade
Arklow Fire Station	Insulation Upgrade (attic)
	Lighting Upgrade
	Insulation Upgrade (walls)
Coral LC Wicklow	Heat Pump Upgrade
County Buildings	BMS
	Windows/Doors Upgrade
7 No. EV Chargers.	EV Chargers - Double Socket

SEC

Covid 19 restrictions interrupted progress of Sustainable Energy Committees. Grant amended deadlines have been agreed with SEAI to allow for the continuation and completion of Energy Map Plans for Glenmalure, Laragh, NewtownmountKennedy, Greystones/Delgany. Work progressed during December with audits in NewtownmountKennedy and Greystones/Delgany while only desk top desk top studies and data gathering continued in January.



Glenmalure is now completed with final report approved and submitted to SEAI. A claim for grant payment has been made to SEAI and payment received from SEAI in January. The committee is now focused on identifying projects to implement.

Laragh is also complete and due to be presented to the Community, once a final review is completed by the committee.

Wicklow Town and Blessington have both commenced the public engagement process. Blessington held an online public information webinar on the 16th of February.

Environmental Awareness

- The final for the Relove fashion competition was held on the 22nd of February. A good level of entries was achieved in Wicklow with 23 teams from six secondary schools. Work has commenced on planning for the next school year with plans to launch it in May. The plan is to create a web based portal for entries and open a Facebook account to increase the interaction with schools via technology and make the process easier in managing a multi-local authority participation.
- The Sustainable Development Goals mapping tool has been delivered with the map developed in house by our GIS Officer. Work is ongoing to promote its use and the wider engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals across the services of Wicklow County Council. A case study on the project has been written and submitted to CARO for distribution nationwide..
- The EPA put out a call for projects under the Local Authority Prevention Network, LAPN. An application for funding was submitted by Wicklow County Council. The project applied for is to develop composting solutions for the management of the high levels of grass production which must be lifted when green space is being managed for pollinators. This project will help to facilitate Wicklow County Council's commitment to designate spaces for pollinators.
- Several projects were funded under the Anti-litter grant. Two were focused on schools. The first one providing a toolkit with storybooks, classroom activities and equipment to carry out litter picks in ten schools. Workshops on the theme of Leave No Trace were provided for 12 schools. An audio device messaging campaign has also been funded which is delivering three targeted anti-litter campaigns over twelve months on the subjects of Dumping at Bottle Banks, Dog Fouling and Keeping Blue Flag beaches litter free. The bottle bank campaign was undertaken first to correspond with peak usage over the Christmas period and into January moving to Dog fouling in February.
- A proposal was made to local authorities in the CARO Eastern Midlands subregion to develop a joint Transition Year Climate Action programme to guide schools on engaging students in action at local level. Partners in the project are Kildare, Meath and Louth local authorities and the CARO office. The programme contains modules on Energy, Active Travel, Biodiversity, the Circular Economy, Water, Rivers, Food, Trees, Advocacy, Business and Air Quality. A first draft has been prepared and we will be consulting with Transition year teachers in April.
- Wicklow County Council is working with seven other local authorities to develop a series of short videos for use on social media. The campaign will include six animated video each of which shows the impact dog fouling has on others using a variety of scenarios including children, wheel chair user, a volunteer cutting grass, dog Walker at night, dogs themselves bringing the mess home as paw prints and impact on beach users. We will seek matching gifs which can be shared by residents associations more easily on What's app groups and will serve as reminders of the main campaign.



- National Spring Clean has had its busiest year to date with request coming in for clean-up kit from the beginning of the year. There is increased volunteer activity.
- A sustainable tourism webinar was held on the 16th of March. The event was organised in collaboration with Wicklow Tourism. Speakers included Sustainable Tourism Ireland, a Wicklow based company who offer training and certification, a case study from the Killarney Ross and Parks hotels, and an introduction to the Sustainable Energy Communities programme. Over 100 people registered for the event and feedback to Wicklow Tourism was very positive with participants keen for further events particularly on certification and the circular economy. Wicklow Tourism is developing resources for its website and we are gathering case studies of good practice in the county.
- National Tree Week was celebrated by the Tree Council of Ireland as a virtual event. Wicklow County Council as a member of the Tree Council received 800 trees which were advertised on social media, through the PPN and contact lists. 62 groups across the county received trees for planting locally.

Brittas Bay Carparks

- Carparks in both Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South remain open to the public for free for the winter – summer season begins on 1st May and charging into the carparks will be reintroduced at that stage as will bin collections and toilet facilities.
- Dog walking is allowed during the winter period and horse riding is also allowed during the day on week days and before 10am on weekends and bank holidays

Lifeguards

- The bathing season runs from 1st of June to the 15th September as did Lifeguard Patrols. Recruitment of life guards has commenced and closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 26th March – interviews to be held virtually in the first week in May

Whitestown Remediation Project

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

- Draft remediation plan was lodged with Brownfield restoration Ireland Limited (BRIL) on 27th November.
- Submissions have been received from a number of consultees. These are presently being reviewed by the environmental consultants.

Harbours and Ports

Wicklow County Council are in the process of submitting applications to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for funding under the Fishery Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2021.

Wicklow Harbour

Eleven cargo vessels berthed in Wicklow Port during March 2020. All were single transactions with nine importing and two exporting commodities. The imports included logs, timber and explosives while the exported material consisted of scrap metal.



Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

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

Private Water Supplies

- Of the 7 Private water supplies monitored and 2 were found non-compliant with pH indicator parametric values.
- 1 boil water notice was lifted following remedial action compliant microbiological and health advice from the HSE.

