

**Wicklow County Council
Chief Executive's Monthly Report - July 2024**



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

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This month:

FUNDING OF €243,000 ALLOCATED TO WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL FOR COASTAL EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT STUDIES FROM BRITTAS BAY TO CLOGGA BEACH

Wicklow County Council has been approved funding of €243,000 by the Office of Public Works in order to conduct two Coastal Erosion Risk Management Studies under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme, covering from the start of Brittas Bay to the County Wexford boundary.

The first study includes Brittas Bay and Ennereilly Beach where Malachy Walsh and Co. LTD have been appointed to complete the study. This will include a 12km stretch of an area designated as a Special Area of conservation and a Proposed Natural Heritage Area.

The second study includes Arklow North Beach, Porters Rock Beach, Arklow South Beach and Clogga Strand Beach, where RPS Ireland Ltd have been appointed. The total length of this study area is over 10km and includes Proposed Natural Heritage Areas and rock revetments.

The aim of these studies are to undertake a detailed coastal erosion risk management investigation to develop an appropriate plan to best manage the risks identified to human health and life (social), the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity and to further assess and investigate the feasibility of the management plan. The study will provide information on erosion patterns and will include a condition survey of all coastal protection structures.

€15,000 AWARDED TO TWO RECIPIENTS OF THE WICKLOW SHORT FILM AWARD FOR 2024

Screen Wicklow and Wicklow County Arts Office, supported by Creative Ireland, are delighted to announce the recipients of the Wicklow Short Film Award for 2024. The two funding awards of €15,000 each form part of the ongoing support provided to the local screen sector by Wicklow County Council. The scheme was launched by Wicklow County Council on the 8th April with a closing date for applications on 24th May.

Following a highly competitive application process, with many high-quality submissions received, the two short film projects selected by the independent adjudication panel were:

Dealing With It - Submitted by Santiago Rivas Pertile

Sapphire - Submitted by Michael J. Whelan

The award will act as a steppingstone in the careers of Wicklow-based film-makers and will support greater recognition of the vibrant independent film-making tradition in the county.

These short films will be between 10 and 15 minutes in duration and will feature Wicklow locations. Upon completion, the short films will be entered into local and international film festivals, further boosting the strong international reputation of County Wicklow as a prime location for film and television production.

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Social Development (Housing & Community)

Housing

	June 2024	June 2023
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	179	170
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1387	1582
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	23
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	22	31

Allocation of Social Housing

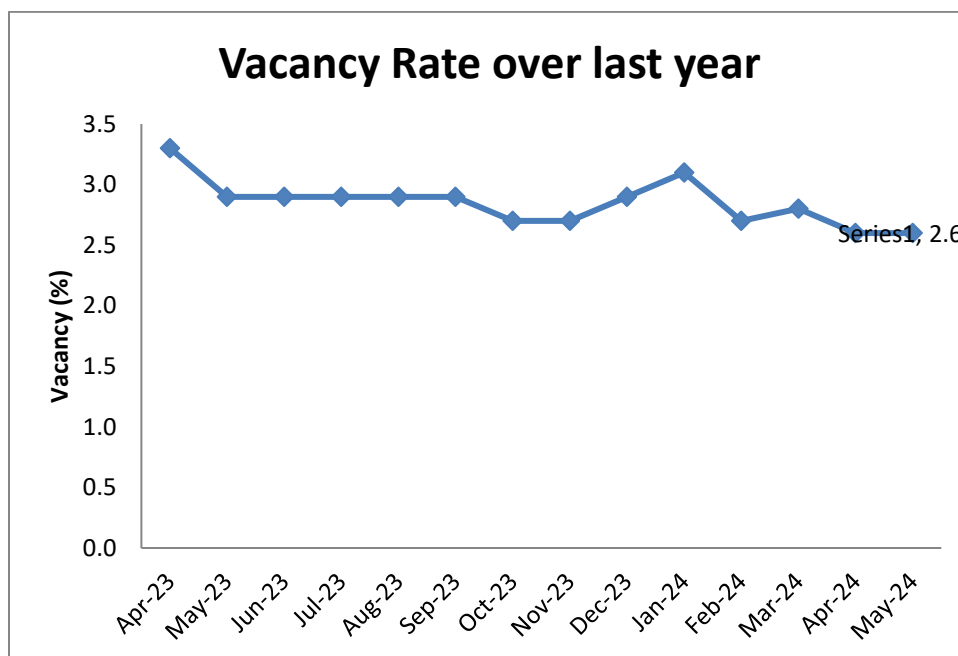
	June 2024	June 2023
Wicklow County Council	6	17
Approved Housing Bodies	0	42

Re-Let's / Voids

MD	Completed in 2024	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	15 (+4)	4 (-2)	8 (-1)	1 (+1)	14 (-2)
Baltinglass	13 (0)	9 (0)	4 (0)	7 (0)	20 (0)
Bray	13 (+1)	0 (0)	26 (-4)	8 (+5)	34 (+1)
Greystones	1 (0)	7 (+3)	0 (-3)	0 (0)	7 (0)
Wicklow	16 (+3)	15 (+1)	27 (+1)	1 (-1)	43 (+1)
2024 Totals	58 (+5)	35 (+2)	65 (-7)	18 (+5)	118 (0)
2023 Totals	140				
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)	Occupied tenancies Data unavailable	Figures in brackets indicate change on last month			

Availability of contractors to carry out re-let refurbishment work continues to be the major limiting factor in turning around Voids/Re-lets. The Council can only recoup a maximum of €11,000 per house from the Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage, whereas the average cost of relets was €36,000 per house in 2022 and €31,000 per house in 2023.

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According to CSO Census 2022 data:

Total No of rented properties in the state	513,704	100%
No of properties rented by Private landlords	330,632	64.4%
No of properties rented by Local Authorities	153,192	29.8%
No of properties rented by AHBs	29,880	5.8%
No of vacant houses (including Holiday Homes) in Co Wicklow	4,320	
Average no of WCC vacant units (using 2023 figure)	140 (3.2% of total vacant houses in the county)	

The overall vacancy rate for rental properties (private and social) on Census night was 7%, so our vacancy rate is less than half the overall rate for a rental sector where Local Authorities account for only 29.8% of the properties. Also, Wicklow County Council's vacant units only account for 3.2% of the total number of vacant units in our county.

Housing Maintenance

Planned Maintenance in the form of electrical remedial works is currently nearing completion at Parkmore in Baltinglass. Protech Electrical will then be moving on to Palladius Park in Donard.

Gas boiler maintenance Framework Agreements have been tendered on www.supplygov.ie for Baltinglass, Wicklow and Greystones MDs. Gaswise were successful tenderers for Greystones and Wicklow MDs and will start servicing on 29th of July. Bracken Plumbing & Heating were successful tenderers for the Baltinglass MD and have started gas servicing in addition to oil boiler servicing already underway in that MD. Heat Pump maintenance contract documents are currently being prepared.

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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 approx. 1500 properties in Co. 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). So far in 2024, 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 2024
Improvement Notice	29
Prohibition Notice	5

Prohibition Notices are published on the Council website and there are currently 5 such notices (the oldest dates back to 2020).

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

Wicklow County Council is continuing to support acquisitions under the Capital Assistance Scheme with Dublin Simon, Circle Housing, Ark Housing and Peter McVerry Trust, HAIL etc. Nine units were delivered in 2023.

CAS Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	1	Delivered February 2024	CAS
Newcastle	1	Delivered April 2024	CAS
Bray	1	Delivered April 2024	CAS

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

	2023 Budget	Amount Spent as of June 2024
Grant Funding for Private Housing	€2,728,709.00	€1,102,288.49
Grant Funding for Social Housing	€822,111.00	€614,394.73

2024 Overview

- 185 Open Applications including approvals (plus 49 from 2023 not including approvals)
- 119 Approvals (Plus 132 from 2023)
- 135 Applications Paid and Closed

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Grants Received/Processed	249	216	266	327	281	456	219

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Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing and Disability Steering Group has prepared the new draft Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2022-2027. The Implementation plan for Housing People with a disability was launched on 22nd June and workshops are taking place nationwide facilitated by The Housing Agency regarding the implementation plan. This workshop took place at the January meeting of the HDSG. A schedule of meetings for the group has been set for 2024 in order to implement the plan's targets and goals.

Homeless Figures for June 2024

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 30/06/2024	Year To Date	As at 30/06/2023
No of New Presentations	38	190	20
No. of Repeat Presentations	1	2	3
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	11	62	10
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	33	156	11
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	5	18	2
No. of Children	18	103	14
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	5	37	8
Family Circumstances	13	77	3
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	2	9	3
Mental Health	1	12	1
Risk of Homelessness	21	98	0
Arrears/Loss of Income	2	7	2
Addiction Issues	8	24	3
DV/DA	3	6	4
Medical Issues	0	5	0
Overcrowding	9	31	0
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	5	17	5
ASB:	2	7	0
Rough Sleeping*	6	14	1
Sofa Surfing*	0	13	4
Staying with Family*	9	47	2
Staying with Friends*	3	18	1

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/06/24	
Families	14
Adults	28
Children	42
Single individual	10

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Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/06/2023								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	21	23	25	3	6	10	4	4
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/06/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	24	28	24	8	6	3	0	8

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.
- 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, 562 households (387 families & 168 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 30th June 2024. (225 homeless cases, 313 prevention cases to date and 23 direct provision). 141 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

There are 9 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon. 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.

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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.

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.

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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.

Homeless Action Plan 2024 – 2026

The plan was approved by the elected members of Wicklow County Council at the Council meeting on 8th April 2024.

Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025

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

Ukrainian Response

As of the end of June 2024, there are 1,690 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 is as follows:

- Arklow MD: 221
- Baltinglass MD: 351
- Bray MD: 756
- Greystones MD: 178
- Wicklow MD: 184

Wicklow County Council is currently assessing all displaced Ukrainians in the county to determine their accommodation needs and to connect them with relevant community services and supports.

Wicklow County Council is also working through a list of pledged properties within the county to match families with appropriate housing. To date, Wicklow County Council has housed 276 displaced Ukrainian individuals in pledged stand-alone 'Offer a Home' properties within the county.

Additionally, larger buildings and vacant units are being identified and explored as potential medium to long-term accommodation options.

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Community

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2023

The projects below are underway, with estimated completion dates in Quarter 3 of 2024.

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

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

The Minister for Rural & Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, together with her colleague Minister Joe O'Brien TD, have announced a further €50 million in national funding under the Community Recognition Fund to deliver projects over 2025 and 2026.

The Community Recognition Fund was first introduced last year to recognise the huge efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting people coming to Ireland.

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Wicklow County Council has been allocated €1,584,550 under the 2024 Community Recognition Fund.

The Community Recognition Fund 2024 aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community, in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The scheme details set out that only areas which have high levels of new arrivals will be deemed eligible for this scheme.

Wicklow County Council sought expressions of interest for project proposals from community groups in areas where large numbers of citizens from other countries are currently living. Projects to be funded will be capital in nature, deliver medium to long term benefits for the communities in which they are located, and be capable of being delivered over the course of 2025 to 2026.

An information session was held online on 18th April 2024 at 5.30pm, with approximately 35 groups joining this online session.

Pride of Place 2024

The Co-Operation Ireland Pride of Place Competition 2024 opened for nominations in May 2024. The purpose of the competition is to acknowledge the work being done every day by communities all over Ireland.

This year, Wicklow County Council has entered 3 nominations:

ENTRY	CATEGORY
Wicklow Town Team- Murals Project	Community Tourism Initiative
Tinahely Community Recycling Centre	Creative Communities
Tearmann Gardens, Baltinglass	Inclusive Communities

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

The winners of the National Pride of Place Competition will be announced at an Awards Ceremony in Monaghan on Saturday 2nd November 2024.

Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs)

Appointment of Chairperson to the new Local Community Safety Partnership for the County of Wicklow

Wicklow County Council recently invited expressions of interest for consideration to the appointment as Chairperson of the new Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs) which will be established in each Local Authority area in line with the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024.

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The Chairperson will be responsible for the leadership of the LCSP and ensuring its effectiveness on all aspects of its role. They will also lead the work of the Local Community Safety Partnership and the Community Safety Coordinator and Administrator.

The new Local Community Safety Partnerships will bring all services and the community together at local authority level, replacing the existing Joint Policing Committees, to serve as a forum for discussion and decisions on community priorities.

Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) gives local people a stronger voice to identify and tackle community safety issues.

The closing date for receipt of expressions of interest was Monday 15th July 2024. Expressions of Interest may be shortlisted, and interviews held where deemed necessary in the coming months.

Launch of LEADER Programme 2023 - 2027

The LEADER programme for 2023 – 2027 was officially launched on at an event held by County Wicklow Partnership in Ballybeg House, Tinahely on Thursday 19th June. The programme is managed by the County Wicklow Partnership for Wicklow LCDC and aims to improve the quality of life and encourage diversification of economic activity in rural areas. It seeks to bring about positive change helping to support and sustain rural areas for the better. It is anticipated that the first funding applications under the new LEADER programme will be considered by the LCDC at their July 2024 meeting.

