

W I C K L O W

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

**Wicklow County Council**  
**Annual Report**  
**2021**



# Wicklow County Council

Annual Report 2021

Mission Statement

*“To improve the quality of life for the people of County Wicklow, drive economic and community development, adhering to the principles of sustainable development, social inclusion, human rights and equality and accessibility for all. We will maximize the use of resources to deliver efficient, effective and value for money services, be open and receptive to change, working in partnership with all our stakeholders”.*

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As Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report for the year 2021. This report outlines the very many and varied activities of Wicklow County Council across all services. Wicklow County Council provides and funds a broad range of services including; housing, roads, playgrounds, libraries, fire stations, sports facilities, arts centres, recycling centres, as well as serving as a platform for local democracy.

During 2021 funding of €567,083 was allocated to successful projects in Annamoe, Avoca, Stratford, Laragh & Enniskerry through the Town & Village renewal scheme, assisting towns to respond to the challenges associated with COVID 19. Community Activity Funds of €282,686 were also allocated to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, as part of special government funding to support community groups impacted by COVID 19.

Wicklow was allocated funding of almost €500,000 for the proposed Blue way running the length of the County from north Bray to south Arklow. While the Greystones to Wicklow Greenway received Stage 1 funding of €350,000. This coastal route is approximately 20 km in length stretching from the southern end of the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk to the Murrough in Wicklow Town. Both projects link in with the Outdoor Recreation Strategy (2020-2025).

Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership launched Arklow Community Sports Hub at Coral Leisure Centre in Arklow. This is part of an investment in physical activity equipment, programmes and training in the area over the next 5 years.

Wicklow County Council ratified the establishment of Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus, the aim of the caucus is to be a non-partisan group working to address barriers and challenges to participation by female Councillors in Wicklow County Council. Also, to strengthen co-operation between women across all political parties and ideological lines and to strengthen their capacity to effect change.

The installation of a solar car port commenced at County Buildings, this will generate renewable energy and assist in achieving climate change targets. This innovative project is the largest solar car park in Ireland covering 107 spaces and measuring circa 1600m<sup>2</sup>.

Three Wicklow Towns achieved gold medal awards in their respective prize categories, Arklow, Bray and Wicklow while Greystones secured a silver medal.

I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Elected Members and to thank them for their co-operation and assistance to me during the year, particularly the members of the Corporate Policy Group and each of the six Strategic Policy Groups who were instrumental in contributing to the policy and decision making forum affecting the entire Council.

I would also like to take the opportunity to record my appreciation to Chief Executive, Frank Curran and to the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for the manner in which they assisted me in the performance of my role as Cathaoirleach.

**COUNCILLOR SHAY CULLEN  
CATHAOIRLEACH  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**



It gives me great pleasure as Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council to welcome the publication of the 2021 Annual Report and to highlight a number of achievements over the last 12 months which are further contained within this report.

Wicklow County Council is responsible for providing services to approximately 142,425 citizens. During 2021 the Council continued to deliver significant efficiencies and innovation, while focusing on its leadership role to drive local, community and economic development, in line with the Corporate Plan 2019-2024, to ensure that Wicklow remains an attractive place to live, work, do business and visit.

In response to the Covid crisis, Wicklow County Council provided significant support to local businesses and the community in general. Through the administration of the Restart Grant Scheme a total of over €11m was paid by the Council to local businesses in Wicklow. Moreover, Re-opening Committees were established in each Municipal District, in conjunction with the local Chambers of Commerce and Town Teams, which resulted in a number of initiatives being implemented to promote the concept of shopping local.

Due to COVID 19 lockdowns and its impact on the national and local businesses, The LEO remit was widened in 2020 and 2021 to support a larger cohort of SMEs with their business continuity plans and to provide a wider range of supports which resulted in a sharp increase in demand for supports across the various offerings. LEO Wicklow provided a critical frontline service to support small business with their business continuity throughout the COVID pandemic.

Throughout 2021, the Council continued to progress a number of successful projects and strategies:

- N.T.A. funding of €7.6 million secured for sustainable transport projects.
- €7.14 million funding announced for the Bray Harbour Integrated Regeneration.
- The following major infrastructural schemes were officially opened

- Road alignment at Laragh/ Glendalough ( R757/R756) in Glendalough
- Road realignment at Rathdrum/ Ballinacash (R752/R753) in Corballis, Rathdrum
- Upgraded St. Kevin's Way Trail
- New pedestrian bridge linking the Jubilee Walk and the Avonmore Way Trail over the Avonmore River in Rathdrum
- Official opening of Town Library & County Archives.
- €3m contract signed for a content creation hub at Wicklow County Campus
- Carrig Eden, which provides transitional supported accommodation for those at risk of homelessness in Greystones won 2 Irish Council for Social Housing Awards
- 308 social units were completed and allocated under the housing supply programme of delivery with a further 207 units commenced on site.

I would like to commend the Elected Members of Wicklow County Council, the Members of the Strategic Policy Committees, the Corporate Policy Group and the LCDC and to acknowledge all the work that is carried out at Municipal District Level and by the various other hardworking committees.

I would especially like to thank the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Shay Cullen for his commitment and co-operation in the delivery of the Council's high level goals in 2021. I would like to commend and thank the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for their continued hard work and contribution to the delivery of high quality service to the public during a global pandemic in 2021.

I am confident that the work of the Council and the progress achieved will enhance the quality of life for the people of Wicklow.

**BRIAN GLEESON**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mr. Frank Curran



Chief Executive

Mr. Colm Lavery



Director of Services  
Transportation, Water and Emergency  
Services

Mr. Michael Nicholson



Director of Services  
Community, Cultural and Social  
Development

Mr. Joe Lane



Director of Services  
Housing and Corporate Estate

Ms. Lorraine Gallagher



Director of Services  
Enterprise & Corporate Services

Ms. Breege Kilkenny



Director of Services  
Planning and Environmental Services

Ms. Dorothy Kennedy



Law Agent

Mr. Liam Fitzpatrick



Head of Information Systems

Mr. Brian Gleeson



Head of Finance

## HOUSING AND CORPORATE ESTATE

### Strategic Policy Committee

#### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. John Snell

### Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Tommy Annesley

Cllr. Paul O'Brien

Cllr. Mags Crean

Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy

Cllr. Grace McManus

### Outside Agencies

Trade Unions

Michael Ryan SIPTU

Disadvantaged

Niamh Power Dublin Simon

Business/Commercial

Paddy Mordaunt

Community

Mary Ann Parsons

Simon Blanckensee

Wicklow Travellers Group

Aoibhinn McCloy

### Director of Services

Joe Lane

### Senior Executive Officer

Theresa O'Brien

### Senior Engineers

Declan Marnane

Helena Fallon

### Housing and Corporate Estate

- Social Housing Provision & Planning
- Housing Management
- Social Inclusion
- Corporate Estate

The Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee met on 6 occasions in 2021 and focused on a number of key areas including:

- Budget 2021– Implications for Housing Authorities nationally in terms of future housing supply, management and investment issues
- Housing priorities and work programme for 2021 including future housing supply and management
- Housing Supply/Delivery Programme - Housing Delivery Action Plan
- Maintenance and Management of housing stock
- Co. Wicklow Strategy for housing people with a disability
- Annual Social Housing Assessment
- Private Rented Inspections
- Traveller Accommodation
- Approved Housing Bodies collaboration
- Mid-East homeless Action Plan 2021 - 2023
- Housing For All
- Affordable Housing
- Policies relating to Heating, Relets and disposal of derelict units

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery



Sli na Slainne, Baltinglass

Wicklow County Council continued to deliver under its Housing Delivery programme. 308 units of social housing were delivered in 2021, with proposed delivery of 504 in 2022, depending on levels of restrictions due to the pandemic.



Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue

Part V

Wicklow County Council liaised closely with Agents and Developers in respect of Part V requirements. Some Part V units are delivered through CALF in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies e.g. Glenheron in Greystones and some directly to the Council e.g. Carraig Beag, Wicklow. 21 Part V units were delivered in 2021 through a combination of LA acquisition and CALF.

It is expected that 15 Part V units will be delivered in 2022, subject to a number of factors including the duration and number of any Covid 19 lockdowns and how quickly the Developers can remobilise and complete units

Turnkey

The Council continued to actively seeking and encouraging the provision of social housing via the mechanism of turnkey development. 4 turnkey units were delivered in 2021. The Council regularly invites applications for further turnkey units and expects to continue to augment supply with further turnkey units coming on stream in 2022.

CALF Leasing

Wicklow County Council continues to facilitate applications from Approved Housing Bodies for delivery of units through the CALF leasing scheme. 90 CALF turnkey units were delivered in 2021.

### Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)

Wicklow County Council continues to work with Approved Housing Bodies to increase the supply of social housing. A number of sites have been allocated to AHB's to progress following a selection procedure and progress has been made on designing schemes for these sites.

### Housing Management

The total budget for housing repairs was €1,914,000 for 2021. This was distributed evenly between the Municipal Districts on a pro rata basis based on the number of units in each district.

Central Heating was also provided in a number of houses while servicing and maintenance of central heating systems has continued.

When houses become vacant they are upgraded as follows:

- Electrics check and repair/rewire;
- Plumbing check;
- Replacement of kitchen units/sanitary ware where necessary;
- Upgrade of properties to enhanced energy efficiency.
- Any other works required

### VOIDS Refurbishment Programme 2020

A total of 99 units were returned to productive use in 2021 through funding available under the VOIDS Refurbishment Programme.

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 1 and 2

Works continued on the Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade programme during 2021 with 57 properties in West Wicklow and Rathdrum commencing – delays were experienced in completing phase 1 due to construction inflation during COVID.

A framework for fabric upgrade works is underway at the end of 2021 with a view to continuing the programme into 2022.