Deco Paints and Solvent Regulations

- 1 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installation was inspected.
- 1 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installation letter was issued.

Solid Fuel Regulations

- 7 Inspections of Wholesalers/Retailers/Distributors were carried out

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 14 Lakes monitored involving for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 187 Rivers monitored at 8 stations involving for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2020

- 14 inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems were carried out.
- 10 domestic waste water treatment systems were found non-complaint and advisory notices were issued for improvement.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

- 12 licensed wastewater discharges to water were monitored and were deemed satisfactory.
- 4 licensed wastewater discharges to water were non-compliant and were required to take corrective action.
- 6 licensed wastewater discharges to sewer were monitored 5 were deemed satisfactory.
- 1 licensed wastewater discharge to sewer water was non-compliant and was referred to Irish Water.

Planning & Development

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



Well Grants

• Number of New Applications	41
• Number of New Wells Granted	13
• Number of New Pumps Granted	51
• Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.)Granted	89
• Number of Inspections in advance/after works	89

Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

- The Office of Public Works (OPW) and Wicklow County Council have commissioned Byrne Looby PH McCarthy (BLP) and Arup to undertake engineering and environmental studies respectively to assess and develop a viable, cost effective and sustainable Flood Relief Scheme for the Avoca River, Arklow.
- The process of identifying a preferred scheme to address fluvial and coastal flooding in Arklow includes a detailed assessment of a range of flood risk management measures to determine their technical, economic, social and environmental viability.
- Following a detailed scheme options assessment process, the series of measures that will make up the emerging preferred flood relief scheme for the Avoca River, Arklow have now been identified.
- A number of changes in design have resulted in the need to update the Public realm drawings which has been carried out and was presented to the Arklow District Members on 5th of November 2020.
- A Public Information Session was completed (12th - 26th March 2021) and the Project Team are responding to the Public's comments on an update presentation, which was given to Arklow District Members on 10th of March 2021.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment Report is currently being finalised to submit to An Bord Pleanala.



5. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Public Lighting

	1/3/21	9/3/21	15/3/21	22/3/21	29/3/21	6/4/21
Access Issues (Attended)	15	14	15	15	15	15
Cable Fault (Attend)	7	7	7	7	7	8
ESB Required (Attended)	21	21	21	21	22	23
Knock Down (Attended)	2	2	2	2	3	3
Materials required	3	4	4	4	4	4
No Supply	8	8	5	5	5	5
On Hold	25	26	26	26	26	27
Submitted	280	290	258	287	277	262
Traffic Management Required	10	10	13	13	14	12
TOTAL	371	382	351	380	373	359
Percentage of lights not working	2.49%	2.56%	2.36%	2.55%	2.50%	2.41%

	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	5		5		5	15
Cable Fault (Attend)	1		1	5	1	8
ESB Required(Attended)	7	3	4	3	6	23
Knock Down (Attended)		1	1		1	3
Materials required	1	1	1		1	4
No Supply	1	1	1	2		5
On hold	3	1	16	4	3	27
Submitted	53	53	61	51	44	262
Traffic Management Required	4		2	2	4	12
Grand Total	75	60	92	67	65	359
Percentage Not Working	2.57%	2.53%	2.79%	2.45%	1.82%	2.41%

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	105,535
Greystones Municipal District	35,937
Wicklow Municipal District	33,411
Arklow Municipal District	20,321
Parking Permits	15,550
Parking Fines	64,149
Wicklow County Council	274,903

Transportation Statistics (General)

	Total 2020	Running total 2021	February 2021	March 2021
Solicitors Queries	842	204	71	69
Road Closure Applications	23	7	2	3
Road Opening Licences	1279	524	122	267
Abnormal Load Applications	33	9	4	3

Winter Maintenance programme commenced on 12th October 2020

Week Commencing	12/10/2020	19/10/2020	26/10/2020	02/11/2020	09/11/2020	16/11/2020
Total number of gritting nights	0	0	0	4	0	2
Total number of routes gritted	0	0	0	18	0	13
Total estimate tonnage used	0	0	0	76	0	52



Week Commencing	01/03/2021	08/03/2021	15/03/2021	22/03/2021	29/03/2021	05/04/2021
Total number of gritting nights	3	0	1	1	0	4
Total number of routes gritted	22	0	5	9	0	36
Total estimate tonnage used	89	0	21	46	0	148

M11/N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

Bulletin Update Number 7 was published on April 14th with a link to an interactive Web-Mapping portal. The Land Liaison team are responding to queries from the public. This provides further detail on progress on the scheme with the retained corridors and the development of design in-line with Stage 2 of the Phase 2 Project Appraisal process.

Environmental Surveys are continuing on site, with field walkover surveys including Bat, Barn Owl, Hydro Surveys, Breeding Birds, to name but a few. Updates on the surveys that are being undertaken can be found on the project website www.n11m11.ie. The scheme design consultants ARUP continue to progress the assessment of the emerging preferred corridor under TII Project Management Guidelines and are confident that the announcement on the preferred option will be made in the coming months. The project team are continuing to meet virtually with the public and any interested groups. Contact to both the liaison and project team can be made through the project website and also dmforde@wicklowcoco.ie and n11m11@arup.com

M11/N11 Interim Bus Priority Project

The Feasibility Report was completed at the beginning of March, it is currently under review by NTA, TII and WCC. In the meantime Wicklow County Council has received approval from TII to progress the scheme to Phase 2 (Options Selection) and Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) of the TII Project Management Guidelines. The Interim Bus Scheme will be coordinated by Wicklow County Council and will be supported by a Project Management team from Regional National Roads Office based in Kildare. This scheme will run separately to the main N11/M11 scheme in order to promote an earlier delivery timeframe.