CLÁR 2024

Almost €9 million in fresh funding has been allocated to community and sports facilities nationwide under the 2024 CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) programme.

The CLÁR programme provides funding for small scale projects in rural areas that have experienced significant levels of population decline.

The programme is divided into three measures, which cover the different initiatives supported by the scheme.

Under **Measure 1** of the 2024 initiative, grants from €5,000 to €50,000 are being provided to support the development of community and sports facilities, youth clubs, playgrounds, sensory gardens, walking tracks and much more.

Measure 2 supports voluntary groups that provide free transport to people receiving cancer care and other treatment as well as Community First Response Support and Search and Rescue organisations.

This year organisations providing a meals on wheels service are eligible to apply.

The measure comes with maximum grants of €50,000 for a car and €100,000 for a bus.

Measure 3 is designed to support offshore island communities, with maximum grants of €120,000 available for community transport projects and up to €50,000 available for amenities projects.

Applications for Measures 1 & 3 closed on 19th June, and Measure 2 on 5th June.

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Measure 1 is administered by Local Authorities in consultation with local communities and applications will only be accepted directly from Local Authorities. Measure 2 and Measure 3 are administered directly by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Areas targeted under the CLÁR Programme are parts of counties: Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Galway, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, and Waterford, Westmeath, Wicklow and all of County Leitrim.

A map of the eligible Wicklow CLÁR areas is available on www.wicklow.ie, along with the scheme guidelines.

Under the 2024 CLAR scheme, Wicklow has submitted 6 applications for projects in Annacurragh, Ballinacor, Askanagap and Knockananna at a cost of €283,742, seeking grant aid of €241,783

Community Awards Scheme 2024

As part of its commitment to supporting local community development, Wicklow County Council operates an annual Community Award Scheme. The fund for 2024 is available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area. There is a maximum grant amount of €500 per organisation for small projects and group running costs. Application assessments have been completed, and applicants have been notified directly. Arrangements are currently being made to pay the successful applicants.

Local Enhancement Programme 2024

The Local Enhancement Programme 2024 was launched in December 2023 by Minister for Rural and Community Development and Minister of State with Responsibility for Community Development and Charities. €176,338.11 was allocated to Wicklow County Council, €29,389.69 of which has been reserved for Women's groups in recognition of the fact that there is a growing number of Women's Sheds, Groups, and Networks across the country. The funding will provide capital supports essential for the many small community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged areas in rural and urban areas.

An Taoiseach Simon Harris announced the successful projects in Co. Wicklow on 21st May 2024, at an Awards Ceremony held in the Tramway Theatre, Blessington. Payments are currently under way to the successful applicants. 173 groups from across the County benefitted under the general scheme, and an additional 27 groups benefitted under the ring-fenced Women's allocation.



County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-27

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

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

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

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

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

The Older People's Council (OPC) meets regularly and at the last meeting in June 2024, the items covered were: Over 70's driving licences, Travel and Health Insurance, Transportation and G.P. Appointments. The next meeting will be held in September 2024.

OPC Executive is planning for wider engagement with older people across the county and recruitment of more members of the OPC this year.

County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance

The County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance meets on a regular basis and at the most recent meeting in June, the following issues were discussed: Health, Transport, Housing and Socialisation. Each member of the Older Persons Council discussed the issues facing their own areas. Visits were carried out to various clubs around the county for example Men's Sheds, Women's Sheds and Active Retirement groups and reports were given on the fantastic work that these clubs are doing.

Age Friendly Ireland Committee

Wicklow Station has been nominated to become the next Age Friendly Station. It is in the Planning Stages. An Oversight Committee is being formed and once this happens a Walkability Study will take place.

Disability Inclusion Steering Group (DISC)

The DISC Committee meets regularly, and the May meeting focussed on the "Make Way Day" Campaign. This Campaign is to make people aware of issues that people with a disability face. For example, parking a car on the footpath where a person in a wheelchair cannot pass by and have to go out on the road to continue their journey.

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Comhairle na nÓg

Invitations to Tender to facilitate Co. Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg 2024 were recently advertised. The deadline for these tenders was Thursday, 6th June 2024.



Healthy Wicklow

Couch to parkrun programme

Under the Active Community project in Rathnew, 15 participants have been taking part in the couch to parkrun programme over the last 7 weeks. This programme has been designed for beginners to gradually build up their running ability so they can eventually run 5km and progress to participating in a parkrun. This group is now scheduled to complete the Avondale parkrun on Saturday 20th July.

Orienteering

Following on from the ready to go orienteering course that teachers from Shillelagh/Carnew/Tinahely N.S. and Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin attended, the Healthy Wicklow funding has now arranged from each of these schools to be mapped for future orienteering courses and programmes. Tomnafinnogue Wood in Tinahely has also been mapped.

Mother and Teen Boxercise Programme

A summer 4-week mother and teen (10 – 15-year-old) Boxercise Programme will commence every Friday on 26th July in St Brigid's Hall Rathnew.

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Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Bray Resource Family Development Project

75,000 of SEED Funding has been granted to the Bray Children's Family Resource Development Project. This project will build a new Children's Wellness Hub where one play therapist and one family case manager will be based to help the children and families in the community. A steering committee is currently being put together to decide the fundamentals of the type of support and services we will be linking in with.

Little Bray Garden

The Bray Family Resource Development Project was granted 47,072 to refurbish and build a new it for purpose garden space which will sit alongside the children's crèche. BRFDP begin the tendering process to start work on their new 'little garden'. This new garden will provide a sensory experience for children who attend the crèche, families of the communities and elderly. Work will begin in the next month once suitable tenders are hired to begin construction and refurbishment.



Local Authority Integration Team

Statistical Data

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	12
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1518
Of which are children	411

WCC LAIT Activity	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	26
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	153

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Total number of sessions with single adults	104
Total number of sessions with families	49
Total number of U18	92

Areas of Support

Primary Issue of Concern	Incidence
Initial Orientation with New Arrivals	108
Medical Card	45
Health	10
Mental Health	8
Adult Education and Training	12
Volunteering	9
Employment	9
Work Permit	7
CHICK numbers for children	13
Accommodation/Housing	14
Additional Needs Payment	7
Daily Expenses Allowance	4
Deportation	1
English Language Classes	1
IPO Card Renewal	1
Legal Support	1
My Gov Id	2
Transport	1
Total	253

Additional Themes	Incidence
Accommodation/Housing	17
Additional Needs Payment	11
Adult Education and Training	47
Dily Expenses Allowance	52
Bank Account Set Up	2
CHICK	19
Driver Theory Test	1
Employment	22
English Language Classes	30
Family Resource Centre Referral	45
Health	20

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IPO Card Renewal	2
Legal	1
Medical Card	128
Recreation	21
Child School Places	39
Volunteering	15
Total	472

Other Activity

- The LAIT will be rolling out themed clinics across July with the specific purpose of supporting parents, particularly those newly arrived in Ireland, to prepare for the new school year starting in September.
- The LAIT is also due to facilitate an info and advice session, delivered by the KWETB, in the Wicklow Library. The target will be adult International Protection Applicants who are keen to access training and education in order to increase future opportunities for employment.

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Community Safety Partnerships: PPN circulated information in relation to seeking an independent Chairperson for the new Community Safety Partnership structure which will be set up in Q3 and Q4 of 2024.

PPN 10-year Anniversary: All 31 PPNs in Ireland highlighted the 10-year anniversary of PPNs at local level throughout the week beginning 16th June including Wicklow who held a very successful event in Festina Lente. The growth, development and impact of PPNs spanning their 10 years was showcased through social media and local press.

Consultations: SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 offshore planning application; County Wicklow Heritage Plan.

PPN Membership: 462 Member groups

See www.countywicklowppn.ie and Wicklow PPN Facebook page for further information on above and more.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

Both SICAP Programmes in Wicklow currently engaging in mid-term review process. All elements of programme to date will be assessed by SICAP Sub-group and LCDC with final approval date of end July.

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Planning, Economic & Rural Development

Planning

Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028

Healthy Place-making, Climate Action and **Economic Opportunity** are the three overarching cross-cutting themes that inform and shape all aspects of the plan. The plan also includes the Core Strategy and the Settlement Strategy for the County. The plan also includes the **Town Plans** for the following settlements: - Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, Ashford, Aughrim, Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely, Avoca, Donard, Newcastle, Roundwood, Shillelagh and Laragh-Glendalough.

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 as altered is available to view here – <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-CountyPlans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Stage-7>

Variation No 2 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Wicklow Town - Rathnew LAP)

We are currently preparing proposed Variation No. 2 to the WCDP 2022-2028. The purpose of the Variation will be to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the Variation and the initial stages of the SEA screening is currently being carried out.

Local Area Plans

There are 5 Local Area Plans in Wicklow for the following settlements – ‘Bray Municipal District’, ‘Wicklow Town - Rathnew’, ‘Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole’, ‘Arklow & Environs’ and ‘Blessington’. We are currently reviewing all five.

Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan

Pre-draft consultation closed for the new Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan closed on 28 September 2023 with 84 submissions received. A well-attended public information day was held on 14 September 2023. All valid submissions have been reviewed and considered and a draft plan is being prepared. Once

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the draft plan is prepared it will go out on public consultation for 6 weeks with submissions invited from everyone. It is hoped that the draft plan will commence display in Q3 2024.

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

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

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

Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan

Pre-draft consultation closed for the new 'Greystones - Delgany' & 'Kilcoole' Local Area Plan closed on 31 January 2024 with 115 submissions received. Two well-attended public information days were held in January 2024. All valid submissions have been reviewed and considered and a draft plan is being prepared. Once the draft plan is prepared it will go out on public consultation for 6 weeks with submissions invited from everyone. It is hoped that the draft plan will commence display in Q3 2024.

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

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

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

Blessington Local Area Plan

The pre-draft public consultation stage of the Local Area Plan process ran from 21 February 2024 to 03 April 2024. An online consultation web portal was created for this stage, with submissions invited through the portal. 128 submissions were received. A well-attended public information day was held on 1 March 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

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

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Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan

The pre-draft public consultation stage of the Local Area Plan ran from 01 March 2024 to 02 April 2024. An online consultation web portal was created for this stage, with submissions invited through the portal. 80 submissions were received. A well-attended public information day was held on 15 March 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

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

Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue)

Work has commenced on the review of the Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan. We are currently preparing an online consultation portal and are aiming to commence the pre-draft consultation in Q3 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

The current LAP for these Bray is available to view here

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

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 draft RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 was published on 01 February 2024. Submissions were invited on the draft maps up to 01 April 2024 with 9 submissions received. Submissions requesting a variation of the zoning of land are invited up to **31 May 2024 and no submissions were received**. Determinations on the 9 submissions were issued by 01 July. Landowners have until 01 August to appeal the decision in the determination. To view the draft RZLT maps click on the link below.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2024>

Vacant Site Levy

This programme is still ongoing and is affected by the proposed deferral of the RZLT. As liability to the RZLT is now proposed to be deferred for one year, it is considered appropriate to maintain provisions in legislation for the management and continued charging of the vacant site levy in respect of land which is

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identified on the register. This will continue to facilitate imminent placements on the register, conclusion of appeals and to facilitate the issuing of demands in relation to the levy for the period to the end of 2024. This will ensure that the use of the levy as an active land management measure will continue until the RZLT is in effect.

More information can be found online at the following link

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

Heritage Office

County Heritage Plan Review:

The process of preparing a new Heritage Plan has commenced and public submissions are advertised and invited via e mail and/or online questionnaire by 30th July. A series of drop in clinics took place in each MD, May-June

County Heritage Plan (CHP):

The Heritage Council have approved a funding allocation of €57,000 for projects under the County Heritage Plan Fund 2024. The following projects have commenced, County Heritage Plan Review, Glendalough Community Archaeology Project and Wicklow Community Archaeology Service.

Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN)

Five new community groups have signed up to the *Our Wicklow Heritage* network and are currently receiving training in setting up their digital archives. Training for Wicklow groups took place 11th and 12th June.

Archaeology:

Community Monuments Fund- CMF 2024. Six projects have been a successful in receiving funding allocations as per project applications prepared by the Heritage Office and submitted to National Monuments Service. All grants accepted and projects are in early stages of commencement.

Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture):

A funding allocation of €101,000 has been received in respect of 16 projects shortlisted for county Wicklow under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS). Additionally, four projects have been successful under

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the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) as follows; Coolattin House €171,000; Clermont House €171,000; Former Post Office, Shillelagh €20,000 and Vernacular house at Rosebank, Avoca €10,000.