### Housing Allocations

Wicklow County Council allocates houses in accordance with the Scheme of Letting Priorities adopted by Council Members and approved by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Any person in need of housing and unable to obtain it from their own resources may be included on the Council's Housing Waiting List, subject to compliance with eligibility criteria.

A total of 4,499 housing applicants were on the housing list for County Wicklow at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. A total of 418 houses were allocated during 2021 with a further 106 households housed by Approved Housing Bodies throughout the county.

### Other Housing Options

In terms of other housing options, Wicklow County Council continued to promote a broad range of additional housing options to those in need of housing throughout 2021

## Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The total number of RAS properties at 31st December, 2021 was 246.

## Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

A total of 2,467 households had availed of HAP rental support at 31st December, 2021.

## Social Housing Leasing

Efforts continued throughout 2021 to promote long and short term leasing as a social housing option in County Wicklow.

Properties are leased from the private sector and used to accommodate households from local authority waiting lists. Leased properties will be allocated to tenants in accordance with the local authority's allocations schemes.

A total of 49 units were leased to Wicklow County Council as of 31st December, 2021.

## Mortgage to Rent

The Mortgage to Rent (MTR) scheme is a scheme to help homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears. It lets homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as social housing tenants.

28 families were assisted into MTR during 2021.

## Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

As a first time buyer you can apply for a Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build your own home.

Maximum market values of the property that can be purchased or self-built is €320,000.

30 Rebuilding Ireland home loans were approved in principle in 2021.

## Housing Grants

Wicklow County Council continued to fund grants under the terms of the Housing Adaptation Grants, Housing Aid for Older People Grants and Mobility Aid Grant. In 2021, despite delays encountered due to the pandemic, over €1.7m issued in grant funding for private houses and €730,000.00 on social houses.

## Tenant Purchase Scheme

During 2020 a further 20 tenants completed purchase under the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

## Estate Development

Estate Development Grants were allocated through the Municipal Districts to Residents Associations within the districts.

## Estate Management - Tenant Liaison

The Tenant Liaison Officer continued to support Wicklow County Council's Tenants in combatting Anti-Social Behaviour. A

large number of cases involving anti-social behaviour were recorded in 2021. An Inter-Agency approach involving An Garda Síochána, H.S.E. and Tusla has proved to be the best possible outcome in dealing with anti-social issues.

## Housing Rents

At the 31st December 2021 there were 4,654 tenanted units.

Significant work was undertaken with tenants whose income was reduced during the pandemic.

Pandemic restrictions prevented door to door collections for a period in 2021 and guidelines issued.

## Traveller Accommodation

Wicklow County Council is required to undertake an annual count of Traveller families - the count in 2021 showed 278 Traveller families living in the County.

Under the Traveller Accommodation Programme, 17 allocations were made to Traveller households in 2021.

Ongoing inspections on the fire safety on Halting sites were carried out by members of the Housing section.

Significant progress was made on the Capital Programme in 2021 as follows:  
Ballinteskin - 3 houses - tender advertised

Rathdrum: 4 houses Avondale Heights – approval received for funding from the Department Part V111 advertised and

report to be presented to the members of Arklow MD in early 2022.

Barndarrig - 2 houses – revised stage 1 approval received – preliminary design underway.

The members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) met 5 times in 2020. A sub group of the LTACC was also set up in 2021 who meet on a more regular basis to discuss individual cases and particular issues that may arise. Implementation of the objectives under the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019-2024 continued to ensure the accommodation needs of Travellers living in Co. Wicklow were met. This included planning for the provision of standard housing, group housing, rural houses and temporary/emergency sites.

## Homelessness

Prevention of homelessness continued to be a key focus and the homeless team provided advice and support, (primarily by phone and email due to COVID restrictions) to persons homeless or at risk of homelessness. The homeless team engaged with Landlords and Agents, to sustain and progress tenancies. Emergency accommodation was provided by the Council, where necessary, following a full assessment of need.

- 345 new cases (families/individuals) presented as homeless during 2021. As at the 31st December 18 families were in emergency accommodation with a further 24 families in “own front door” accommodation.

- Mid-East Region Homeless Action Plan 2021 – 2023 was completed.

## Homeless HAP

The Homeless HAP Placefinder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 372 households (277 families & 95 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 (164 homeless cases, 201 prevention cases and 7 direct provision). 116 properties were sourced by WCC.

## Partnership Approach – working with Approved Housing Bodies

In order to target specific cohorts of vulnerable people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, and those who need supported accommodation,

Wicklow County Council continued to work collaboratively with a number of Approved Housing Bodies to deliver accommodation to individuals with support needs. This housing led approach ensures a sustainable solution to homelessness in individuals who are initially hard to reach and ultimately have tenancy sustainment issues.

The Council operates the management of these properties through either Service Level Agreements, or License Agreements and Leases. These units provide wraparound, supported accommodation for vulnerable individuals using the Housing First model. This housing led approach to combating homelessness is enshrined in Housing for All Ireland and is a commitment in the Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan for Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.

## Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

In partnership with the Dublin Simon Community, the Council continued to provide a supported accommodation facility at Kilmantin Hill in Wicklow Town, for people experiencing homelessness. Eleven individuals are accommodated in medium support, transitional units at the facility. A number of move-ons to own door accommodation occurred in 2021 which signifies the success of this model

## Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

A key focus of Wicklow County Council in addressing homelessness was to identify and provide a high supported, temporary

accommodation unit in Bray/North Wicklow to address the accommodation and support needs of a particular homeless cohort. This cohort was identified from the presenting population and those currently known to and accessing homeless services in Bray/North Wicklow.

The Covid-19 crisis further increased the urgency of the emergency need to provide suitable accommodation for, highly vulnerable, homeless individuals accessing the Cold Weather Initiative (CWI). Accordingly, the acquisition and upgrade of a former nursing home in Bray was progressed and the facility opened to clients in October 2020. The facility, operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where there are a number of emergency/cold weather Beds (restricted during Covid) and Supported Temporary Accommodation Beds (STA) There is on site keyworking support linking in with clients.

A Neighbourhood Liaison Committee was set up with representation from local residents, an Garda Síochána, local Councillors, Wicklow County Council and Dublin Simon.



San Remo, Bray

### Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Carraig Eden, Greystones

This facility comprising of 35 ensuite bedrooms provides supported temporary accommodation to individuals who have successfully exited addiction and are now working to exit homelessness. In 2021 Wicklow County Council and Tiglin were very proud to win both the Irish Council for social housing collaboration initiatives award and the people’s choice award for Carraig Eden.

### Homeless Family Service Facility, Wicklow

Following the advice that Sonas was withdrawing services from Wicklow, the operation of the facility was tendered out to Approved Housing Bodies to operate and manage the facility as a Family Homeless Hub. The successful tenderer was Dublin Simon Community, who will be in a position to commence operations and management of the facility pending finalisation of the legal handover.

Refurbishment work was completed on the facility in 2021 and it is anticipated that operation of the facility, which will provide temporary accommodation for 7 families, will commence in early 2022.

### Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

Wicklow County Council own properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. There has been a significant number of move-ons from these properties, signalling the success of this model.

### Housing First

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

Peter McVerry Trust was appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid-East Region and Wicklow County Council committed to working with them to achieve the targets identified in the programme. Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 9 clients under Housing First, 4 of these completed in 2021. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of accommodation.

### Homelessness and Mental Health

A Mental Health forum was established by Wicklow County Council with

representatives from the HSE, Wicklow County Council and HAIL (AHB for Mental Health). Wicklow County Council agreed to co - fund a Tenancy Sustainment Officer to deal with clients at risk of homelessness due to enduring Mental Health and this position was filled in 2020. The initiative is proving successful with a number of clients positively availing of the service in 2021.

### Refugee Resettlement

Wicklow County Council was asked to provide accommodation for 190 individuals resettling under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme. 37 families were accommodated under the programme in 2020, and a further 9 in 2021 utilising extra supply and a mix of local authority and AHB units. Over the course of the two years 183 individuals were housed by Wicklow County Council.

### Health and Safety

Wicklow County Council's Health and Safety Policy has been established to ensure that in so far as is reasonably practicable, everyone who works for or on behalf of Wicklow County Council does so in the safest and healthiest conditions possible. The Housing Directorate has embedded this Health and Safety Policy as being applicable to all Wicklow County Council operations within the Housing Section. The organisation's policies and procedures for health and safety are constantly reviewed in line with best practices, legislative changes and national initiatives.

Safety audits and safety inspections of contractor and direct labour sites are carried out periodically by technical staff.

Health and Safety Induction Training is communicated to all new members of staff. Continual training programs are provided for staff to ensure compliance with construction and safety regulations.

## TRANSPORTATION, WATER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

### Strategic Policy Committee

### Strategic Policy Committee

Membership of the Transportation, Water and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee consists of five County Councillors' along with four members from sectoral interest groups.

The Strategic Policy Committee holds regular meetings throughout the year at which both national and local policy are discussed.

### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Derek Mitchell

### Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald

Cllr. Joe Behan

Cllr. Irene Winters

Cllr. Vincent Bake

### Outside Agencies

Trade Unions

### Environment/Conservation

Margaret Coughlan

Tim Morgan

### Agriculture/Farming Community

Pat Dunne

### Development/Construction

Tomás Peare

### Business Commercial

Donal Murray

### Director of Services

Colm Lavery

Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

### Senior Executive Officer

Helena Dennehy

### Senior Engineer

Michael Flynn

John Bowes

### Chief Fire Officer

Aidan Dempsey

### Administrative Officers

Allyson Minion

Garvan Hickey

### Transportation

#### Objective 1

To promote and facilitate the provision of all transport in an integrated manner and so to foster social and economic development, having regard to environmental considerations, sustainable development and social inclusion and health and safety

### Health and Safety

The Directorate is committed to ensuring adherence to the principles of Safety, Health and Welfare at work. In this regard, plans and policies have been and are continuing to be developed and updated to improve our health and safety procedures. Extensive training programmes are provided for staff continually to ensure compliance with construction and safety regulations. Ancillary & Local Safety Statements are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The implementation of good health and safety practices across Transportation, Water & Emergency Services remains a priority to the health and safety of our employees.