N11 Kilmacanogue Parallel Service Road

Construction work is continuing through Covid level 5 restrictions as construction of critical transport infrastructure is permitted under the government measures.

The majority of Phase 1 works in the median are complete.

Phase 2 works that include accommodation works, gantry sign foundations and new footpaths are currently under construction along the service road.

The construction of the concrete plinths to delineate the service road from the mainline traffic along with a foul sewer diversion (between junction 7 and Kilmacanogue) will commence in Phase 3 .



N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

Knockroe Bend scheme is complete.

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

The Phase 1 (Feasibility Report) for the N81 Tuckmill Lower, Hangman's Bend, Whitestown Lower and Irishtown West projects (the 'N81 Four Studies') has been submitted to TII.

Wicklow County Council has requested approval from TII to progress the scheme to Phase 2 (Route Selection) in accordance with the TII Project Management Guidelines (PMG).

N81 Pavement Capital Works

TII have allocated funding to resurface circa 4km south of Blessington. Invitations to tender for these works have been sent to Contractors.

N81 Capital Maintenance

TII have provided an allocation for resurfacing works at Ballinacrow Upper to Saundersgrove Hill and at Hollywood Lower.

The tender process for these works has been completed and works will be scheduled for completion over the summer months.

Sustainable Transportation Measures Grant Schemes

Bray Strand Road Cycle Scheme

Construction works are progressing on the Seafront Plaza. Main drainage works have been completed. Paving works are substantially complete on the western side of strand Road and have commenced on the eastern side of the road.

Arklow Transport Study

DBFL Consulting Engineers have been appointed as Consultants to carry out the Transport Study.

Bus Priority in Little Bray

We are in the process of appointing DBFL Consulting Engineers as Consultants for the Scheme.

Greystones Transport Study

Tenders have been advertised for Consultants to carry out the Study. The tender return date is 7th May 2021.

- **NTA Active Travel 2021** –13 schemes are listed under the Active Travel 2021 programme with overall funding allocation of €1.517m. Gateway approval submissions are ongoing with the NTA at present to allow schemes commence on site. Works commenced on the 19th April 2021 at Rathdrum footpath with further schemes to start in the coming weeks.

- **Laragh/Glendalough Junction** - Construction works commenced on 19th September with works progressing well to improve access for visitors to the National Heritage Site in the townland of Brockagh at Glendalough. Works recommenced on this project on the 1st March 2021 following Covid construction restrictions. The works are nearing completion with full construction works to be completed in the coming weeks.
- **Ballinaclesh Junction:** Construction has started since early September 2020 and works are currently progressing well on both the new alignment section and drainage works in the townland of Corballis Lower. Works recommenced at this project on the 22nd February 2021 following the Covid construction restrictions. The works are nearing completion with full construction works to be completed in the coming weeks.

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics March 2021

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Callsign		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	2	1	1								
Fire Domestic	8	2	3	2	1						
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	9	1	2*	1		1	1**	2	1		
Fire Vehicle (HGV / motorway)	2			1	1						
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	2	1	1								
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	4	1	1	2							
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	13	5	3	2	1		1	1			
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	31	10	9	6	2			2		1	1
Fire Chimney	14	2	6	2	1	1		1			1
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	16	10	2	1		1		1	1		
Fire Vehicle	7		1	2	1	1	1	1			
Flooding	1	1									
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1		1								
Ambulance Assist	7	3	1	1					2		
Garda Assist	1		1								
Electrical Incident	0										
Gas Leak	1					1					
River / Water Rescue	1					1					
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										



Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	2	1	1								
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	0										
False Alarm – Good Intent	1		1								
Malicious False Alarm	0										
Mobilised into other County	3							2	1		
Times Stations mobilised	126	38	34	20	7	6	3	10	5	1	2

* RTC, #Glenlucan, Killarney Road, Bray, attended by Greystones (Bray crew on Sugarloaf) supported by DFB Dun Laoghaire

** RTC, 24/03, Naas Fire Crew were mobilised to assist in Blessington.

There were **113 incidents** attended during the month of March 2021. Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **126 occasions** including 3 incidents in Kildare.

Operational activity for the month of March **was up 16% on the preceding month** (February 2021 – 109 mobilisations). This is accounted for mainly by a large increase in the number of gorse fires and chimney fires. Activity for the month of March 2021 was the same as activity during the equivalent month in 2020.

Sample Incidents (March 2021)

- 07/03/2021 Bray and Greystones to Oldcourt in the early hours.- Charger unit
- 09/03/2021 Bray and Greystones Crews were mobilised to domestic bedroom fire in Ard na Mara, Kilcoole.
- 10/03/2021 Bray and Greystones Crews were mobilised to an “industrial fire”, workshop / shed in a rear garden.
- 17/03/2021 Wicklow Town and Rathdrum Fire Crews were alerted to a domestic fire in Daragh Park, Wicklow Town, the oil tank for the central heating system exploded creating a fireball at the rear of the property.
- 23/03/2021 Dunlavin and Baltinglass crews attended a 2 car RTC, at Boherboy, Dunlavin.

