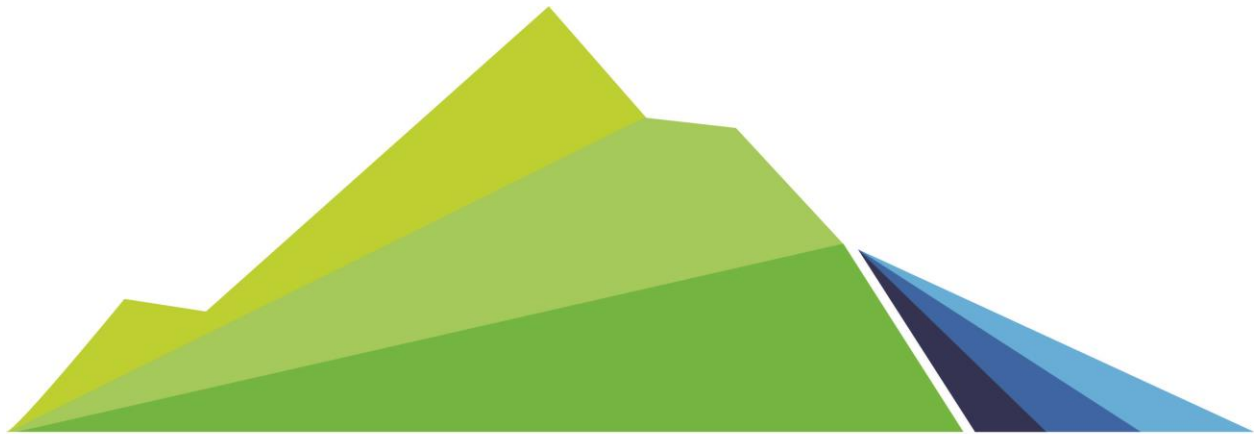


CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Wicklow County Council



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Contents

Social Development	4
Housing	4
Planning, Economic & Rural Development	23
Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity	43
Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery	59
Transportation	59
Infrastructure Delivery	68
Emergency Response	72
Organisational Development	80
Finance, Water & Information Systems	83
Finance.....	83
Information Systems	88

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

This month:

2026 LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

On Friday, 5th December, Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Jerry Buttimer TD, announced €7 million in funding under the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht's Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2026.

This funding will provide capital supports that are essential for many small community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged communities in rural and urban areas. It will be allocated across the local authority network.

County Wicklow has received €199,043.66 as part of the Local Enhancement Programme 2026.

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

The scheme is designed to ensure local priorities are identified and met, to improve and enhance community facilities for all. Funding will be available to a diverse range of community groups including, but not limited to, community centres, parish halls and local voluntary groups.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Social Development

Housing

	November 2025	November 2024
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	89	104
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1353	1378
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	20
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	19	22

Allocation of Social Housing

	November 2025	November 2024
Wicklow County Council	18	26
Approved Housing Bodies	15	0

Social Housing Applications

	November 2025	November 2024
New applications	44	58
Awaiting further information/EHO report	88	84

Social Housing Stock

	November 2025	November 2024
Tenancies Occupied	5164	5020
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€354,859.04	€3387,523.82
Arrears (Including Bray)	€2,691,281.45	€2,992,098.22

Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 30/09/2025
Arklow	932
Ashford	392
Aughrim	40
Avoca	38
Ballinaclesh	8
Ballyconnell	4
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	127

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Barndarrig	11
Blessington	265
Bray 1	36
Bray north	475
Bray south	405
Bray town centre	197
Brittas bay	1
Carnew	70
Conary	3
Coolboy	4
Delgany	217
Donard	14
Dunlavin	29
Enniskerry	51
Glenealy	13
Greystones	308
Kilcoole	51
Kilmacanogue	9
Kiltegan	5
Kirikee	2
Knockananna	3
Lacken	1
Laragh	14
Newcastle	9
Newtownmountkennedy	58
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	60
Rathnew	114
Redcross	2
Roundwood	32
Shillelagh	21
Stratford-on-slaney	3
Thomastown	8
Tinahely	26
Wicklow	231
Wicklow town	22
Grand total	4314

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Rent

- Income based Differential Rent Scheme - Last Review – 2019 . A full rent review will be carried out this year.
- 2 Schemes in the County – one in Bray and one for the rest of the County (new tenants in Bray now go onto Wicklow Scheme)

Housing Needs Assessment 2024 (SSHA 2024)

The Summary Social Housing Assessment (SSHA) 2024 is the continuation of the ongoing process of annual assessments of national housing need. It provides vital data to inform the ongoing development of housing policy. The purpose of the process is to identify the current level of national housing need. At county level, it captures the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the county whose social housing need is not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support. The social housing applications were reviewed from 1st November 2023 to 4th November 2024. The data on the housing needs for Wicklow was returned to the Department by 2nd December 2024.

The following actions were taken to complete the HNA 2024:

- Forms issued to the social housing support applicant.
- Advertised in paper and on local media to remind applicants to complete and return these forms.
- Reminder letters issued to applicants.
- Follow up emails and phone calls to the applicant.
- Review of list by housing teams – Homeless, Traveller accommodation and Tenant Sustainment Officers.
- Reports on the Social Housing application list were generated from the I-House System.

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

Under CAS, the Department is accepting applications for capital funding for the delivery, through either construction or acquisition, of housing accommodation, to cater for priority groups including:

- elderly.
- homeless persons (including “care leavers” exiting State care on reaching the age of 18).
- people with a disability, with particular emphasis on moving people with disabilities from congregated settings into community-based living.

Assessment criteria

CAS funding operates in partnership with Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies.

Local Authorities assess the specific need for CAS funded housing being cognisant of the actual housing need of the CAS groups identified in the latest Social Housing Assessment, consultations with suitable local inter-agency/co-ordination groups that deal with special needs, such as the housing and disability steering groups, national policies and guidelines, including the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People.

To date, October 2025, Wicklow are working in partnership with Ark Housing and Tiglin to deliver on two properties. Wicklow continues to work with Sunbeam House Services and National **Association of Housing for Visually Impaired** to bring two active projects to completion. WCC has also offered support in

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

principle to Sunbeam to acquire & upgrade a property which is presently home to four Sunbeam service users. The property is currently leased to Sunbeam and the owner wishes to sell. Proposal is with the Department for review.

Areas of delivery below:

CAS Acquisitions 2025	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Wicklow Town	1	Delivered Q2	CAS
Rathnew	1	Expected Delivery Q4	CAS
Rathnew	1	Expected Delivery Q4	CAS

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To Date	November 2025
Applications Received	486	4
Completed	124	1
Declined	280	0
Ongoing	15	15

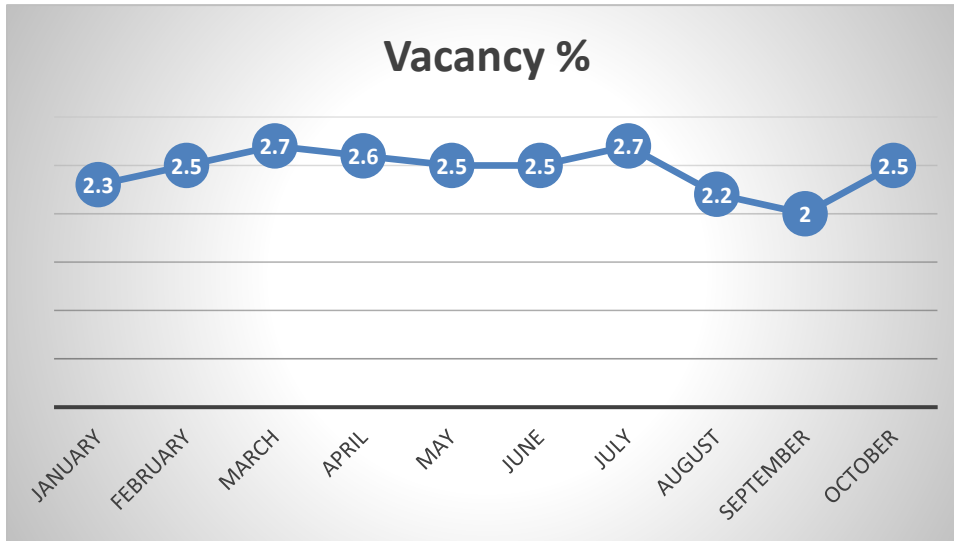
Voids / Re-Letting Programme

MD	Completed in 2025	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	16 (0)	4 (0)	5 (-1)	10 (-2)	19 (-3)
Baltinglass	17 (+1)	4 (+2)	5 (+1)	14(0)	23(+3)
Bray	44 (+14)	10 (-1)	6(-1)	4 (-3)	20(-5)
Greystones	15 (+2)	12 (+3)	0(0)	8 (-2)	20(+1)
Wicklow	27(+1)	22(+4)	17 (0)	12(+2)	51 (+6)
2025 Totals	119(+18)	52 (+8)	33 (-1)	48(-5)	133 (+2)
2024 Totals	110				
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)	2.5 (0)	Figures in brackets indicate change on last month			

As part of the Voids Funding Programme, the Council can recoup a maximum of €11,000 per house from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) on a once off basis. The average cost of refurbishing and re-letting in Wicklow was €35,500 per property in 2024 and is currently averaging €45,866 per property.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

A Local Area Term Maintenance Framework for Planned Building Maintenance and Refurbishment Works was setup in April 2024 and has a 2-year term. 17 contractors were appointed under this Framework to cover Wicklow’s five Municipal Districts for works such as housing refurbishments works, repairs and adaption grants. Also, the Housing Direct Labour Team complete a proportion of housing upgrades as part of the Voids Programme.



Housing - Core Functions - Capital Programme

Traveller Accommodation (TAU)

Scheme	Current Status
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Project complete and tenants have moved into the properties.
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Part of Housing Capital Works Project - Three-unit group housing scheme. Part 8 consultation approved in October 2025.
Vale Road, Arklow	Two-unit group housing scheme. Part 8 complete. Tender process for Design Consultants commenced.

Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

Scheme	Units	Current Status
5A Rednagh Road, Aughrim – Disability house	1	Substantially completed, final snagging ongoing.
1A Mill Road, Greystones- Age Friendly	3	Expected completion Q3 2026

Energy Retrofit Program

As part of our ongoing Energy Efficiency retrofit programme, housing services are undertaking works across the county. This includes, depending on house surveyed, and not limited to external wall insulation, attic

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

insulation, heat pumps and upgraded windows and doors. These works comply with our policy on energy fabric upgrades which went through the SPC in 2023.

EERP	Numbers carried out as of October 2025
Houses complete	102



Energy Retrofit works completed at Seamount Drive Kilcoole 2025.

Regeneration Projects/ Special Projects

- Funding in excess of €2m sought from DHLGH to regenerate vacant units in Hillview, Wicklow Town. Property surveys ongoing (+Adjust).
- Stock condition surveys completed for the 51 houses at Farrankelly Close, Delgany (+Adjust). An application to DoHDLGH for Planned Maintenance works (replacement of windows and doors) was approved. Phase 1 of the works proposals identified upgrades to windows and doors at 11 properties, with works now substantially complete. Finance opportunities are to be developed for further phased works in 2026. It is estimated that window and door improvement works for the remaining houses will cost in the order of €600,000.
- Fitzwilliam Apartment Complex- a contractor has been appointed to undertake fire remedial works at this facility works are ongoing and completion expected in January 2026.

Disabled Person Grant (DPG) and Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG/MAG/HOP)

Grant	Home Adaptations
Disabled Persons Grant (DPG)	65

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG/MAG/HOP)	102
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Includes: Housing Adaptation Grant / Mobility Aid Grant /Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant

Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement

The Targeted Inspection programme on private rented accommodation continues. Housing For All requires 25% of all private rented properties to be inspected annually. This equates to approximately 1500 properties in County Wicklow every year. Target properties are selected using a Risk Based approach. The Council is responsible for enforcing the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 (SI 137 of 2019).

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out to end of September
Targeted and complaint inspections	476

So far in 2025, the following Notices have been served by Wicklow County Council in relation to breaches of SI 137 of 2019:

Notice Type	Served so far in 2025 (figures in brackets indicate increase on previous month)
Improvement Notice	26
Prohibition Notice	18

Prohibition Notices are published on the Council's website. Note that in the case of properties subject to HAP, service of Prohibition Notice results in the HAP payment being stopped as per Section 41(2) (d) (i) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 and this happens within a maximum of 13 weeks.

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

The Local Authority Mortgage to Rent scheme is a government initiative to help homeowners who are at risk of losing their home due to mortgage arrears. The scheme enables householders to continue to live in their home as a tenant of either an Approved Housing Body or a Local Authority.

There are currently 104 households in the County availing of this scheme.

Wicklow County Council (MTR)Tenants	Approved Housing Body (MTR) Tenants	In Progress
54	50	9

Homeless figures for November 2025

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 30/11/2025	Year To Date	As at 30/11/2024
No of New Presentations	14	226	28
No. of Repeat Presentations	4	50	1
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	5	87	6
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	15	230	22
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	3	26	2

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

No. of Children	13	231	11
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	3	39	6
Family Circumstances	6	78	9
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	2	19	5
Mental Health	0	8	3
Risk of Homelessness	7	168	8
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	3	0
Addiction Issues	0	17	2
DV/DA	1	8	0
Medical Issues	0	4	2
Overcrowding	0	21	4
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	1	9	2
ASB:	0	9	0
Rough Sleeping*	0	18	0
Sofa Surfing*	0	25	9
Staying with Family*	2	36	9
Staying with Friends*	2	29	1

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/11/25	
Families	16
Adults	28
Children	41
Single individual	14

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/11/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	23	24	21	6	6	3	3	5
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/11/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	22	25	25	5	4	3	2	9

Homeless HAP Place Finder

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

- 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, 678 households (475 families & 202 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 30th November 2025. (259 homeless cases, 372 prevention cases to date and 47 direct provision). 171 properties were sourced by WCC.

	November 2025	November 2024
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)		
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment		1370
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation		
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation		

Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

There are 9 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon. There is continuous transition by the clients to suitable alternative accommodation.

A report is being undertaken at present to cost the refurbishment of the current rooms with a view to making them all ensuite. More details will be available over the coming months.

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

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

Housing First

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

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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 18 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. The main issue facing this programme is the availability of 1-bed units in suitable locations with easy access to required services.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Community

Pride of Place 2025

WICKLOW TRAVELLERS GROUP WINS AWARD AT THE 'COMMUNITY OSCARS'

On Friday 7th November, a community group from Wicklow achieved success at the National Pride of Place awards held at the Limerick Strand Hotel in County Limerick.

These annual awards, often referred to as the Oscars for community groups, celebrate the incredible work being done by community organisations across the island of Ireland.

The Wicklow Travellers Group won silver in the Inclusive Communities category for their initiative titled 'Wicklow Travellers Urban Outdoor Programme,' in partnership with the Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership. The project's goals were to encourage members of the Wicklow Travellers Group to engage with the outdoors through education, facilitation, and support.

The group received glowing praise from the Pride of Place judges; "It was noticeable to the judges on the day of our visit that a strong sense of wellbeing was developing in the participants, and it was hoped to build on the skills learned through the project to contribute to the overall health, sustainability and wellbeing of the Traveller community."

Sponsored by IPB Insurance, the Pride of Place competition was established 23 years ago in collaboration with Co-operation Ireland to recognize the invaluable contributions made by volunteers and those involved in local community development.

It has grown into the largest competition recognising community development achievements on the island of Ireland.



1 Jim O'Brien accepting the Award for the Wicklow Travellers Group along with Aoibhinn McCloy, Manager of Wicklow Travellers Group, and Wicklow County Council Officials.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Local Enhancement Programme 2026

- €7 million fund to assist thousands of community groups across the country
- Local Enhancement Programme to focus on disadvantaged areas
- Supporting community groups a key focus of ‘Our Rural Future’

Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Jerry Buttimer TD, have today (Friday, 5 December) announced €7 million in funding under the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht’s Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2026.

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

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

The scheme is designed to ensure local priorities are identified and met, to improve and enhance community facilities for all. Funding will be available to a diverse range of community groups including, but not limited to, community centres, parish halls and local voluntary groups.

This fund is being provided by the government to support community and voluntary groups, totalling €7 million to be allocated across the local authority network.

County Wicklow has received €199,043.66 as part of the Local Enhancement Programme 2026.

	Capital Allocation	Total Allocation
Wicklow	€199,043.66	€199,043.66

The Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is responsible for allocating funding through this scheme. Applications must relate to one or more key priority areas identified in their LCDC’s Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to be eligible for consideration.

Further information and application forms will be available on Wicklow County Council’s website on the 19th January 2026, with the closing date for applications set for 13th February 2026.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025



County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance: The Alliance met 13th November, with representation from Local Link, the HSE Older Peoples Services, Bray North Wicklow Area Partnership, Citizens Information Centre, and the Older People’s Council Executive Committee in attendance. Work is ongoing to confirm actions completed for 2025 and actions planned for 2026 in the Age Friendly Strategy.

Age Friendly Ireland programme:

- National Network of AF Programme Managers meeting 26th November
- AF Southeast Region meeting 27th November
- AF Wicklow Unit meeting 27th November

Over 55’s Climate course: The Age Friendly Programme Manager along with the Climate Action Officer Wicklow County Council are organising a Climate Action Programme which will be run by Jacinta Barrins. It will be a six-week programme which will accommodate maximum 40 people and will educate people on Climate Change. This will take place in February and March 2026 in Bray. Promotion of the programme is ongoing among local community groups in the county.

Age Friendly Expo: promotion of event after the 30th October included article in the [Irish Independent on 9th November, linked here.](#)

OPC Executive Committee: have met 8 times so far in 2025, plus additional meetings to prepare for the OPC AGM on the 5th September and the Age Friendly Expo event on the 30th October.