### Road Safety Promotion and Education

The County Wicklow Road Safety Together Committee consists of members of the Gardaí, Fire Service, Road Safety Authority, National Roads Authority and officials of Wicklow County Council. No meetings held due to COVID 19 restrictions, during 2021, however, online communication was ongoing in order to review road safety in County Wicklow.

The County Wicklow Road Safety Plan 2015-2020 was due to be reviewed in 2021 but as there were delays in the publication of the RSA's National Strategy this will now commence in 2022.

The main objective of the Road Safety Plan is to reduce the number of casualties on County Wicklow's roads and to provide focus on making Wicklow a safer county for both motorists and pedestrians through Education, Enforcement, Engineering and Evaluation.

Some of the initiatives supported by the Road Safety Together Committee during 2021:

### Light Up Your Bike Campaign

County Wicklow Road Safety Together Working Group called on all cyclists to 'Light Up Your Bike' during the darker days and evenings.

Cyclists were reminded that the use of bike lights is a legal requirement when cycling during lighting up periods. If you choose to cycle without lights, or your lights fail when on the road, you become less visible and run the risk of a €40 fixed penalty notice. The use of bike lights helps increase your visibility to other road users and there are many types and styles to choose from. Most bike lights tend to be battery or dynamo operated. If using battery operated bike lights, rechargeable/non-rechargeable, it is important to remember that they may run out of power whilst on your journey. That is why it is important to have a backup pair which can be easily attached to your bike. It is also important to remember that bike lights are not just for adults they are also to be used by children and teenagers when cycling to school.

### World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims

Communities across Wicklow were asked to play their part in a 'Light Up for Road Safety' initiative on Sunday November 21<sup>st</sup> in memory of all those who have lost their lives on our roads. The enlightening campaign saw Council buildings in Wicklow and across Ireland lit up from 7.00pm - 8.00 pm as part of the World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims'.

World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims is commemorated on the third Sunday in November each year to mark the event. On this important day, bereaved families and the seriously injured come together to acknowledge the terrible toll of road deaths and injuries and to show their thanks for the work of

the emergency services and the general public can show their support by participating in this event.

## Objective 2

To construct and maintain the national, regional and local roads networks to the highest possible standard for each road type, current and future usage and best value for money.

## M11/N11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme

Arup Consulting Engineers were appointed in November 2018 as the lead consultant to process the project through Phases 1 – 4 in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Project Management Guidelines.

The N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme is being considered in accordance with the National Transport Authority's "Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (2016 – 2035)", which presents a suite of objectives to support transportation demands and sustained economic progression. The strategy envisages a number of specific developments, including enhancements along the N11/M11 corridor between Junction 4 and Junction 14.

The N11/M11 Scheme aims to improve safety, accessibility and journey time reliability along this strategic southeast corridor. The primary objective of the project is to deliver enhanced multimodal transport links for the south east corridor.

As part of the Phase 2 Wicklow County Council collaborated with the National Transport Authority to assess future public transport proposals under the "Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (2016 – 2035)" and their impact on the need for road improvements on the corridor. As part of the Bus Priority Interim Scheme consideration on how the N11/M11 route could be enhanced to facilitate public transportation is underway, this includes an assessment of bus priority and park and ride measures.

The scheme progressed through Phase 2 Option Selection with the announcement of the preferred option in August 2021, this cumulated with presentations to both Wicklow County Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Elected Members and TD's. During September a non-statutory public display of the preferred option was undertaken. The final Option Selection report was published on December 14th 2021.

## N11 Kilmacanogue Parallel Service Road



The N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue is approximately 1.6km long and located between Junction 7 and Junction 8 of the N11. The new service road provides the motorist with both a

safer and easier access to the residential and commercial properties and also the regional road (R755) to Roundwood. The scheme was substantially completed in September 2021. The Road works Special Speed Limit Order was lifted in October 2021, with the exception of the Parallel Service Road which will retain the RWSLO of 50km/h. The speed limit of 60km/h that is included in the current 2017 Bye-Laws will apply on the mainline. This speed limit will be further considered as part of the next county wide review of speed limits.

### N11 Interim Bus Priority Scheme

A feasibility report (Phase 1) has been completed by Arup Consulting Engineers on behalf of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to determine the viability of along the N11 between Junction 4 Loughlinstown and Junction 9 Glenview. The provision of bus lanes could offer a practicable interim solution in advance of the main N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme. The N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme (BPIS) is now progressing through Phase 2 (Options Selection) and Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation). The BPIS web site is now available on [www.N11M11.ie](http://www.N11M11.ie). This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

### National Secondary N81

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

The Phase 1 (Feasibility Report) for the N81 Tuckmill Lower, Hangman's Bend, Whitestown Lower and Irishtown West

projects (the 'N81 Four Studies') is completed. Wicklow County Council has requested approval from TII to progress the scheme to Phase 2 (Route Selection) in accordance with the TII Project Management Guidelines. The N81 Four Studies Scheme aims to improve safety, accessibility and journey time reliability along this strategic National Secondary corridor.

Given the overlap between and close proximity of the four study areas it was agreed to assess the corridor for Phase 1 from north of Baltinglass to north of Irishtown West. The overall length of the corridor considered for the purpose of the feasibility study was approximately 12.8km.

### Non National Road Maintenance and Improvement

Maintenance works on Non National Roads in 2021 were carried out by both direct labour units of the five Municipal Districts and by private contractors.

Resurfacing works of 4km of the N81 between Blessington and Russborough House was successfully completed in September 2021.

Resurfacing works for both Ballinacrow Upper to Saundersgrove Hill and at Hollywood Lower was completed in July 2021.

Pavement repair was carried out in Blessington during July.

Retrofitting of Energy Reducing public lighting at the N81 Hollywood Junction and N81 Lambs Junction were completed in 2021.

Work on the retrofitting and repairs of Vehicle Restraint Systems along the N81

commenced on site in August 2021 and will continue into 2022.

## Non National Road Maintenance and Improvement

### Specific Improvement Projects

Cunningham's Corner - As part of Specific Road Improvement Funding, realignment of a bend is required on the R755 Roundwood to Kilmacanogue Road (near Djouce golf club) where there have been a number of incidents over the years. Consultants completed the final design in late August 2021. Construction started on site in early September 2021, alongside the Sally's Bridge project. Completion is due end of Quarter 2 2022

Ballinaclash and Glendalough Junctions were completed in 2021 as part of the Specific Improvement Funding Programme.



Glendalough Junction



Ballinaclash Junction

### Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

The Bridge Rehabilitation crew completed the Bridge Rehabilitation Programme for 2021. Most works for 2021 were rebuilding of damaged parapets and installation of rubbing strips.

Additional bridges to programme were repaired at Tombreane, Carnew after a parapet strike and support works completed at Mullinaveigue Bridge, Roundwood.

A large scale concrete reinforcement project was required at Potters Bridge, Brittas Bay in order to stabilise road that had been damaged by scour, which involved derogation from Inland Fisheries.

Machinery Yard – On-going repair and Maintenance of a large fleet continues as a priority.

The Machinery Yard Replacement is in place using OGP frameworks.

The Pure Truck for Environment was ordered from OGP frameworks in 2021 with delivery in Q3/Q4 2022.

Wicklow County Council technical and engineering staff is working with Climate team in relation to installing EV chargers.

6 have been completed to date in Council depots across the county.

Surface Dressing - Works programme for 2021 completed in August 2021.

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (LED retro-fit scheme) - Region Works Contract tender assessment currently under review.

Ongoing Public Lighting Maintenance continued on the existing infrastructure throughout 2021.

As part of the on-going public lighting maintenance, 2,094 LED lights were installed, giving an energy saving of 480,339kWh and a carbon saving of 362,330kg.

Noise Mapping Review - Strategic noise maps are required for certain parts of the country under the Environmental Noise Directive (END). The Directive is implemented via the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018, (SI No 549 of 2018). These Regulations require, among other things, that mapping is done on a periodic basis. To date, three rounds of mapping have taken place and work on the preparation of the fourth round has commenced. The maps are to be based on data from the last three years (i.e. 2019, 2020 and 2021). Roadways with a traffic volume in excess of 3,000,000 vehicles per annum must be mapped. In conjunction with the RMO, EPA & TII, the necessary information is being gathered so the mapping of the roadways may be undertaken.

Traffic volume and surface details have been ascertained for all roads to be mapped by Wicklow County Council. It is

hoped to ascertain the gradients details for outstanding roads and have all information uploaded to the RMO PMS in Quarter 1 2022.

### Objective 3

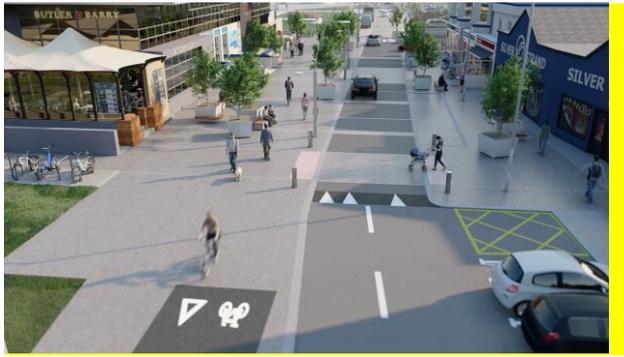
To facilitate and promote walking and cycling and use of public transport as a means of reducing congestion, promoting healthier lifestyles and providing access to facilities for those who do not drive or have access to public transport.