Incidents mobilised outside County Wicklow (March 2021):

Kildare (3-incident)

- 02/03/21 Baltinglass Fire Crew were mobilised to a chimney fire at Stone Crop, Knockpatrick, Castledermot, Co Kildare.
- 20/03/21 Dunlavin Fire Crew were mobilised to a “false alarm good intent”, passerby thought there was a fire in a farmyard at Kilgowan, Co Kildare.
- 26/03/21 Dunlavin Fire Crew supported Newbridge Crew at a domestic fire at Piercetown, Station Road, Newbridge, Co Kildare.

General

- Wicklow Fire Service ran an intensive 2-week QQI accredited Breathing Apparatus Wearers Course for new recruits.

- Wicklow Fire Service facilitated and supported a 2-week leadership and operational command course in Bray in conjunction with Cork City Fire Brigade. There were 3 students from Wicklow Fire Service. The course involved a large scale multi-agency exercise at the Newcastle Airfield.

Fire Prevention Statistics March 2021

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	14		6		5
Regularisation Certificates	1		1		0
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	9		3		2

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

Building Control

Commencement Notices for March 2021:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 24

- 4 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 15 Opt Out Declarations
- 5 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 0 Seven day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 62 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 70 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 17 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 3 are Compliance Documentation (17%)
 - 12 are Opt Out (70%)
 - 2 Without Compliance Documentation (13%)
 - 0 Seven Day Notice (0%)



16 Valid Commencement Notices

16 new build residential Units (10 of which are one off houses)

- Invalidated CNs for March = 2

Certificates of Completion processed in March 2021

- 11 New No. of CCC submitted
- 8 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid

Submission Statistics

8 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 1 No CCCs submitted in December 2020
- 1 No CCCs submitted in January 2021
- 6 No CCCs submitted in March 2021

7 Revised Info Requests

75% = 6 No. @ Multi-Development site => 32 new residential units

12% = 1 No one off houses

12% = 1 No Commercial Units Retail, Crèche etc.

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Points to note:

Non Essential construction sites closed from 8th January due to Level 5 Restrictions. NBCO guidelines requested that all users of BCMS take account of current Level 5 Restrictions before submission of Notices to BCMS. Building Control have continued to assess all Commencement Notices and Certificates of Completion submitted, however non-essential construction projects have been requested to amend Commencement Notice Date to reflect Level 5 restrictions in line with NBCO guidelines.

Building Control inspections have continued for Essential commenced and completed works. Government Restriction for residential construction activity lifted from 12th April.

Water Services

In 2021 Wicklow County Council staff continued to provide Water and Wastewater Services under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water.

Covid-19:

All staff in the Water Services Department, technical, outdoor and administrative staff continue to work throughout the Covid-19 period with no interruption to supply and services throughout the crisis.

Drinking Water – Quarter 1 2021 Report

Wicklow County Council staff work with Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement to provide safe and clean drinking water to the people of Wicklow. This year has seen changes to the working environment due to Covid-19. Normal Operation and Maintenance works have been on-going throughout this challenging time with Caretakers, leakage locators, plumbers and leakage inspectors ensuring quality and supplies from Water treatment plants and within networks, haven't been affected during this period. Administration, outdoor, technical and engineering staff work together to ensure the best service is delivered on a daily basis.

Operation and Maintenance Works:

Reservoir Cleaning:

There is an on-going program of Reservoir cleaning and repair currently been carried out by Irish Water and the water services staff of Wicklow County Council, to ensure the highest quality water is supplied and distributed into the networks. The following reservoirs have been cleaned since January 2021:

- Drummin Reservoir, Greystones WS.
- Aughrim Reservoir, Annacurra/Aughrim WS

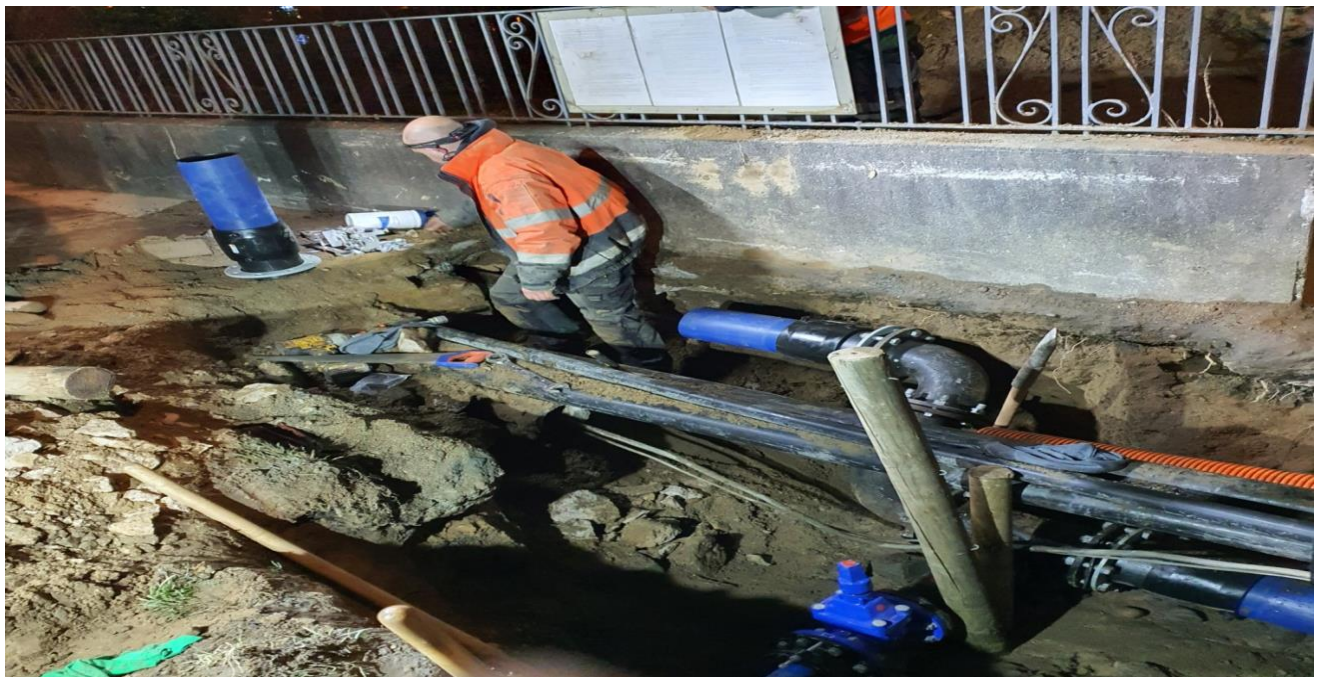


Drummin Reservoir Greystones

Burst Mains & Leak Repairs:

On a daily basis there are burst mains and leak repairs carried out by Wicklow County Council Water Services staff. Often these are on smaller mains but regularly they are on larger pipes on roads and can cause a lot of disruption. This can be due to older pipes, pressure build up or pipe strikes. These incidents can happen at any time during the day or night and water leakage inspectors, leakage locators, plumbers and external contractors make themselves available to fix these issues. The leaks identified by the Wicklow County Council leakage crews and repaired by the plumber since beginning of January 2021 has saved approximately 960,000 litres a day.

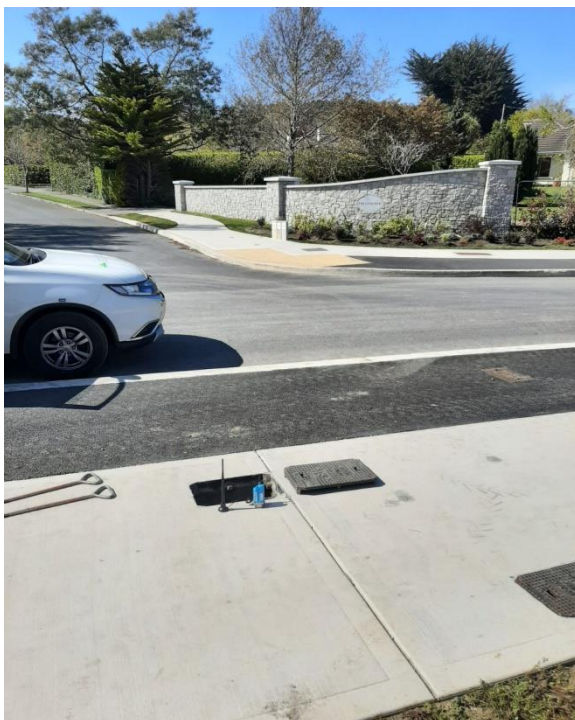
Below is a burst in Arklow, which crews worked on throughout the night to restore water to customers.



Burst mains in Arklow

Leakage Equipment Pilot:

Wicklow County Council are currently involved in trialling new leakage equipment on behalf of Irish Water. This equipment detects noise on the network and gives the Leakage Crews locations of possible leaks. Currently these trials are being carried out in Delgany and Blessington.



Work has also finished on laying a 100mm main between two areas in the Wicklow WSZ. These works will allow one of the oldest reservoirs in Wicklow Water Supply Zone to be decommissioned: Seacrest reservoir.

Water Network Programme: Mains Rehab. and Backyard Services in Bray and Wicklow Town

- In Bray rehab mains replacement work is on-going to replace old Cast Iron main and mains in backyards.
- In Wicklow Town there has been backyard mains replacement.

Pressure management: There has been PRV installed in Knocknarrigan, Hollywood, Greystones, Wicklow Town and Rathdrum.

Installation of Chemical system at Baltinglass & Ballinaclesh WTP:

Project – Replacement of Old chemical tanks and bunds

The works were commissioned at the start of April with the tank filled in mid-April.

Construction Works: Removal of the old tank and installation of a new bunded tank and pipe work.



Waste Water – Quarter 1 2021 Report

Grangecon WWTP:

Project – New Tanks, filter material, liquid dispersal system and associated works.

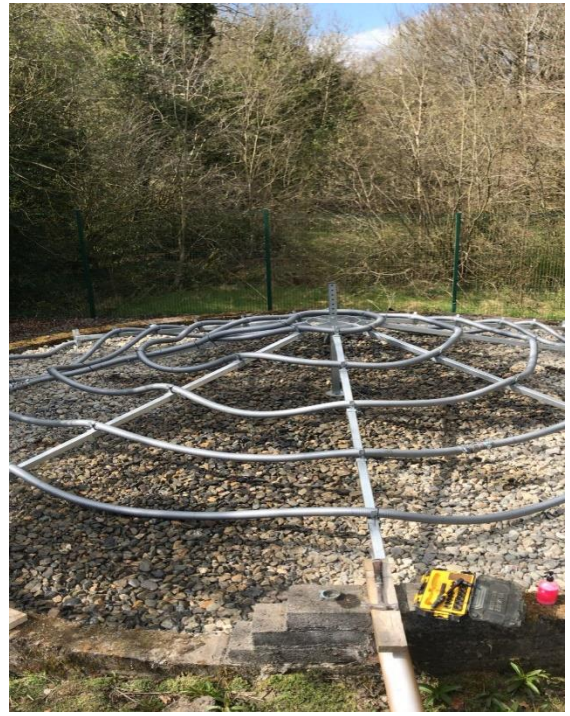
The plant has been upgraded to allow for increased capacity and address issues with the existing tank. Construction works were completed between last year and early April 2021 and the new works were commissioned on Friday 16th April.