Meetings Held 2025	Future Meetings
January February April May 16th July & 28th August (special meetings AGM prep) 11th September (Chair & Vice Chair elected) September (5 additional special meetings Expo prep) 10th October	10th December
8 (plus 5 Expo prep meetings)	1

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025



Comhairle na nÓg

Youth Summit ([website link here](#)) took place 4th November, Assembly Hall in Wicklow Town, with a huge turn out of over 100 young people from all over county Wicklow. They discussed issues which affect them in a 'World Café' facilitated session and contributions were very productive.

Two main themes were chosen for Comhairle's focus this year:

- Transport – looking at how young people can get around more easily and safely across the county.
- School Life – focusing on challenges like school stress, bullying, and peer pressure, and how schools can become more supportive environments.

Image 1: Comhairle na nÓg Youth Summit facilitators, CCN Coordinator Caroline Winstanley & support team



Seanad na nÓg ([website link to Seanad event here](#)) took place on 14th November, with Wicklow representation by Oscar.

Image 2: Seanad Na nÓg Wicklow representative, Oscar

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025



Delighted to see this feature in the local newspaper also. (Image 3)

Wicklow's young people help shape Ireland's EU Presidency priorities at Seanad na nÓg 2025

Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann Senator Mark Daly and Senator Maria Byrne and Minister for Children, Disability and Equality Norma Foley welcomed the second Seanad na nÓg event on Friday 14th November.

This event brings together 60 delegates under the age of 18 from Comhairle na nÓg and other organisations to discuss their priorities for the government to consider in advance of Ireland's EU Presidency in 2026.

Seanad na nÓg will be co-chaired by Cathaoirleach, Senator Mark Daly, Leas-Chathaoirleach Senator Maria Byrne and Christian from Kerry Comhairle na nÓg. Welcoming this significant event Cathaoirleach, Senator Mark Daly said "The Seanad continues to empower the voice of young people. The Seanad has championed minority voices since its foundation. Today, we will absorb their wisdom, reflect on their insights and act on their recommendations."

Speaking ahead of the event, Leas-Chathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann, Senator Maria Byrne said "I am delight-

ed to welcome the delegates to the second Seanad na nÓg. This event really does emphasise the importance of providing our young people with a voice in the development of local services and policies. I very much look forward to co-Chairing the meeting and reading the recommendations that will be presented to the Government for consideration to be included in Ireland's priorities for Ireland's EU Presidency in June 2026."

Young delegates to Seanad na nÓg 2025 will discuss the priorities they have identified for the Government to consider as part of Ireland's overall priorities for the EU Presidency in 2026.

These are:

* Peace and Security: examining peace and security in a digital world and the threats of deepfakes.

* Climate Action: Promoting climate action in an inclusive and cooperative

manor to tackle the climate crisis.

* Education & Youth: Advocating for increased training for guidance counselors, greater mental health support in education and greater resources allocated to special education.

* Cost of Living: Examining the cost of living through the lens of a young person or person with a disability.

* Substance Misuse: Advocating for increased mental health supports and community service to be funded to act as early intervention mechanisms to prevent the misuse of substances.

* Children in Care: The difficulties facing children in the care system and how it can be improved to create better outcomes for children in care. *

Equality: The need to continue to strengthen the rights for all, and to come together and stand with those who feel the fear of inequality.



Oscar from Wicklow at Leinster House for Seanad na nÓg 2025, pictured alongside the Cathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann, Senator Mark Daly, and the Leas-Chathaoirleach, Senator Maria Byrne.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025



Access Officer: Disability & Inclusion

- Training in specific areas of disability funding approved and to be rolled out in the new year.
- Access Officer queries: dealing with ongoing queries for support and/or information, linking in with WCC staff including Laura O'Callaghan and externally, as appropriate.
- The Sunflower Lanyard aims to support people with hidden disabilities. This initiative was rolled out in Wicklow County Council. In the last 4 months, there have been over 370 lanyard packs distributed to every library branch in county Wicklow, as well as events held by the Triple A Alliance support group.
- Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) informal meeting 26th November
- Communication Boards: Replacement of vandalised sign in Meadowvale, Arklow paid for and will be in place shortly. Work in ongoing to get rest of planned signs in place for every playground in the county.

Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme Update:

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme in Wicklow continues to support older people, over 65 years of age, to live in their home for as long as possible.

The Programme accepts referrals from a variety of sources including from:

- The older person themselves
- Family and friends
- Elected Representatives
- Local Authority Staff
- Public Health Nurses, GP's and Occupational Therapists
- Community Organisations

Please note, consent from the older person (verbal) must be obtained before the referral is submitted. Once the referral is received, the Local Coordinator will be in-touch with the older person to arrange a free home visit.

Referrals to the programme can be made via phone or email:



046-924 8899 (Head Office)

healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie



Since the commencement of the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme in Wicklow, in January 2024, the level of interest in the programme has been greater than anticipated. Consequently, a large number of referrals to the programme in Wicklow have been received, and the wait times to be seen by the Local Coordinator are longer than originally forecast.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Since her appointment to her role in January, Local Coordinator for Wicklow, Marion Van der Wel, has been conducting home assessments on a weekly basis to our programme participants. As part of her role, Marion offers a wide range of supports to our participants, including but not limited to, arranging fall detector personal alarms, helping with housing adaptation grants, organising Care and Repair services, linking-in with community services, signposting the older person to health services etc.

The programme has gone from strength-to-strength in Wicklow since its inception. The 2024 projected targets for the programme in Wicklow have been exceeded, which demonstrates the success of the programme, and is a testament to the concerted collaborative efforts of the Local Coordinator and Local Authority Staff.

Referrals to Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme:

After a concerted level of stakeholder engagement and programme promotion early in 2024, the number of referrals to the programme in Wicklow reached peak demand. A decision was then made to curtail programme promotion in order to stabilise programme demand. Consequently, demand for the programme in Wicklow has stabilised in recent months, and more sustainable pattern of referrals are now emerging.

Scheduled Event for September/October

Continue visiting people who have been referred to the programme and supporting them and collaborating with colleagues in the Local Authority, volunteers, HSE and partnerships.

Annual Older Persons’ Council meeting was held in the Arklow Bay on the 30th October. Clodagh Whelan, coordinator in the Dublin South - East Region gave a presentation of the work the Healthy Age Friendly Homes has undertaken in Co. Wicklow to date.

Care & Repair Programme

County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) are in the process of securing funding for this much needed service. The programme is listed as an action the Co. Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2022 – 2027. The Age Friendly Homes Coordinator is involved in an advisory capacity. The service has been rolled out in Arklow and South Wicklow area and HAFH participants have availed of this much needed service since beginning of November.

Total Number Home Visits Conducted (Up to 30th November 2025):

Total Initial Visits	188
Total Additional Visits	119
Total Visits Overall	307
Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit	55



Healthy
Wicklow



Sláintecare.
Healthy
Communities

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Healthy Wicklow

Healthy Wicklow

Funding Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) Round 4 2023 - 2025

HIF Round 4 initially set for the timeframe from 2023 – 2025 which has now been extended until the end of 2026. An additional €75,000 has been allocated for 2026.

This 12-month extension will enable:

- continued progress on approved outcomes and the achievement of full spend under HIF Round 4
- further embed the outcomes-based approach
- align planning for the next round of HIF with the outcome of the review of the broader Healthy Ireland Framework.

Farmers have Hearts

Irish Heart Foundation
The National Stroke & Heart Charity

2 in 3
adults over 50 have high blood pressure, but half don't know it.
Get checked, before damage is done...

FREE Full Health checks - Farmers Have Hearts

**Location: Carnew Mart,
Carnew, Co. Wicklow, Y14 NN72.**

**Date: Thursday 4th December
Time: 9:30am-4:15pm**

FREE Blood Pressure and Pulse Check Here

What to Expect: At your local mart, under the 'Farmers Have Hearts' programme, the Irish Heart nurses will measure:

- Blood Pressure and Pulse Check
- Cholesterol and Glucose Check
- Weight Measurement Check
- Carbon Monoxide Check (for smokers)
- Personalised Lifestyle Assessment and Advice
- Personal Record of Results and Advice

Find out more on irishheart.ie

The Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Machine has been arranged to visit Carnew Mart on the 4th of December to provide a free onsite health for farmers attending the mart

To further support this, Hidden Hearing is offering a free hearing check through their own mobile health unit which will add so much value to this health day

Hearing health is often an afterthought, yet regular hearing checks can play a vital role in early detection of hearing loss

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Hearing care is healthcare after all, and early intervention can significantly enhance quality of life and reduce the impact of associated health issues in the future. A quick, professional check can make a lasting difference

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

SICAP Annual Plans 2026: Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership (BNWAP) and Co. Wicklow Partnership (CWP) to submit new workplans by December 12th. These plans will then go through a review and approval process by Wicklow LCDC and Pobal with final approval date of end February.

SICAP Case Studies 2025: Case studies from both Partnerships are now complete. BNWAP's case study focuses on the work of Bray Homeless Forum and CWP's case study focuses on training supports for Traveller Women. Links to the videos available on BNWAP and CWP websites.

Public Participation Network:

Encouraging Voter Registration: Wicklow PPN in conjunction with Wicklow County Council and KWETB are currently planning a voter registration day for February 2026 in Blessington.

Wicklow PPN made a submission to Ireland's National Strategy for Improving Community Safety.

Governance Training – Ongoing project to support PPN member groups in good governance and protection measures. Recent session focused on the key challenges of running a successful not-for-profit group. Further sessions to follow.

Current Consultations: Have Your Say on Future of Arklow; Have Your Say on Future of Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole; Draft Arklow Local Planning Framework (LPF) 2025 Proposed Variation; Draft Greystones - Delgany & Kilcoole LPF; Bray Head Recreation Feasibility Study; WCC Library Service Development Plan (2026 – 2030); New Playground and Multi-Use Games Area, Newcastle.

Funding: 15 funding streams currently open for application.

See www.countywicklowppn.ie and Wicklow PPN Facebook page for further information on above and more including newsletters, funding streams, public consultations, events, daily updates and membership applications.



The Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 took effect on 2 April 2025, requiring all Local Authorities to establish Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs). Under this legislation, LCSPs have replaced the former Joint Policing Committees in every Local Authority area.

The proposed membership of the Wicklow Local Community Safety Partnership was submitted to the National Office in the Department of Justice on 5 November for appointment by the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration as part of the November round of appointments.

An induction session for LCSP members took place on 17 November, and the first meeting of the Wicklow LCSP is scheduled for 4 December in the Wicklow County Council Chamber.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Planning, Economic & Rural Development

Local Plans

There are 5 settlements with Local Area Plans (LAP)/ Local Planning Frameworks (LPFs) in Co. Wicklow for the following settlements – 'Bray Municipal District', 'Wicklow Town - Rathnew', 'Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole', 'Arklow & Environs' and 'Blessington'.

Draft Arklow Local Planning Framework 2025 (Variation 5 to the Wicklow County Development Plan) – this is the new form of LAP

Variation 5 to the County Development Plan which is the draft Arklow Local Planning Framework 2025 was on display from 01 October 2025 to 12 November 2025 with submissions invited. A public information day was held in Arklow MD Office on the 23 October 2025. See the advert in the link below for more information. 67 submissions were received. These are currently being reviewed following which a CE report will issue to the Elected Members.

The draft LPF and plan process to date can be viewed here –

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Arklow/Arklow-Local-Planning-Framework-Variation-No-5-Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Draft-Arklow-Local-Planning-Framework-2025-Proposed-Variation-No-5-to-the-Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Draft-Arklow-Local-Planning-Framework-2025-Proposed-Variation-No-5-Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

Draft Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework (LPF) 2025 (Variation 4 to the Wicklow County Development Plan) – this is the new form of LAP

Variation 4 to the County Development Plan which is the draft Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2025 went on display from 09 May 2025 to 20 June 2025 with 88 submissions received. Public information days were held in Kilcoole and Greystones on the 29 May 2025 and 04 June 2025, respectively. The Chief Executive's (CE) Report on the submissions received was issued to the Elected Member in August and following on from this the draft LPF and CE report was considered at the Council meeting on the 06 October 2025. Proposed Material Alterations to the draft LPF were proposed by the Elected Members and were on display from 24 October 2025 to 21 November 2025 with submissions invited. 86 submissions were received. These are currently being reviewed following which a CE report will issue to the Elected Members.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

The draft LPF and plan process to date can be viewed here –

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Greystones-Delgany/Greystones-Delgany-Kilcoole-Local-Planning-Framework-Variation-No-4-to-the-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

The Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 was adopted at the full Council meeting of 12 May 2025, this plan came into effect on 23 June 2025. The Minister issued a Ministerial Direction with regard to the zoning of 3 sites on the 07 October 2025. The plan as altered is available to view online.

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Wicklow-Town-Rathnew/Wicklow-Town-Rathnew-Local-Area-Plan-2025-2031>

Blessington Local Area Plan 2025

The Blessington Local Area Plan 2025 was adopted at the full Council meeting of 16 June 2025, this plan came into effect on 28 July 2025.

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

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

Bray Municipal District (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue) Local Planning Framework/ Variation

The pre-draft public consultation for this plan has been completed and work is being carried out on preparing draft LPF, which will be done through a variation of the County Development Plan.

There is no specific date to publish Bray draft LPF.

Bray – more information can be found here:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Bray/Bray-Municipal-District-Local-Area-Plan-2025>

National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (July 2025)

As set out in these [new NPF guidelines](#), a Chief Executive's Report was prepared on the implementation of these guidelines and issued to the members for their information. Workshops were held with the Elected Members on 25th and 27th November 2025 to discuss the CE report. Proposed Variation No. 6 to the

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 will be on display from 5th December 2025 until 16th January 2026 with submissions invited.

More information is available here -

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Variation-No-6>

Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028

Proposed Variation No 2

The purpose of Variation No. 2 is to ensure consistency between the Wicklow CDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan.

Variation No. 2 was made and came into effect on 12 May 2025. The Minister issued a Ministerial to view online.

More information is available here - <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Variation-No-2-to-the-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

Proposed Variation No 3

The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency between the Wicklow CDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Blessington Local Area Plan.

Variation No. 3 was made and came into effect on 16 June 2025.

More information is available here - <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Variation-No-3>

Proposed Variation No 4

See the section on Draft Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework (LPF) 2025 above.

Proposed Variation No 5

See the section on Draft Arklow Local Planning Framework (LPF) 2025 above.

Proposed Variation No 6

The purpose of Variation No. 6 is to revise the Wicklow Core Strategy and associated housing targets, and a number of related housing objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Written Statement to implement the new NPF Guidelines (see above).

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

The Government's Housing For All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland has introduced a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes as a part of the 'Pathway to Increasing New Housing Supply'.

The final RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 were published on 31 January 2025 and can be viewed here: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2025/Liable-Land-View-the-FINAL-RZLT-maps-for-2025>

Submissions to Final 2025 RZLT Maps: the final map for 2025 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2025. Owners of such land were invited to make a request to Wicklow County Council to change the zoning of this land until 1 April 2025. If certain conditions are met, a landowner may be exempt from the 2025 liability on foot of such a request. Click [HERE](#) to see more detail. 1 submission was received on the final 2025 maps. WCC has determined not to change the zoning and responded to the landowner by 30 June 2025.

The annual draft RZLT maps for 2026 were published on the 31st of January 2025 and can be viewed here: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Draft-Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2026/Liable-Land-View-the-DRAFT-RZLT-maps-for-2026>

Submissions to Draft 2026 RZLT Maps: the draft map for 2026 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2026. Owners of such land – and interested third parties – were invited to make submissions by 01 April 2025 regarding the inclusion of land on this draft map. 7 submissions were received on the draft 2025 maps. WCC assessed each submission and responded to the landowner by 01 July 2025. The landowners had 1 month to appeal WCCs decision to ACP (formerly ABP). There are 3 appeals made to ACP in this regard.

Click [HERE](#) to see more detail.

The RZLT process has two parts:

1) Identification and mapping of the land in scope for the tax. This is undertaken by local authorities through the publication of annual draft and annual final maps as outlined above.

2) Administration of the tax. This will be undertaken by the Revenue Commissioners. Please click the following link for further information: <https://www.revenue.ie/en/property/rzlt/index.aspx>

The following link provides some general information on the RZLT process including a short information video: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/RZLT-General-Information>

A frequently asked questions document has also been prepared and is available to view here:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Residential Zoned Land Tax —

FAQ's: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Portals/0/adam/Documents/5Cn831T6AES8TXmR2C3i4A/Link/RZLT%20FAQs%20Your%20Questions%20Answered.pdf>

Vacant Site Levy

The Vacant Site Levy has been replaced with the RZLT. All existing sites currently on the register are in the process of being inspected and / or demands for payment are being issued. More information can be found online at the following link

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

Heritage Office

County Heritage Plan (CHP) 2025-30: Final Plan adopted by members on 03/03/2025. Annual CHP programme in progress.

Wicklow Heritage Forum: x 4 meetings scheduled for 2025 – next meeting 4th December.

County Heritage Plan Programme 2025: Heritage Council funding allocation confirmed of €37,500 under the County Heritage Plan Fund and €20,000 under the Community Archaeology Service.

- Wicklow Community Archaeology Service (WCAS): One year part time contract in place. Archaeologist working directly with groups at Castletimon, Donard, Delgany and Killougher
- Glendalough Community Excavations: Two-week community excavation co-ordinated by UCD
- Wicklow Placenames Project: Project co-ordinator engaged to collate and digitally record minor placenames. Project underway
- Wicklow Heritage Mag: Youth based Heritage guide for Wicklow in production
- Heritage Week: 83 events in County Wicklow 16th-24th August
- Michael Dwyer 200 Programme: Runner up at the Heritage Council's for National Heritage Week Award event on 17th October under theme 'Exploring our Foundations'

Historic Town Initiative (HTI) 'Retracing Greystones' – A Heritage led Regeneration study focussing on streetscape enhancements on Church Road and options for La Touche Car Park. Funding of €50,000 secured from The Heritage Council. *Myco consultants* engaged. Presentation to Greystones Town Team 29th October.