### National Transport Authority Funding

Each year, Wicklow County Council receives funding from the National Transport Authority's Sustainable Transport Measures Programme towards a variety of projects. 2021 saw a significant increase in funding and allowed Wicklow County Council to progress as well as introduce new projects across the County. Sustainable Transport Measures Programme aims to improve transport options for those choosing alternatives to the private car.

Projects which received funding from the National Transport Authority in 2021 included:





Strand, Road, Bray

Bray Seafront Plaza  
 Arklow – Shillelagh Cycle Route  
 Arklow Transport Study  
 Bellevue Hill, Delgany  
 Blessington Improvement works  
 Bray Bridge footbridges and tie-ins  
 Bray Dart Interchange  
 Bus Priority in Little Bray  
 Convent Avenue to Vevay Crescent  
 Permeability Scheme  
 Killarney Road & Vevay Road Cycle  
 Scheme  
 Greystones Coastal Walk & Cycleways  
 Coldross Lane Cycletrack  
 Bray Head Cliff Walk  
 Wicklow Town One Way System  
 Dublin Road to Wexford Road  
 Edward Street, Baltinglass  
 Greystones Transport Study  
 Lower Main Street, Tinahask Road & Dock  
 Road to South Quay  
 Strand Road North & Marine Terrace  
 Bog Meadow Bus Terminus  
 Kilcoole to Greystones Footpath on R761  
 Convent Hill Footpath Realignment  
 Blacklion Manor Road Cycle  
 Improvements

NTA Outdoor Infrastructure – Arklow  
 Town Centre Improvements

Putland Road  
 Rathnew to Glenealy Footpath

Red Lane Footpath, Blessington  
 Delgany Village Accessibility Scheme  
 Blessington Main Street to Deerpark  
 Old Ballymore Road  
 Saville’s Cross, Rathdrum  
 Southern Cross VRU Improvements  
 St. Brigid’s School, Manor Kilbride  
 Swan River Greenway  
 Vale Road Footpath  
 Wicklow Town port access route to  
 Station Pedestrian Access  
 Wicklow Town to Dunbur

**The Safe Routes to School Programme**

was launched to improve safety at the school, improve access routes to school and increase the number of students who cycle to school. Wicklow County Council received funding allocation from the NTA in 2021 for the following schools:  
 St. Kevin’s National School, Greystones  
 St. John’s National School, Arklow  
 SS Michael & Peter Junior National School, Arklow

**The ‘Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund’**

was put in place to help ensure a Safe Outdoor Summer. Through the enhancement of outdoor urban space and improvement of walking and cycling infrastructure. Wicklow County Council received funding allocation from the NTA for the following Schemes in 2021:  
 Arklow Town Centre Improvements  
 Blessington Market Square Public Realm Space  
 Mount Usher Pedestrian Facilities  
 Rathdrum Town Centre Improvements  
 Tinahely Walkways  
 The Murrough Footpath Improvement Works

## Disability Access

The Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Directorate will continue to keep up to date with the guidelines from the National Disability Authority, ensuring that the highest standard of 'access for all' is achieved through compliant standards of design.

## Water and Wastewater Water Services

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

## Covid-19

Normal operation and maintenance works have been on-going throughout these challenging time and all works across water and waste water were deemed essential service provision throughout the pandemic. Changes were made to reflect and deliver on safe work practices with an ongoing priority of ensuring our staff remained well and safe.

## Annual Service Plan

Wicklow County Council works alongside Irish Water in line with Key Performance Indicators under the Annual Service Plan. As a part of the Annual Service Plan, Water Services in Wicklow County Council is required to deliver on performance measures and Key Performance Indicators.

The Annual Service Plan outlines all 69 performance measures alongside all corresponding baselines and targets. Each measure and associated objective has been grouped into one of four categories, namely: -

Learning & Growth (7 measures)

Objective: To continuously improve and drive transformation and change initiatives

Customer (17 measures)

Objective: Providing services that are valued by customers. This is influenced by the CRU Customer Handbook and proposed Performance Assessment metrics

Internal Process / Compliance (30 measures)

Objective: Adherence to all reporting requirements and meeting regulatory requirements as set out by the relevant statutory and regulatory bodies, e.g. CRU and EPA

Financial (15 measures)

Objective: Providing a cost effective service, within budgetary constraints

Within the four categories of performance measures there are three distinct tiers:

1. KPIs – 17 measures
2. Operational Measures – 39 measures
3. Tracking Measures – 6 measures

Performance from recent years is as follows:

In 2021, the overall score was 89.3% versus a 2020 score of 94.4% and 88.1% in 2019.

	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4
ASP Report 2021	90.7%	90.8%	89.2%	89.3%
ASP Report 2020	93.9%	96.2%	91.3%	94.4%
ASP Report 2019	84.3%	93.3%	83.7%	88.1%

The overall score for Wicklow County Council is comprised of a range of KPI scores over the year, including:

- A score of 100% was achieved for timely response to workflow queries
  - A score of 100% was achieved for Drinking Water Supply – Microbiological Compliance.
  - A score of 100% for Waste Water Treatment – Incident Reporting
  - A score of 100% for Waste Water Treatment – UWWTD Performance by no of WWTP’s
- (Based on Irish Water ASP Monthly Report Quarter 4 2021).

### Leakage

Substantial progress was made during 2021 in leakage reduction. Progress was made under various headings including Find & Fix, First Fix, Back Yard Services and Pressure measures. Mains Rehabilitations Works were carried out in Bray, Greystones and Wicklow Municipal Districts. Wicklow County Council exceeded leakage reduction targets set by Irish Water for 2021 as per KPI’s.

Wicklow County Council Water Services crews attended to and fixed 340 leaks that

were found and reported by members of the public.



Burst main Arklow

### Drinking Water

There are 23 water treatment plants managed in Wicklow County Council with 40 water reservoirs. The Water Services team maintain 410km of networks and 539km of networks across non GDA and Wicklow GDA networks respectively. The Water Services team continues to deliver on areas on water compliance, drinking water supply, leak management, water connection development service and water quality control.

### Waste Water

We operate 36 Waste Water Treatment Plants and look after the sewage networks across the county. The Waste Water team continues to work in line with Key Performance Indicators in line with the Annual Service Plan.

### Capital Projects

There was an additional significant funding stream provide to Wicklow

County Council water and waste water sections from Irish Water in the form of a Stimulus package, with €1.6m additional funding specifically in this area of Capital Maintenance. This was in addition to annual operational allocations. Wicklow County Council continues to work in partnership with Irish Water in the delivery of these minor capital projects and upgrades. Upgrade works were on-going throughout 2021 at a number of plants throughout the County. This is to help provide for the ever-increasing population of Wicklow and ensure that the capacity is within the plants.

#### Barndarrig Waste Water Treatment Plant

Laying a new Water Main between Redcross and Barndarrig commenced before Christmas 2021. On completion, the Drinking Water Network in Barndarrig will be connected up to the Redcross Water Treatment Plant. The Barndarrig Water Treatment plant will be then decommissioned.

The project also involves the installation of two new primary tanks, a screen and ancillary works to increase the capacity of the existing Waste Water Treatment plant.



#### Vartry Water Treatment Plant

The Construction of the new Vartry Water Treatment Plant was completed during 2021. This plant was commissioned during late 2021. Wicklow County Council staff worked with Irish Water during the switchover from the old to the new Water Treatment Plants.

The existing Roundwood Public Supply will now be joined to the new Vartry Water Treatment Plant. Laying a new Water Main commenced between Roundwood and the new Vartry Water Treatment Plant before Christmas 2021. On completion, the Drinking Water Network in Roundwood will be connected up to the new Vartry Water Treatment Plant. The existing Roundwood Well Water Treatment plant will be then be decommissioned. Roundwood will then become part of the Greater Dublin Area Water Network.



Vartry – T-connection installed on 1200mm supply main

## Aughrim Waste Water Treatment Plant

Replacement of mechanical aerator with Fine Bubble Diffused Air (FBDA) aeration system



## General

Wicklow County Council operate under the SLA with circa 70 full time equivalent staff across areas of drinking water networks, wastewater networks, sewerage treatment plants, water treatment plants and pumping stations. Staff are highly trained and competent in their areas of delivery and contribute to overall performance and excellent delivery of quality and processes to the public of Wicklow County Council.

At a national level, there are ongoing negotiations between Government, Irish Water and Local Authorities to the model of future provision of Water and Wastewater services. An outcome and

decision on this future provision would be expected in 2022, and in the interim Wicklow County Council in partnership with Irish Water will continue to deliver an excellent service under the current Service Level Agreement.

## Emergency Management

Wicklow County Council is part of the Eastern Region for Emergency Planning with the Dublin Local Authorities and Kildare. The working group has been focused on the response to the pandemic and has met remotely on over 100 occasions in 2021. The Working Group reports to the Regional Steering Group which co-ordinates Emergency Planning for the Region.

A Major Emergency Management Committee is in place in Wicklow County Council and comprises of Senior Personnel from all sections of Wicklow County Council and Municipal Districts. Two meetings of the committee took place in 2021 to maintain MEM preparedness.

The focus of Major Emergency Management in the Local Authority and the Region was the response to the COVID pandemic.

## Fire Services

Wicklow County Fire Service was involved in 1,287 incidents in 2021 of which 67 were in neighbouring counties. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of 1,492 occasions. Activity during the year spiked in March, April and July due to gorse fires and in October / November due to outdoor fires, rubbish fires and bonfires. December was the busiest

month with high levels of activity due to storms (29 incidents), RTCs and chimney fires.