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 30 th June 2024	To 30 th June 2023	% difference
Received (Valid)	542	575	-6%

A total of 109 valid applications were received during June as follows:

Type of Development	30 th June 2024 Number Received
Individual Houses	34 (31 Rural)
Housing Developments*	02
Agricultural Structures	02
Commercial	06
Other Developments**	65
Total	109

**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.
Large Housing Development PPR24/254, Tyrrelstown Development Project Ltd, 74 dwellings, Mount Alto, Ashford, Co. Wicklow

Decisions issued in respect of 80 applications in June 2024

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	01
Individual Houses	00
Other Developments	79
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
Total	80

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Decisions issued between January to June, in comparison to the same period for 2023:

	30/06/2023	30/06/2024
Total Number of decisions issued	514	453
Total Number of decisions to grant	422	384
% Grant Rate	82%	85%
No of applications withdrawn		19 (11 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

ABP-313229-22 – Lands at **Coolagad**, Greystones (586 Units) Members Meeting 27/4/2022, CE report forwarded 30/5/2022

ABP-313314-22 – Lands at **Fassaroe and Monastery**, Bray (650 Units) Members Meeting 10/5/2022, CE forwarded 07/06/2022 – ABP unable to determine within the 16 weeks statutory timeframe.

ABP-313442-22 – Lands at the former **Heiton Buckley** site on Castle Street, Bray, (139 Units) Members Meeting 10/05/2022, CE report forwarded 22/06/2022

ABP-314686-22 Lands at **former Bray Golf Club Lands**, Off Ravenswell Road and Dublin Road, Bray, Co. Dublin and Co. Wicklow, (586 Units), Members meeting 4th October 2022, CE report submitted 21/11/2022

Strategic Infrastructure Development

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

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

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

Substitute Consent

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

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for development that consists of a sand/gravel extraction pit including extraction areas, processing areas, stockpiling areas and ancillary works (circa 23.7 hectares). The development also includes a sand/gravel washing/screening plant & buildings comprising workshop/machinery shed, tools storage container, pump – house, 2 no. portable office buildings, 1 no. portable office/canteen/WC, Sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant control cabin, 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, Redcorss, Co. Wicklow.

E-Planning Project

The eplanning has now been in place for just over one year, it went live on 17th April 2023 and for the year up to 16th April 2024, during this time we received a total of 1,437 applications of which 744 were received

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through the new ePlanning portal and 693 were received online, 50.62% in the first year were received online.

For the **month of April 2024**, a total of 102 planning applications were received of which 45.10% were hard copy applications and **54.90% were received online**.

From **1st January 2024 to 30th April 2024** a total of 443 applications were received of which 45.15% were hard copy applications and **54.85% 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 April via the ePlanning 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
- 4 no. Padel Courts, associated lighting and fencing to the front of Carlisle Grounds, Bray
- Construction of stableblock consisting of 4 stables and a tackroom/feedroom in Enniskerry
- 16 no. dwellings at Ashford
- Installation of an aircraft noise monitoring terminal in Bray

Planning Enforcement

New Files	7
Advisory Letters	13
Warning Letters	4
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	0
Closed	6

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Short Term Letting – 01/06/2024 – 30/06/2024

Applications received for Registration in June 2024	2
Complaints received in June 2024	0
Warning Letters issued in June 2024	0
Enforcement Notices issued in June 2024	0
Legal proceedings in June 2024	
Files under investigation as of 30/06/2024	69

Vacant Sites

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

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

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

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Economic and Rural Development

Town Regeneration

Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington is a pathfinder town and is the first to receive funding for a Town Centre First Masterplan. The masterplan will provide Blessington with a clear framework to positively develop the town now and into the future. The implementation of the TCF plan is at the planning stage. RRDF funding will fund the redesign of the Main Street and Market Square and bring those projects to a shovel ready stage where they can be submitted for funding for Category 1 RRDF.

Newtownmountkennedy has been announced under Phase 2 as one of the next 26 towns approved to develop Town Centre First Plans. Funding support of €30,000.00 will be given to the project.

Funding Schemes

Town Centre First – Suite of Supports

Newtownmountkennedy have recently been approved for funding of €30,000.00 under **Town Centre First Measure 2** Suite of Supports. This Town Centre First Plan must be completed and reports submitted to the Department by 5th September 2025.

Baltinglass, Rathdrum and Kilcoole have been selected for funding of €10,000.00 for each of these towns under the **Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1**. This funding can be used to establish town teams where they are already not established or at an early stage of development. All projects under this measure must be completed by 15/11/2024.

The Town Centre First Measure 3 Application closed on the 8th April. Two applications have been submitted for this Project funding,

1. Blessington - measures to include enhancement to the Square with tree planting and rain garden, spaces for dining and fixed seating.
2. Wicklow town – Further enhancement at the Black Castle area to encourage more tourism and attractions for locals with installation of picnic tables, seating and a sculpture park.

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Thrive

Under the new Thrive – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme Strand 1, two applications were submitted on the 5th April for Bray and Wicklow Town/Rathnew. Unfortunately these applications were not approved.

The Town Centre First Heritage Revival Strand 2 for Bray Courthouse and Heritage Centre application was submitted to Thrive on the 3rd May.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow Co Council has been awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023. The Projects selected were:

- Kirikee, Glenmalure for work on their Community Centre to include renovation of the roof, windows ceilings and walls;
- Lacken to renovate the old school house to be used as a community centre to include café and community shop and a small heritage section; and
- Wicklow Towns, Murrough BMX pump track to develop into a best-in-class asphalt covered pump track for all ages and abilities.

Town Teams

We currently have four Town Teams, Arklow, Wicklow, Greystones and Blessington. Discussions are continuing on the future establishment of a Bray Town Team.

The teams work closely with the Town Regeneration office, attending meetings and giving information on funding and grants available to Town Teams

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

Steering Group for the Progression of URDF and RRDF Projects

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

These groups continue to meet fortnightly.

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

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

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

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

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

Another property has been identified in Arklow and we are now awaiting approval from the department to start the process of acquiring this property.

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

Tourism

Wicklow County Council Tourism Office continues to promote County Wicklow as a destination not only to domestic visitors but also on the international market using a range of tools and activities. See below some of the actions that were delivered during June and upcoming events for August:

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Taylor Swift's Pebble PR Campaign:

Taylor Swift's concert was a great opportunity to showcase Wicklow's Coastline through a dedicated campaign celebrating the 'Wicklow Pebble' which Taylor picked up while visiting Wicklow. TY students from Loreto Bray created a frame with pebbles as a present to Taylor. A photoshoot was organised on Bray Seafront. The story was widely picked up on national media including printed and online press and several radio and TV interviews were organised.

The campaign heavily referenced the Wicklow Passport.

Read the story at <https://visitwicklow.ie/wicklow-pebble-present-for-taylor-swift/>

July/August Campaign - Focus on Wicklow Passport, South and West Wicklow:

Focus remains on the Wicklow Passport and staycations. Over the two summer months, focus is given to the South Wicklow and the West Wicklow Passport itineraries, with dedicated videos and images created for online promotion. Plans also include attracting influencers to experience the Wicklow Passport.

Learn about the two itineraries at <https://visitwicklow.ie/top-experiences-in-west-wicklow/> and <https://visitwicklow.ie/top-experiences-south-wicklow/>

Wicklow Coast Blueway

A new section on the visitwicklow.ie website was created offering information on the 2024 Blueway activity timetable, Blueway Places in Wicklow, and activity providers and clubs. County Wicklow coast has great places to take part in outdoor recreation on the sea and beside the sea. Wicklow County Council has developed additional infrastructure to support sea-based clubs and commercial providers. Bray, Greystones, Kilcoole, Wicklow Town, Brittas Bay and Arklow are currently being considered for the highly sought after Blueway accreditation. More info at [Wicklow BlueWay - Wicklow County Tourism \(visitwicklow.ie\)](#)

Road Cycling Central Wicklow Routes

Five cycling routes have been designed which bring cyclists through the Wicklow Mountains, ranging from 15km to 60km. The challenging routes are rewarded with some of Wicklow's most scenic locations including Clara Vale, Glendalough, Roundwood, Glenmalure Valley and more. See the routes at <https://visitwicklow.ie/road-cycling-routes-in-central-wicklow/>

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Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

Work continues on the Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns project at Abbey Grounds. Following procurement, the contractor for the Coach House has commenced work on the building. The other elements of the project, including the amphitheatre and landscaping will run parallel.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

Following from the launch of the Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan, work has begun on the implementation of the Plan. A Steering Group has been established, which is chaired by the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council.

A Working Group comprising representatives from all stakeholders has also been formed and has commenced work on short term actions for 2024, along with longer term actions. As community consultation and participation is a central tenet of the masterplan, a Local Advisory Group has been established to keep the local community informed and ensure their input to the process.

Improvements to traffic management and the additional car parking spaces provided with kind permission of the Brockagh Resource Centre and Laragh GAA have been welcomed by both visitors and locals alike. Directional signage has been erected to ensure an easier flow of traffic and this is supplemented by a dedicated social media campaign advising visitors where to access car parks.

Special Projects

Greystones Enterprise Hub: Work has begun for the fit-out of the hub. It is expected to be ready for launch in the 3rd quarter.

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

Carnew Remote Working Hub: A preliminary design is due in July with a final design agreement expected in mid-August. Where Part VIII planning permission is required, an application will be made before the end of the year.

Marketing Plan: MarketingCoach are working on promotional materials for the Marketing Plan for County Wicklow, highlighting the availability of Remote Working Hubs and Broadband Connection Points under the campaign idea "Choose Wicklow".

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Offshore Renewable Energy

The Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Network continues to meet regularly and engage with the offshore renewable energy companies who are developing proposals off the coast of County Wicklow. A plan for 2024 based around three work-streams (skills, ports/harbours, and supply chain) has been agreed.

Skills Strategy

The Skills Strategy for County Wicklow was presented to the members at their meeting on the 1st July. The Skills Taskforce will now begin implementation of the actions contained within the Skills Strategy.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow Naturally:

Wicklow Naturally held its first networking event of 2024 on Tuesday the 9th of July. The event was hosted by O'Hanlon Herbs in Glenealy and was attended by more than 30 participants. The event included a visit of the herb factory and updates from the coordinators on Wicklow Naturally activities.

Preparatory work for Destination Wicklow, a project focusing on telling the story of Wicklow Naturally members and their products is underway. Wicklow Naturally has engaged a Content Creator to shoot short videos and photos of the various producers and other members of the network. The content will be widely used on social media to promote Wicklow Naturally members and their products.

Wicklow Naturally will host a demo kitchen at the Tinahely Show in the Best of Wicklow marquee with celebrity chef and Wicklow Naturally Ambassador Catherine Fulvio as the main guest.

Plans are well underway for an exciting October Feast 2024 festival.

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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
	2023	2024	2024
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 28/ € 672,873 4/ € 6,541	42 Combined	13 €357,202 5 €12,500
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
	2023	2024	2024
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	40	60	26
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73 / 7 programmes	120	76
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	757	1020	540
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	30	20	15
METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
Number of new clients added to database.	581	500	272

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*Criteria have been amended for this metric			
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	528	390	304

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021/2023	2023/2024	Year to Date 23-24
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1028	1100	1358

METRICS: Client Transfers to Enterprise Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of transfers	2023	2024	Year to Date 2024
Number of transfers	5	5	3

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2023	2024	Year to Date 2024
Trading Online Vouchers	81	38 (meet demand)	36

Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	15	12
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	5	17	13
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	1	6	4
Energy Efficiency Grant	-	12	1
Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024

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No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	6	11	5
New Exporters	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	3	-

June 2024 Events:

- Doing Business Better Breakfast event, 27th June. 60+ Wicklow based companies attended our event in Clermont House to learn about our Lean, Green, and Digital productivity and competitiveness supports.
- LEO BA attended the Network Ireland Wicklow Awards that took place on Thursday 13th June in Tinakilly House.
- A Meeting took place with the regional team in IDA to tour Clermont Screen hub, discuss FDI needs and actions contained in the Mid East Regional Enterprise plan in the areas of Screen, Offshore Renewable Energy and Food sectors.

July 2024 Activities:

- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out several times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Business Advice Clinics continue to run 3 days per week to provide advice to those individuals hoping to start a business and to assist existing businesses grow and develop.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The training programme for Autumn/Winter 2024 is open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow.

Training completed in June includes:

- Guide to Successful Procurement through eTenders
- Selling Online-Setting up an Online Shop
- Taking Control of Your Business Cash
- Prepare your Business for Customs
- Price it Right: Navigating Costing & Pricing for SMEs

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Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

Climate Action

Climate Action Officer Update:

- Community Gardening Expression of interest received 39 to date with a good geographical spread with Wicklow Town with highest demand.
- Currently investigating Available Sites.

Biodiversity Officer Update

- Biodiversity Forum and Working Group to be established as part of development of WCC Biodiversity Plan Review. To include members of SPC, NPWC, An Taisce, Acres etc.
- Council Staff: Biodiversity Officer, Heritage Officer and Climate Action Coordinator.
- Public Engagement with a discussion paper with meetings to invite submissions on WCC Biodiversity Plan Review.
- Brittas Bay Behind the Beach various programme events taking place from July to November.

Community Climate Action Programme

- Funding of €646,000 allocated to Wicklow.
- 20 applications submitted to the department broken down as follows:
- Approval Letter expected in the week commencing 08th July.