Built Heritage Funds (Architecture): Co-ordination of the annual Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes. BHIS 2025 allocation of €171,000 for Wicklow, awarded to 16 Projects. One successful HSF allocation of €160,000 secured for Russborough House. HSF 2024 for Clermont carried forward - €165,000 to be recouped.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

BHIS 2026: Scheme for 2026 advertised with application deadline 26th September 30 applications received, assessment to take place by end November.

HSF 2026: Open for applications now, deadline 16th January 2026.

Built Heritage Funds (Archaeology): Secured funding allocations from National Monuments Service under the Community Monuments Fund as follows; Mullinacuff Medieval Church €67,500; Kilmacanogue Old Church €30,000(WCC owned); Drumgoff Barracks €130,000. All projects underway. Final recoupment mid November.

Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN): Co-ordination of *Our Wicklow Heritage* (county Wicklow online community heritage archive) plus a network of 11 groups in County Wicklow in association with WCC archives and library services and in partnership with National Museum of Ireland and the Heritage Council. In person Wicklow group meeting held in Blessington in April, National in person event in Claregalway in May, online meeting September. Two Wicklow groups (Blessington & Tinahely) awarded ICAN grants for equipment and activities

Wicklow Creative Ireland Programme: HO working with CI Team on 2025 work programme. In-Hand traditional skills weekend held 19-21st September in Greenan Museum and Maze, supported by heritage allocation under CI.

Biodiversity Working Group and Climate Action Teams: HO inputting to internal working groups to prepare County Biodiversity Plan and implement actions of the Climate Action Plan.

Historic Graveyards: Working with Community Archaeology service to undertake digital headstone recording and creation of digital story maps and in situ information boards at selected sites.

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 30 th November 2025	To 30 th November 2025
Received (Valid)	975	1040

A total of 94 valid applications were received during November as follows:

Type of Development	
Individual Houses	20 (16 Rural)
Housing Developments*	5
Agricultural Structures	4
Commercial	4
Other Developments**	61
Total	94

Housing Developments - PRR25/60881 – 40 dwellings at Mount Alto, Ashford, Co. Wicklow

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

**Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger signpost, 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 85 applications in November 2025

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	0
Individual Houses	2
Other Developments	83
Other Developments Requiring EIA	
Total	83

Decisions issued between January to November 2024, in comparison to the same period for 2025:

	30 th November 2024	30 th November 2025
Total Number of decisions issued	826	878
Total Number of decisions to grant	695	741
% Grant Rate	84%	84%
No of applications withdrawn		10(4 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

ABP-313442-22 – Lands at the former Heiton Buckley site on Castle Street, Bray, (139 Units) Members Meeting 10/05/2022, CE report forwarded 22/06/2022 – Oral Hearing held on 18/9/2025.

Strategic Infrastructure Development

An Bord Pleanala has received a planning application for permission by Sure Partners Limited for offshore wind energy development – Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 located off the coasts of Co. Wicklow and Co. Wexford under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended – ABP-319864-24 refers.

An Bord Pleanala has received a planning application for a strategic infrastructure development in respect of proposed material recovery/recycling facility and inert landfill Ballinclare & Carrigmore near Kilbride, Co. Wicklow – ABP-321255-24 refers – due to be decided by 14/5/25

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Substitute Consent

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

E-Planning Project

The e-planning has now been in place since 17th April 2023.

For the month of November 2025, a total of 90 valid planning applications were received of which 21.11% were hard copy applications and 78.89% were received online.

From 1st January 2025 to 30th November 2025 a total of 1,037 applications were received of which 23.53% were hard copy applications and 76.47% were received online.

Due to the complexities of larger applications, it has been necessary to request one hard copy for larger multi-unit developments.

There has been a mix of application types received during the month of November via the e-planning portal including:

- A number of one off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Change of use to a number of properties throughout the county
- Extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Construction of 40 no. dwellings consisting of the following: 14 no. four bedroom two storey with attic level accommodation semi-detached dwellings and 26 no. three bedroom two storey semi-detached and terraced dwellings in Ashford
- Provision of 8 separate but interconnected tables for a marble run activity, 3 pinball tables, hanging pipes and all associated site development works in Rathdrum
- Erection of 378 PV Modules on ground driven steel mounting systems laid out in an array layout adjacent to the existing farm at Kiltegan
- Development of 2 No. 4 bedroom semi-detached dwellings, 2 no. 1 bedroom apartments & 2 no. 2 bedroom apartments with associated private open space and car parking in Rathdrum
- Construction of a cattle underpass and with effluent holding tank and all associated works IN Boley

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

- Erection of five detached single storey pods each of which would accommodate studio style holiday dwellings in Baltinglass
- Demolition of existing single story office building and redundant outbuilding; 2. provision of staff car parking for existing building to be retained. 3. provision of external drive-up storage units in 5 separate clusters in Bray

Planning Enforcement

New Files	8
Advisory Letters	29
Warning Letters	4
Enforcement Notices	3
Legal Files	0
Closed	13

Vacant Sites

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
Arklow	6
Baltinglass	1
Bray	2
Greystones	2
Wicklow	6

01 site on appeal to ABP - Section 18 (Demand Levy)

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

Town Regeneration

1.0 Town Teams

There are now eight Town Teams in County Wicklow: Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew, Greystones, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, and Wicklow. Carnew is the newest Town Team, officially established in November 2025.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

The formation process began in October, starting with an information evening on 20th October 2025. The event was well attended and generated strong interest within the local community. A follow-up meeting to formally establish the Carnew Town Team took place on 10th November 2025.

The Town Regeneration Office remains in regular contact with all Town Teams, providing ongoing support and engagement.

2.0 Town Centre First Masterplans

2.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington, as a Pathfinder Town, was selected as the first town in Co. Wicklow to develop a Town Centre First (TCF) Masterplan. This masterplan, published in 2023, offers a clear and strategic framework for the town's positive and sustainable development of the town, both in the short term and in the future, with a strong focus on community well-being, economic resilience, and placemaking.

The plan identifies opportunity sites within the town core for redevelopment. One key placemaking project is the redevelopment of Market Square. Funding for this initiative was secured under the Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Supports, enabling the preparation of plans to transform Market Square into a high-quality public space. Further details on this project are provided later in the report.

2.2 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre First Masterplan

Newtownmountkennedy was one of 26 towns nationally selected under Phase 2 of the Town Centre First Plan initiative. The town received €30,000 in funding to support the development of its Town Centre First Plan, aimed at guiding the revitalisation and sustainable development of the town centre and creating a vibrant community hub. The funding was provided under the Town Centre First Measure 2 Suite of Supports.

Three public consultation workshops were held in June, August, and September 2025, during which the community actively shared their insights and vision for the town's future. The final plan is on track for publication in December 2025.

3.0 Town Centre First – Suite of Supports

The Town Centre First Suite of Supports provides funding to strengthen local capacity, assess town needs, and prepare regeneration projects for future investment.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

3.1 Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1

Baltinglass, Rathdrum, and Kilcoole each received €10,000 in funding under the Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1. This funding was intended to establish or further develop Town Teams in areas where they were either not yet formed or in the early stages of development.

Queen's University Belfast was awarded the contract to carry out the Health Checks, with all three public consultations completed in April and May 2025. The Health Check reports have now been finalised and are being reviewed with the respective Town Teams to explore funding opportunities addressing the identified areas of weakness.

3.2 Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Support

Two applications have been approved for funding under the Town Centre First – Measure 3 Suite of Supports: one for Blessington and one for Wicklow Town. Both projects were originally required to be completed and all associated claims submitted by 30th September 2025. However, an extension has been granted, revising the deadline to 30th January 2026.

- a) **Blessington:** This project involves developing plans to transform Market Square into a high-quality public space. It includes commissioning professional services to carry out a pre-development study of the site as a de-risking exercise ahead of a potential construction phase, subject to future funding.

Update: Three public consultation workshops were held between August and October 2025, providing the community with opportunities to contribute ideas and share their vision for the future of Market Square. The final plan is expected to be published in December 2025.

- b) **Wicklow Town:** This project will develop a comprehensive design plan aimed at enhancing the public lands surrounding the Black Castle. The work will also include an assessment of the structure and condition of the Castle itself.

Update: Three public consultation workshops were held in August, September and October 2025, allowing the community to share their ideas for improving the area around the Black Castle. The final plan is on track for publication in December 2025.

4.0 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow County Council has been awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht under the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The selected projects were originally required to be completed, with all associated claims submitted by 31st October 2025.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Extension requests have been lodged with the Department for each project to allow additional time for delivery.

a) **Kirikee, Glenmalure** - Renovation works are planned for the Community Centre, including upgrades to the roof, windows, ceilings, and walls. The consultant originally appointed by the community group to oversee the project was removed due to lack of engagement. A new tender for replacement project consultants was issued in early April, with a new consultant appointed in May 2025. The tender for construction works closed in September, a preferred contractor has been identified, and formal appointment took place in November. Construction works will commence in January 2026. The Department has approved an extension to 31st March 2026.

b) **Lacken** - The old schoolhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community centre featuring a café, community shop, and a small heritage section. As the building is listed in the Record of Protected Structures (2022–2028), a conservation architect has been appointed. Coordination meetings between the community group and consultants are ongoing, and the tender for the conservation/construction works was closed in September. A preferred contractor has been identified, and formal appointment took place in November. Construction works will commence in January 2026. The Department has approved an extension to 31st March 2026.

c) **Wicklow Town – Murrough Pump Track** – This project involved the development of a best-in-class, asphalt-covered pump track suitable for all ages and abilities. Works commenced in the final week of June 2025 and the official opening of the track was held on Saturday 15th November 2025.

5.0 Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) 2025

The HTI is a joint initiative between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Heritage Council. Wicklow County Council has been awarded €50,000 in funding to support the procurement of consultants to develop a heritage-led regeneration plan for Greystones. The Heritage Officer and TRO team are working closely with the Town Team and the appointed consultants to deliver the project. Community workshops have been held since the project began and the final report was submitted to the Heritage Council in November to facilitate the drawdown of funding.

6.0 Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2025

Six applications have been lodged and are awaiting announcement from the Department. The results are expected to be announced in December.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Main Scheme applications:

- Coolboy TV25WW01 – €250,000
- Lacken TV25WW02 – €250,000
- Rathdrum TV25WW03 – €250,000
- Carnew TV25WW04 – €500,000 – Lodged by Economic Team

Project Development Measure (PDM) applications:

- Arklow PDM25WW01 – €50,000
- Laragh PDM25WW02 – €50,000 – Lodged by Economic Team

Rural Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

(Department of Rural and Cultural Development and the Gaeltacht, DRCDG)

- Category 1: Applications for large-scale, ambitious capital projects that are ready to proceed with all necessary planning and consents in place.
- Category 2: Provides smaller grant funding to help develop project proposals so they can be submitted for Category 1 funding in future calls.

Blessington RRDF (Category2)

Blessington has been awarded over €1m in Category 2 funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to be used for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the acquisition of a vacant/derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre.

Of the above fund, €130,000 allocation covers scoping of the site, viability and planning and design if relevant and applicable. The current allocation does not include refurbishment of any such site under category 2 funding.

Discussions are ongoing with the Department in relation to reinstatement of the fund for vacant property purchase for refurbishment but this is likely to be a category 1 application to RRDF in the future. Following a meeting with the Department on 5th November 2025, they have asked for further information. This information has been sent to the Department and is under consideration.

Baltinglass RRDF (Category 1)

The original RRDF grant was awarded in 2019. It was a category 1 application and included the cost of works. The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow came in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the necessary technical plans are complete in order for the works to commence. Works on the Public Park and playground are completed.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

The tender documents for the Public Realm works, phase 1 have been prepared. the Consultants are to carry out a Quality Audit on the design, before the Tender Documents can be completed. Design and Tender documents have been submitted to the Department and we await final confirmation from the Department to proceed to tender. Following a meeting with the Department on 5th November 2025, they have asked for further information which was sent in. A draft design audit has been received and is being reviewed.

Newtownmountkennedy RRDF

This was a category 2 application. The project is at a standstill over contested issues regarding the design of the public realm. A design will also be informed by the Town Centre First Plan for Newtownmountkennedy.

Next step: An update has been provided to the Department in relation to the lack of availability of preferred lands and clarification has been sought on availability of funds going forward. The Department have indicated the remaining funds will be de committed.

Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

(Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, DHLGH)

- Category A: Applications for projects that are "ready to go" and have the necessary consents (like planning permission) in place to begin in the current year.
- Category B: Applications for projects that require further development work to enable them to become eligible for Category 1 status in subsequent funding call

Urban Regeneration Development Fund Call 3

Wicklow will receive €2.5 million to assist long term vacancy and dereliction. Four properties have been chosen (two in Arklow and two in Wicklow). The two properties identified in Wicklow have since had refurbishment works commenced on them by their owners and are no longer available for purchase. Two further properties are now to be identified and this process has commenced.

Meetings have been held with 4 no property owners of sites on the Main Street Arklow. All parties are to submit both short term plans for dereliction and also longer term proposals for development and reuse of these sites. This work with these owners is ongoing.

A review of other sites across Arklow, at locations previously highlighted by An Taisce, has been completed and correspondence and next steps for all these properties will be finalised shortly.

Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004 (Category B)

A revised business case was sent to DHLGH in December 2024. A tender brief is currently being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

and an application to An Bord Pleanála for both the proposed land based and marine works. The department have approved this scheme to progress to the next stage: Planning and Design. Tenders will be placed on eTenders in the coming weeks.

The approval covers the Planning and Design stages only at this stage.

Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge – URDF Wic0002 (Category B)

Arising from the ABP decision that an NIS was required, this project has been delayed. The Capital Delivery Team will review the project and discuss further with the Department. The Department have indicated approval for a review of the project with a view to seeing what parts of the project may proceed. An initial in house review is being carried out by the Capital Delivery Team.

Tourism

1. Web and Social Media updates

The Visit Wicklow Digital Campaign has won a prestigious Award from the Institute of Designers in Ireland. In April 2025, Wicklow County Council contracted Good as Gold to manage and maximise the various social media channels for Visit Wicklow. At the IDI Awards held in late November, Good as Gold won the award for 'Design for Social' in the Experience Design category.

See below some data from November activities on the website:

- 59,260 cross-profile audience +0.4%
- 201,558 impressions on organic content +14.3%
- 112,943 views on collaborative content
- 2,296 engagements, including 825 saves
- Women between the ages of 35–44 have a higher potential to see our content and visit our profiles; the majority of them are living in Dublin (remains the same)

2. Wicklow Gaol

A report from the Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer has advised that extensive work needs to be carried out at Wicklow Gaol before it can reopen. Plans have been made to conduct the following in January:

- Extensive Fire Risk Assessment to help draft a Fire Safety Plan for the Gaol
- Periodic Electrical Inspection
- Extensive roof inspection

The objective remains to reopen the Gaol as soon as possible.

Although the building remains closed, the courtyard of the Gaol has been made available to County Wicklow Partnership to run the 'Wrapped' Christmas event, held from the 12th to the 14th of December.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

3. Wicklow Naturally

Members of the 'Wicklow Naturally' network will be participating at the 'Wrapped' Christmas Event at Wicklow Gaol in December alongside members of the 'Made in Wicklow' network.

The board of Wicklow Naturally is currently working on the 2026 budget identifying priorities and opportunities for next year.

4. Wicklow Passport

The Wicklow Passport was nominated at the recent 'Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards' under the 'Supporting Tourism' category.

The current digital campaign is proving successful in promoting the Wicklow Passport as a great Christmas present. At the end of this year, sales for the Wicklow Passport are expected to increase by 30% from 2024.

5. Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP)

In early December, Fáilte Ireland organised a meeting to present the DEDP to the members of the implementation group. This group is being formed and is to include representatives from the tourism industry, Wicklow County Council and local organisations. The focus of this group will be to assess progress on the implementation of the DEDP.

While the DEDP is currently being finalised, work is already happening in Wicklow with the following actions:

- Glendalough Masterplan ongoing work
- Screen Tourism currently being evaluated
- Business Workshop held in Tinahely in early December
- Support for the restructuring of Wicklow County Tourism

6. Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan (VEMMP)

Work continues on the implementation of recommendations contained in the 7 – 10 year VEMMP. The Local Advisory Group and the Working Group of the Glendalough Partnership continue to meet regularly to support the implementation of actions contained in the VEMMP. OPW and National Monuments Services have worked together to procure a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) to support actions in the VEMMP and ensure a collaborative approach is taken and that the heritage of the area is preserved and protected. They have appointed 7L Architects as the lead consultant for the development of the CMP and

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

a support team has been put in place comprising a range of disciplines such as landscape architect, stone conversation expertise and ecological professionals. Other action areas have been paused while the CMP is being progressed.

Wicklow County Council worked with Laragh Tidy Towns to prepare an application under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. This proposal is for the appointment of a consultant to develop an Improvement & Enhancement Plan for Laragh, aiming to re-establish the village's unique identity, boosting its appeal as a destination and fostering pride among residents, tourists, and visitors. Crucially, the plan will safeguard Laragh's future by offering recommendations to mitigate the impacts of increased traffic and footfall, while preserving its cherished amenities. Successful projects have not yet been announced.

Economic Development

1. Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

The Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns project at the Abbey Grounds continues to progress and will open on a phased basis during 2026.

2. Special Projects

Avondale Business Park: The process to review all expressions of interest received for sites at Avondale Park remains fully active and is progressing well.