The following incident types accounted for the majority of operational incidents across the county in 2021:

Outdoor / gorse fires	13%	
Road Traffic Collisions	16%	
Fire Alarm Activations	13%	
Bins / Rubbish / bonfires		15%
Domestic Fire	8%	
Assisting Ambulances	7%	
Chimney Fires	5%	
Vehicle Fires	3%	



Individual Fire Stations were mobilised the following number of times in 2021:

Bray	424
Greystones	310
Wicklow Town	258
Rathdrum	97
Arklow	119
Blessington	74
Dunlavin	74
Baltinglass	49
Carnew	48
Tinahely	39

The following projects were commenced/ progressed with grant aid funding from Central Government:

New Fire Station Baltinglass	€1 million
New Fire Station Dunlavin	€1 million

New Fire Engine	€450,000
2 x new Water Tankers	€250,000
Upgrade to training centre	€210,000
New vehicles	€125,000
New firefighting equipment	€100,000

The primary focus of the annual training programme was to maintain / refresh necessary areas of competence e.g.

- Breathing Apparatus
- Emergency Traffic Management
- Compartment Fire Behaviour
- Emergency Medical First Responder
- Emergency Vehicle driving skills
- Winch operator

In addition new entrants to the service from 2020 and 2021 underwent the following induction training:

- Firefighter Skills training
- Breathing Apparatus
- Compartment Fire Behaviour
- Emergency Traffic Management
- Emergency Medical First Responder

Throughout the pandemic staff in Wicklow County Fire Service were proactive and enthusiastic in their response and support for the community. Station Officer Derek Ryan (Dunlavin) made deliveries of food and medicine to members of the local community throughout the pandemic.



Teams from Wicklow County Fire Service took part in the “World Rescue Challenge” they won two Gold Medals, one in the Incident Command Challenge and one in the Trauma Challenge.

Three new Recruit Fire-Fighters joined the service in September, one each in Bray, Carnew and Tinahely.

Wicklow Fire Service has developed a mobile app to assist Fire Service Instructors with the assessment and management of LASNTG QQI Fire Service Courses. November saw the app being tested on two external courses held in Clonmel and Dundalk. Wicklow Fire Service’s work has been widely acknowledged and it is anticipated that the app will be further developed, tested and put into national use during 2022.

The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management has adopted Wicklow County Fire Service training to deal with Electric Vehicle incidents as the national standard. Training was delivered to Fire Officers from around the country in Bray, Sligo and Nenagh supported by Wicklow Instructors. This training has been attended by more than 200 Instructors and Officers from across the country.

The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management has adopted Wicklow County Fire Service’s training and operational guidance for Confined Space Incidents as the national standard. Work to make the training accessible to the Fire Service nationally was completed in 2021 and will be circulated to all Fire Services in 2022.

The Training Centre in Bray has undergone extensive upgrade and refurbishment works funded by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management.

Fire Crews in Greystones and Bray continue to fund raise to expand the number of publicly accessible Defibrillators in both Fire Station areas. In 2021 funding for 15 new defibrillators was collected.

Wicklow County Fire Service has undertaken combined training in 2021 with Cork City Fire Brigade, National Ambulance Service, Air Corps, An Garda Síochana, Coastguard and other agencies.

Other areas of Fire Service activity progressed during the pandemic included:

Inspections and enforcement under Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003  
Inspecting Licensed Premises.  
Assessing Fire Safety Certificates (FSCs) and Disability Access Certificates (DACs) under the Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2009 – 91 FSC applications and 63 DAC applications were processed in 2021.  
Community Fire Safety including visits to most Primary Schools in the county and to sites used by the Travelling Community.

## Building Control

The Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2015 set out procedures and controls which require owners, builders, and registered construction professionals to demonstrate that the works or buildings concerned have been designed and constructed in compliance with Building Regulations. With the advent of the Building Control Amendment Regulations

(BCAR) in 2014, there is now greater oversight and accountability of the construction of building and works in County Wicklow.

The Building Control Section administers the building control system and carries out inspections of active construction sites. Developers are required to submit Commencement Notices online into the National Building Control Management System (BCMS). A technical desktop assessment of every Commencement Notice is carried out and any issues are identified by a Building Control Officer. The purpose of site inspections is to provide an oversight role to the building control system and also to encourage and support a culture of compliance with the requirements of the building regulations. Sites are selected for inspection on a risk assessment basis with priority given to new building multi-unit residential developments, places of public resort, schools, hospitals and other buildings where large numbers of the public may be affected by non-compliant work. The priority of the Building Control Officer on site is to confirm compliance with fire safety requirements, structural stability, accessibility and conservation of fuel and energy.

In 2021, there was continued activity to promote a culture of compliance with regulations. 412 Commencement Notices and 131 Certificates of Compliance on Completion were assessed by Building Control in 2021.

Other areas of note:

Further professional training for staff, upgraded web content for Building Control Information on web site, Increased digitalisation, improved recording and structure of inspections and

enhanced collaboration with other Building Control Authorities through the National Building Control Office.

## Civil Defence



Currently Wicklow Civil Defence has approximately 40 active volunteers based in Greystones and Baltinglass. Our Training Centre is located on Mill Rd, Greystones and is home to the majority of our equipment and facilitates all of our training courses. We have highly qualified instructors in area of Swift Water Rescue, First Aid, Missing Person Searching and Manual & People Handling, Flood Support and Boating Operations.

Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Civil Defence are at the forefront on using Drone and UAV Technology within Ireland. Currently Wicklow Civil Defence is using a DJI Matrice 210 Drone which has both 30 x Optical Zoom Camera and Thermal Imaging Camera to assist local Emergency Service Agencies in carrying out their respective roles

An exciting addition to the our technical capabilities is the acquisition of the Sonar E.M.I.L.Y Platform, Sonar E.M.I.L.Y which stands for Emergency Integrated Lifesaving Lanyard is a robotic device used for Rescue/Recovery and is equipped with side sonar technology. This operation is supported by our Boat Unit making the deployment of the Sonar E.M.I.L.Y

Throughout 2021 Wicklow Civil Defence volunteers provide invaluable assistance to the Principle Response Agencies in times of emergency.



Assisted the Local Authority Roads Department with Drone Support for new road projects throughout the County. Provided First Aid Cover at the request of WCC Sports Partnership for local events. Assisted Wicklow Fire Service with Drone support on Scar Mountain during wildland fire and support at flooding event in Kilcoole. Assisting Arklow Gardaí with a Missing Person Search Brittas Bay, Newtownmountkennedy, and Wicklow. Supported Wexford and Kilkenny Civil Defence with a Missing Person Search in New Ross on the river Barrow with E.M.I.L.Y Sonar and Drone Support. Assisted the HSE with transporting patient for Dialysis during Adverse Weather (Snow) Providing First Aid support to the vaccination centres & ongoing support to the HSE in Shoreline Leisure with the

supply of backup generators and equipment for Vaccine refrigerators. Providing Community Support for local organisations during Adverse Weather (Snow) Provided First Aid cover for local charity events across the County



Wicklow Civil Defence’s ability to respond in time of emergency is built on the dedication of our volunteers, and commitment to assisting their community in times of need.

Performance Indicators – Wicklow County Council

National Service Indicators are prepared annually and submitted and verified by NOAC. Transportation, Water & Emergency Service indicators include:

Transportation (Verified externally by RMO)

- R1: Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings
- R2: Regional & Local Road Works

Fire Services

- P5: Applications for Fire Safety Certificates
- F2 - Service Mobilisation
- F3 - Percentage Attendance Times at Scenes

Public Lighting  
E6 – Public lighting

Building Control  
P1 – New Buildings Inspected

## Planning Development and Environment Directorate

Fergal Keogh

### Planning Development

#### Strategic Policy Committee

#### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Sylvester Bourke (2.5 years)

Cllr. Edward Timmins (2.5 years)

#### Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Shay Cullen

Cllr. Edward Timmins

Cllr. Patsy Glennon

Cllr. Erica Doyle

Cllr. Gerry O'Neill

#### Outside Agencies

Development/Construction - Jim Wood

Agriculture/Farming Community - Michael Byrne

Environment/Conservation - Tessa Stewart

Business/Commercial/Chambers - Conor

McCarthy

#### Director of Services

Breege Kilkenny

#### Senior Executive Officer

Jackie Carroll

#### Senior Planner

Sorcha Walsh

#### Senior Engineer

Functions Include:

- Preparation of County Development Plan and Local Area Plans
- Monitoring of the effectiveness of policies of Development Plan
- Development Management
- Planning Enforcement (Unauthorised Development and Compliance)
- Heritage
- Vacant Sites
- Derelict Sites
- Enforcement of the Short Term letting Regulations

Goal

“To provide for proper and effective planning, balancing the need for sustainable development, the rights of individuals, the protection of the environment and the social and economic needs of each area”



Development Management

Development Management is the general term used to describe the functions relating to the processing of planning applications, up to and including any appeals to An Bord Pleanala.