Construction Works: Four new tanks have been installed to replace the existing tank. A new galvanised structure was constructed to hold the liquid dispersal system. The filter material has also

replaced for the depth of the tank. A new control system and pump has been installed. The works were done by Nolan's and Cully's with tanks supplied by separate supplier and supervised by Wicklow County Council Water services staff.



Picture 1. New filter stone placed.



Picture 2. New galvanised steel structure to hold the liquid dispersal system.



Picture 3. Four new tanks placed at end of 2020



Picture 4. New tanks have been backfilled. Railing to be installed.

Aughrim WWTP:

Project – Installation of new screen

The plant has had a new screen installed at the inlet works into the WWTP. A new control panel will be installed in the next couple of months. Mechanical screening is the first step in the wastewater treatment process. The screens are used to remove larger solids from wastewater in order to protect the equipment in the treatment stages that follow. The screen was chosen specifically to the size and type of solids in the wastewater into the plant.

Construction Works: The existing screen was removed. The new screen was installed and connected up to existing pipework. The mechanical and electrical works were completed.



Picture 5. Screen Aughrim WWTP

Barndarrig WWTP:

Project – Upgrade works to WWTP.

The project involves the installation of two new primary tanks, a screen and ancillary works.

Construction Works: Two new above ground 36m³ precast concrete Primary Settlement Tanks, a new screen and ancillary works were required at the treatment works to increase capacity of the existing wastewater treatment plant. The works were completed by Conway Engineering under the instruction of IW/WCC and were supervised by Wicklow County Council Water Services staff. The value of the works was approximately €260,000.



Picture 6. Tanks arriving to site.



Picture 7. Primary tanks being craned into location.

Manhole replacement cover Program.

Project – Replacing of manhole covers in Kilcoole and Blessington, and two sump covers in Arklow.

A large amount of heavier, older manholes that were cracked, broken or created a manual Handling issue were replaced. Two sump covers have been replaced at Harbour Road and South Green, Arklow as the existing covers had failed/subsided.



Picture 8. Manhole examination works



Picture 9. New sump cover at Bond St. Wicklow

Key Performance Indicators (KPI's):

Under the Annual Service Plan with Irish Water, WCC continued to be scored on Key Performance Indicators. The 2020 overall score was 94.4% which reflects the excellent performance of Wicklow County Council staff across all pillars within the Annual Service plan throughout the year. The Quarter 1 report for 2021 is yet to issue from Irish Water some scores from the February 2021 report include:

- KPI 3 HSQE Actions completed as a result of statutory inspections: 95.8%
- KPI 10 Timely response to workflow queries: 100%
- KPI 12(a) Drinking Water Supply microbiological compliance: 100%
- KPI 13(f) Waste Water Treatment – Annual Environment Reports: 100%
- KPI 17 Operations expenditure control: 88% (working within budget)

Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. HR and Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in March:

- General Services Supervisor Wicklow & Arklow Port
- Preliminary Interviews Assistant Staff Officer
- Final Clerical Officer

Employee Numbers

	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020
Managerial/ Administrative	292	294	293	292
Professional/Technical	105	104	105	108
Outdoor	321	320	324	323
Temporary/ Seasonal	62	55	31 (reduction relates to lifeguards)	31
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	8
Total	788	781	761	762

	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019
Managerial/ Administrative	280	272	280	285
Professional/Technical	104	98	103	102
Outdoor	316	318	318	318
Temporary/ Seasonal	65	88	6	62
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	8
Total	773	784	771	775

(Excludes figures for Fire-fighters)



Access to Information

F.O.I. Requests

March 2021: 3	March 2020: 9
January – March 2021: 18	January – March 2020: 27

Ombudsman Requests

March 2021	2
January to March 2021	3

March 2020	2
January to March 2020	9

Press Releases

February 2021 – 12 Press Releases

Register of Electors

The 2021/2022 Live Register was published on 1st February 2021 in line with statutory regulations. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 Emergency we are limited in the number of areas we can distribute the Register to. The Register is available for inspection in each of the Municipal District Offices and at the Customer Service Hub in County Buildings. The Political Extract was generated and issued to all Council Members, TD's and Senator via email. The total number of Electors on the 2021/2022 Live Register of Electors is 102,346 and there are 206 polling stations in Wicklow.

The Franchise staff will continue to strive for excellence on the Register of Electors database. We are continuing to accept applications from 18 year olds and new residents moving into the county in the event that an electoral event occurs and there is a requirement for a Supplement Register. We will continue to make contact with new housing developments and urban areas where new developments are coming on stream in an effort to get new residents register. The Special Voters list has been issued to each of the Nursing Homes in the County which we are now updating with new residents. We have had discussions with Wicklow County Council's Older Person's Network Liasion Officer to highlight the option of Postal Votes for those elderly or vulnerable electors who may not wish to visit a polling station.

We will continue to work on areas where there is a lack of Eircodes. We have assisted the LGMA in their exercise to have other Local Authorities achieve similar Eircode coverage on their own Register of Electors.