The GRID: The procurement process for the management and operation of The GRID continues and is scheduled to conclude in the New Year. Active progress is being made to review expressions of interest in vacant spaces. The dedicated promotional website is in the final stages of completion and is expected to drive further interest.

Sites on Mill Road, Greystones: The Law Agent is actively engaged in advanced discussions with the Property Registration Authority regarding the site's registration.

Carnew Remote Working Hub: Detailed design works are progressing extremely well. The design team remains fully committed to delivery while the TVRS Mainstream funding application decision is pending

3. Offshore Renewable Energy

The East Coast ORE Network Event which took place on November 18th at the Arklow Bay Hotel was a major success. The event attracted a wide audience with a focus on aligning skills, policy, and the supply

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

chain to ensure readiness for Phase (1) & (2) Offshore Wind Projects. Regular meetings of the ORE network will resume in 2026.

4. Skills Strategy

Following its successful meeting in October, the Skills Taskforce continues to advance the Skills Strategy actions, ensuring progress on the crucial 2026 action plan. Current efforts are focused on advanced development and refinement of the plan, with the next meeting now scheduled for February 2026 to formally finalise key actions for the coming year.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<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
	2024	2025	2025
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Market Explorer Grant	22 €671,740 7 €12,500	42 Market Explorer Grant (MEG)	18 3 (MEG) Total: € 411,627
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
	2024	2025	2025
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	54	105	19 – AOMDP 15 – Strategic Retail Master Class. 15- Strategic AI Leadership Workshop 7- Export Development 22 – OMDP = 78

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	145	105	149
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1223	840	659
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	24	20	20

Metrics: Business Advice & Mentoring	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2024	2025	2025
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	443	400	545
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	578	345	450
Metrics: Student Enterprise Programmes	Historical	Targets	
Academic Year	2023/2024	2025/2026	Year to Date 2025-26
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1358	1100	1170

Metrics: Client Transfers To Enterprise Ireland	Historical	Targets	
No of transfers	2024	2025	Year to Date 2025
Number of transfers	6	5	6

Lean, Green & Digital Start For Micro Projects	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	17	15	15
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	20	18	20
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	7	15	32
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	N/A	6	5
Energy Efficiency Grant	3	18	8
Microfinance Ireland	Historical	Targets	Year To Date

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	12	13	15
New Exporters	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	3	TBC

November 2025 Activities:

- East Coast Offshore Wind: Aligning Skills, Policy & Supply Chain: A one-day seminar on Tuesday 18 November in Arklow Bay Hotel (8:30am–3:00pm) for businesses, training providers, and stakeholders interested in supplying and developing skills for Offshore Renewable Energy on Ireland’s East Coast. The programme includes policy updates, developer and industry perspectives, skills pathways, and supply-chain collaboration, with networking throughout the day.
- Digital 26: Craft & Creatives @ Google: A focused day at Google Dublin for makers and creative entrepreneurs to explore digital skills, marketing practice, and the evolving role of AI in the creative sector. Delivered with Craftwork4.0 and Local Enterprise Offices, the event brings together practitioners, mentors, and Google experts. Registration is now closed.
- Export Development Programme: We welcomed our Export Development Programme Autumn class of 2025 to share their export plans with our colleagues and partners here in Clermont House. We had great bunch of companies, with superb passionate presentations and ones to watch for sure.

Training which took place in November:

- In-Person Business Advice Clinic
- Start Your Own Business & Boot camp
- Digital Marketing Advice 12th November - 9.00 AM
- Digital 26: Craft & Creatives @ Google HQ Dublin
- Content Creation & Copywriting
- Get your head around Auto-Enrolment

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

Harbours & Ports

1) Upgrade of CCTV and Access Control -Wicklow and Arklow Harbours

The Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) was presented to CCTV Oversight Board for assessment. Approval was granted on 14th October. Works on site commenced thereafter. Installation was completed in November in Wicklow port. Works are ongoing in Arklow Harbour. Due for completion in December.

2) Concrete Repairs to East Pier, Wicklow Harbour

Additional funding has been approved under the LAMIS scheme to carry out underwater concrete repairs to fill voids in the East Pier at Wicklow Harbour. Works commenced in October and are ongoing as the weather and sea conditions allow. Works due for completion in December.

3) Storage Units at Arklow Harbour

Fourteen new fisherman’s storage units have been completed at Arklow Harbour. Allocation of these units is 80% complete. These units will allow licensed fishing vessels to store equipment quayside, facilitating the removal of the shipping containers currently used for storage.

4) Upgrade to Harbour security gates / entrance Wicklow and Arklow Harbours.

Works ongoing. Due for completion in December.

5) Mara Applications

Marine Area Consent (MAC) and Marine Usage Licence (MUL) applications are underway for our planned dredging operations and dumping at sea site respectively.

6) Accessibility to Wicklow Harbour Swimming Areas

A comprehensive plan to improve accessibility to our swimming area is in development. This will include additional steps and a wheelchair accessible ramp; the project is in design development stage.

7) Marine area strategy

Consultant has been appointed to advance a harbour development “scoping report” into a marine area strategy. This will involve stakeholder engagement and the drafting of development options for both Arklow and Wicklow Harbours. Direct harbour stakeholder submissions for Wicklow Harbour were requested and received in November. Report on finding is pending.

8) Offshore Renewable Energy ORE conference

The Harbours department attended and hosted a stall at this event in the Arklow Bay Hotel on 18th November. Engagement was positive and the event was a success.

WICKLOW HARBOUR STATISTICS

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-25	3	3	0	3	2	1
Feb-25	7	7	0	7	5	2
Mar-25	9	9	0	9	6	3
Apr-25	7	7	0	7	2	5
May-25	5	5	0	5	3	2
Jun-25	9	9	0	9	4	5
Jul-25	5	5	0	5	3	2
Aug-25	4	4	0	4	3	1

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Sep-25	5	5	0	5	2	3
Oct-25	8	8	0	8	5	3
Nov -25	7	6	1	8	4	4

GENERAL CARGO DATA JAN – November 2025	
General Cargo/Container	69
Gross Tonnage	155,785

SIZE OF VESSELS BREAKDOWN JAN – November 2025			
Tonnes		Number of Vessels	Gross Tonnage
Lower Limit	Upper Limit		
1,000	1,999	16	19,935
2,000	2,999	47	115,937
3,000	3,999	6	19,913
			155,785

2025			
CATEGORY	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL
FORESTRY PRODUCTS	70,473	15,766	86,239
METALS		32,685	32,685
	70,473	48,451	118,924

PROJECTS OFFICE

Arklow Flood Relief Scheme: Planning Application and CPO were approved by An Bord Pleanála in July 2022. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender documents for the project. The detailed design which includes elements such as flood walls, flood embankment design, hydrology and hydraulic modelling, archaeological Investigations, utility diversions, environmental inputs & bridge remediation specifications is ongoing and should be complete in Q4 of 2025.

The project team are currently finalising the design, specification and tender docs. The project will be advertised for tender as a 2-stage restricted procedure, this tender process will be complete by Q2 2026 with an estimated contractor appointment date of Q3 2026.

CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

November Events

1. Youth Climate Conference Event held 25th November

The third Youth Climate Conference was hosted by the fifth-year students of Educate Together Secondary School Wicklow at the Assembly Hall in Wicklow Town. Over 200 students from secondary schools located in Greystones and Wicklow Town attended the event.

2. Community Climate Action Programme

The second round of the Community Climate Action Programme, offering €646,000 in funding to assist community, voluntary, and non-profit groups in delivering local climate and biodiversity projects across the county closes on the 15th December and applications are starting to be received. Phase one of the scheme is in the delivery stage of the programme.

3. E-Mobility Scheme

A Shared Mobility Hub scheme has been retendered for the County. A Bike lock scheme is to commence in Wicklow in December by MOBY.

Future Climate Action Events: Greystones Area Pilot Climate Action Committee Formation in December. This will include representatives from Sports Clubs, Community Groups, Local Business Groups and Wicklow County Council. It is intended to draft a community Climate Action Plan as a live document for the Greystones Municipal District.

WCC signed up for NTA Smarter Travel Charter. This programme will launch a travel survey for the County Buildings in January. The NTA Smart Travel programme has a consultant supporting the roll out of this scheme where a Smart Travel Plan with Actions to be drafted in 2026 for the County Buildings. The council intends to apply for the Smarter Travel Mark.

Wicklow Sustainable Energy Communities: Grange Con has become the latest community to complete an energy master plan under the Sustainable Energy Communities programme in partnership with Wicklow County Council. New applications for grant assistance from SEAI have been submitted by SECs including Bray, Newcastle, Tiglin, Christchurch Delgany and Greystones Sports Clubs. A scheme will launch for the County Buildings in 2026.

Spongeworks EU horizon programme: An implementation plan for the Spongeworks project on the Aughrim River catchment has been submitted to lead partners in the EU Horizon project and is currently being reviewed. Project partners have commenced work on planning for a project launch in January. The project will work with local stakeholders to identify nature-based solutions that can be implemented across the catchment including rural and urban measures to slow the flow of water from the landscape. Benefits of the project will include reduced flood risk, better water quality and increased biodiversity resilience on the catchment.



Community Climate Innovation Programme with IKC3 team: The Community Climate Innovation Training programme with IKC3 led by Trinity College and Munster Technical University has been completed with a summit held in Trinity College on Monday the 8th of December. Of the 28 people from Arklow who undertook the training programme, 8 of them choose to seek micro-accreditation and were awarded certificates at the summit. Participants in the training have expressed an interest in continuing to meet up as a network with a view to advancing climate action in Arklow

Bray - Jacinta Barrins, over 55s Climate Programme, due to commence in February 2026. Applications currently being received.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 - 2031

The Biodiversity Action Plan was approved by the members at the Ordinary meeting on the 1st December. The plan will be launched in Q1 in 2026.

Action for 2026 include progression of:

- The Bray Head Management Plan
- Brittas Bay Management Plan
- Wicklow Head Management Plan
- Clermont Management Plan
- And to develop a Magheramore management plan.

Environment Awareness: As part of our Re-Imagining Textiles initiative, two primary schools have completed The Primary Stitch programme. St Patrick's NS in Castletown, near Enniskerry and St. Brigid's NS Crossbridge, near Tinahely are due to complete in the New Year. The students are learning simple stitch, pattern cutting, improving their textile literacy teamwork, the role of charity shops in the Circular Economy and so much more as illustrated by one of the principals in a participating school.

"Tamara and Suzie have exposed the pupils to a hands-on experience that nurtured them environmentally and made them aware as individuals to make informed, ethical, and sustainable choices about the clothing they wear and the resources they use eg: buy more from Charity Shops, pass or exchange clothes between friends and neighbours etc." - Ann-Marie Nuzum Scoil Eoin, Redcross.



Scoil Eoin's, Redcross Bunting & St Mary's SNS, Blessington Nature inspired triangles

Tree Planting Grant 2025: 36 applications were received in 2025, 32 of which were successful. This is double the amount received in previous years. Applications came from a variety of groups from tidy towns, community groups, resident associations, scout and schools' groups. There has been a significant amount of increase in fruit trees applications. Successful applicants can now benefit from receiving 95% of costs covering price of trees, mulches, and associated materials. Already, a number of groups have completed their planting plans and the remaining groups will complete their projects in the new year

This year, we saw continued support for planting fruit trees and hedgerows that will compliment and support the implementation of our Climate Action Plan. It will also support our commitment to our Biodiversity Action Plan and our commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan at county level.

The Environmental Awareness Officer will continue to support groups in the new year by providing capacity building workshops focused on pruning and care of trees and especially fruit trees.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

WASTE MANAGEMENT

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT NOVEMBER 2025		
No. of Complaints Created	120	
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	143	
No of Litter Fines Issued	12	
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	2	
No. of Warning Letters Issued	5	
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	17	
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	5	
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	8	
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	17	
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	4	One case involved a litter fine issued for the non-removal of particularly offensive graffiti. The litter fine was paid and costs of €150 were imposed. A second case involve the dumping of rubbish in a public area close to the defendant's home. The third case involved nonpayment of a litter fine. The fine was paid and the Council were happy to withdraw the summons. In the final case, the defendant could not be located and the Council had no option but to withdraw the case.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

No of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	3	The first case involved the dumping of a substantial amount of waste in an industrial park. Substantial enquiries were carried out by the Waste Management Section and a suspect identified. On the day, the defendant pleaded guilty to collecting waste without a permit. A fine of €1000 was imposed and costs of €1000 were awarded to WCC. The second case concerned the storage of waste in the defendant's front garden which was visible from a public road. The defendant removed the offending waste prior to the court hearing and the Council were therefore happy to withdraw the case in this instance. The third case related a case which had previously been heard earlier in the year whereby the judge agreed not to convict the defendant if costs were paid to Wicklow County Council and a payment made to a charitable institution. These costs and fine were not paid and so the matter came before the court again. The judge convicted the defendant and awarded €450 in costs to Wicklow County Council and a fine of €300 was also imposed.
Income - Litter	€1,955.00	
Income- Waste Management	€10,100.00	

DOG LICENCES AND HORSES

Dog Control

A total of 401 dog licences were renewed during the month of November 2025. A total of 51% (204 licences) were issued via Licence.ie. Dog wardens continue to do weekly patrols and social media posts are published reminding people to licence their dog.

A tender process has commenced for the Control of Dogs service. The ISPCA are withdrawing their services from 1st January 2026. The closing date for the tender is Friday 5th December.

Horses

4 horses were seized during the month of November on behalf of Wicklow County Council, due to the horses roaming freely and causing a traffic hazard. Currently there are 9 horses being held, 5 of these horses will be rehomed shortly.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Pollution Response & Investigation

Pollution Response & Investigation	
7	Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
6	Water pollution complaints closed.
1	Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
0	Noise pollution complaints closed.
0	Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
0	Air pollution complaints closed.
Ambient Air Monitoring	
0	Inspection of Ambient Air Monitoring Station
Private Water Supplies	
1	Regulated Private Water Supplies Drinking Water Monitoring Plan.
29	Private Water Supplies were monitored.
5	Private Water Supplies with available results were compliant.
1	Private Water Supplies with available results were non-compliant.
1	Private Water Supplies were requested to take remedial actions.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

3	Boil water restrictions placed on water supplies.
1	Boil water restrictions lifted from a water supply.
2	Do not consume restrictions placed on water supplies.
0	Do not consume lifted from a water supply.
Bathing Water	
	The bathing monitoring has finished with the closure of the official bathing water season for 2025.
	The public consultation on the identification (designation) of existing and new bathing waters in County Wicklow and length of the bathing season is now closed
Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme	
2	Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
20	Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.
Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations	
0	Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.
1	Catchment assessments were carried out to determine risk and impacts on rivers.
4	Investigative river samples taken.
0	Misconnection inspection carried out.
Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026	
1	Inspection Plan prepared.
0	Engagement activities undertaken.
0	Inspection of domestic wastewater treatment systems was carried out to confirm compliance with an advisory notice.
1	Inspection of domestic wastewater treatment systems was carried out to confirm compliance with an advisory notice.
0	Inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems related to grant application in High Status Catchments were carried out.
Good Agricultural Practice Inspections	
22	Inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.
0	Follow-up inspection of a non-compliant farm carried out.
6	Sewage sludge nutrient management plan applications to land reviewed.
2	Inspections of farms in response to complaints.
Well Grants	
11	New Water Grant application received
3	New Well granted
6	New Pumps granted
11	Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
30	Inspections in advance/completion of works
Petrol Vapour Recovery	
0	Installation inspected
0	Installation issued with Certificate of Testing
0	Stage 1b applications assessed
1	Stage 1b Installations (petrol vapour recovery during tanker delivery) Inspections.
Deco Paint Solvent Regulations	
0	Inspections of Vehicle Refinisher installations carried out.
1	Certificates of compliance issued to Vehicle Refinisher installations.
4	Letters issued to Vehicle Refinisher Installations.
0	Certificate of compliance issued to Dry Cleaner installation.
1	Dry cleaner installation inspected.
0	Paint retailer inspections for compliant products.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Smokeless Coal Regulations	
12	Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.
7	Follow-up inspections of non-compliant sites.
Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer	
0	Licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.
0	Licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed non-compliant and corrective action requested.
0	Unlicensed wastewater discharges to waters were inspected.
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring	
31	River samples were taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
0	Lake samples were taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
Planning & Development	
2	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
9	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
3	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.
2	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning quarry development.
2	Environmental reports on compliance with planning permission conditions was completed.

CEMETERIES

Wicklow County Council operates 34 active burial grounds across the county. The Environment Office deals with applications to erect headstones, exhumation licences, and general queries.