Year	No. of Applications
2011	976
2012	939

2013	987
2014	1,285
2015	1,361
2016	1,465
2017	1,544
2018	1,156
2019	1,122
2020	1,118
2021	1,370

- Other functions in the Planning and Development section are
- Strategic Housing Developments
  - Pre-planning
  - Third party submissions
  - Compliance
  - Appeals
  - Collection of development contributions
  - Section 5 referrals
  - Taking in charge of estates

Heritage

External funding drawn down in 2021:

- €30,000 - County Heritage Plan Fund, The Heritage Council (CHP)
- €29,515- National Biodiversity Action Plan fund, DHLGH, (NBAP)
- €17,000- Creative Ireland; DCHG (CI)
- €65,000– Community Monument Fund, DHLGH (CMF)
- €172,000 - Built Heritage Grants, DHLGH. (BHIS/HSF)
- €10,000- Healthy Ireland, Department of Health (HI)
- Total: €323,515

- Heritage Office programme delivered 2021
- Glendalough Community Archaeology Project (CHP)
- Wicklow Swift Champions project (CHP)
- Kilbride Mausoleum and Graveyard Conservation Plan (CHP)
- Brittas Bay Interpretation audit (CHP)
- Digital Upskilling – online course for community heritage groups (CHP)

Our Wicklow Heritage Network of community heritage websites (CHP)  
 National Heritage Week: Co-ordination of a county programme (CHP)  
 Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project -Year 3 conservation actions (NBAP)  
 Kilmacanogue Marsh – Biodiversity project (NBAP)  
 Ecological survey of historic graveyards (NBAP)  
 River Avoca stories – school project (CI)  
 Rathgall - publication support (CI)  
 Hidden Heritage - accessibility beacon development (CI)  
 Co-ordination of scheme and delivery of seven approved projects under Community Monument Fund (CMF)  
 Know Your 5 K online heritage course (HI)  
 Nature is Good for You - Spring-Summer programme of eight zoom talks (HI)  
 Co-ordination of Protected Structures Grant schemes on behalf of planning section - Eight BHIS projects and two HSF projects completed. (BHIS/HSF)  
 Other:  
 Draft World Heritage Site (WHS) Tentative List input to process on behalf of Wicklow County Council  
 Ongoing input to Development management and Forward Planning activities  
 Ongoing input to Climate Action team  
 Co-ordination of Wicklow Heritage Forum meetings (four per year)  
 All Ireland Pollinator Plan – point of contact with National Biodiversity Data Centre

## Environment

### Climate Action and Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee

#### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Rory O'Connor (2.5 years)  
 Cllr. Lourda Scott (2.5 years)

#### Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Dermot O'Brien  
 Cllr. Jodie Neary

Cllr Peir Leonard

### Outside Agencies

Environment and Conservation – East Wicklow - Justin Ivory  
 Environment and Conservation – West Wicklow - Sharon Jackson  
 Agriculture/Farming Community - Tom Shortt  
 Business/ commercial/ chambers - Gary McKensie  
 An Comhairle Na n'Og - Franny Raven

### Director of Services

Breege Kilkenny

### Senior Executive Officer

Jackie Carroll

### Senior Engineer

Marc Devereux

### Climate Action Officer

Mary Cahill

Other functions in the section are:

Climate Action – Adaptation and Mitigation  
 Environmental Awareness  
 Sustainable Energy  
 Waste Management  
 Harbours  
 Pollution Control  
 Veterinary Services  
 Caravan Parks  
 Burial Grounds  
 Casual Trading  
 Water Safety

The Climate Action and Biodiversity SPC met six times during 2021

Priority Action items for 2021 included

Pilot scheme to install EV Charging point in three locations in the County progressed. Two locations are complete and the third is awaiting a new ESB connection.

Draft Tree Policy was approved by the CABA SPC to go before plenary in January 2022.

MDs continue to investigate possible alternatives to the use of glyphosate in the public areas. The Climate Action National Training Programme, being managed by the CARO, continued to be rolled out with the Climate Action Champions from each section recently receiving training. Application for 2021 funding under the Better Energy Communities (BEC) grant scheme was successful and a number of energy saving and renewable energy projects were completed within the allotted timeframe.

Negotiations commenced on the formation of an Energy Bureau for Wicklow, Meath and Kildare County Councils with the support of the SEAI. Decarbonisation Zone: Arklow was selected as the first town to calculate the Carbon Footprint of the Town and draw up an implementation plan for possible routes to reduce the carbon footprint. RPS Consulting Engineers were appointed to work on this project. Work continued in supporting Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) of which there are now 9 in the County.

The National Climate Action Plan 2021 was published in November 2021. It sets out the detailed measures required to cut emissions and how each sector will meet the forthcoming targets.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC)  
9 Communities have now signed up to the Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) programme – Glenmalure, Laragh NewtownmountKennedy, Greystones/Delgany, Enniskerry, Wicklow, Blessington, High Park and Arklow. Energy master plan was completed for Glenmalure, Laragh and Newtownmountkennedy



### Environmental awareness

A pilot project to train communities to grow trees from local seed in tree nursery beds was done in Laragh, Greystones and Bray with 25 people trained.

Tree grants were given to 29 community groups covering 75% of the cost of planting 4,700 trees. 800 trees from the Tree Council of Ireland were distributed in March to mark National Tree Week. The Relove fashion competition was held again in 2021 with 11 teams. A website was developed to promote it and act as an online portal for managing entries from schools across ten local authorities.

A sustainable tourism webinar was held in March in collaboration with Wicklow Tourism. The event was hosted by Sustainable Tourism Ireland and had over 80 attendees.

Work was undertaken with the CARO and Kildare and Meath local authorities to develop a transition year Climate Action programme which will be rolled out through the GAA Future Leaders programme.

14 schools received green flags.

Anti-litter funding supported growing involvement in litter clean up events, an all year audio device campaign delivering messages on keeping bottle bank sites clean, dog fouling and litter on blue flag beaches, as well as funding a solar powered LED sign with dog fouling messaging for each MD. A social media campaign on dog fouling with six video clips has been developed collaborating with nine local authorities to share costs and campaign.

Wicklow is involved in a pilot project to increase separate collection of textiles funded by the EPA and delivered in collaboration with the Clean Technology Centre and the Community Reuse Network.

A permanent storage unit has been acquired for the Bikes to Africa project with the Rotary Club. It is based in Arklow and will take all good bikes received across our recycling centres for reuse. Funded through the anti-dumping initiative.

EPA funding under LAPN was used to fund compost training in five communities and one school and funding was allocated under LAPN for two new projects, one to promote repair of bikes and the second to hold a circular economy for the food sector webinar with Wicklow Naturally. The annual Tidy Towns, Estates and Environmental Awards were launched at the beginning of July and judged in August and September. The annual Christmas Decoration Competition was held as an in school event this year. Twenty schools participated.

### Water & Wastewater Quality – Pollution Control & Enforcement

Wicklow County Council, under its own remit, and on behalf of Irish Water, continues to monitor water and control and wastewater pollution in accordance with legislation and EU regulations.

### Laboratory Services & Pollution Control

The laboratory services and pollution team were active in a range of areas to promote, protect and improve the quality of our environment and water resources in County Wicklow. The team plan and RMCEI (recommended minimum criteria for environmental inspections) formed the basis of prioritizing the work activities such as monitoring, complaint investigation, assessment and enforcement, as guided by departmental plan and committed resources.



Wicklow County Council continued to participate on the regional management and operational committees and engage with the Environmental Protection Agency, LA Water Programmes Offices, Community Groups and other stakeholders tasked with implementation of the River Basin Management Plan 2018\_2021 and preparation of the next management plan, which is undergoing a phase period of public consultation prior to finalisation in mid-2022.

The monitoring of drinking water, river and lakes, and emissions to air and water and investigation of complaints were conducted uninterrupted and adhering to the pandemic restrictions.

### Bathing Waters



Wicklow Co. Co.	Silver Strand	Excellent
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One of the Criteria for Blue Flag award is an excellent water quality classification.

A public consultation was undertaken about the identification of bathing waters for 2022 which is under consideration.

### Veterinary Services

Service contract with Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) until 31/03/22  
 Allocation for 2021 - €175,684.49  
 Supervision of low throughput abattoirs and meat manufacturing premises (14 in total)  
 Section 149A agreement with Wexford County Council  
 Ante & post-mortem inspections; hygiene inspections & audits; animal welfare; microbiological sampling (food, water & swabs); chemical analysis (sulphites, nitrates, allergens & speciation); veterinary medicine residue analysis  
 Participation in Eastern Region and National Zoonoses Committees  
 Participation in CCMA, FSAI and DAFM working groups

### Dog Control

Memorandum of Agreement with ISPCA 1/3/20 to 28/2/23  
 Dog Pound at Wicklow SPCA site in Ballygannonmore, Rathdrum  
 2 Dog Wardens & 1 part-time Kennel Assistant  
 Charge for 2021 - €200,392

### 2021 statistics

Dog Licences issued – 3588 Annual; Lifetime – 62  
 No. of stray & surrendered dogs - 36  
 No. reclaimed dogs - 15 /rehomed - 19  
 No. put to sleep - 2  
 Rehomed to other welfare groups – WSPCA/ISPCA/Dogs Trust/Dogs Angels/Great Hounds in Need/ Cara Rescue Dogs

There are six designated bathing waters in county Wicklow. The monitoring of these and many other commonly used bathing areas continued in 2021. The bathing water monitoring results are displayed at the beaches and on the beaches.ie website through the bathing water season which runs from 1st June to 15th September each year. The bathing water quality at the six identified bathing waters and eight other bathing areas was predominantly excellent in 2020 although there were periods when the water quality was significantly lower, due to rainfall and infrastructure events, which necessitated the placing of notices to protect the health of bathers, were placed on some bathing waters during the season.

The classifications of the bathing water quality at the six identified bathing waters based on period 2018-2021 were as follows:

	NAME	2021
Wicklow Co. Co.	Bray South Promenade	Good
Wicklow Co. Co.	Brittas Bay North	Excellent
Wicklow Co. Co.	Brittas Bay South	Excellent
Wicklow Co. Co.	Clogga	Excellent
Wicklow Co. Co.	Greystones South	Excellent

All rehomed dogs microchipped, vaccinated, dewormed and neutering voucher given.  
Dog Breeding Establishments - 4  
Participation in Wicklow Multi-Agency Animal Welfare Forum

### Whitestown

Following circulation of the Draft Remediation Plan to the statutory consultees in November 2020 a number of submissions were received and the draft plan was reviewed on foot of the submissions

### Waste Enforcement Team

The Waste Enforcement Team is dedicated to enforcing Waste Management Legislation within County Wicklow and has proven to be a great asset to the County.

The Team deals with waste, litter & burning environmental complaints. 2691 complaints were received during 2021.