Project Scale	Wicklow	Baltinglass	Greystones	Bray	Arklow
Large	2	1	1	0	1
Medium	3	2	1	1	2
Small	1	3	1	0	1

Environmental Awareness

- Gum litter Event held in Greystones 04th July
- 6 Toy swap shops took place in Libraries in collaboration with Rediscovery centre and Wicklow Library Service.
- Audio Devices funded to reduce litter and dog fouling
- Tidy Towns & Sustainable Development Awards 2024 applications opened

Climate Adaptation:

Coastal Erosion

1. The ECRIPP consultant engineers are reviewing their concept designs based on feedback received from Wicklow County Council.
2. Malachy Walsh and Partners have been engaged in relation to Brittas Bay and Ennereilly and have commenced a condition survey.
3. RPS Ltd have been appointed for the Seabank to Kilmichael Point coastal erosion management risk study.
4. Greystones North Beach (Funding submitted to OPW, Area may be covered by ECRIPP)

Climate Mitigation:

E-Bike Shared Mobility Scheme

- Expression of interest for Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow issued and two submissions received. Bolt and Moby have expressed an interest.
- An evaluation will take place on the submissions received.
- Additionally Civil works for bike spaces will be required.

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Climate Networking

- Bioeconomy Forum member (Two LA's represented Tipperary (Enterprise) and Wicklow (Climate Team)).
- SDG Forum
- Biodiversity Officers Network
- Community Climate Actions Officers network
- LA Climate Action Forum
- Revised Climate Action Charter Workshop
- Rainwater Management Plan template workshop

Wicklow County SEC's

- Wicklow Town SEC held a successful Energy Awareness Day on the 24th June. This event was sponsored by The Climate Action Team of Wicklow County Council.
- The Arklow SEC completed an insulation meithal, with 11 dwellings signed up to undertake an assessment to have attic and cavity wall insulation installed in their homes.
- Carnew Community Care Energy Master Plan is now completed

Other Climate Actions:

- **Climate Action Committee** established (Two DOS with Grade 8's or equivalent meeting "quarterly" prior to CABA SPC's)
- **Climate Action Delivery Team** to be established by Climate Action Committee (Grade 7's meeting "quarterly" prior to Climate Action Committee meetings)
- **Rainwater Management Plan drafted** for area in Redford Park, Active Travel Scheme taking place at local schools
- **Wicklow SuDS Policy Draft Complete** with feedback received previously from Planning and Municipal Districts
- **Arklow and Greystones NORRI Project** – Climate Action Team currently liaising with DLR in relation to their pilot project, Discussions of a NORRI pilot project to take place at Greystones Harbour.

Harbours and Ports

Wicklow Harbour

- Bed-levelling in Wicklow Port in has now been completed. This ensures appropriate depths are available for shipping for the next 2 years while the council awaits a licence for a full maintenance dredging of the harbour.
- The floating pontoon and platform were put in place at the end of May and will remain for the bathing season.
- The restoration of the East Pier Lighthouse has now been fully completed after it was sandblasted back to its original stonework then painted and coated in a special treatment to protect the structure from the harsh marine environment.

Harbours CCTV and security

A review of CCTV and access control is underway in both Wicklow and Arklow harbour to improve security of the International Ship and Port Security Area as well as security for individual vessels berthed in the harbours.

Arklow Harbour

Works continue on the completion of the 14 Fishers storage huts in Arklow. These will be advertised by way of request for expressions of interest.

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Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-24	7	5	2	9	7	2
Feb-24	6	5	1	7	5	2
Mar-24	8	7	1	9	7	2
Apr-24	10	9	1	11	9	2
May-24	8	8	0	8	6	2
June-24	8	6	2	10	6	4

Litter/Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created	114
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	134
No of Litter Fines Issued	4
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	4
No. of Warning Letters Issued	1
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	9
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	3
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	16
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	5
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	6
Income - Litter	€510.00
Income- Waste Management	€7,450.00

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

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

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- 1 Noise pollution complaints closed.
- 1 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Air pollution complaints closed.

Private Water Supplies

- 1 Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for 117 Regulated Private Water Supplies prepared.
- 9 Private Water Supplies Monitored.
- 6 Private Water Supplies were compliant with drinking water parametric limit values.
- 3 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with microbiological parametric limit values.
- 0 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with pH parametric limit values.
- 1 Boil Water Restrictions placed on Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice due to microbial failures.
- 1 Boil Water Restrictions lifted from Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice after remedial action and compliant sample results.
- 0 Do Not Consume Restrictions placed on Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice due to chemical failures.

Bathing Waters

- Excellent: Identified bathing waters:
 - Bray South, Greystones South, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South, Silver strand, and Clogga.
- Highest quality: Other monitored waters:
 - Greystones Cove, Kilcoole, Murrough, South of Bray The Cove Arklow and Wicklow Harbour Bathing Area Harbour

The public are invited to give their opinions on bathing waters in popular use that they would like to see designated (regulated) as official bathing waters in the 2025 season.

A precautionary advice against bathing was issued on 13/06/24 and lifted on 16/06/24 for South of Bray Harbour and Bray South Promenade due to stormwater overflow from Bray Sewage Pumping Station Uisce Eireann

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

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

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 2 Catchment engagement activities was undertaken
- 1 Catchment assessment carried to assess risk and impact.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared
- 3 septic tank engagement activities were undertaken
- 2 Inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems were carried out.
- 2 domestic wastewater treatment systems were found compliant.
- 1 domestic wastewater treatment systems were found non-compliant.
- 2 inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems and were found compliant with advisory notices.

Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

- 5 Inspections of farm carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.

Well Grants

- 9 New Water Grant application received

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- 2 New Well granted
- 12 New Pumps granted
- 18 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 18 inspections in advance/completion of works

Petrol Vapour Recovery

- 1 Petrol filling station Stage 1b Installation (Petrol Delivery) assessed.

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 4 Paint Retailer inspected.
- 1 Vehicle refinisher installation inspected.
- 1 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installation issued compliance certificate

Solid Fuel Regulations

- 2 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

- 3 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.
- 7 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed non-compliant and licensees were requested to take corrective action.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

Planning & Development

- 1 environmental report on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
- 2 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
- 2 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.
- 1 environmental report on compliance with planning permission conditions were completed.

Control of Dogs

For the month of June 539 dog licences were purchased, with 268, or approximately 50% purchased on line. Dog wardens are weekly carrying out inspections in localities in County Wicklow. For the month of June 2023 there were 306 dog licences purchased. There has been a 57% increase in licences purchased on the same month last year.

Blue Flags & Green Coast Awards

The Blue Flag and Green Flag seasons kicked off on 1st June and runs until 15th September. The three beaches in County Wicklow awarded the Blue Flag are: Brittas Bay North & South and Greystones South. After an absence of 4 years Arklow South Beach regained the Green Coast Award. An Taisce will monitor the beaches for compliance with Blue Flag criteria.

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Projects Office

Whitestown Remediation Project

The draft remediation plan has been presented to the court and has been approved in part. Tender Documents for the Outlets for Material excavated from the site and also for the main contractor are presently being prepared.

Avoca Mines Remediation Project

The Council is working in Partnership with DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project. Currently, this work primarily involves making the mines sites safe, by replacing fencing and making safe access to locations that require sampling and monitoring. The contract has been awarded to complete the fencing around Cronebane and Tigroney sections of the Mines. Monitoring and repair works to existing fencing continues.



Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Planning Application and CPO has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender stage of the project. Site Investigation and Archaeological Investigations will be carried out in 2024.

Wicklow Arts Office

Cruinniú na nÓg

On Saturday 15th June, just over 2,000 children and young people from all over County Wicklow participated in our 12 townland hubs, including those from coastal areas to the mountains and rural villages, enjoying a day of free creative activity as part of Cruinniú na nÓg .

An initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme, it was developed and delivered by Wicklow County Council's Arts Office in partnership with many local arts and community organisations. A wide range of artforms were represented with workshops themed around dance, movie making, costuming for film and television, music performances, composition, illustration, nature art, environmentally themed art and much more.

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Highlights for the day included the performances by new communities as part of the Baltinglass Festival Programme in the Community Garden, with children from Ukraine performing in Flowers for Ukraine, children of various nationalities from Kippure Lodge performing, and children drumming from Slaney Court in the town of Baltinglass.

Also featured were the Irish Dancers from Gohery School of Irish Dancing and workshops from ten local professional artists on the day, who worked providing workshops to the hundreds of young people who took part.

In Rathdrum, children from third class in the three primary schools of St. Saviours National School, Rathdrum Boys National School and Our Lady's Girls National School showcased their work 'Beyond the Trees' in a premiere performance of a climate themed work which they composed with Music Generation Wicklow and composer Tom Lane and visual artist Louise Shearer.

In Greystones at Tiglin Coolnagreina, children and young people of Ukraine worked with Rhyme Island to create their own unique rap and concert performance.

Several workshops took place across the county in Library Service branches; the Courthouse Arts Centre and Mermaid Arts Centre had paper play and the Beatles Hits for kids, with stellar performances also by children and young people in Arklow, supported by Arklow Music and Arts.

The budget was 30,000.00 and was funded by Creative Ireland.

Film Awards

Launched by Laura Whitmore from Bray earlier in April 2024, the new Film Award Scheme an initiative of Wicklow County Arts Office and Wicklow Screen Office of Wicklow County Council and supported by Clermont Screen Hub received x applications. Shortlisting was held at Ardmore Studios overseen by independent consultant Brian O'Regan of Arts Leaders and panellists Jade of the National Talent Academy and Dave of x. x number of these applicants were called to a pitching interview which took place in Clermont Wicklow County Campus on May 31st. The panel were supported on this occasion by Arts Officer Jenny Sherwin and Screen Officer John Powderly. Following rigorous deliberation, two short films and their creative teams were selected. There will as intended therefore be two awards of 15,000.00 made available to these applicants. The formal internal process is currently underway and once that is complete, with all applicants informed of the outcome, the announcement will be made public.

Sing in Wicklow Awards

The Sing in Wicklow Award supports collective singing across County Wicklow. Specifically created to advance the professional development of choirs, singing groups, and musical directors, the scheme aims to extend valuable opportunities for community participation in choral singing.

The Sing in Wicklow Award forms part of a wider set of actions created by Wicklow County Council and funded by Creative Ireland to support the existing community choral infrastructure and enhance participation levels under the Creative Wicklow Strategy 2023 – 2027.

A callout for applications was circulated on 16th April 2024 with a deadline for receipt of applications 10th May 2024. A total of fourteen applications were received.

The applications were assessed by independent consultant Katherine Zeserson and supported in a non-scoring capacity by Jenny Sherwin, Arts Officer.

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The following ten applications were selected:

Recipient	Award €
Unity Gospel Choir	€1000
Voices of Bray Community Choir	€1,000
Dara MacMahon	€1,000
Purple House Cancer Support	€1,000
Serendipity Chorus Bray	€1,000
Patrice Brady	€750
TOTAL	€5,750

Kalaidoscope Stage

The Arts Office has supported a number of initiatives which will take to the stage for Kalaidoscope.

These are all supported through our funding arrangement with Music Generation Wicklow. Our joint project – the Kippure Lodge Community Choir a young people's project are just one of a number of the groups who will take to the stage each night of the Festival between 5pm and 8pm.

West Wicklow Festival

West Wicklow Festival presented a bumper line up of classical music performances in Russborough House and Blessington. Another Arts Office Strategic youth project was part of the WWF with Peter and the Wolf performances for 220 children and families with craft outreach workshops taking place within it. WCC also fund WWF through our annual Arts Festival Awards. This is the biggest arts festival in West Wicklow.

Dunlavin Festival of Arts

Dunlavin Arts Festival is a valuable community led arts festival event held in Dunlavin. 2024 marked the 40th year of the Festival, a significant milestone for the Festival and possibly the longest running arts festival not only in West Wicklow but all of County Wicklow. The Festival was funded through the Arts Festival Scheme but also a purchase of an Artwork by Trevor Geoghan, a recently deceased County Wicklow professional artist was bought as part of the WCC Art Collection to support the 40th year of the Festival.

Strategic Project Award Scheme

The Strategic Project Award Scheme is eligible for application by independent artist or collaborating artists. This annual Scheme will open slightly later for application this year due to resources, in July. Each year approximately 100,000.00 is awarded to 8 or 9 applicants to deliver high quality developmental initiatives which support the implementation of the Council's Arts Strategy.

Culture Night

Culture Night this year is on Friday September 20th, 2024. This National Initiative has been presented in Wicklow for 14 years now and is well developed. Thousands of people access the Arts Office programme throughout the county on this night each year and all for free. Preparation has begun for the presentation of the 2024 programme in June and will continue up until September.

Creative Places Baltinglass

Rathcoran Residency 22nd June:

The 'Community Planting & Street Feast Festival Day' at Rathcoran housing estate took place on 25th May the final day of this residency will be a community day on June 22nd. Artist and permaculture expert Suzie Cahn lead a community

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planting and participatory workshops. The community residents enjoyed participating in the events laid on and brought along dishes native to their countries of origin to share with others.