Published Death Notices Data


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Total	158	114	118	92	90	94	107	96	92	105	107
WCC	59	47	44	41	37	35	46	35	39	33	45
Creation	49	45	37	26	26	28	26	30	26	39	55
Other	50	22	37	25	27	31	35	31	27	33	41

OUTDOOR RECREATION

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) supports the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the necessary repair, enhancement, or promotion of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure in countryside areas across Ireland.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

The table below is a list of current projects funded under ORIS :

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion/ Update
OR221WW02	Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	Wicklow County Council appointed RPS to provide engineering consultancy services for the walk. The report evaluates potential hazards associated with the stability of the slopes surrounding the walkway and offers remediation options where necessary (link to report). The walk remains closed due to safety concerns over instability of the area, which represents a significant safety risk to the public.	Extension granted by DRCD.
OR221WW01	Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Awaiting response on re-design of steel works.	31/03/2026
OR222WW03	Coolkenno Equestrian Trail	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners pending their planning permission process.	31/01/2026
OR322WW01	Roundwood Recreation Area	BMX pump track bike area works due. Awaiting sign off to commence works on site.	31/03/2026
OR423WW02	Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan	Feasibility project to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. Tender awarded and plan being drafted. A public consultation 25 th November. Steering meeting 09/12	31/12/2025
OR123WW01	Hollywood Natural Play Area	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Awaiting sign off to publish tender.	30/04/2026
OR123WW06	Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way	Signage replacement along an 18km route. Ongoing 	30/04/2026
OR223WW01	Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure	Car park upgrade works and fencing completed during November. Feasibility / Scoping study for lands purchased progressing. Phase 2 cannot commence until this is complete.	30/06/2026
OR223WW02	Three Trouts Bridge, Delgany	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the pathfinder route. Consent process to progress	Q4 2026
OR223WW03	Tinahely New Loop Trail	Funding for additional spur to loop walks on a 10km route to Tinahely village. Review of project specifics being undertaken.	TBC
ORIS 2024	Project Name	Brief description	Completion
OR424WW01	Disability and Outdoor Recreation	Creation of a strategy and work plan to ensure accessibility for walking, cycling and water access for the disabled community in Co Wicklow.	26/02/27
OR124WW01	Brockagh Forest Science and Discovery Area	Provision of rustic, timber exploration, science tables, magnifying glasses play equipment and seating in Brockagh Forest.	26/02/27

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

OR124WW02	Wicklow Harbour Sea-Trac	Installation of a Sea-Trac system in Wicklow Harbour to create independent swimming access for those with a physical disability.	26/02/27
OR124WW03	Vartry Anglers Disabled Access	Disabled access to the lakeshore with 320m of new trail surfacing for wheelchair use and installation of a self-contained eco toilet and tree planting. Project under review	26/02/27
OR124WW04	Wild Swimming Infrastructure	Installation of changing screens at 4 locations where wild swimming is popular throughout Wicklow. Bike shelter installation at 3 of those locations.	26/02/27
OR224WW01	Glen Turn Cliff Walk	Complete surface upgrade and drainage work on cliff walk trail.	30/11/27
OR224WW02	Russelstown Link to Russborough House	Proposed trail linking Russelstown Wood to Russborough House & Park. Review of project being undertaken	30/11/27
OR324WW01	Djouce Mountain Trail construction and habitat restoration	Djouce Mountain trail construction works will significantly reduce the safety issues and habitat damage currently occurring. Project steering group to be established.	30/11/27

WICKLOW OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE (WORC)

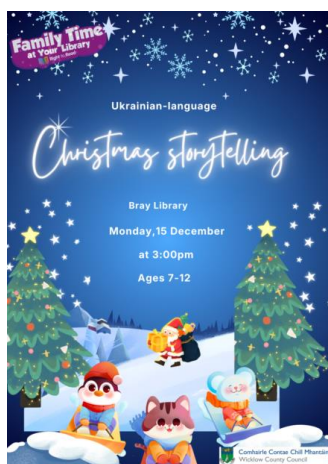
WORC is comprised of members from Coillte, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wicklow County Council, County Wicklow Partnership, Wicklow Local Sports and Recreation Partnership and Wicklow Uplands Council and is an information sharing forum of parties most involved in planning, development and management of recreation in Wicklow. The Committee meets four times a year with the last meeting of 2025 taking place on the 11th of December.

LIBRARY SERVICE

Time at Your Library & Christmas Events

Wicklow Libraries are delighted to take part in Family Time at Your Library, a national initiative that encourages families to read, play and learn together throughout December. The programme supports a family-focused approach to reading and is part of the national Right to Read initiative. In addition to our physical collection Wicklow Libraries host fantastic online range of children's eBooks & audiobooks on BorrowBox plus comics and graphic novels, all FREE with Wicklow County Council Library membership!

In person events this December across all our libraries, are designed to be family-friendly with the aim to help parents, carers and children enjoy stories, discover new books and explore and enjoy our library spaces. We strive to highlight the many benefits of reading, learning and getting creative while promoting Wicklow Libraries as a fun and friendly environment for children and adults of all ages.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Some Family Time at Your Library and Christmas events across our branches this December include: At **Arklow Library**, families can enjoy a wonderful programme including a Sensory-Friendly Visit with Santa, Santa and Mrs. Claus Storytimes, Christmas window decorating, a holiday party with Ruben the Entertainer, and a special Lego Club session, along with creative workshops such as “Make Your Own Christmas Card” with Marie Hirst and a Christmas wreath-making session with Festina Lente.

Ballywaltrim Library also embraces the season with Wicklow Willow wreath-making for adults, a magical visit from Mrs. Claus, Festive Family Time Storytime sessions, James Scannell's *Christmas in Bray* talk, and a fun-filled Grinch Storytime and Christmas crafts morning.

In **Blessington Library**, families come together for recycled-material Christmas card-making with Agata—later shared with the Day Care Centre—alongside joyful Christmas carols with Rachel Drew and a cosy board-games afternoon, with a wreath-making workshop for adults adding extra sparkle.

On Dec 15th there will be a special Ukrainian Story Time at **Bray Library** - staff member Iryna will be hosting a warm and engaging Ukrainian-language story-time to celebrate our Ukrainian community in Bray. On Dec 6th the Library hosts a relaxing morning of beautiful music with a winter Harp recital, courtesy of the Bray Harp Ensemble. Bray Library are also running two fabulous jewellery making classes with creator Deirdre Maher Ridgeway promoting a sustainable and homemade Christmas.

Enniskerry Library is hosting a Festive Knitting & Crochet Workshop on Dec 6th where participants can learn how to knit or crochet their very own Christmas Star or Snowflake Decoration.

At **Rathdrum Library**, as part of Family Time at Your Library, we're inviting families to join us for a fun and festive Christmas Treasure Hunt! There will be small prizes for participants — festive stickers and special Christmas bookmarks that children can colour in! This is a drop-in Event Friday 19th December: 2:00 – 4:30pm and Tuesday 23rd December: 10:00am – 1:00pm & 2:00 – 4:30pm.

Wicklow Library is keeping spirits high with Christmas floral wreath-making, traditional Irish Christmas folk tales with music, Fun with Numbers Bingo, Christmas film screenings, and a Christmas Special Storytime complete with ukulele and festive crafts.

Greystones Library joins in the celebrations with a Family Day board-games event, the CleverCogs STEM adventure, a festive Christmas Storytime followed by *The Nutcracker* ballet, and a warm and sustainable Christmas Jumper Swap that encourages sharing and community spirit.



Regular activities and one-off specials:

Arklow Library: Arklow Library has a full and varied programme planned for December 2025, with cultural, educational, and festive events for all ages. The library will host *Watercolours* by Barney Joyce from 8–23 December, with an exhibition launch scheduled for Thursday 11 December at 7pm.

Regular activities will continue throughout the month, including the Adult Chess Club, Ciorcal Comhrá – Irish Conversation Circle, Adult Knitters' Groups, the English Conversation Group, and weekly Toddler Storytime & Crafts. Baby Sing-Along Sessions for ages 0–2 will take place every Thursday at 10am, and the Saturday Arts & Crafts Station will be available every week from 11am–1pm. Mini Movies will continue on Fridays at 4pm. Youth clubs will also run as normal, with the Saturday Chess Club and other regular children's offerings. A range of book clubs are scheduled as usual, including the

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Wednesday Book, the Young Adult Book Club, and the Thursday Book Club. The Writers Group meets twice on Tuesday 2 and 16 December at 6:30pm.

One-off events include Beginner Italian Lessons with Viktoria Bodley, Chair Yoga, and both the All Kinds of Amazing group and the Tuatha male carers support group are meeting this month at the library.

LIGHT & LINE

ARKLOW LIBRARY
MAIN ST., ARKLOW
DEC 08 - DEC 23

AN EXHIBITION OF
LINE & WASH
WATERCOLOURS BY
BARNEY JOYCE

EXHIBITION PREVIEWS: FROM MONDAY, DEC 08
OFFICIAL OPENING THURSDAY
DECEMBER 11 @ 6.30 PM
EXHIBITION RUNS UNTIL DEC 23

FREE ENTRY

Ballwaltrim Library: December is filled with exciting activities for all ages. For children, there are the weekly school visits, with Bray School Project classes welcomed every Tuesday, St. Fergal's Primary School every Thursday and Marino Special School each Friday. Little ones can enjoy baby *Tummy Time* sessions every Monday and Tuesday, while Saturdays offer both STEM Free Play and our popular Storytime. At the end of each month, children can also look forward to the Bookmakers Club.

Adults can take part in a range of regular activities, including Scrabble every Monday, knitting sessions every second Wednesday, and a monthly quilting group. Ballywaltrim Crafters meet every Friday for crafting and chat, while Age Action also provides one-to-one digital skills classes for older people each Friday. Book lovers can join the Wednesday Book Club on the last Wednesday of the month, the Page-Turners Book Club on the first Wednesday, or the Saturday Book Club on the first Saturday of each month.

Baltinglass Library: Baltinglass Library has a calm and cosy month ahead with a selection of engaging events. Every Friday morning, Enda's Film Club will screen a film of Enda's choice, offering a relaxing start to the weekend. On December 10th, Creative Places Baltinglass will host an *Artist Funding Clinic and Christmas Gathering* in the library, providing a great opportunity for local creatives to connect and receive guidance. The Baltinglass Film Club returns on Tuesday, 16th December with a showing of *The Big Chill*. In addition, both InSync and KARE continue their regular sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays, respectively. Overall, it's a peaceful month at the library—perfect for enjoying a book, a film, or a quiet moment in the midst of the festive season!

THE BIG CHILL

Blessington Library
RAHANNI & SOUND HEALING
with Trish Reiki Angel Healing
Community Support for Carers & Parents of Neurodivergent Children
Wednesday 10th December
at 10 am
Booking essential! (045) 891 740
blessingtonlib@wicklowcoco.ie

Bray Library: Start your weekend with the gentle music of the Harp Meditation sessions on Saturday, December 6th & 20th, booking required as this is a popular event. The new Ciorcal Comhrá in Bray Library, are creating an Irish archive and asking members to contribute their favourite *seanfhocail*, unusual Irish words, and tongue twisters (as Gaeilge, of course), the next Ciorcal Comhrá on Tuesday 2nd December at 7pm. The Festina Lente film club for adults with intellectual disabilities return to discuss their monthly movie with library staff member Karen, as do the Kids film club for 4th to 6th class. Fighting Words facilitators will lead a local primary school group in writing their own book on 11th December. It's a busy month for the many book clubs, which include the crime Book Club & Literary Fiction Book Clubs, Comic Book Club and Afterschool Comic Book Club (Respective weekly clubs for teens and primary-school children in 4-6th class).

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

The Bray Reads book for December is *Lanny* by Max Porter, chosen by Vita. Described as a "haunting and strange literary mystery, involving a missing child, ancient mythology and modern village life. Copies available in Bray Library.

Blessington Library: At Blessington Library the regular programmes continue to bring the community together, including Italian, Spanish and Irish conversation groups, adult and children's book clubs, a breastfeeding support group, and the ever-popular Dungeons & Dragons sessions. Author Caroline Busher is facilitating two Creative Workshops at the library—one for children from St. Brigit's NS in Manor Kilbride (a particularly special visit as the school is quite far from the library), and a second workshop for students from the local secondary school.

Blessington also continue to support local groups, with the Blessington Local History Society meeting in the library each month and a Reiki and Sound Healing session for Carers & Parents of Neurodivergent Children on the 10th of December.



Greystones Library: Greystones Library has a lively and engaging December, with a diverse programme of events and community activities. The month begins with a consultation hosted by the Climate Action Team for the *Greystones Customer Cup Campaign 2026*, inviting local voices to shape future sustainability initiatives. Regular programming continues with the monthly Zumba session and the ongoing *Artists in Conversation* series—an excellent example of how local groups use and enrich the library space. Age Action's one-to-one IT classes remain a valued weekly offering, as do the regular book clubs, language conversation groups, the Greystones Music Circle, and the Greystones Creative Writers group all hold their monthly meetups, contributing to a vibrant and connected library community throughout December.



Enniskerry Library: Enniskerry Library is delighted to support the local community's festive celebrations this December. The library stayed open late to host a special performance by a Bluegrass Band and their guests, marking the official launch of Enniskerry's *Follow the Star* Christmas Festival. The event brought a wonderful energy to the library, drawing residents together and showcasing the library's role as a welcoming cultural space at the heart of the village. Regular book clubs and Storytime continue in the library this month also.

Mobile Library: The Mobile Library's last outing of the year was on **Friday, 12 December**, before it takes a short holiday. It'll be back on the road from **Tuesday, 6 January**. During the break, all members are welcome to pop into any Wicklow Library branch to borrow or return books.

Wicklow Library: There is a wide range of events on at Wicklow Library this December all bringing the community groups together. Throughout the month there are four Adult Book Clubs, a YA Book Club, and a Children's Book Club for ages 7–11. Other activities include the Children's Chess Group, Comhrá agus Ceol, Toddler Rhyme Time, and Story Times. Young adults remain actively engaged through the YA Cosplay Group and YA Writing Group, while the Film Club, AUesome LEGO sessions, knitting group, and Irish Learning Group add to the lively rhythm of weekly activities.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

As part of **Library Week**, Wicklow Library welcomes two 4th classes from St. Patrick's for an exciting Spelling Bee on 3rd December. The library also continues to support a variety of community groups, including the Partially Sighted Group, the Department of Social Welfare (which hosts CV and employment workshops), the Wicklow Creative Art Collective, Wicklow Partnership and LAIT, Adult Guidance Bray, and Citizen's Information, which is every Thursday.

December also brings several noteworthy highlights. Students from Dominican College take part in a Podcasting Workshop with Peter Baxter of Createschool, developing creative media skills in a hands-on environment. The exhibition space features "*Revealing the River, Becoming the Sea*" by artist Mary Duffy—an evocative series of paintings created from the Level 3 balcony of Wicklow Library in 2024 and now displayed throughout December. Additionally, the library will host a Local History Talk on 11th December, with Jim Scannell presenting "*Wicklow and the 1947 Big Freeze*", offering an insightful look into a remarkable moment in the county's past.

WICKLOW SPORTS & RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

WCC and WLSP have opened the application process for the Third level Katie Taylor bursary award for 2025/26. The Katie Taylor Bursary (€1500), funded by Wicklow County Council, is a third level award to support students who excel at sport to complete their college education.

Deadline Monday 5th Jan 2026.

[Home - Wicklow Local Sports Partnership](#)

ARCHIVES & GENEALOGY SERVICE

Digitisation programme: The Shillelagh Board of Guardians minute books collection 1852-1921 is now digitised and all 79 volumes are accessible at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections>. This project is supported by the Heritage Council through the Heritage Stewardship Grant Programme 2025. The records are accessible using the innovative AI search tool *Transkribus*, which renders handwritten records searchable—a significant advancement in the field of archives and records.

The Shillelagh Board of Guardians was the governing body responsible for the Shillelagh Workhouse and the wider Shillelagh Poor Law Union, including public health, sanitation and rural housing. The Boards were initially dominated by the landed gentry, but increasingly included prosperous Catholic farmers and merchants by the end of the 1800s. In County Wicklow the Poor Law Unions included Rathdrum, Baltinglass and Shillelagh, and the county was also served by the bordering Unions of Naas and Rathdown.

The minute books contain the proceedings from their weekly meetings, which included the Workhouse Master's report, numbers admitted, clothing for the inmates, disciplinary actions, staff and provisions. These records represent a rich resource for Irish social history, illustrating an early system of welfare, public health and social services, while providing detailed insights into the daily operations of the Guardians, their staff, contractors and the communities they served.

Commemorations funding 2025

Work is completed on the digitisation of the Labourers Cottages Ledgers dating from the 1880s to the 1920s, and progressing on the Rural District Council records dating from 1899-1925, supported by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport.

Schools programme

The Archives and Local Studies services welcome the Dominican College Wicklow transition year students for a guided tour of the collections and resources available to them.

Special projects/Outreach

The Arklow Street Preachers publication is progressing with a final proof from Wordwell Publishers. The Wicklow Town Atlas project research has commenced. Genealogy service continues.

ARTS OFFICE AND CREATIVE IRELAND

The Creative Places Baltinglass initiative won the Sustaining the Arts Category at the 2025 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award. The project has also just commenced in November the creation of an exhibition space and partial refurbishment of Baltinglass Library to accommodate more community arts engagement in partnership with Wicklow County Library Service. Camille Lynch was appointed as the service provider for Creative Places Production and Curation for CPB and will be present in Baltinglass overseeing this new work.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

The Creative Places Baltinglass new Community Creative Activation Fund was awarded in November, €14,608.00 was awarded to the following artists for projects in 2026: Karen Aguiar will work with Slaney Court IPAS Centre to deliver dance workshops with children aged between 7 – 12; Stephanie Behan will deliver interactive music workshops with residents of Baltinglass Community Hospital; and Mairéad Kelly and Lilia Kyrychenko will work with 3rd– 6th class in Scoil Naomh Iosaf and Baltinglass Tidy Towns to produce a large-scale mosaic artwork.

On December 8th the 2026 Individual Artist Awards, Artist in the Community Collaboration Awards and Arts Festival Award Schemes were launched for application. The closing date for receipt of applications is February 5th 2026. Queries can be addressed to wao@wicklowcoco.ie. Applicants can also see the recording of a funding webinar, on December 11th at www.wicklow.ie. Just over €100,000.00 will be allocated to applications under these schemes.

On December 12th the Baltinglass Sings Community Choir will have their annual Christmas Concert in St Joseph's Church Baltinglass, tickets are €10.00 and available at the door

Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme 2026 – launch date 8th December 2025

This scheme has been put in place to support Wicklow County Council's role in delivering the Creative Ireland Programme. The fund is open to not-for-profit organisations, local community groups, arts, heritage, biodiversity and cultural groups, venues and societies.