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

Communication

Communication has been a vital tool in our organisation, especially over the challenging last few months. Due to the need for us all to maintain social distancing alternative methods of holding and administrating meetings had to be introduced. Various technologies such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom and Cisco WebEx have been tested and deployed throughout the organisation, depending on the business need.

APRIL 2021



Our key objective is to ensure that there is clear, consistent and appropriate communication between Wicklow County Council and all Staff. Communication has been delivered through Microsoft Teams and other technologies such as Zoom, as well as our traditional methods, such as e-mail and text alerts.

Chambers Ireland are seeking submissions for 'The Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021', this gives us the opportunity to showcase best practice in our local Authority and to recognise the skills, hard work, innovation and enthusiasm of our staff here in Wicklow. Chambers Ireland are particularly focusing on the following criteria and submissions will be judged on the following: Community Engagement; Impact; Innovation and Engagement with other local bodies.

Categories for submissions are broken down as follows:

1. Age Friendly Initiative
2. Initiatives through the Municipal Districts
3. Supporting Sustainable Communities
4. Best Practice in Community Engagement
5. Health & Wellbeing
6. Supporting Tourism
7. Promoting Economic Development
8. Local Authority Innovation
9. Sustainable Environment
10. Disability Services
11. Best Library Service
12. Sustaining the Arts
13. Festival of the Year
14. Commemorations and Centenaries
15. Heritage and the Built Environment
16. Enhancing the Urban Environment

Closing date for submissions is Tuesday 4th May 2021.

Customer Service Innovation Hub

2021 - Quarter 1			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	43,053	Motor Taxation	1,019
No. of Emails	6,200	Revenue	479
No. of Elected Members	451	Housing	9
CRM Cases	2,052	Social Housing Applications	301



2. I.C.T.

Response to COVID19

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

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

IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 30 tickets a day during March, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is underway

Domain Migration

- Server migration is progressing along planned schedule.

GIS & Data Collection Systems

- Testing of an Eircode validator has commenced with integration into a number of applications.
- The Draft County Development Plan has been completed and is currently being reviewed by the Members. Data quality and cleansing procedures are now being carried out on Draft Datasets with a view to create an online portal of the maps.
- Training has commenced and additional features have been added to the GIS Departmental Viewers and Editors.
- The Tree Management Project, which is currently managed by the Climate Action Group, are in discussions with 3rd party vendors to procure information for the project.
- Parallel projects in Housing, Roads and Environmental Services departments are on-going and integration to CRM and GIS systems have being developed and rolled out.
- Development of CRM System automation continues. New automation software, custom designed by the staff in Tinahely Area Office, was successfully launched during the first week in April. The software facilitates the management of Housing Maintenance and General Maintenance tasks in the Area Office.



Customer Service Delivery

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

EServices

Wicklow.ie – pageviews from April 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021 were 1,446,166. This indicates an increase in pageviews of 1.28% compared the same period last year, the introduction of new Cookie Preferences in October under Data Protection had seen a small reduction in pageview statistics but this has started to flatten out since the end of October.

- Social media accounts – followers to date
 - o Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 9,108 followers. This is an increase of 439 followers or 4.82% on the previous month.
 - o Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 6,974 followers. This is an increase of 116 followers or 1.66% on the previous month.
 - o Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 1997 followers. This is an increase of 164 followers or 8.96% on the previous month.
- The Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie continues to feature in enhanced consultation campaigns. These have included–
 - o Master Plan for Glendalough
 - o Part 8 - Construction of a Community & Enterprise Centre, Rathdrum
 - o County Wicklow Screen Sector Strategy
 - o Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Greenway – Part 2
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month. In December we focused on highlighting the National campaigns as part of the Level 5 lockdown and reshared allot of HSE resources.
 - o #KeepWell
 - o #OutdoorsForEveryone
 - o #CommunityCall



3. FINANCIAL

Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MARCH 2021							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	5,330,566	28,035,818	19%	(6,173,755)	(33,580,464)	18%	(843,189)
Road Transport & Safety	3,235,006	22,299,168	15%	(742,934)	(15,497,938)	5%	2,492,072
Water Services	1,353,892	5,823,666	23%	(1,025,918)	(6,857,035)	15%	327,974
Development Management	3,588,453	11,471,622	31%	(2,506,898)	(6,226,652)	40%	1,081,554
Environmental Services	2,583,817	11,897,222	22%	(389,108)	(2,069,370)	19%	2,194,709
Recreation and Amenity	1,317,830	7,946,046	17%	(333,058)	(882,197)	38%	984,771
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	281,566	1,496,632	19%	(130,374)	(834,228)	16%	151,192
Miscellaneous Services	2,767,803	10,447,823	26%	(2,221,316)	(7,747,758)	29%	546,487
Central Management Charges	4,221,135	19,212,563	22%	(252,922)	(1,000,000)	25%	3,968,213
Local Government Fund				(3,001,725)	(12,006,898)	25%	(3,001,725)
Pension Levy				0	0		0
Commercial Rates				(8,016,486)	(32,078,021)	25%	(8,016,486)
	24,680,068	118,630,560	21%	(24,794,495)	(118,780,561)	21%	(114,427)