Baltinglass Sings Community Choir 21st June:

Final Year Creative Places Baltinglass:

The final year of the Creative Places Baltinglass 3 year programme was awarded on June 19th. Further to the application made by the Arts Office, WCC will receive the maximum award of 150,000.00 under the Scheme.

Creative Places Arts Council National Review Meeting Baltinglass

On June 27th Amanda Boiling an associate consultant working for the Arts Council will visit Baltinglass as part of their national evaluative process. Amanda will meet with four different groups of stakeholders, artists, residents and the steering group. This is to inform the learning on the National Creative Places Programme with a view to gathering the learnings of Baltinglass to contribute to the data profile. It is likely that there is continuation funding for Creative Places Baltinglass and other Creative Places Programmes which will be influenced by this evaluative process.

Irish Writers Centre Words Ireland National Literature Mentorship Scheme Writing mentorship Awards for Wicklow

There were two recipients of the Words Ireland IWC National Literature Mentorship Scheme supported by Wicklow County Council in 2024. The successful applicants were Ali McGuire and Ben McGuire.

Ali McGuire writes fiction, poetry, and essays centred on what it means to be human, particularly a woman. She was a 2024 IWC Novel Fair finalist, has been featured in The Independent's New Irish Writing, and made the Fish Short Story and Poetry longlists in 2023. She holds a first-class master's in creative writing from DCU. Ali lives way down in South County Wicklow with kids, dogs, and a very patient husband.

Ben McGuire won the Coast to Coast-to-Coast Journal Prize in 2023, and the resulting pamphlet, published in Liverpool, is *Luke the World: Elegies for a Brother*. Poems of his have appeared in *Poetry Ireland Review*, *Stand* and *The Irish Times*, and been commended in the Troubadour Prize. He lives in Bray.

The value of the mentorship is €1,500.00 for each writer.

OPSS Greystones

Site surveys and Part VIII preparation are underway and almost concluded for the Outdoor Spaces Scheme in Greystones County Wicklow.

Wicklow County Library Service

General Update

Number of visits to Wicklow's Public Libraries – January- June	304,396
Number of physical items borrowed January-June	222,053

Summer is a very busy time in our libraries with many extra events organised and a general feel of holiday in the air, in this report you will get just a flavour of activities and events – please keep an eye on our social media pages for further updates. <https://www.facebook.com/WicklowLibraries>

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Library of Sanctuary Award Announcement

Wicklow County Council Library Service has very recently been recognised as a Library of Sanctuary, acknowledging its efforts to create safe and welcoming spaces for all, especially for those seeking sanctuary. At the ceremony, Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy, in her final role as Cathaoirleach, praised the library staff's dedication. Chief Executive Emer O'Gorman and Director of Services Theresa O'Brien echoed this sentiment, highlighting the library's role as a community hub. This recognition underscores the library's commitment to inclusivity and community support.



Dormant Accounts Funding

Wicklow Library Service has been successful in securing €13,494.57 from the Dormant Accounts Fund to support the provision of assistive technologies and furniture to help people with disabilities and other marginalised groups to access library services.

The assistive technology and furniture supported by this funding will make our public library service more accessible to everyone in our communities. This equipment will support the visually impaired communities, our elderly people, marginalised groups, and those with physical disabilities. This equipment will help to create a more welcoming, accessible and engaging library experience for our patrons.



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We have recently received our Age Friendly trolleys. The trolleys have been dispatched to library branches throughout the county. Other items to follow include visually impaired keyboards, track ball mice, ergonomic height adjustable desks and ergonomic height adjustable chairs.

Book Sale – Ballywaltrim Library

The recent book sale was a remarkable success, showcasing the incredible community spirit and generosity of our patrons. Many visitors even declined their change, choosing to further support our cause. We are delighted to announce that we raised €950, which has been donated to the local Women's Refuge. This contribution will make a significant difference, and we deeply appreciate everyone's support and participation.



Summer Stars Update



Our Summer Stars Reading initiative kicked off in all library branches in June and is now well under way, with 3063 children currently signed up to the programme. Summer Stars is an annual reading initiative for children aged 0 and upwards. The idea behind this national programme is to encourage reading as a fun way to pass some time during the summer months and keep up their reading progress. Participation in the Summer Stars Programme is completely free. It's not too late to participate; the initiative will run until the 31st August. Children can visit their local library to pick up a Summer Stars reading card and track their progress. Our library branches across the county have been busy hosting a variety of engaging Summer Stars events over the past few weeks including draws for prizes so keep those cards coming in!

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The prizes are flying out the door at Wicklow Library, pictured here are just two boys who managed to scoop themselves some vouchers for a pizza treat! The other pic is of a Greystones reader who is very invested in her Summer Stars reading.

As the saying goes, "if you're not in it, you can't go in it" and there's plenty of time to sign up before you go back to school.



Little Library Bag Initiative for Incoming Junior Infants, September 2024



Wicklow County Council Library Service is delighted to again be in a position to distribute a free book on the topic of starting school to incoming Junior Infants during the next few months. The idea here is to encourage parents to bring their child who is due to start school to the library to pick up their book bag and new library card and spark a love of reading and the library. Our Library staff are looking forward to welcoming new Junior Infants in the coming weeks.

English Language Conversation Group in Dunlavin Library

The English Language Conversation Group at Dunlavin Library has been a resounding success, bringing together attendees from Palestine, Congo, Pakistan, Madagascar, Poland, and Ukraine. United by a shared interest in learning English, participants grasp every opportunity to practice speaking English. The enthusiastic response from volunteers to our call for support has been heart-warming, showcasing their dedication to helping newcomers navigate life in Ireland. Beyond language learning, the group fosters social connections, creating a vibrant, supportive community.

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Arklow Library

Plan It Play is all about sustainability with children making use of old or not used toys and turning them into something else! Arklow's session was a great success recently and two sessions were well booked and attended, and all the children and parents seemed to have a great time.



Arklow had a wonderful Teddy Sleepover recently, the teddy owners came along for a storytime and entrusted the library staff to mind them overnight! All had great fun and those incorrigible teddies manage to get in to the Arklow MD and treat themselves to breakfast.



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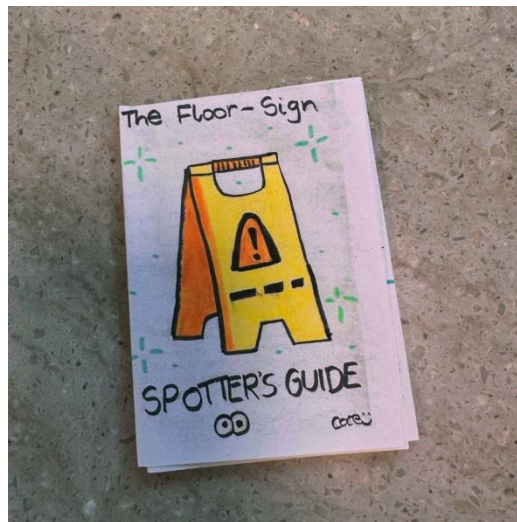
Bray Library

Festina Lente will facilitate a seed saving workshop on Wednesday 21st August at 11am.

Bray Library has a fantastic Teen Comic Club and they have been ruling roost for quite some time. They're a fantastic bunch and very creative and they want to spread their joy and creativity to everyone in Bray.

Each week, their newly minted Zines (mini comic books) will be available at the desk.

This is just one from the pile! Drop in to the library to check out the others – they are very entertaining!



Wicklow Library

Children at Wicklow Town Library were treated to a very special Storytime with Community Garda Niall on Saturday morning.

You'll be delighted to hear that there was no breach to peace and all parents were very well behaved! A fantastic family fun morning and a lovely opportunity for the Garda to meet children and tell them all about the role and great craic.



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Greystones Library

One of our July Wednesdays was a beautiful day for Toddler Storytime in Greystones - so lovely in fact, that the session was held in Barnaby Park to the delight of all. A win-win for all, dogowners, vitamin D, plenty of buggy parking and literacy combined!



Archives & Genealogy Service

Archives special projects

The Archives Service have been granted funding under the Heritage Council's Heritage Stewardship grants scheme 2024. The project is on the Tate Charity Trust collection (1787-1990): To produce a descriptive catalogue, exhibition and online resources. In 1787 John Tate of Glenmalure bequeathed his lands of 895 acres to the parishioners of Rathdrum. Tate vested the property into the hands of five named Trustees and they along with their successors administered the Charity known as John Tate's Charity, with the capital gained from this estate down through the years of its existence up to the present day. This project will enable us to make accessible to researchers this incredible collection both through a descriptive list and also through interpretation in terms of the exhibition and articles, promoting to as wide an audience as possible. The descriptive list is now complete, and details of the exhibition and online resources will follow shortly.

Irish Community Archives Network – Our Wicklow Heritage

[Our Wicklow Heritage](#) online community archives network is Wicklow County Council's partnership project with the National Museum of Ireland and the Heritage Council. The Wicklow network is administered through a collaboration between the Heritage, Archives and Local Studies services of Wicklow County Council. The network is expanding with new Wicklow community groups coming on board from Blessington, Roundwood, Wicklow and Tinahely. The new groups are receiving training from the National Museum, including content writing for the web, copyright and social media. The new sites are due to be launched in the Autumn, bringing the total number of groups on the Wicklow ICAN network to ten, as well as the county site, which is managed by the Heritage, Local Studies and Archives services of Wicklow County Council.

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Outdoor Recreation

Wicklow Coast Blueway

The Wicklow Coast Blueway project is moving towards the second stage of the accreditation process with the current accreditation mainly reliant on provider-based activities. Blueway promotion, links and signage being developed. Project completion due in March 2025, with works at various stages of completion on the selected Blueway Nodes:

Greystones – Accessible boardwalk installed at South Beach. Works completed.

Brittas Bay – Accessible toilet, upgraded toilets, new larger water tank and new outdoor shower facilities. Car parking painting and tidy up. Works completed.

Wicklow Town – New outdoor showers, upgraded toilet facilities and path upgrading at Harbour area. Works commenced in June and are in progress.

Arklow – New boardwalk at South Beach, works commenced in June. Licence Agreement being finalised with Roadstone, landowner, with new facility works at the Cove to commence after the summer season.

Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee (WORC) – NPWS current host

The next meeting will be held on the 18th of July 2024 via zoom.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

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

The table below is a list of current projects funded under ORIS which are now being progressed:

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Date for Completion
OR121WW04	<i>Avonmore Kayak Project</i>	Railings are being fitted at Rathdrum bridge and storm damage repair works were carried out at the Meetings of The Waters in Avoca.	Completed in May 2024
OR122WW02	<i>Ballyboy Equestrian Trail</i>	Looped equestrian trail around Ballyboy forest	Completed in May 2024
OR221WW02	<i>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</i>	The TIDES Project team are providing support to Greystones MD with the preparation of CPO maps for the Cliff Walk realignment. Further documentation is required, and these are also currently being prepared, an options report and an AA/EIA screening report. A topographical survey is also needed to facilitate the options report as the existing ground levels and gradients are a significant factor in choosing the preferred route.	Extension requested to DRCD, awaiting confirmation
ORIS 2021-M2 OR221WW01	<i>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</i>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Alter structure of tender to include specifics around access, materials and any other areas. Tender in progress. Extension granted to August 2024.	In progress
ORIS 2021-M3 OR321WW01	<i>The Sugar Loaf Repair 2021 Scheme</i>	Part VIII submitted to CE and presented to the members of Bray MD in April. Works to be carried out at 3 different stages along the mountain.	In progress. Extension to Oct'24

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		Request for Tender is in progress. Contractor's work estimated to take 6 months once approved.	
ORIS 2022 M1 OR122WW05	<i>Red Kite Loop (Avoca) Play Area</i>	Ground works completed around Play Area. Equipment to be designed and installed by local contractor during June.	Completion due June'24
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW01	<i>Blessington Greenway Russborough Parklands & House Trail</i>	Enhancement of trails in Russborough Parklands/cycle hub. Tender process completed. Contractor works commenced in June and due to finish in early July.	Completion due July'24
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW02	<i>Glenmalure Community Riverside Walk & Recreation Area</i>	Upgrade of existing trail. Tender completed. Contractor works commenced in June.	Completion due July'24
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW03	<i>Coolkenno Equestrian Trail</i>	Construction of equestrian trail and associated access. Planning process in place. Liaising with landowners for Licence Agreement.	In progress. Extension to Dec'24
ORIS 2022 M3 OR322WW01	<i>Roundwood Recreation Area</i>	Works commenced in mid-June: Groundworks and extension of existing car park. Fencing works around designated area.	In progress

ORIS - Project Development Measure (PDM) 2023

Funding of for €45,000 per project was awarded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to two Project Development Measures in Wicklow.

Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan

Feasibility study in progress, provided by Go Wild Ltd Consultants. Project completion due December 2024.

Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan

This project development measure will set the requirements for the Measure 3 project to be funded and expected to be completed in 5 phases in 2025. Tender and environmental consultation being completed.

2023 ORIS Projects

6 Measure 1 projects were approved for Wicklow County Council to implement around the County. These projects will commence in quarter 2 of 2024 with total funding of € 174,780 awarded.

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Wicklow County Council	Hollywood natural play	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest	€29,700
Wicklow County Council	Wicklow Way Resurface	Construction of a 200m route and resurfacing at Wicklow way	€29,700
Wicklow County Council	Knockree Bridge	Replacement of Knockree bridge with bike traffic blockades	€29,700
Wicklow County Council	Stranhely	Repair and Drainage works of two bridges at Stranhely	€29,700
Wicklow County Council	Three Wells and Cushbawn	Enhancement and resurfacing works	€29,700
Wicklow County Council	Wicklow Uplands Way to Sugarloaf Way re-branding	Re-branding of the full route to "The Sugarloaf Way".	€26,280

ORIS funding for Measures 2 and 3 projects announced

On the 6th of June 2024, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced a €16.1 million investment in outdoor recreation projects right across the country. This funding will be invested in 69 larger scale outdoor recreation projects nationwide.

These projects under Measures 2 and 3 are to receive funding of up to €200,000 and €500,000 respectively and will be delivered by July 2026.

3 of those Measure 2 projects have been approved for funding for County Wicklow with a total budget of €594,000 to implement around the County:

Wicklow County Council	Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure	Installation of enhanced car parking at Baravore and repair to trial surfaces in the vicinity of the car park.	€198,000
Wicklow County Council	Three Trouts Bridge, Delgany	Provision of a bridge across the Three Trout's Stream to lengthen the current route by joining two sections	€198,000
Wicklow County Council	Tinahely New Loop	An additional spur to Tinahely Looped Walks taking in Coolafunshogue, Curravanish and Ballyshonog, a route totalling 10km on return to Tinahely village.	€198,000
Wicklow Total			€594,000

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This brings the total funding allocated by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to Wicklow County Council for ORIS projects in 2023 to **€858,780**.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Summer Camps for IPAS Centre children & young people

Wicklow Sports partnership in conjunction with the LAIT have secured €17,000 through CYPSC to facilitate summer camps for youths currently living in direct provision centres throughout the county.

Her Outdoors Week

Wicklow is thrilled to announce the return of HER Outdoors Week, celebrating females of all ages and abilities embracing the outdoors. This year promises an even more exciting lineup with increased collaboration from local clubs, offering a wide range of events designed to inspire and engage. This year's theme, **#EmbraceYourSpace**, encourages women to get outside and embrace the unique outdoor opportunities that Wicklow has to offer.

This week will run from August 12th - 18th, 2024. Wicklow is one of only 4 sites Nationally that will host a Her Outdoor Festival. On Thursday August 15th, a Her Outdoors Beach Festival will take place on Greystones South Beach from 5pm to 8pm.

Funding:

- Open Sea Swimming
 - €15,000 has been awarded to Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership for the provision of additional ladders at Wicklow Pier, Accessible Beach Mats for Wicklow Swimming Club and swim distance markers for Greystones South Beach.
- LSSIF Applications have been submitted for the following sites;
 - Coral Arklow Sports Hall renovation
 - Ballywaltrim Sports Grounds
 - Coral Wicklow Extension
 - Blessington Swimming Pool

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Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery & Emergency Services

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (15/07/2024) outstanding stands at **369 – 2.37%** of total stock of 15,561. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults. For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults over the previous weeks.

Notice was received that the public lighting maintenance contractor is leaving the market, with a final date of 24th July. This is making maintenance very difficult as staff leaves the company, the existing electricians are currently on strike. A new tender has been issued and it is hoped to have a new contractor in place prior to the 24th July.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	2	3	6	1	4	16
Cable Fault (Attended)			4		1	5
ESB Interface Required			1	1		2
ESB Required (Attended)	16	14	9	15	19	73
Knock Down (Attended)	1			1		2
Materials Required		4	7	1	1	13
No Supply		1	1	1	23	26
On Hold	4	4	13	1	11	33
Submitted	21	39	41	29	50	180
TMR	5		7		2	14
Tree Cutting Required			5			5
Grand Total	49	65	94	50	111	369
Percentage Not Working	1.59%	2.68%	2.78%	1.70%	2.98%	2.37%

Date	04/06/2024	10/06/2024	17/06/2024	24/06/2024
Access Issues (Attended)	14	14	14	14
Cable Fault (Attended)	5	5	5	5
ESB Interface Required	2	2	2	2
ESB Required (Attended)	76	76	76	81
Knock Down (Attended)	1	1	1	1
Materials Required	13	13	13	13
No Supply	26	26	26	26
On Hold	34	34	34	31
Submitted	119	130	145	157
Traffic Management Required	12	12	12	12
Tree Cutting Required	3	3	3	3
TOTAL	305	316	331	345
PERCENTAGE NOT WORKING	1.96%	2.03%	2.13%	2.22%

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Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The initial survey element of the above project has been completed. This is the initial phase of the project; the design is currently ongoing. The retrofitting of lanterns has commenced in Arklow MD.

Periodic Speed Limits

PWS Signs Ltd. has substantially completed the erection of the signage for the periodic speed limits at schools. An audit

Speed Limits

New guidelines for managing speed limits have been announced. The initial proposal is for all rural local roads without an existing special speed limit in rural areas will be reduced from 80km/h to 60km/h, this is due to introduced in November with signage to be installed prior to that date. A tender for the poles (c. 420) for the required signage has been issued.

Noise Action Plan

The Wicklow Noise Action Plan is currently being assessed for SEA & AA. Public consultation will commence following this assessment.

The public consultation for Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan (NAP) has been completed. This plan includes the majority of Bray town.

Transportation Statistics

	Total 2022	Total 2023	Total 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024
Solicitors Queries	838	1026	567	95	120	111
Road closure applications	78	42	38	7	6	0
Road Opening licences	1414	1956	777	134	126	98
Abnormal Load applications	60	54	33	8	4	3

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website www.n11m11.ie on 14 December 2021. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in 2021. Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation was due to commence in Q1 2022. The scheme is currently suspended as no funding 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 BPIS seeks to achieve the early delivery of bus priority measures in advance of the main scheme between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview). The scheme is currently at the Options Selection phase (Phase 2 of TII’s Project Management Guidelines).

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

A further non-statutory public display event was held in the Glenview Hotel in September 2023 that presented the overall emerging preferred option for the BPIS between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview).

The public display documents are available to view on the project website www.n11m11bpis.ie.

A significant negative response was received during the public consultation to the proposed closure of the N11 access to the Herbert Road.

Further environmental studies and traffic analysis have been completed on elements of the emerging preferred option. As a result, further consideration is being given to the preferred options at J8 Kilmacanogue, J7 Bray south (including Herbert Road access) and J6 Fassaroe (including the R117 access).

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment to the east of the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The options review and design commenced in March 2023 following confirmation of funding from TII. Site investigation works were completed in November 2023. This information has been reviewed by the Design Team and the final design option has been prepared. Direct consultation has taken place with the affected residents/landowners. The procurement of a contractor for the construction works is currently being progressed by the project team.

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N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

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

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

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

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

The Phase 2 Options Selection work is currently progressing under TII's Project Management Guidelines. A non-statutory Public Display event on the Route Options took place in the Inis Fail Germaines, Main Street, Baltinglass, on Wednesday 27th March 2024. The public display documents are available to view on the project website www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie. The period for submissions ended on Friday 26th April 2024. The next steps are to further develop the options in order to establish the emerging preferred option.

N81 Pavement Capital Works

Drainage works and the resurfacing of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove were completed in May 2024. Two other sections of the N81 received surfacing renewal works namely at N81 Trooperstown Blessington and N81 Mullycagh Lower. Works were fully completed by end May 2024.

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

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) was approved by TII in November 2023. The Design Report (Phase 3) was approved by TII in April 2024. The Part 8 statutory process (Phase 4) commenced on the 28th March 2024 with the period for submissions by interested parties ending on the 14th May 2024. At the May 2024 meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District the Elected Members voted to approve the Chief Executive's recommendation for the scheme to proceed. The Detailed Design and Contract Documents (Phase 5) are being prepared in advance of tendering for a contractor for construction.

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 have also approved funding to proceed with the design phase in accordance with TII Standards. Wicklow County Council are progressing this project to the design phase (Phase 3) to be followed by any necessary statutory approvals process (Phase 4).

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 was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in November 2023.

The design for the Bus Park & Rides at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) and Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) are being progressed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office.

Arklow Public Realm

The Parade Ground Public Realm works are complete on site. Following a meeting with DoHLGH, Project Completion Reports were submitted with additional funding requested in December 2023. The OGP Inflation Payment has been agreed with the contractor with payment to currently being processed.

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Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

We are in the final stages of Phase 2 Options Selection, which will determine the preferred route for the Greenway with landowner consultation ongoing. Following this, we will proceed to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation.

Baltinglass Town Centre Plan

Enabling works started in Baltinglass in mid-February with the WCC Direct Labour crew completing site investigation works and starting on utility works. The consultants are actively engaged in preparing final construction documents for the delivery of the town centre works.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

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

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

The CPO Notice to Treat was issued on all landowners in October 2023. There is active engagement between Wicklow Roads Project staff and landowners and a Wicklow County Council appointed valuer is engaging with valuers and homeowners as part of the CPO process. Consultants are making steady progress in the detailed design phase and are currently focused on preparing the tender documents and drawings for the construction phase with these documents anticipated to be issued Q3 2024.

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Meetings and information sharing is ongoing with Irish Rail for their East Coast Rail Infrastructure Protection Project. Meeting with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) took place in June 2023.

A 4 weeklong public consultation period has recently been completed for the emerging route corridors. The project was presented at the April Council meeting with two public events taking place in Greystones and Wicklow during April.

Blessington eGreenway

Under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, we have formally submitted our planning documents to An Bord Pleanála. Given the need to conduct comprehensive additional surveys and generate a substantial volume of supporting material, An Bord Pleanála granted an extension to the submission deadline for additional information to January 29th, 2024. As this information has been deemed significant additional information by ABP we were required to undertake a public consultation period taking place in May and June 2024 for a 6 week period and are currently waiting on an update from ABP.

Active Travel Updates

Projects under Construction

Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities (Wicklow MD)

Provision of new pedestrian facilities and road safety improvements along the Ballyguilemore Road between Carrig View and the entrance to the proposed new St. Patricks GAA Pitch. The scheme includes for new footpaths and road widening works. Construction works are progressing well on site, with embankment construction works completed on the western side. Public lighting and drainage works are ongoing.

Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

Provision of 2.8km of segregated cycle track along the R-772 Wexford Road, Arklow between Knockmore Roundabout and M11 Junction 21. The scheme will also construct 1.4km approx. of pedestrian footpath. Accommodation works are ongoing on the northbound carriageway. Preparation works have commenced for the slip form kerbing on the northbound carriageway.

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Front of school implementation works are completed. Detail design being completed for the footpath connection from Church Lane. NTA approval has been received to move to construction stage. Consultation is ongoing with school and local residents.

Project Updates

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. David Walsh Civil Engineering has commenced works on site. David Walsh Civil Engineering commenced ground works in Mid-February. Works are ongoing on the installing the new drainage system for the project. Footpath works have commenced on Quinsborough Road.

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

The project scope has been changed and will focus on the provision of high-quality pedestrian and cycle facilities along R750 from Wicklow Town Car Park and along Station Road. It will also include the provision of a new pedestrian and Cycle Bridge linking Station Road to Wicklow Town relief Road. Traffic surveys have been completed and work is ongoing on the preliminary design for the route.

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. Part 8 report being prepared for submission to the Council Members.

Greystones Active Travel - Pathfinder Project (Greystones MD)

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to Greystones Train Station. The spine route extends from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Centre. The project will include improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Baseline assessment required by Department of Transport as part of Pathfinder. Tender to issue for contractor to carry out and cyclist improvements on Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Preliminary Design of route from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Park to be issued to NTA for approval.

Safe Routes to Schools: Scoil Nioclás Naofa, Dunlavin (Baltinglass MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Presentation made to Baltinglass MD Members. Preliminary Design being finalised. Scheme will be advertised under Section 38 of Roads Act.

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

Provide improvements on Blacklion Manor Road to make the area safer for school children. These works aim to encourage more children to walk and cycle to school. Preliminary Design is being prepared.

Kilcoole Road Footpath (Greystones MD)

Footpath to be constructed linking Greystones to Kilcoole. Meeting held with landowner to discuss accommodation works. A design has been prepared and issued to the landowner for agreement. Once the design is agreed a tender will be run to appoint a Contractor. It is hoped to begin construction in Q3 this year.

Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work on 4 new bridges was completed in June/July. Works "in-stream" has commenced at 2 locations on the Sally Gap

Winter Maintenance

The changeover to brine has commenced with fleet upgrades. Remainder to be tendered.