Activities that effectively capture and showcase the richness of County Wicklow's arts, culture, creativity, heritage, nature, biodiversity, and history are welcomed. Applications by individuals must be in partnership with local community, arts, heritage, biodiversity and cultural groups.

Grants up to €3,000 will be allocated to projects that communicate and celebrate aspects of Wicklow People and Place in creative and innovative ways. Total budget €15,000 (5 x €3,000 awards)

Deadline for receipt of applications: Thursday, 5th February 2026 at 4pm online at <https://wicklowcountycouncil.submittable.com/submit>

Guidelines and the application process <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Arts/Funding-Support-Opportunities>.

New Creative Wicklow Innovation Award 2026 announced – launch date 8th December 2025

This new Award was established to support creatives and organisations in the five Municipal Districts for projects of greater innovation and scale with a broad range of participation sought.

The brand-new Creative Wicklow Innovation Award aims to support ambitious projects which grow the capacity of individuals and communities. This scheme has been put in place to support Wicklow County Council's role in delivering the Creative Ireland Programme.

Wicklow County Council seeks high quality applications featuring novel ways to increase engagement between people, cultural heritage, climate action, biodiversity and creativity.

The fund is open to not-for-profit organisations, local community groups, arts, heritage, biodiversity and cultural groups, venues and societies.

Wicklow County Creative Ireland programme team launched this new award designed especially for larger, more ambitious projects with significant scope and impact within the five different Municipal Districts. Total budget €50,000 (5 x €10,000 awards for each of the Municipal Districts)

Applications must be submitted online at <https://wicklowcountycouncil.submittable.com/submit> by the deadline of **Thursday 5th February 2026, at 4pm.**

Guidelines and the application process <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Arts/Funding-Support-Opportunities>.

Sing in Wicklow Award 2026 announced – launch date 8th December 202

The goal of the 'Sing in Wicklow Award' is to support choirs across the county in participating in workshops and competitions, fostering inter-choir collaborations, and facilitating performances, peer learning, networking and member recruitment.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Successful applicants to the 'Sing in Wicklow' Awards Scheme will receive up to €1,000. Total budget €7,000

Singing plays a crucial role in building self-confidence, promoting self-esteem, and engaging emotions. It is an innate ability that can improve dramatically with a little guidance and practice, regardless of one's tone. Group singing has numerous well-documented benefits for physical, mental, social, and emotional health and well-being. It allows individuals of all ages and abilities to come together and create something special.

The application for the 'Sing in Wicklow' Award Scheme will close at **4pm on Thursday, 5th February 2026**.

Guidelines and the application process <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Arts/Funding-Support-Opportunities>.

To learn more about 'Sing in Wicklow' <https://singinwicklow.ie/> [News – Sing in Wicklow](#)

Thursday, 6th November saw fifteen successful applicants aged 55 and over, embarking on a musical journey to reconnect with the instrument of their choice from November 2025 to March 2026. The focus of this programme is on returning to playing an instrument and sharing the joy of group music-making.



Photograph: The launch of the Wicklow Music Teaching Residency 2025/2026. Photo credit: Marlena Murphy.

Participants will be receiving one on one and group tuitions from the Skylark Trio, comprising of renowned musicians; Tim Doyle (concertina/fiddle), Patrick Stefan Groeland (guitar) and Claire Sherry (fiddle/banjo/mandolin). The Wicklow Music Teaching Residency is presented by Wicklow Arts Office and Music Network, and is funded by Creative Ireland, with thanks to Wicklow County Campus, Clermont House, Newrath, Rathnew.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (08/12/2025) outstanding stands at **337 – 2.11%** of total stock of 15,991. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we have ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults, and progress has been made to repair long standing faults. A large number of faults also require civil works or infrastructure installations to undertake the repair; a number of these faults have been completed, and others are currently in progress. A total of 243 faults were attended in November, while 282 faults were reported during the month.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Faults Reported - November	27	24	73	73	85	282
Faults Attended - November	32	21	58	61	70	243
Access Issues (Attend)	4	2	10	1	6	23
Cable Fault (Attend)	1		3		1	5
Civils	3		8	1	4	16
Council Approval	1			2		3
ESB Notified	21	35	22	9	21	108
ESB Required	4	4	6	1	8	22
On Hold		3	38	3	2	46
Submitted	5	22	16	13	25	81
TMR	2	1	6	1	2	12
Tree Cutting Required	1	1	12	5	1	20
Grand Total	42	68	121	36	70	337
Percentage not working	1.37%	2.47%	3.54%	1.26%	1.68%	2.03%
No. of Lamps	3183	2442	3432	2997	3937	15991
Percentage of Total Lamps	20%	15%	21%	19%	25%	100%

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The retrofitting of lanterns has commenced in all MDs with c. 1,416 lanterns upgraded to date (29/11/2025).

Road Schedule

The road schedule is currently under review, with an aim to have a completed schedule available online by the end of 2025.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Transportation Statistics

	Total 2023	Total 2024	Total 2025	October 2025	November 2025
Solicitors Queries	1026	1014	1065	113	105
Road closure applications	42	50	56	4	1
Road Opening licences	1956	1254	1494	176	104
Abnormal Load applications	54	50	33	03	0

National Roads, Greenways and Projects

Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

The Phase 2 Options Selection Report was published on 10th April 2025, Wicklow County Council are seeking to appoint Technical Consultants to aid in the delivery of scheme through Phase 3 and 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines.

On 15th May 2025 tender submissions were invited from participants of the Framework for Technical Consultancy Services. The final date for receipt of tender submissions was extended to 25th July 2025.

The tender assessment board met on 7th August 2025 to complete the tender evaluation. The tender assessment report was submitted on 8th August 2025 for approval by TII. Once TII approval is received then the letters of intent will be issued to notify the successful and unsuccessful tenderers. A 14 day stand still period will follow, after which a letter of acceptance can be issued to the successful tenderer. The Phase 3 design work is expected to commence thereafter and could take up to two years to complete.

The project team will continue to engage with all stakeholders as the project progresses through its various phases.

N11 Junction 12 Road Safety Improvement Scheme

A Feasibility and Options report was submitted to TII in July 2025 for approval and funding for proposed improvements to the southbound diverge ramp at the Garden Village / Newtownmountkennedy exit. TII’s response advised that funding is not currently available to progress this scheme at this time.

N11 Kilpedder ‘Rat-Run’ Road Safety Improvement Scheme

A Feasibility and Options Report has been approved by TII. Design and documents to support proposed statutory approvals process are currently being prepared. EIA and AA screening are underway.

The primary objective of the scheme is to address recurring safety issues and rat running during peak hours through the village and area of Kilpedder. The scheme aims to eliminate this rat-running through residential areas, enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety, and improve public transport accessibility. The scheme also aims to improve safety on the mainline of the N11.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities

Proposals for bus-based Park & Ride facilities are being progressed adjacent to the N11/M11 at Junctions 6 (Fassaroe), Junction 11 (Kilpedder) and Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew).

- The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe commenced construction work in April 2025. Commissioning is expected in 2026.
- The Bus Park & Ride at Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in March 2025. Land purchase has been completed. Construction is expected to commence in 2026.
- The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) is being progressed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office. Lodgement to An Coimisiún Pleanála is expected in 2026.

N81 Hollywood Cross to Tallaght Road Improvement Scheme

The preferred route corridor was published in 2016. No funding has been provided to progress the scheme further.

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

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

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

The Phase 2 (Option Selection) Gate Review Statement was submitted to TII in July 2025 with approval received on 30th September 2025. The Preferred Option was published in October 2025 on the project website www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie. The project team are currently progressing at Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation).

N81 Hollywood Cross Rural Traffic Calming Road Safety Improvement Scheme (RSIS)

The construction contractor was appointed and commenced in July 2025. The current programmed completion date is Jan 2026.

Park & Ride/Share at Hollywood

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

TII have indicated that they do not support the proposed additional access to the N81. As a result, the option for a parking facility accessed from the N81 has been discounted from the traffic calming scheme. Suitable parking locations, that can be accessed from the regional/local road network, are being investigated.

N81 Blessington Gateway Project

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) was finalised and approved by TII in October 2023. TII also approved funding to proceed with the design phase in accordance with TII Standards. Wicklow County Council are progressing this project at the design phase (Phase 3) to be followed by any necessary statutory approvals process (Phase 4).

N81 Baltinglass South Gateway Project

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) for the proposed scheme on the southern approach to Baltinglass was approved by TII on 22nd October 2025. WCC have prepared tender documents to procure a Technical Consultant to progress the scheme through to next phases. TII approval has been sought and is needed in advance of tender publication.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

N81 Hearn's Cross

A Feasibility and Options Report will be prepared to support an application to TII for funding for road improvements.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

The Phase 2 Options Study Phase of the project has concluded with the confirmation of the preferred options to be brought forward to the design and environmental evaluation phase. The Options Study Report and plan drawings of the preferred option are available on the project website. The preferred route option will be further refined and developed into preliminary designs over the coming months.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

On 22nd August An Bord Pleanála (ABP) granted permission for the full development of the residential units and northern section of the Blessington Inner Relief Road. Details of the road design have been submitted to Wicklow County Council for review and approval.

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

Construction work commenced on Section 1 in April 2025. Section 1 of the works was reopened to traffic in October 2025. The main footpath, cycle lane and road surfacing works will be complete in Phase 1 by the end of 2025. The full road closure for Section 2 was put in place once Section 1 was reopened to traffic. The completion of the full scheme is expected Q2 2026

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Wicklow to Greystones Greenway is at the options selection phase of TII's Project Management Guidelines. A Draft of the Route Option Selection Report is currently being finalised. A Public consultation on the emerging preferred corridors was held in April and May 2024. Route options within those corridors are now being developed and are undergoing a Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA). A public consultation on the emerging preferred option is expected in in Q1 of 2026.

Blessington eGreenway

Wicklow County Council was notified by letter dated 04/12/2024 that An Bord Pleanála has refused permission for the Blessington Greenway.

Wicklow County Council has examined the decision by An Bord Pleanála. In consideration of the time and resources that would be necessary to prepare a new and/or revised submission and the uncertainty regarding the potential for a successful outcome, Wicklow County Council is not currently in a position to dedicate resources to the progression of a greenway scheme at this location.

Wicklow County Council's priority in the short term is to consider opportunities to progress with shorter locally based trails to extend on the existing routes. These trail schemes can build on and benefit from the work completed to date for the Blessington Greenway. However, these trails would not meet the criteria for TII Greenway Schemes and therefore are unlikely to attract TII funding. Accordingly, any such trails will need to be progressed at Municipal District level.

Kilmacanogue to Bray Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme

TII instructed Wicklow Country Council to issue tender documents for design services for the development of the Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme. The tender process was completed in September 2025, and the contract was awarded on 23rd September 2025. The appointed consultant is advancing the scheme in line with TII requirements.

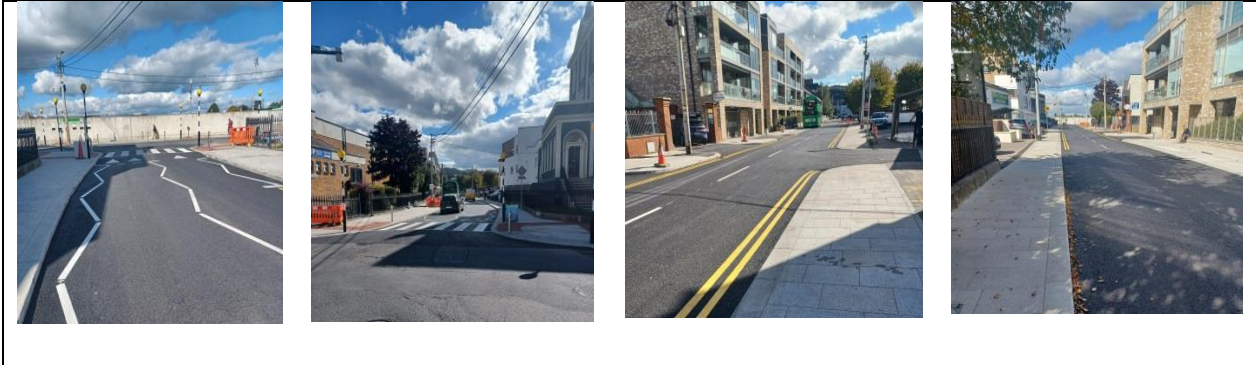
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Active Travel Updates

Projects that have been recently completed

Bray Transport Interchange (Bray MD)

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. Station Road is now fully operational with buses returned to the station forecourt. Launch held on the 17th September 2025. Road Safety Audit completed.



Bray Transport Interchange

Project Updates

Wicklow Station Pedestrian and Cycle Link (Wicklow MD)

New pedestrian and cycle bridge to be provided at Wicklow Train Station, linking Station Road to the Port Access Road. Bus and vehicle set down to be provided along with cycle parking. The acquisition of lands on northern side of rail line has been completed. Archaeological Testing completed. Detail design work to continue. Ongoing liaison with Irish Rail on the detail design.

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvements along the R750 and Station Road from Abbey Street carpark to Station Road Junction to improve linkage to Wicklow Train Station. Preliminary Design stage completed and approval received from the NTA to move to Statutory Stage. AtkinsRealis appointed as consultants to manage the project through Phases 4-7. Preliminary Design to be reviewed by Atkins and scheme extended to include R750 railway bridge.

Bray Bridge footbridges and tie ins (re-draft tender) (Bray MD)

New footbridges and alterations to the road to make provision for cyclists. Atkins Realis has been appointed as consultant to progress the scheme through Phases 3 to 7. Atkins Realis has commenced work on the preliminary design phase.

Baltinglass Bridge Active Travel Scheme (Baltinglass MD)

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. Atkins Realis are progressing with the options selection phase. Thae Architectural and Heritage impact assessment has been completed. A draft Options Assessment Report will be issued for review in January.

Greystones Pathfinder (Greystones MD)

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to Greystones Train Station. The spine route extends from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Centre. Design review to be carried out by Atkins.

- **Phase 1 – Charlesland Dual Carriageway Roundabout Upgrade Works –**

The phase will include new and improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Construction works are nearing completion. New Toucan Crossings installed at 5 roundabouts. Rain gardens have been installed at the junctions to roundabouts (see pictures below). Traffic signal installation to be completed.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025



- **Phase 3 - Greystones Marina to Charlesland Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements –**

This phase includes the design of pedestrian and cycle improvement works to be completed along the public road linking Greystones Train Station with the Marina to the north and Charlesland to the south. AtkinsRealis appointed as consultants to manage the project through Phases 4 -7. Design review to be completed by Atkins and issued to NTA for approval.

Safe Routes to Schools: Blacklion Manor, (Greystones Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Greystones Educate Together & Temple Carrig School (Greystones MD))

Phase 6 Construction and Implementation is completed for the three schools. Two new toucan crossings have been installed and commissioned, a section of two-way cycle track completed, two bus stop enhancements, carriageway narrowing, resurfacing works, SUDS features and school zone treatment all completed. Stage 3 RSA to be undertaken in December.



Safe Routes to Schools: Kilmacanogue NS (Bray MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Preliminary Designs are being updated by the designer. Site meeting held with District Engineer and Consultant to review park 'n' stride area and the crossing required on R755. A draft of the one-way system for the church car park and grounds where drops off are currently taking place has been provided. Meeting held with the designer to review progress and expedite project. Updated preliminary design has been issued from the designer. Meeting had with school management, Parents Council and An Taisce to review designs and scope given the layout and confined space to work with. The school are looking to review the options for a school street to trial for the current church car park. New guidance issued for school street. Review design in light of school street option for car park and review scope on the public roads areas for upgraded foot path and crossing point.

Convent Road Active Travel Scheme (Greystones MD)

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on Convent Road, Delgany. A presentation was provided to GMD Elected Members at the July meeting – approval was received to progress the preferred option through the Part 8 process. Some further consultation has taken place with Delgany Community Council and the NTA regarding the proposed design layout for the scheme. An alternative design proposal has been agreed between all parties, and this will be presented to Elected Members in December prior to progressing to the Public Consultation phase.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025



Convent Road 3D Visualisation

Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme (Greystones MD)

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on the R761 Kindlestown Lower Road, with new Public Lighting, and Public Realm improvements in Killincarrig Village. The Detailed Design phase is ongoing. Construction works will not commence in 2025 as it would conflict with the diversion route that are currently in place for the Chapel Road Scheme. Expected start date is Q3 2026.

Blessington Main Street to Deerpark

The preferred option has been submitted to the NTA for comment. A meeting with the NTA has been scheduled for December to review their feedback and provide a project cost estimate.

Delgany Village Accessibility Scheme – Mill Road (Greystones MD)

The provision of new and improved pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure along Church Road, Delgany. The Scheme is at Phase 5 – Detailed Design and Procurement. Works are currently on hold due to lack of resources.

2025 Budget Allocation – New Projects

From the NTA Budget Allocation for 2025 the following project proposals have been initiated this year

- **SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara HSRR*, Brittas Bay.**
Meeting with School and District Engineer has taken place. The school zone (NTA Project) is planned to be progressed with the Brittas footpath project. Consultant appointed. The project will be managed by the Wicklow Municipal District. An Taisce have circulated the delivery plan to the school. Additional ecological surveys have been required as part of the options assessment phase due to concerns raised on the impact of the emerging route on mature trees.
- **SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird**
Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Meeting with School and District Engineer took place in March. Traffic Count and Speed Surveys have been completed. An Taisce delivery plan prepared. Stakeholder meeting held with school on the 21st November 2025.
- **Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry**
Provision of footpath along Scalp Road, Enniskerry. Topographical survey is complete.
- **Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely**
Provision of a new Zebra/Controlled Crossing and upgraded footpath to link Kilcommon National School to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. Works extended to include two additional pedestrian crossing on School Road Section 38 consultation completed. Works to commence on site.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

- ***Kiltegan Road Pedestrian Crossing, Baltinglass***

Provision of a new Zebra Pedestrian Crossing and footpath extension at Baltinglass GAA Club Grounds to link to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. Gateway 5 approval received from NTA and construction work has commenced.