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 March 2021 to 31st March 2021.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MARCH 2021					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2021	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/03/2021
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	20,106,877	12,350,228	(15,324,685)	0	17,132,420
Road Transport & Safety	(44,915,773)	1,737,069	(2,165,386)	0	(45,344,091)
Water Services	(11,401,778)	87,819	(292,948)	0	(11,606,907)
Development Management	(9,677,622)	349,827	(116,706)	0	(9,444,501)
Environmental Services	1,486,704	(100,059)	(386,480)	32,915	1,033,081
Recreation and Amenity	(1,508,891)	(427,397)	(751,519)	0	(2,687,807)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,234,386)	12,891	0	0	(1,221,495)
Miscellaneous Services	(18,605,864)	267,405	(1,320,345)	1,444,650	(18,214,155)
	(65,750,734)	14,277,783	(20,358,069)	1,477,565	(70,353,455)



Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

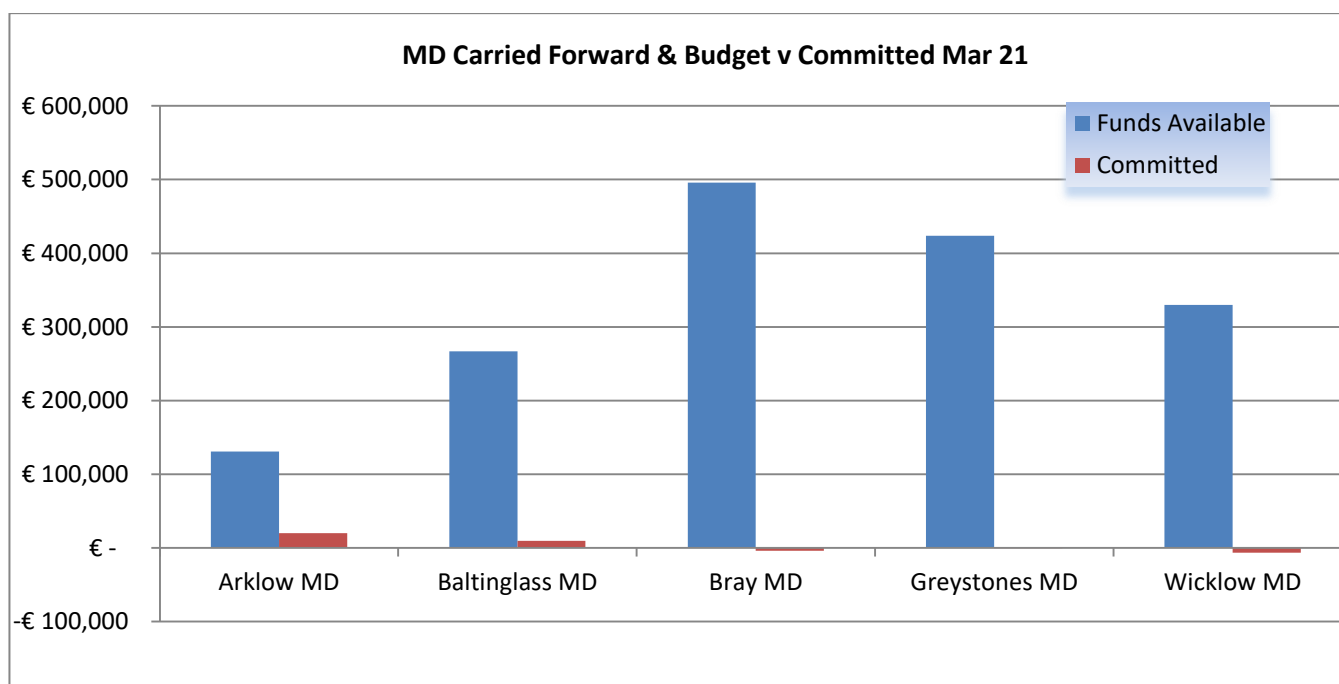
SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST MARCH 2021										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2021	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/03/2021	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	8,194,672	32,065,945	(4,567)	0	0	40,256,050	(4,067,027)	36,189,024	2,137,883	11%
Rents & Annuities	2,735,687	4,520,060	0	(16,695)	0	7,239,053	(3,725,290)	3,513,763	0	51%
Housing Loans	446,214	331,154	0	0	0	777,368	(513,835)	263,533	0	66%

Six Month Rates Waiver: A further waiver of commercial rates was applied to specified businesses in April for the first quarter of 2021. This 3-month waiver has modified criteria and accordingly is a separate, standalone waiver scheme to the previous 2020 scheme. This waiver is being extended to cover the second quarter of 2021 and will be applied in due course. Compensatory funding from D/HLGH is due for the waiver and is currently not reflected in the above table.

There is no application process required for this scheme. Wicklow County Council will automatically apply a 100% credit in lieu of commercial rates, for the two 3-month periods, to eligible classes and categories of occupied rateable property where the occupying business falls under the broad headings outlined below.

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2021

The Discretionary Funding allocation for 2021 was decreased in line with the 2021 LPT rate reduction. The 2021 funding provision consists of mainly General Municipal Allocations used to support local groups and initiative etc. There was no public realm funding allocated this year, however unspent monies in this area from 2020 have been made available to Municipal Districts in 2021. Due to the Level 5 Covid restrictions in place it has not been possible to carry out public realm works to date in 2021.





Municipal District	C/F from 2020	Adopted Budget 2021	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	76,907	54,000	130,907	20,218	110,689
Baltinglass MD	245,041	22,000	267,041	9,553	257,488
Bray MD	433,456	62,500	495,956	- 3,804	499,760
Greystones MD	392,553	31,000	423,553	- 157	423,710
Wicklow MD	296,693	33,000	329,693	- 6,545	336,238
Total	1,444,650	202,500	1,647,150	19,264	1,627,886

Capital Investment Programme 2020-2022

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

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

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