Surface Dressing

Works commenced on Monday June 24th. 15 sites complete. 26 sites remain.

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Poor weather conditions have contributed to a slower output than normal.

Machinery Yard

Electric Vehicle business case has been prepared for CE Order.

Large truck (HCV) tender to be advertised in August.

Lease contract (various size vehicles) to be advertised in coming weeks.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	481,117.68
Greystones Municipal District	147,640.32
Wicklow Municipal District	213,471.72
Arklow Municipal District	118,259.80
Parking Permits	51,223.66
Parking Fines	296,480.80
Wicklow County Council	1,308,193.98

Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing information as at the 30th June 2024

Greenhill Road – 36 Houses

- 35 sold
- 1 offered awaiting documentation.

Aldbrough Manor Baltinglass – 22 Houses – Phase 1

- 58 applied
- 29 Eligible
- 29 offered
- 6 accepted

Phase 2

The Scheme was re-advertised on Wednesday 21st February in both the Wicklow People and Irish Independent. Portal opened on the 6th March 2024 until the 17th April 2024 for applications to be submitted.

- 80 applications received
- 31 offers made (letters sent)
- 15 incomes too high (letters sent)
- 1 Withdrawn
- 6 accepted so far

Continuing to work through all applications.

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Rathnew – 44 dwellings

- Advertised - Wicklow Times is Monday 27th May 2024 and Wicklow People is Wednesday 29th May 2024
- Portal to opened on the 10th June 12noon until the 22nd July 20024. A lot of interest so far.

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

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

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

Ballintekin – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date Nov 2024
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses	Due to change in the family circumstances – new site selection is being investigated

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

Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

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

Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2024:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivery due Q3 2024	CALF
Dunlavin	3	Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Delgany	1	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Rathnew	2	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Greystones	8	Delivery due Q3 2024	WCC
Wicklow	3	2 Delivered Q1 2024, 1 Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Rathdrum	2	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Delgany	8	Delivery due Q3 2024	WCC
Blessington	6	4 Delivery Q2 2024, 2 due Q3	WCC
Rathnew	4	Delivery due Q3 2024	WCC

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Rathnew, Bray, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy, Blessington, Baltinglass and Wicklow with delivery ranging from 2024-2026. 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

The following Turnkey units are due during 2024:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	17	Delivery Due Q3 2024	CALF
Greystones	5	Delivery Due Q3 2024	WCC
Baltinglass	2	Delivery Due Q3 2024	WCC
Arklow	3	Delivery Due Q3 2024	WCC
Rathnew	1	Delivered Q2 2024	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 for the provision of social housing was advertised on 17th April 2024.

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Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

The Approved Housing Bodies are actively pursuing a number of potential CALF projects and are liaising closely with the Council on a regular basis. The members will be kept updated. Approved Housing Bodies also make applications for CALF acquisitions to address a particular housing need.

CALF Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	2	Delivered February 2024	CALF
Bray	1	Delivered April 2024	CALF

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

CAS Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	1	Delivery February 2024	CAS
Newcastle	1	Delivered April 2024	CAS
Bray	1	Delivered April 2024	CAS

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands

Parnell Road (Central Garage site)

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

Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas

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

Infill Sites

- Knockroe – Two 4 bed fully accessible completed in April.
- 5a Rednagh Rd – One 4 bed house – Section 179A commenced 27th March 2024. Display period ended 27th May 2024.

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road – 2 x 2 bed properties	Allocated
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Ready for allocation
Carrig Eden - 14 units x 1 bed age friendly units	Part 8 complete – design team procured
Kilcoole Health Centre - 4 no 1 bed apartments	Contact on site - expected completion date Q2.2024

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Vacant Homes Scheme

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

2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry.	House to be allocated.
30 South Green, Arklow.	Sent for Tendering for Works.
5 Priory Way, Delgany.	Sent for Tendering for Works.
6 Ashleigh, Ashford.	Sent for Tendering for Works.
114 Hillside, Greystones.	Sent for Tendering for Works.
53 South Green, Arklow.	Sent for Tendering for Works.
53A South Green, Arklow.	Sent for Tendering for Works.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	Sent for Tendering for Works.
36 Wheatfield Bray.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
108 Charnwood, Bray.	Closing stage of Contracts for Sale.
2 Harbour Road ("Merdenville"), Arklow.	Closing stage of Contracts for Sale.
10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow.	Compensation/Vesting Pending.
27 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray.	Negotiations under way.

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

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

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

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

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

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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

Number of Applications	124
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants	14
Applications Approved	67
Applications paid	11
Applications pending execution of Legal Deed of Charge/payment	10
Applications withdrawn/Rejected	22

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Derelict Properties

The following four derelict properties have been approved for sale:

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

Emergency Services

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics June 2024

There were **87 incidents** attended during the month of June 2024. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **112 occasions** including 7 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 June 2024 **decreased by 29% (minus 46 mobilisations) on the preceding month** (May 2024: 158 mobilisations). There was a decrease in domestic house fires (-15 mobilisations), a decrease in incidents in other counties (-12 mobilisations) and a decrease in malicious outdoor fires (-5 mobilisations).

Operational activity for the month of June 2024 **decreased by 35% (minus 61 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2023** (June 2023, 173 mobilisations). Year on year there was a decrease in domestic fires (-6 mobilisations), RTCs (-4 mobilisations), rural fires (-17 mobilisations), malicious outdoor fires (-20 mobilisations) and incidents in other counties (-11).

Examples of Incidents attended:

- 01/06/2024 Wicklow Town and Rathdrum crews attended a single vehicle RTC at Ballycullen. The vehicle had rolled over and there were two patients.
- 01/06/2024 Blessington crew supported by crew from Naas assisted at an RTC involving a car and a motorcycle.
- 07/06/2024 Bray and Greystones crews attended a domestic house fire at Ard na Greine, Bray. The fire was extinguished on the first floor and medical assistance was provided to the occupants.
- 13/06/2024 Dunlavin and Baltinglass crews attended a 2 vehicle RTC at Merginstown.
- 16/06/2024 Blessington crew provided protracted medical intervention for unconscious patient at Kilbride.
- 16/06/2024 Carnew and Tinahely crews attended a 2 car RTC in Carnew.
- 20/06/2024 Rathdrum and Dunlavin crews attended a serious motorcycle RTC on the Wicklow Gap.

Incidents in County Kildare (5-incidents total) examples:

- 17/06/2024 Dunlavin crew were mobilised to an "ambulance assist" in Calverstown.
- 19/06/2024 Balitnglass crew were mobilised to a tractor fire at Davidstown.
- 22/06/2024 Blessington crew supported crews from Naas at an industrial fire in Ballymore Eustace.

Incidents in County Wexford (2-incidents total) example:

- 25/06/2024 Carnew crew supported crews from Gorey at an RTC at Rossminoge, Craanford.

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General Update

- Following the appointment of a new Assistant Chief Fire Officer in June, a second Assistant Chief Fire Officer will join in September.
- New fire stations for Baltinglass and Dunlavin to proceed to Part 8 Planning, presentation to take place to Baltinglass MD on 22nd July 2024.

Fire Prevention Statistics June 2024

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	7	1			4
Revised FSCs	1				
FSC 7-Day Notice	2	1			7
Regularisation FSCs	0				
DACs	5				8
Revised DACs	1				
Dispensations / Relaxations	0				

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 24 planning files during the month of May 2024.

The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 24 of these files.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	8	0	0	11	4
Circuit					
Dangerous Substances Act	0	1	2	2	0
Explosive Act					

Building Control Statistics June 2024

Commencement Notices for June 2024:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 31

- 5 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 17 Opt Out Declarations
- 7 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 2 Seven Day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 50 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out

Wicklow County Council

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- 65 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 20 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which

6 with Compliance Documentation (30%)

10 are Opt Out (50%)

2 Without Compliance Documentation (10%)

2 Seven Day Notice (10%)

- 17 Valid Commencement Notices
- 50 new build residential Units and additional 14 Extensions
- 2 Non Res new builds
 - 8 Invalidated CNs
- **Certificates of Completion processed in June 2024**
 - 17 New No. of CCC submitted
 - 15 Required Revised Information
 - 24 No. Validated
 - 0 No. Invalid
 - 65 new Residential units and additional 12 Apartments
 - 2 Non Res. Builds

Submission Statistics

24 No. Validated CCCs related to;

9 No. CCCs submitted in May 2024

15 No. CCCs submitted in June 2024

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

50 new residential houses and 14 Extensions were notified to LA for Commencement & 65 newly completed residential units plus 2 non-residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in June. There has been an increase in both Commencement Notice particularly in Opt out Submissions and Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions compared to the same period in 2023. As speed of construction increases with seasonal changes, CCC submissions increased in June.

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 site inspections in June to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 2 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests remained high in June for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 65% of Commencement Notice submissions & 88% 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. Building Control have observed numerous Commencement Notice Submissions that are currently 'Revised Information' status on BCMS and awaiting validation.

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

In June, BC Staff attended the Regional Building Control Quarterly meeting held in Westmeath.

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Civil Defence

Beyond the Pale, held in Glendalough House is a 3 day camping festival. 12000 patrons attended the festival. Our volunteers assisted EFAST EMS in providing medical cover for this event.



Cumann na mBunscol Sports Day is a track and field event with 20 schools attending. Each school will have a maximum of 45 children, but some will have less. The track events are run on the track and the field events take place in the centre pitch. Civil Defence provided First Aid Cover for this event.

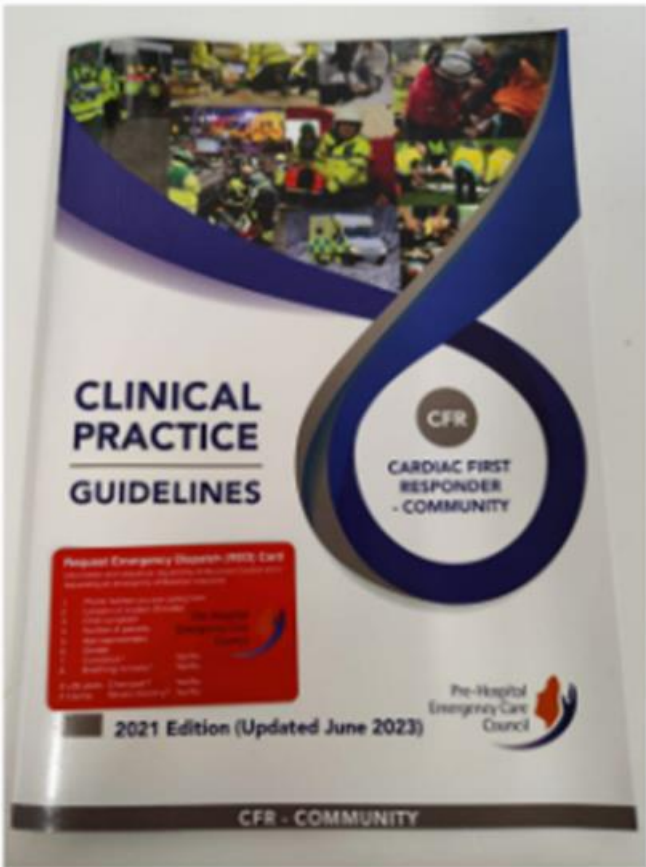
Leinster Offshore Rowing Championships, Wicklow Harbour. This Rowing Regatta consisted of 18 coastal rowing races beginning at 10 am and finishing at 5pm over a 4 km on the water course. Unfortunately, this event had to be abandoned due to poor weather conditions.

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Our volunteers regularly attending training courses continuing to develop and maintain their skill set; recent training consisted of Cardiac First Response.

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Organisational Development (HR & Corporate)

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in June 2024:

- Interviews Executive Architect

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024
Managerial/Administrative	318	319	323	337
Professional/Technical	143	150	150	146
Outdoor	263	265	261	259
Temporary/Seasonal	64	43	44	87
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	5
Total	793	782	783	834

* Increase in Temp/Seasonal category due to lifeguards commencing (lifeguards appointment on 1st June 2024)

Freedom of Information

June 2024: 9	June 2023: 9
January – June 2024: 75	January – June 2023: 59

Ombudsman Requests

June 2024: 1	June 2023: 2
January – June 2024: 11	January – June 2023: 12

Press Releases

June 2024 – 9

Register of Electors

Online applications via www.checktheregister.ie continue to be received and processed daily. The backlog of 1,500 applications received following the closing of the register on the 25th of May 2024 in preparation for the Local and EU elections on 7th June 2024 have now been processed.