- ***Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Arklow***

Construction of 150m footpath and pedestrian crossing linking to the GAA Club. Topographic survey completed. Gateway 5 approval received from NTA, WCC to prepare design for extension of footpath works. Construction works have commenced.

The following project proposals were submitted and approved in Q3 of this year –

- ***Redford Park Junction, Greystones***

Redford Park Junction upgrade to provide improved pedestrian and cycle facilities. Inception meeting held with consultant. NTA have reviewed design updates and approved scope change to extend scheme footprint to include extra junction. Design works ongoing.

- ***Cycle Facilities Wicklow***

Provision of secure cycle parking at Wicklow County Council offices. Cycle parking unit has been installed.

- ***Bus Priority Little Bray***

Consultant review of options assessment completed

- ***Bus Enhancement Scheme***

Upgrade works have begun at locations in two Municipal Districts.

The following project proposals were submitted and approved in Q4 of this year –

- ***Wicklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme***

Pedestrian crossings to be installed at 4 locations.

- ***Arklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme***

Pedestrian crossings to be installed at 4 locations. Construction ongoing in Avoca and Rathdrum.

- ***Greystones MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme***

Pedestrian crossing to be installed in Kilcoole. Construction works commenced.

Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work completed at Nun's Cross Bridge and Hollywood Culvert and Randlestown Bridge.

Emergency works completed at Slievecorragh road slippage.

Work commenced at Gibstown Bridge and Kelsha Bridge.

Winter Maintenance

The season continues. Between 17/11 and 14/12 there were 14 callouts. 4 of these were double runs.

The fleet has been prepared, and 1 new truck has arrived. A second new truck is due in the coming days.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Machinery Yard

The testing process for switching the fleet over to fuel cards has concluded and the distribution of all cards has commenced.

Circle K are the framework suppliers.

Parking Income

January to November 2025

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	931,363.77
Greystones Municipal District	323,076.33
Wicklow Municipal District	450,136.61
Arklow Municipal District	250,588.91
Parking Permits	106,175.33
Parking Fines	607,938.80
Wicklow County Council Total	2,669,279.75

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing Information as of 30th November 2025

Aldbrough Manor Baltinglass - 11 Houses

- All sales closed as at 31/03/2025

Murrough View Greenhill Road – 36 Houses

- All sales closed as at 30/06/2025

St. Ernan's Rathnew – 44 Dwellings 34 Houses, 10 Apartments

- All sales closed - 34 houses, 10 apartments as at 30/07/2025

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

4 two bedroomed houses at Mariner's Point, Wicklow are pending.

26 Affordable houses at Lott Lane have been approved and are awaiting development.

An application has been submitted to the AHF for 9 houses at Rockbrae, Bray and 4 houses at Market Close, Dunlavin. Awaiting approval.

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNIT S	CURRENT STATUS
Ballard, Shillelagh	20	Completed and allocated
Merrymeeing, Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completed, allocation in progress
Lugduff, Tinahely	20	Completed, allocation in progress
5A Rednagh Road, Aughrim	1	Completed, allocation in progress
Scheme on Site	Units	Current Status
Fassaroe, Bray	11	Contractor on site.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor on site.
1A Mill Road, Greystones	3	Completion expected Q1 2026
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Contractor on site.
Ballinahinch, Ashford	19	Contractor on site.
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Burgage More, Blessington PPP	106	On hold due to Minister's decision
Rehills, Bray Phase 1	140	Options being considered
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Stage 2 funding approved
Carrig Eden Tiglin	14	Preliminary Design Stage
Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	16	Stage 1 approved.
Burnaby, Greystones PPP	262	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Tinahask, Arklow	74	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Tinahask PPP, Arklow	128	PPP Bundle 6 continuing
Sheephouse, Arklow	48	Design Stage

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Mountainview, Blessington	10	Design team being appointed
Hawkstown Park Phase 2, Wicklow Design & Build	54	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	20	Part 8 approved Oct 25
18 Old Conna, Bray	3	Part 8 approved December 2025

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

Ballintreskin – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Part 8 approved Oct 25
Vale Road Arklow – 2 Units	Part 8 permission expected July

Fire safety annual checks on Halting sites for 2024 has been carried out.

Framework for consultants for one off housing projects Age Friendly/Disability Schemes has been awarded and in process of being established.

Tender for multiparty design consultant for Ballyguile Road (Hillview) Age Friendly Scheme mix of Housing/Community/Regeneration type works to be complete Q1 2025. Works Being done in coordination with the Housing Agency.

Our Age Friendly Scheme at The Greens Kilcoole was nominated for a LAMA award in 2024.

Energy Efficiency upgrades to Council Stock

Wicklow county council has an ongoing Programme of works retrofitting our council housing stock. The works selected and completed complies with our Energy Fabric Upgrade Policy that went through SPC in 2023. In 2024 we took on a second contractor from our framework to cover the Arklow, Tinahely Area. Work has been completed on 110 units by the end of the year. Monastery Grove Was Nominated for LAMA award 2024.

Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2025:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivered Q1 2025	CALF
Bray	3	Delivered Q4 2025	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q2 2026	CALF
Delgany	2	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Rathnew	36	32 Delivered Q2 to Q3 2025, remainder delivered Q4 2025	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Rathnew	3	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Baltinglass	9	2 delivered Q4 2025, remainder due Q1 to Q2 2026	WCC
Delgany	10	6 Delivered Q2, 1 due Q4 2025, 3 due 2026	WCC
Bray	3	Delivery due Q4 2025	CALF
Roundwood	2	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Delgany	2	Delivered Q4 2025	WCC

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Dunlavin	18	2 delivered Q 4 2025. Remainder due Q4 2025 to Q2 2026	WCC
Wicklow	15	4 delivered Q3 2025. Remainder due Q4 2025 to Q1 2026	WCC
Roundwood	2	Delivered Q4 2025	CALF
Rathdrum	14	Delivery due Q4 2025 to Q1 2026	CALF
Rathnew	15	Delivery due Q4 2025	CALF
Wicklow	13	Delivery due Q1 2026	CALF

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Rathnew, Bray, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy, Baltinglass, Wicklow, Rathdrum, Newcastle and Arklow with delivery ranging from 2025-2027. This includes the units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

Turnkey D

The following Turnkey units are due during 2025:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	17	Delivered Q1 2025	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	56	Delivered Q2 2025	CALF
Newcastle	11	Delivery due Q2 2026	CALF
Baltinglass	12	2 delivered Q3 2025. Remainder due Q1 2026	CALF
Rathnew	1	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Arklow	3	Delivered Q1 2025	WCC
Baltinglass	2	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Roundwood	4	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Rathnew	1	1 Delivered Q2. No longer proceeding with remaining 4 units	WCC
Kilcoole	5	Delivery due Q4 2025	WCC
Arklow	2	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Rathdrum	4	Delivery due Q4 2025 to Q1 2026	CALF
Rathnew	4	Delivered Q4 2025	WCC

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Expression of Interest for Turnkey Housing Developments/Housing Schemes and or land for the provision of social housing/affordable housing was advertised on 25th and 26th February 2025. Closing date was 25th July.

Vacant Homes Scheme

Current Compulsory Purchase Orders on long term vacant houses around the county 2025.

No.	Property Location	Current Status
1	5 Priory Way, Delgany	Tenants in situ.
2	30 South Green, Arklow	Tenants in situ.
3.	53 South Green, Arklow	Tenants in situ.
4.	88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	Tenant in situ.
5.	6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Tenants in situ.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

6.	2 Harbour Road, Arklow	Tenants in situ.
7.	114 Hillside, Greystones	Works completed.
8.	108 Charnwood, Bray	Works commenced. ESB connection awaited.
9.	53A South Green, Arklow	Tenants in situ.
10.	36 Wheatfield, Bray	Works commenced.
11.	10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow	Works commenced. ESB connection awaited.

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

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

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

There are 2 types of Grants available:

- Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant of up to €50,000
- Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant including the Derelict Property top up grant of up to €70,000

To qualify for the top up of €20,000, an independent report prepared by a Structural Engineer, along with a copy of their Professional Indemnity Insurance, is required to be submitted along with the application, confirming, to the satisfaction of the local authority, that the property is derelict i.e. structurally unsound and dangerous.

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

Have proof of ownership or evidence of active negotiations to buy the property (that is, confirmation of engagement from the estate agent or owner of the property) where you are seeking approval in principle for a grant.

- Live in the property as your principal private residence or make it available for rent.
- Have proof that the property has been vacant for at least 2 years and that it was built up to and including 2007.

Number of Applications to date	279
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants to date	34
Applications Approved in Principle to date	140
Number of Applications paid to date	60
Value of 60 Grants paid out to date	€3,269,280.50
Applications withdrawn/Rejected to date	45

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Emergency Response

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics November 2025

There were **124 incidents** attended during the month of November 2025. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **161 occasions** including **13** mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of November 2025 **decreased by 19% (-37 mobilisations) on the preceding month October 2025 (198 mobilisations)**.

November 2025 was the fifth wettest November in 85 years of records for Ireland. The impacts of Storm Claudia on 14th brought an Orange Level Rainfall warning. In addition, a short spell of frost and wintry showers was also felt across the month. This led to increase in the number of flooding incidents attended (11 mobilisations) and a significant increase in RTCs month on month (+23 mobilisations). Following a spate of bonfires and similar incidents around Halloween; there was a significant reduction in this type of incident (-54 incidents).

- Alarm Activations (16 incidents) represented 10% of all activity in the month of November; it represented 15% of all activity in Bray and Greystones.
- Ambulance Assists (13 incidents) represented 8% of activity in the county and are generally evenly geographically spread.
- Incidents in other counties (Kildare, Carlow, and Wexford) amounted to 13 incidents or 8% of overall activity in the month.
- RTC incidents where two stations are alerted to each incident amounted to 52 mobilisations or 32% of overall activity. This is the largest number of RTCs in a month in recent years.

Operational activity for the month of November 2025 **increased by 11% (+16 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2024** (November 2024, 145 mobilisations). There was an increase in fires in buildings (+8 mobilisations) an increase in RTCs (+5 mobilisations) and an increase in flooding incidents (+7 mobilisations).

Year to date, compared with 2024 has seen an increase in fires in buildings (+40 mobilisations), RTCs (+42 mobilisations), gorse fires (+53 mobilisations), mobilisations in other counties (+28 mobilisations) and malicious fires in urban areas (+56 mobilisations) and Garda Assists (+17 mobilisations). Activity has significantly increased in the Greystones Station area.

Incidents in County Kildare (7-incidents total, examples below):

- 07/11/2025 Baltinglass crew attended a car fire at Carrigeen South.
- 08/11/2025 Dunlavin crew attended an ambulance assist call at Calverstown.
- 23/11/2025 Baltinglass crew supported by a crew from Carlow Town attended a single car RTC at Castledermot.
- 30/11/2025 Dunlavin crew supported crews from Naas at an RTC at Ardenode Stud, Ballymore Eustace.

Incidents in County Wexford (5-incidents total, examples below):

- 06/11/2025 Carnew attended an ambulance assist call at Ballybeg, Ferns.
- 09/11/2025 Arklow attended a flooding incident in Clones, Castletown.
- 17/11/2025 Arklow crew assisted Gorey crews at a domestic house fire at Castletown.

Incidents in County Carlow (1-incident total):

- 19/11/2025 Baltinglass crew supported crews from Hackettstown at a 2-car RTC at Borkill Beg, Hackettstown.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Training / Activity

- The Chief Executive, Director of Services and Chief Fire Officer attended the National Long Service Awards for the Fire Service in Trim. There were 5 recipients from Wicklow, two receiving their 30 year award and three receiving the 20 year award.
- There were two Transportation Incident Courses (dealing with RTCs and similar) each of one-week duration run during the month. One in Blessington and one in Bray. There was a total of 24 students, 12 on each course.
- One student attended an initial Breathing Apparatus Course in Sligo for 2 weeks.
- A meeting of Station Officers took place in Bray.

Fire Prevention Statistics November 2025

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

<i>Application type</i>	<i>Received</i>	<i>Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn</i>	<i>Requested additional information</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Recommended for Grant</i>
FSCs	10	0	8	0	3
Revised FSCs	0	0	0	0	0
FSC 7-Day Notice	2	0	0	0	1
Regularisation FSCs	0	0	0	0	0
Total	12	0	8	0	4
<i>Application type</i>	<i>Received</i>	<i>Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn</i>	<i>Requested additional information</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Recommended for Grant</i>
DACs	11	0	0	0	4
Revised DACs	0	0	0	0	0
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0	0	0
Total	11	0	0	0	4

24 planning files were referred to the Chief Fire Officer for comment. Observations were made on 24 files received.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	0	0	0	0	0
Circuit	3	10	0	5	5
Dangerous Substances Act	0	0	0	0	0
Explosive Act	0	0	0	0	0

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Building Control

Commencement Notices for November 2025:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 41

- 15 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 14 Opt Out Declarations
- 6 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 6 Seven Day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 34 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 53 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 22 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 10 with Compliance Documentation (45%)
 - 9 are Opt Out (41%)
 - 0 Without Compliance Documentation (0%)
 - 3 Seven Day Notice (14%)
- 33 Valid Commencement Notices
- 61 new build residential units
- 14 domestic extensions
- 14 Non Res new builds
- 8 Invalidated CNs from November

Certificates of Completion processed in November 2025

- 34 New No. of CCC submitted
- 27 Required Revised Information (79%)
- 34 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 142 new Residential units & 28 Apartments
- 5 Non Res. Builds

Submission Statistics

- 34 No. Validated CCCs related to;
 - 8 No. CCCs submitted in October
 - 26 No. CCCs submitted in November

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

61 new residential houses, 14 residential extensions and 14 Non-res buildings were notified to LA for Commencement & 142 newly residential units with an additional 28 apartments & 5 non-residential units were for completion submitted, assessed and validated in November. 8 No. Commencement Notice submissions were invalidated this month; this is due to a joint direction by both NBCO & Dept of HLGH to LA's. Commencement Notice data extracted from BCMS is being used in the National Action Plan on Housing Supply. If Revised Information request has not been responded to by the Commencement Date, submissions are to be invalidated, so BCMS real time statistics can be extracted.

BER certificates for all newly completed units were requested & submitted to Building Control as per S.I. No. 243/2012 - European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012.

Building Control continued with multiple site inspections in November to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 6 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Revised Information requests remained high in November for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 53% of Commencement Notice submissions & 79% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. Revised information requests are issued to nominated role holders of submissions when compliance with Building Regs has not been demonstrated.

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

Wicklow Building Control continues to perform standardised assessment of submissions at commencement stage and onsite presence during construction. These methods remain the best way to promote compliance with Building Regs.

Civil Defence

The past few weeks have been packed for our volunteers, and we couldn't be prouder of their commitment and teamwork across the county.

- Completing specialised Avian Influenza training
- Assisting on multiple missing person searches with [@gardainsta_wicklow](#)
- Supporting the Greystones Christmas lights switch-on and escorting Santa through the town
- Celebrating our Awards Night, where volunteers received multiple certificates, the Civil Defence 75th Anniversary Medal, and three members were honoured with 20-year service medals

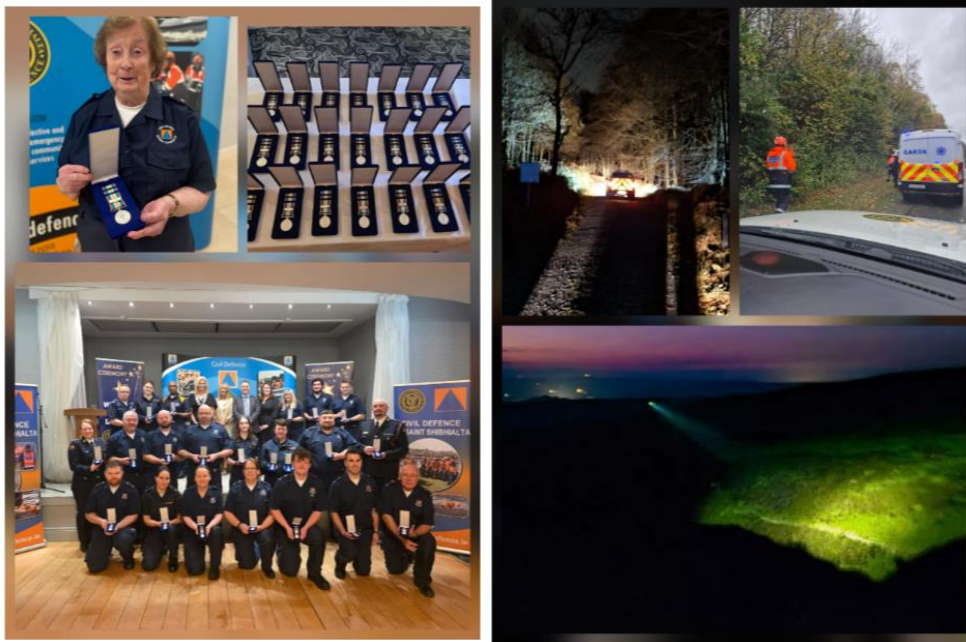
In true Civil Defence fashion, dedication didn't stop there. Just before the awards ceremony, our Drone Team left immediately to respond to an urgent search in the Sally Gap. Their willingness to drop everything and step into action made a real difference when it mattered most.