### Litter & Waste Management

256 Litter Fines were issued for various breaches of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 e.g. littering, illegal signage, dog fouling etc.

58 Waste Management Files were opened for various breaches of the Waste Management Act, e.g. illegal dumping, burning of waste, illegal storage of waste etc.

30 Litter Fine cases were taken to Court and 35 Waste Management Files were taken to Court.  
45 Warning Letters were issued to individuals who contravened the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 e.g. leaving material at the recycling centres when the centres were closed, incorrect recycling at the Recycling Centre, holding full and/or overflowing skip bags around an individual's property for a long period of time etc.  
72 Section 14 Direction Notices were issued to individuals who failed to keep their property free from waste.

102 Abandoned Vehicle Notices were issued.

126 Burning Applications were processed.  
15 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued  
3 Section 55 Notices were issued.  
26 Fines were issued under the Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws 2018

Anti-dumping Initiative 2021 – Total expenditure funding received for the projects was €77,101.00  
Funding was received from the DECC for seven projects under the Anti-dumping Initiative 2021. The projects comprised:  
Three hazardous waste collections held in Greystones, Wicklow and Rampere.  
Two mattress amnesty collections that were held in Rampere and Arklow  
A waste clean-up project of a public area that was completed in Greystones  
A bike-for-Africa project

Litter Infrastructure Support Grant – Funding - €125,000.00  
Expenditure incurred on the planning and purchase of litter infrastructure and the additional deployment of litter enforcement and operational staff to service such infrastructure for the duration of the period June to September, 2021.  
Local Authority Waste Enforcement Measures Grant Scheme – Funding - €208,544.00  
Expenditure on the engagement of the required number of full time dedicated Waste Enforcement Officers.

### PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments)

PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments) is an environmental project established to combat the increase of illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands and was officially launched in September, 2006. Funding approval was received in 2021 to purchase a new truck for this initiative.

2021 was the twelfth year of the Pure Mile, with the largest number of groups and volunteers

involved in the project since it was established in 2009. In the first year the Pure Mile had 6 miles of road, and over the years the project has grown extensively to over 200 communities, groups, scouts, beavers, primary schools, walking groups, cycling groups, running groups, businesses and organisations, who have collectively improved and enhanced over 800 miles of road, mountains, valleys, forestries, woodlands, and upland amenities, with the removal of tonnes of illegal dumping and litter from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. Over 2,000 litter picks and clean-ups were organised in 2021 and additional projects included, natural heritage, built heritage, community, biodiversity, and education.

### Recycling Facilities

A number of improvements took place in the Recycling centres during 2021.

Ark Housing Association was the successful tenderer to run a charity shop in Bray Recycling Centre. The new improved charity shop space opened in December 2021. The book stand formerly in the Recycling Centre is now part of this charity shop.

Bags used by the County Council and Tidy Towns clean up groups are now sourced from plastics recycled in Wicklow County Councils own recycling centres.

Bray Recycling Centre was made diesel free to reduce its carbon footprint. This involved electrical upgrades to remove a diesel generator as well as the replacement of a diesel forklift with an electric forklift.

Staff in Avoca Recycling Centre was provided with a new Welfare Unit which includes a toilet and canteen.

In 2021 the 5 Recycling Centres remained fully operational through the COVID restrictions. They accepted the following amounts of recycling materials (all figures are ex WEEE)-

Arklow	1,078 tonnes
Avoca	340 tonnes
Bray	1,070 tonnes
Wicklow	623 tonnes
Rampere	294 tonnes

WEEE collected in Wicklow County Council recycling centres for – 718.6 tonnes

In addition, there are 46 bottle bank locations throughout the County that collect Glass, Drink Cans and Food Cans. During 2021 the total weight of materials collected at these bottle banks amounted to 4,130 tonnes.

### Harbours and Ports

Fishery Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2020

A significant number of improvement works completed under the Fishery Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2021. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine co-funds up to 75% of the total cost of approved projects, with Wicklow County Council providing the balance.

Repair & Replacement of Fendering – Arklow Harbour

Installation of new aircraft tyre fendering and vertical steel fendering including all required fixings at selected location at the inner harbour and dock tongue

Repaving Section of Quay and Associated Improvements at South Quay, Wicklow  
Saw cutting and breaking out of existing damaged concrete slab while protecting existing infrastructure and installation of 200mm C40/50 concrete slab at South Quay, Wicklow.

Removal of existing corroded barrier and installation of new handrail in accordance with building regulations.

Relocation of water supply for harbour users

Installation of two power pedestals and associated ducts and civil works accordance with ESB minimum specification for MV/LV ducting  
Removal of existing damaged railings and installation of flexi bollards.

Ladder Replacement Programme at Arklow Harbour

Removal of existing inappropriate ladders  
installation of 9 galvanised steel ladders with handrails.

Installation of 3 recessed galvanised steel ladders including associated civil engineering works.  
Upgrading of slipway at the Inner Dock in order to Improve Accessibility / Safety

Design, supply, delivery and installation including anchoring and securing of a rowing pontoon and access gangway at Inner Dock, Arklow.

Installation of rock armour and repairing of subsidence with mass concrete to protect slipway  
Repairs & Safety Measures at the Slipways Wicklow Harbour

Break out existing damaged and steps slipway at the sailing club and installation of new 26m x 5m 200mm thick concrete slipway and steps with reinforcement.

Completion of reinforced concrete repair works to existing damaged wall beside slipway to protect slipway.

Saw cutting of existing slab at Seafront Slipway with 25mm deep at 100mm c/c to add traction to the existing surface. Supply and install one galvanised and painted red heavy duty chain.

Safety, Accessibility & Amenity Works at Public Harbour, Greystones \*

Design, supply and installation of a manual steel gate system at the entrance to the northern breakwater at Greystones Harbour including hanging posts and the supply and installation of a panel / railings fixed to side of the gate system extending over the breakwater on the marina side and on top of the wall / antifers on the eastern side.

\*Revised works following discussion with DAFM

Shipping Movements / Cargo Stats

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-21	9	9	0	9	7	2
Feb-21	9	9	0	9	7	2
Mar-21	11	11	0	9	9	2
Apr-21	11	11	0	11	8	3
May-21	8	8	0	8	8	0
Jun-21	11	10	1	12	9	3
Jul-21	12	12	0	12	10	2
Aug-21	9	9	0	9	9	0
Sep-21	8	7	1	9	8	1
Oct-21	6	6	0	6	4	2
Nov-21	6	4	2	8	5	3
Dec-21	7	6	1	7	5	2
2021 Total	107	102	5	109	89	22

### Burial Grounds

There are 34 active and 40 closed burial grounds under the control of Wicklow County Council.

Wicklow County Council employs part time Burial Ground Registrars responsible for the sale of plots and the recording of interments at each of the active burial grounds.

The Burial Ground Registrars also maintain the relevant records for the burial grounds, liaise with undertakers and families and some partake in voluntary maintenance and upkeep of burial grounds.

Each Municipal District is responsible for the maintenance of the burial grounds within their district.

### Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

The Compulsory Purchase Order was signed by the Chief Executive and nominated member on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 and the Environmental Impact Statement and application to An Bord Pleanala was submitted to An Bord Pleanala on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2021

An Bord Pleanala indicated that they will hold an Oral Hearing in January 2022

There were 21 submissions on the Planning Application and 9 submissions to the CPO

## COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CC&SD)

### Strategic Policy Committee Membership

**Director of Services:** Michael Nicholson

#### Elected Members:

Cllr. Gail Dunne (Cathaoirleach)  
 Cllr. Vincent Blake  
 Cllr. Anne Ferris  
 Cllr John Mullen  
 Cllr. Melanie Corrigan  
 Cllr. Miriam Murphy

#### Outside Agencies:

Business/Commercial  
 Irene Sweeney: Chamber of Commerce  
 Public Participation Network  
 Gertie Salley: Social Inclusion  
 Kevin Mann: Community and Voluntary  
 Celine O'Neill: Community and Voluntary  
 Anne Gregory: Environment

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The purpose of this committee is to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

#### The functions of the LCDC

To prepare and adopt the community elements of a 6 year economic and community plan.

To implement, or to arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the Plan

To undertake a review of the community elements of the Plan at least once within the 6 year period

To monitor and review on an ongoing basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan, including performance against any benchmarks or indicators of performance.

To seek to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between the local and community development programmes.

To pursue the co-ordination generally of all local and community development programmes within the functional area of the Committee, so as to optimise resources for the benefit of local communities in that area and improve the efficiency with which publicly-funded local and community development resources are used.

To consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements of a draft of the Plan prepared by the local authority

The Committee may enter into an agreement in writing with a public authority, local development or community development body, or other person for the carrying out of those functions by such an authority, body or person, as the case may be, which the Committee considers appropriate to be carried out.

### Local Economic and Community Plan

The LECP is the framework for many operational and other plans in the County. The plan:

agrees priorities for the area  
agrees agency roles in addressing these priorities

Places onus on parent bodies of agencies at local level to enable them to respond to plan  
The Guidelines for the development of new LECPs were launched in November 2021. The new LECP will come into effect on the 1st January 2023.

Monitoring the LECP

An Advisory Committee was originally set up to develop the LECP and ensure integration of both elements of the plan. The Advisory Committee has agreed to continue in place to monitor the implementation of the plan. The members of the Advisory Committee come from both the LCDC and the Local Authority.