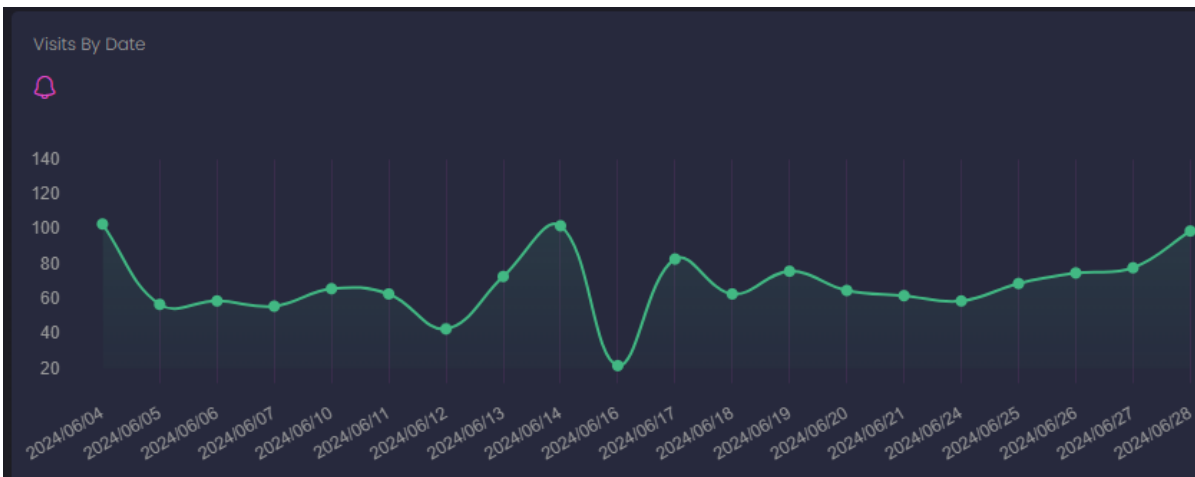
Following the Boundary Commission Report in August 2023 Wicklow County Council have now prepared a Draft Polling Scheme which takes into account the changes made by the Commission. The Draft Polling Scheme is on display from 17th July 2024 until 21st of August 2024. Representations in relation to the draft scheme will be considered up to and including Wednesday 21st August 2024. It is anticipated to bring the Polling Scheme to the Elected Members for adoption at the September 2024 meeting.

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Customer Service Innovation Hub





Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2024 – June			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	8,964	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,692
No. of Customer Service Emails received	671	Revenue Transactions	1,285
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	55	Housing Counter Visits	497

Total in person visits for June 2024 – 1,373



Communications

Social Media Channels

Platform				
Audience	14,454	4,989	1,797	8,419
Monthly Increase	+259	+187	+99	+267

Wicklow.ie

There were 77,685 hits on the Election Results 2024 page on Wicklow.ie, with over 120,000 requests coming via Facebook over the weekend of the Local Elections.

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Energy Efficiency

2024					
Action	Energy Savings	Carbon Savings	Simple Payback before Grant (Years)	Project Status	Funding
	(kWh)	(T CO2)			
Bray Fire Station					
Air-to-water heat pump, re-piping, replacing radiators and re-plumbing	350,000	71	8	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Appliance Bay Doors (5)				Works Complete	
Window Upgrades				Works Complete	
Total	350,000	71	8		
County Buildings					
Air-to-water heat pump	230,000	47	10	Contractor Appointed	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Enabling Works				Contractor Appointed	
Total	230,000	47	10		
Bray Civic Offices					
Air-to-water heat pumps replacing gas boiler	120,000	24	8	Contractor Appointed	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Total	120,000	24	8		
Wicklow Civil Defence (Greystones)					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacng gas boiler	10,000	5	7	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Solar Photovoltaics (10kWp)				Works Complete	
Insulated hot water cylinder				Works Complete	
Total	10,000	5	7		
Wicklow Town Fire Station					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacing electric storage heating	10,000	3	8	Works Complete	Wicklow Fire Service
Window & External Door Upgrade				Works Commenced	
Insulation Upgrades				Works Commenced	
Total	10,000	3	8		
Blessington Fire Station					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacing gas boiler	24,657	5	13.5	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder

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Solar Photovoltaics (10kWp)				Works Complete	50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Insulated hot water cylinder				Works Complete	
Upgrade Lighting to LED				Works Complete	
Insulation Upgrades				Works Complete	
Total	24,657	5	13.5		

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Finance, Water & Information Systems

Finance

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH JUNE 2024							
	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	23,549,532	53,458,479	44%	(25,519,266)	(57,560,824)	44%	(1,969,734)
Road Transport & Safety	8,285,829	25,608,536	32%	(4,723,100)	(18,366,119)	26%	3,562,730
Water Services	2,366,378	4,809,015	49%	(2,809,317)	(5,729,978)	49%	(442,939)
Development Management	10,674,768	15,877,727	67%	(7,707,592)	(10,024,717)	77%	2,967,175
Environmental Services	6,849,169	15,632,861	44%	(860,895)	(4,087,049)	21%	5,988,274
Recreation and Amenity	4,492,530	9,440,065	48%	(441,050)	(1,079,718)	41%	4,051,480
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,009,665	2,283,534	44%	(354,624)	(1,104,228)	32%	655,041
Miscellaneous Services	4,773,595	9,997,953	48%	(6,278,476)	(13,219,706)	47%	(1,504,881)
Central Management Charges	11,438,916	22,890,755	50%	(609,911)	(1,050,000)	58%	10,829,005
Local Government Fund				(8,440,351)	(16,880,701)	50%	(8,440,351)
Commercial Rates				(15,759,964)	(31,045,885)	51%	(15,759,964)
	73,440,383	159,998,925	46%	(73,504,545)	(160,148,925)	46%	(64,163)

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st June 2024 to 30th June 2024.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH JUNE 2024					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2024	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/06/2024
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	13,566,712	30,189,246	(15,439,230)	(237,120)	28,079,608
Road Transport & Safety	(41,551,755)	6,899,076	(276,138)	(426,000)	(35,354,817)
Water Services	(6,530,052)	680,901	(533,236)	72,500	(6,309,887)
Development Management	(32,037,828)	6,920,407	(19,224,276)	(47,750)	(44,389,447)
Environmental Services	(936,699)	1,264,308	(1,317,951)	(195,000)	(1,185,342)
Recreation and Amenity	(2,144,873)	2,291,561	(578,687)	(47,000)	(478,999)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,046,613)	193,528	0	(56,317)	(1,909,401)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,410,645)	(860,757)	(481,084)	1,670,322	(10,082,164)
	(82,091,754)	47,578,270	(37,850,601)	733,635	(71,630,450)

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Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30TH JUNE 2024										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2024	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/06/2024	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,457,366	31,544,877	0	10,129	0	35,012,372	(20,799,024)	14,213,348	614,022	60%
Rents & Annuities	3,434,905	8,925,790	0	(5,518)	0	12,355,177	(8,791,730)	3,563,448	0	71%
Housing Loans	276,649	1,242,117	0	0	0	1,518,766	(1,007,003)	511,764	0	66%

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

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2024

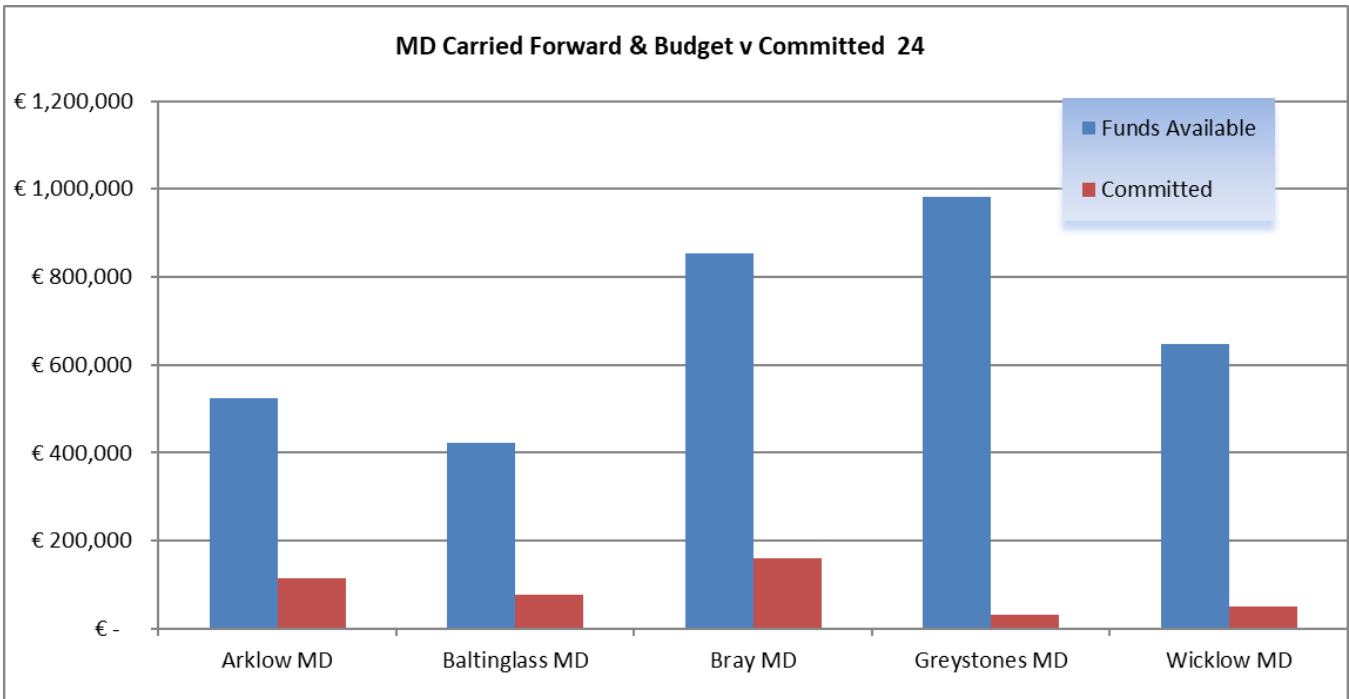
The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 9th 2023 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% generated circa €1.2m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the 5 Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2024 is set out below:

Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	34,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	10,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	66,500
Festivals / Other	25,000	20,000	52,000	20,000	25,000	142,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Discretionary Funding	223,028	223,028	367,370	223,028	223,028	1,259,482
Total	284,028	261,028	440,870	261,028	265,028	1,511,982

Municipal District carried forward allocation and budget '24 and expenditure for 2024 is as follows:

Municipal District	C/F from 2023	Adopted Budget 2024	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	238,944	284,028	522,972	95,170	427,802
Baltinglass MD	160,175	261,028	421,203	84,003	337,200
Bray MD	411,666	440,870	852,536	110,912	741,624
Greystones MD	720,591	261,028	981,619	65,259	916,360
Wicklow MD	381,436	265,028	646,464	52,132	594,332
Total	1,912,812	1,511,982	3,424,794	407,475	3,017,319

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Capital Investment Programme 2024-2026

The Capital Investment Programme 2024-2026 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 8th 2024. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2024	2025	2026	TOTAL	Dev Charges ¹	Loan	Grant Aid ²	Other ³	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	107,375,000	130,150,000	136,500,000	374,025,000	-	30,000,000	333,083,500	10,941,500	374,025,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	20,331,000	45,830,000	58,400,000	124,561,000	31,001,000	7,000,000	69,360,000	17,200,000	124,561,000
WATER SERVICES	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	-	-	300,000	-	300,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	8,271,000	4,849,507	8,435,000	21,555,507	2,172,376	-	15,623,131	3,760,000	21,555,507
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	4,990,000	25,370,000	23,997,000	54,357,000	-	-	47,867,000	6,490,000	54,357,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	8,467,791	9,595,000	18,017,000	36,079,791	12,773,291	-	21,806,500	1,500,000	36,079,791
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	4,000,000	12,210,000	20,400,000	36,610,000	3,127,500	-	30,507,500	2,975,000	36,610,000
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	700,000	500,000	500,000	1,700,000	-	-	-	1,700,000	1,700,000
OVERALL TOTAL	154,234,791	228,604,507	266,349,000	649,188,298	49,074,167	37,000,000	518,547,631	44,566,500	649,188,298

Wicklow County Council

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Capital Funded Projects

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

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

Wicklow County Council

Chief Executive's Monthly Report - July 2024

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

- Produced physical maps for **Polling District amendments** - Online Interactive Draft Polling Schema map developed to assist the process.
- Meeting with Forward Planning team about updating the **Consultation Hubs** with new documentation, gone from pre-draft to draft stage.
- National Transport Authority (NTA) and KPMG Future Analytics - **National Planning Forecasts**. Updates required to County Wicklow Development Areas and data hub.
- **Local Area Plans** – map preparation for Greystones-Delgany & Kilcoole and Wicklow Town-Rathnew (Green Infrastructure & Zoning).
- **Biosolids Landbanks** - Develop data schema for Environment section to integrate new Biosolids datasets. Received first batch of data from consultants and currently processing.
- **Wicklow Town-Rathnew LAP** Transport Assessment Maps - Updated maps to include the National Road Network
- **MyPlan** Guidance for Local Authorities (DHLGH) - Amendments necessary to update the current development plan layers to meet the upload requirements for the MyPlan.ie portal.
- Bluesky data processing – **Aerial photography** for Arklow Funding Application.
- Bluesky data processing - **DTM/DSM** for Roads Department and roads alignment
- **Traffic Counts** – Updated on Roads GIS system

Infrastructure

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