A big thank you goes to our colleagues in [@laoiscivildefence](#) for making the journey to support us in the search for the missing person and giving us those vital extra boots on the ground.

To all our volunteers – thank you for showing up, stepping up, and giving so much of your time, skill, and heart to your community.

Thank you to our guests who attended our awards ceremony both from the [@wicklowcoco](#) and [@deptdefenceirl](#) [@civildefenceirl](#). Your continued support of our volunteers is appreciated and we look forward to our work in 2026.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025



Top Line Data

Totals per Municipal District (in Department run emergency accommodation only)			
MD	IPAS	Ukrainian Response	Total
Arklow	35	17	52
Baltinglass	621	37	658
Bray	203	555	758
Greystones	0	110	110
Wicklow	368	83	451
Total	1,227	802	2029

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	9
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1,227
Of which are children	370

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

IPAS Totals per MD	
Arklow	35
Baltinglass	621
Bray	203
Greystones	0
Wicklow	368

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2025	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	110
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	859
Total number of sessions with single adults	451
Total number of sessions with couples	39
Total number of sessions with families	303

LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for November

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	14
No. of Individuals	54
No. of Couples	10
No. of Families	34
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	17
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	28
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	9
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	35
No. of International Protection Applicants	95
No. Persons with Status	3
No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	40

Integration Supports – Key Enablers

In Session Support	Incidence
Accommodation	10
Community/Family	13
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	63
Employment/Enterprise	11

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Events	0
Finance/Welfare	8
Health/Wellbeing	34
Language/Communication	3
Legal/Justice/Civic	30
Transportation	6
Miscellaneous	17

Follow up Support	Incidence
Accommodation	2
Community/Family	0
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	2
Employment/Enterprise	0
Events	0
Finance/Welfare	1
Health/Wellbeing	0
Language/Communication	1
Legal/Justice/Civic	1
Transportation	1
Miscellaneous	0

Overall Support November	
Emails sent for Clinic work	164
Emails Received	249
Emails Sent	304
Contacts with stakeholders	150
Referrals	36

- In collaboration with County Wicklow Partnership the team arranged for Safe Pass Training to be delivered to 17 residents in IPAS centres on Friday 28th November
- The recent Dignity Partnership presentation to residents of three IPAS centres in County Wicklow was a collaboration between KWETB with Wicklow LAIT. Dignity Partnership's presenter has a lived experience in coming to Ireland as an IPA and gave huge insight to help residents. The main topics at this event were around financial literacy and personal & family well-being.

Ukrainian Response

As of the end of November 2025, there are **802** Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the county.

The breakdown of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from DOJHAM is as follows:

- Arklow MD: **17**
- Baltinglass MD: **37**
- Bray MD: **555**
- Greystones MD: **110**
- Wicklow MD: **83**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Note: These figures do not contain details of BOTP clients placed in accommodation providers by any other bodies separate to DOJHAM (Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration). Therefore, the total in any accommodation provider may not reflect the total number of BOTP clients in that establishment.

BOTP Centre information	
Current number of BOTP centres in County Wicklow	14
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	802
Of which are children	203

Change to Accommodation Policy for people fleeing the War in Ukraine

From 10 November 2025 Ireland's accommodation offering to newly arriving people fleeing the war in Ukraine will change.

Under the revised approach, anyone fleeing the war in Ukraine, who registers for temporary protection and is looking for State-provided accommodation in Ireland, will be accommodated for a maximum of 30 days. They will be provided with food, laundry, other services and integration supports in Designated Accommodation Centres.

People who stay in a Designated Accommodation Centre for 30 days will receive a reduced weekly allowance of €38.80 per adult and €29.80 per child in respect of daily expenses, while they are resident in the centre. They will also be entitled to child benefit payments. When they leave the Designated Accommodation Centre they will be entitled to apply for standard social welfare assistance, equivalent to Irish citizens, subject to meeting the eligibility conditions.

The focus of supports in Designated Accommodation Centres is on orientation on living and working in Ireland. During the 30 days, access to information such as how to source independent accommodation, pledged accommodation, employment, training, social welfare entitlements is provided.

This revised approach to the accommodation offering has been adopted in order to respond to a recent large increase in the number of arrivals from Ukraine. This policy aims to ensure the State can continue to provide temporary accommodation to those most in need when they arrive.

This change will not affect people who have already commenced their stay under the 90-Day Accommodation Policy, or those already availing of other State-supported accommodation.

In addition to the above policy change, owing to a significant increase in arrivals and having regard to the need for prioritisation and equity, State-contracted accommodation will no longer be available to people who have previously held Temporary Protection in another Member State.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Organisational Development

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in November 2025:

- Integration Support Worker Interviews
- Harbour Constable Interviews
- Administration Officer Preliminary Interviews
- Retained Fire Fighter (Blessington) Interviews

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025
Managerial/Administrative	333	343	356	365
Professional/Technical	146	147	150	144
Outdoor	252	250	246	245
Temporary/Seasonal	68	66	95	96
Non DoHPLG	5	2	2	2
Total	804	808	849	852

Freedom of Information

November 2025: 11	November 2024: 5
January – October 2025: 111	January - October 2024:

Ombudsman Requests

November 2025: 3	November 2024: 2
January – November 2025: 30	January – November 2024: 20

Press Releases

November 2025 – 14

Register of Electors

Following the Presidential Election in October 2025, data quality work continues on the Register and online applications via www.checktheregister.ie continue to be received and processed. Applications that were parked due to their minor nature such as updating contact details etc. are now being followed up and completed.

Phase 1 of the migration towards a national database of Register of Electors is now completed and Phase 2 of this work is approximately 90% complete. The Franchise team have completed testing a version of the National Database along with 2 other local authorities. Phase 2 of this testing has yet to go live but is expected to commence in February 2026.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Customer Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	5,857	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,359
No. of Customer Service Emails received	2,076	Revenue Transactions	1,233
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	69	Housing Counter Visits	n/a

Energy Office

ISO 50001 - is an international standard for establishing, implementing, maintaining, and improving an energy management system. Wicklow County Council achieved certification in September 2024. In order to maintain the system an annual surveillance audit is required. Wicklow County Council appointed NSAI as external auditors to carry out the annual surveillance audit on Wicklow County Council's ISO 50001 energy management systems. The auditor did not identify any non-conformances and recommended continued certification to ISO 50001 for 2025/2026.

Projects Completed in 2024/2025;

- Bray Fire Station – Air Source Heat Pumps, Window and Appliance bay door replacement
- Bray MD Civic Office – Air Source Heat Pump
- Arklow MD - Solar Photovoltaic System
- Civil Defence HQ Greystones – Air Source Heat Pump & Solar PV
- Blessington Fire Station – Air Source Heat Pump, Fabric Upgrades & Solar PV
- County Buildings – Air Source Heat Pump and Radiator Upgrade

Ongoing energy monitoring and verification of projects completed in 2025 to verify energy savings.

The Energy office collaborates with all sections of the council and supports the development of other energy efficiency works such as;

- Bray Courthouse – Energy Efficiency Works
- Wicklow Fire Station – Energy Efficiency Upgrades
- Arklow Depot – Solar PV System
- Arklow Recycling Centre – Solar PV System

The Energy Office is currently scoping a number of energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects for 2025 with support for Mid-East Energy Unit, Codema and SEAI

SEAI Pathfinder Funding 2025

- Arklow MD / Library (Part removal of gas boiler, ASHP, PV solar panels)
- Blessington MD office (Removal of gas boiler, ASHP, PV solar panels)
- Greystones MD (TBC following survey and carbon/cost review)
- Shoreline Leisure Centre Energy Performance Contract (Preparatory Work Ongoing)

Other ongoing projects

District Heating Feasibility Study – Arklow Decarbonised Zone

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Mid-East Energy Unit

- Tender published to establish multi-party framework for smaller works outside EPC
 - One stop shop for SEAI Pathfinder projects for Mid-East Region
 - Currently implementing competitive dialogue stage
- First EPC project for Kildare CoCo gone to final tender
- Second EPC for Meath County Council gone to final tender
- Installing sub heat meters in leisure centres across the region to inform EPC process

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Finance, Water & Information Systems

Finance

Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30 NOVEMBER 2025							
	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	52,950,847	56,316,634	94%	(55,706,694)	(59,446,038)	94%	(2,755,847)
Road Transport & Safety	28,435,432	26,329,169	108%	(21,675,744)	(18,925,016)	115%	6,759,688
Water Services	3,967,522	4,633,084	86%	(4,785,629)	(5,554,021)	86%	(818,106)
Development Management	15,621,542	16,414,646	95%	(8,843,134)	(9,859,576)	90%	6,778,408
Environmental Services	17,564,582	17,038,883	103%	(5,314,879)	(5,011,509)	106%	12,249,703
Recreation and Amenity	9,392,591	10,003,906	94%	(1,302,807)	(1,151,712)	113%	8,089,784
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,001,149	2,393,346	84%	(709,760)	(1,103,228)	64%	1,291,389
Miscellaneous Services	8,615,727	9,487,115	91%	(14,998,287)	(16,490,485)	91%	(6,382,560)
Central Management Charges	23,629,284	25,473,897	93%	(1,141,438)	(1,050,000)	109%	22,487,846
Local Government Fund				(15,767,097)	(17,200,469)	92%	(15,767,097)
Commercial Rates				(30,174,906)	(32,448,626)	93%	(30,174,906)
	162,178,676	168,090,680	96.5%	(160,420,375)	(168,240,680)	95.4%	1,758,301

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements daily and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1 November to 30 November 2025.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30 NOVEMBER 2025					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2025	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/11/2025
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,210,356	71,517,602	(63,714,291)	(534,750)	19,478,916
Road Transport & Safety	(36,985,832)	18,709,120	(8,511,521)	(247,852)	(27,036,085)
Water Services	(6,760,795)	1,549,183	(97,333)	(135,000)	(5,443,945)
Development Management	(58,018,087)	12,595,684	(11,506,101)	(480,316)	(57,408,819)
Environmental Services	4,260,881	7,215,311	(5,074,942)	(953,842)	5,447,409
Recreation and Amenity	1,466,601	3,923,776	(2,179,862)	(594,910)	2,615,604
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,069,769)	887,908	(380)	(445,048)	(1,627,289)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,918,102)	3,228,665	(863,153)	2,747,873	(5,804,716)
	(96,814,747)	119,627,250	(91,947,583)	(643,845)	(69,778,925)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

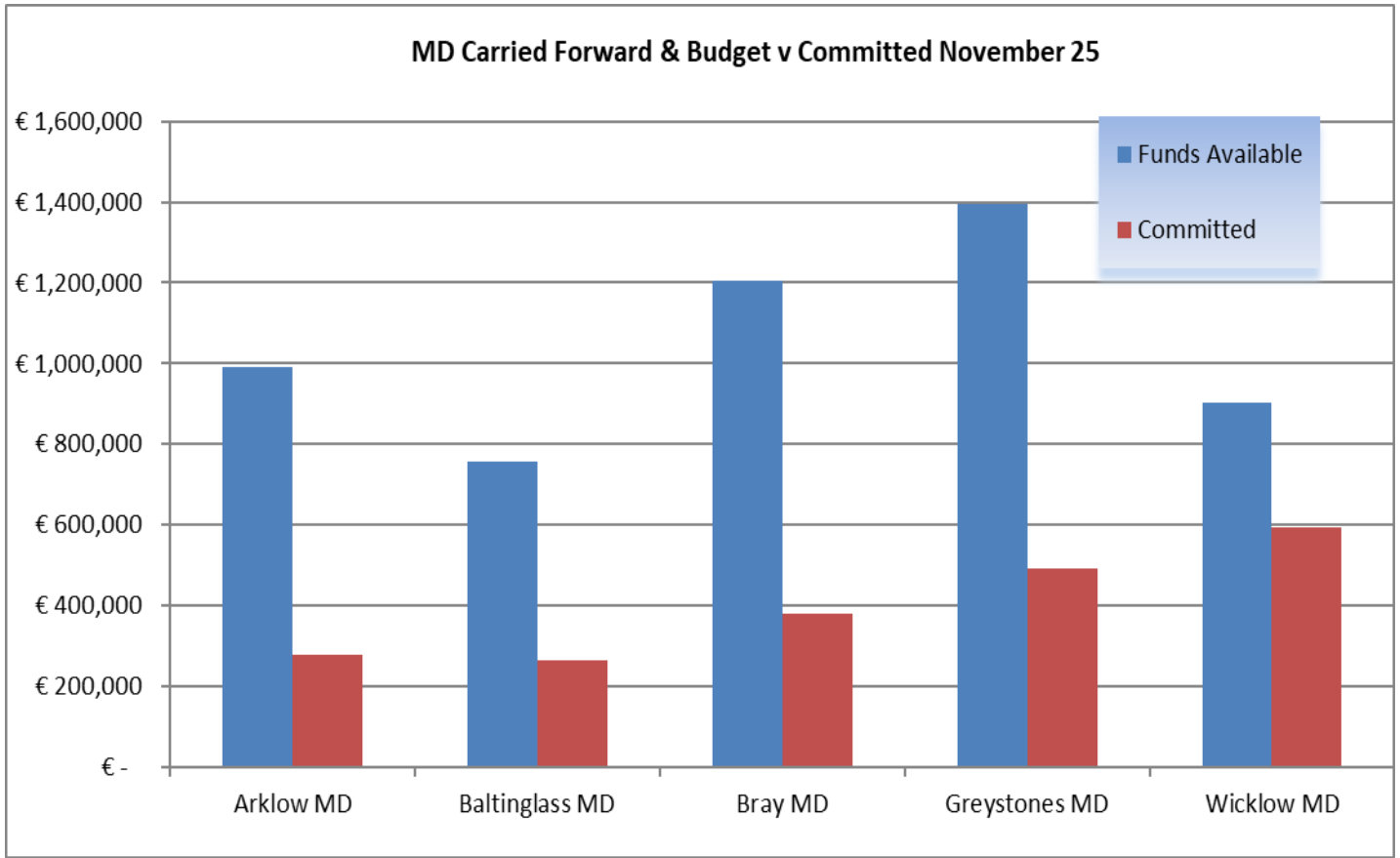
SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2025										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2025	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/11/2025	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,064,245	32,972,250	(15,558)	(317,756)	121,396	35,581,785	(30,686,764)	4,895,021	707,220	88%
Rents & Annuities	3,310,655	17,322,672	0	(49,718)	0	20,583,609	(17,714,111)	2,869,498	0	86%
Housing Loans	513,181	2,252,364	0	(7,476)	0	2,758,069	(2,246,738)	511,331	0	81%

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2025

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on 14 October 2024, to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6%, generated circa €1.3m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the five Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2025 is set out below:

Municipal District	C/F from 2024	Adopted Budget 2025	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	399,545	591,804	991,349	276,804	714,545
Baltinglass MD	228,948	527,124	756,072	264,992	491,081
Bray MD	512,742	691,048	1,203,790	381,722	822,068
Greystones MD	873,886	521,458	1,395,344	491,978	903,366
Wicklow MD	374,922	529,443	904,365	592,582	311,783
Total	2,390,042	2,860,877	5,250,920	2,008,076	3,242,843

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025



Capital Investment Programme 2025-2027

The Capital Investment Programme 2025-2027 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of April 7th 2025. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2025	2026	2027	TOTAL	Dev Charges ¹	Loan	Grant Aid ²	Other ³	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	97,600,000	146,800,000	227,450,000	471,850,000	-	30,000,000	414,800,000	27,050,000	471,850,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	30,102,000	37,019,000	30,280,000	97,401,000	23,201,000	7,000,000	64,800,000	2,400,000	97,401,000
WATER SERVICES	255,000	140,000	140,000	535,000	-	-	535,000	-	535,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	5,889,420	6,872,557	9,747,343	22,509,320	2,466,157	-	15,470,959	4,572,204	22,509,320
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	7,920,000	23,070,000	23,687,000	54,677,000	-	-	48,377,000	6,300,000	54,677,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	7,960,000	13,875,000	21,313,572	43,148,572	13,692,072	-	25,486,500	3,970,000	43,148,572
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	5,700,000	16,410,000	23,500,000	45,610,000	1,759,500	-	37,175,500	6,675,000	45,610,000
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	900,000	900,000	900,000	2,700,000	-	-	-	2,700,000	2,700,000
OVERALL TOTAL	156,326,420	245,086,557	337,017,915	738,430,892	41,118,729	37,000,000	606,644,959	53,667,204	738,430,892

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Capital Funded Projects

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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Information Systems

Operations

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

GIS & Systems Analysis

Forward Planning – “Call for Sites” Public Portal

- Continued development and enhancement of the Call for Sites public portal, providing a more intuitive and informative user experience.
- The interactive webmap allows the public to explore potential sites alongside key constraint layers, including planning boundaries, heritage, environmental and flood-risk data.
- A proximity analysis tool and downloadable site reports support informed public engagement in the planning process.

Variation No. 6 – Public Consultation Portal

- The Variation No. 6 Consultation Portal went live during the month.
- Ongoing monitoring of public submissions, correspondence and portal content is underway.
- Reporting tools are being used to support the consultation and inform Forward Planning.

Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity – Biodiversity Mapping

- Produced a comprehensive map of Protected Areas across County Wicklow.
- This mapping supports the preparation of the Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan, helping to inform policy development and environmental protection measures.

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

- Progressed mapping work for the final 2026 Residential Zoned Land Tax map and the draft 2027 map.
- Incorporated Departmental feedback to improve accuracy, clarity and presentation for public use and statutory publication.

Community Food Mapping – Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership

- Enhanced the Community Food web map with additional datasets relating to retail, education, consumption and healthy food access.
- Improved map functionality and accuracy to support community planning, research and public awareness.
- Developed a supporting County Wicklow Community Food Survey using ArcGIS Survey123.

Infrastructure

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