They are:

Cllr. Pat Kennedy	Chair LCDC
Cllr. Gerry Walsh	Chair Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
Michael Nicholson	Chief Officer LCDC
Lorraine Gallagher	Director of Services, Economic Development & Enterprise
Vibeke Delahunt	Local Enterprise Office
Christine Flood	SEO Economic Development & Enterprise
Deirdre Whitfield	Community Cultural & Social Development

There are many shared objectives between the community and the economic elements of the LECP and for the most part community and economic development are interlinked. In recognition of that, and of the fact that the plan is

not static but dynamic and adaptable to new developments, the integrated element of the LECP is achieved through continuous dialogue and co-ordination. This is achieved through regular meetings of the Advisory Committee. Through the planning and reporting process at these meetings, information is shared and linkages between actions are drawn leading to co-ordination and integration where possible and where appropriate and on an on-going basis.

Regional

The Regional Assemblies’ role in the LECP process is set out under Section 66c of the Local Government Act 2001, in particular Section 66c 2(c) and 3(c) which states that the consideration of an LECP by the Regional Assembly shall relate to its consistency with (i) the core strategy and the objectives of the development plan of the local authority concerned, (ii) any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy or, as appropriate, Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) that may apply, and (iii) between the economic and community elements of the Plan. County Wicklow LCDC has anticipated the development of the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy and will review the LCDC to ensure alignment.

The LCDC and County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) worked closely together on the development of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the LEADER Programme 2014 - 2020. The priorities of the LEADER programme are social inclusion, the green economy and economic and community development. The LDS strongly reflects some of the relevant goals and objectives of the LECP.

The LDS was designed and developed through the following consultative processes:

Feedback from countywide consultation process  
 Relevant stakeholder consultations  
 Socio-economic profile of the County  
 Desk research – relevant policies and reports  
 Available budgets

The combined Goals of the LECP are:

(The Goals highlighted in blue are mainly the Community Goals – those in green are the Economic Goals)

quality of life; human capital; tourism; landscape; marine; agricultural and forestry resources

Low carbon and climate resilient economic activity, reducing energy dependence, and the sustainable use of resource, and leading in the smart economy

Harness efficiently the full resources of the county and promote interagency collaboration

High Level Goals

High Level Goals
Community Capacity and Urban regeneration and Rural Development
Active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making
Targeted and integrated supports for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
Support local communities in innovation, entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise and social innovation
Training, education and lifelong learning based in analysis of employment trends and the skill needs of employers
Infrastructure and measures that are positive and supportive to investment, enterprise, innovation and knowledge creation
Sustain existing enterprise and develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the county, with possibilities for reversing commuting patterns
Capitalise on Wicklow’s unique attributes: proximity to the Dublin market; excellent

3.1.2. Implementation

Goal 1: Develop Community Capacity in Disadvantaged Communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development	Build capacity and social capital across all communities  Maximise opportunities for urban regeneration and rural development
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A number of programmes contribute to the achievement of this goal and a number of agencies are involved in the integration of this action. The LEADER and SICAP Programmes are central to building capacity of communities. In addition, a number of development funding schemes were announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development:

Town & Village Scheme

CLÁR

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Urban Regeneration & Development Fund

Community Enhancement Programme

Community Enhancement Programme (Community Activities Fund)

Rural Regeneration & Development Fund

Funding Received 2021

Funding Schemes 2020	Funding Received 2020
Town & Village Schemes	No funding announcement in 2021
CLAR	€82,257
Emergency COVID fund	€78,414
Libraries COVID Funding	€145,619
DCYA Playground Grant	€18,000

Digital Poverty Grant	€45,000
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme – Measures 1, 2, 3 and Project Development Measure	€994,700
Rural Regeneration & Development Fund	No funding announcement in 2021
Sports Funding	€41,000
Creative Ireland Funding	€73,900
Healthy Ireland Initiative	€115,385
Community Enhancement Scheme: General & Community Activities Fund	€141,343 €282,468

Goal 2: Promote active citizenship underpinned by good governance and participation in decision making

-Develop strong representative fora in the county

Goal 3: Targeted and integrated supports for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups

## 2021 Highlights:

Strategy	Status
<b>Healthy Wicklow Strategy (Integrated action with CYPSC)</b>	The Healthy Wicklow Strategy was launched on 4th March 2019. The Healthy Wicklow Plan 2019 – 2021 received €184,000 funding for implementation
<b>County Wicklow Food &amp; Beverage Strategy (Integrated action with Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC)</b>	<p>The County Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy launched at a food showcase event, the 'Feast from the East' in April 2019. The strategy is being implemented by the Committee along with Birnie and Associates Ltd. funded equally between Wicklow County Council and County Wicklow Partnership. Progress underway on the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Wicklow Food Story</li> <li>Development of Wicklow Food and Beverage Branding</li> <li>Creation of a key messaging plan</li> <li>Creation of a food activity calendar</li> <li>Creation of a website</li> <li>Delivery of business networking events</li> <li>Food Poverty and Sustainability</li> </ul>

## Goal 4:

A vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector

County Wicklow Partnership and Bray Area Partnership have taken the lead with this goal and are rolling out training and support programmers for a number of social enterprises in the county

**Socio-economic Integration**

The LCDC also continue to work with other agencies to ensure alignment with the LECP and the strategies, plans and policies of the other agencies. These include:

LEADER

The Children and Young People Services Committee

The Joint Policing Committee

The Public Participation Network

The HSE / National Office for Suicide Prevention

**Socio-economic Integration**

The LCDC also continue to work with other agencies to ensure alignment with the LECP and the strategies, plans and policies of the other agencies. These include:

LEADER

**EU Rural Development Programme (LEADER)**

Theme	Sub theme
<b>Theme 1: Economic Development, Enterprise and Job Creation</b>	Rural Tourism Enterprise Development Rural Towns Broadband

<b>Theme 2: Social Inclusion</b>	Rural Youth Basic Services
<b>Theme 3: Rural Environment</b>	Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity Protection and Sustainable use of Water Resources Renewable Energy

The LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) for the LEADER Programme in the county, and hold the LAG meetings separate from the LCDC meetings. County Wicklow Partnership is the implementing body for the programme. The Local Authority is the lead financial partner for LEADER in County Wicklow with responsibility for the programme both administratively and financially.

**Meetings**

8 LAG meetings took place in 2021:

January, February, April, June, July, October, November and December

Approximately 8 Evaluation Committee Meetings took place in the period between January and December 2021.

Current LEADER Programme deadline was extended to the end of March 2021. Under the current Programme, Local Action Groups will be allowed to recommit un-used funding until December 2022.

A new Transition Programme came into effect on the 1st April, 2021.

Projects approved under the Transitional Programme must comply with the LEADER Operating Rules, EU Regulations and any subsequent Circulars that may be issued by the Department. Addendum to the Funding Agreement was issued extending agreements and

was approved by LAG, signed and returned to the Department

### Key Dates

1st January 2021- Continuation of the LEADER Food Initiative and Co-operation Scheme and Animation of projects for the Transitional Programme will commence

31st March 2021 - Final date for allocation of 2014-2020 LEADER Project Budgets

1st April 2021 - Commencement of Transitional Programme project approvals - Increase in Rate of Aid for enterprises and commercial projects.

31st December 2022 - Final date for decommitted funds from 2014-2020 Programme to be reallocated - Final date for allocation of Transitional Programme project budget.

31st December 2023 - Final date for all LEADER projects to be completed.

30th June 2024 - Final date for submission of all project claims for payment under the 2014-2020 LEADER Programme and the Transitional Programme.



Wicklow County Council is the host of Co. Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg. Dermot O'Brien is the Coordinator appointed after a successful tender process. There are 21 local schools and youth groups involved in Comhairle na nÓg and it has a very positive profile across the County as a

structure that amplifies the voice of young people.

In 2021 the members of Wicklow Comhairle played their part in how the Local Authority and other relevant bodies coordinated a response to Covid 19 by ensuring that the voice of young people was included in all discussions and proposed initiatives to support communities as they managed restrictions and the impacts of the pandemic.

Comhairle na nÓg undertook training in 2021 with the No Hate Speech Network and also delivered a survey to young people across the County which explored 'youth attitudes towards drugs'. The results of this survey will be presented to the full Council and a report produced for all stakeholders.

### Activity Performance Indicators 2021

#### Youth and Community (Y1 and Y2)

Y1 : Participation in Comhairle na nÓg scheme

Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme = 80%

Compiled as follows:-

Number of second level schools in the Local Authority Area at 31/12/2021 = 25

Number of second level schools in the Local Authority Area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2021 = 20

A huge achievement in 2021 was the selection of Wicklow Comhairle as the first group to participate in a training programme designed by A Lust for Life who are a national mental health charity. The programme was a huge success and

the Comhairle members will be creating content to support youth mental health in Wicklow over the coming year as a result of the training.

### County Wicklow Older Persons Council

The CWOPC are the consultative body for older people in Wicklow. Throughout the year the OPC established themselves as instrumental in providing a voice for the older people affected by covid-19 in 2021.

A weekly radio slot on East Coast Radio with the Chair of the CWOPC discussing various relevant age friendly topics was successfully implemented in 2021.



The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme is part of an international effort, co-ordinated by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The results are positive ageing, better cities and counties, and more relevant and effective local government, service delivery and business opportunities.

Ireland's National Age-Friendly Cities and Counties Programmes is part of this worldwide initiative which aims to make sure that as we age, we can all:

Have a real say in what happens in our own lives and what happens in the areas in which we live.

Enjoy good health, good services, and live in a safe environment

Participate fully in everything that is going on in our communities, cities and counties

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme provides a structure so that Local Authorities can take a lead on changing thinking about ageing and how services are planned and delivered. Through this model, Local Authorities bring together older people, service providers and businesses in an Alliance that really works and which:

Enables older people to live active and healthy lives, remaining in their own homes for as long as possible

Enhances service delivery without increasing expenditure

Brings about valued improvements in the quality of life for everybody in the community

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme offers a proven way of bringing diverse organisations, groups, services and businesses together to streamline their work, with the needs and interests of older people at their heart.

The Age Friendly Strategy delivered the following in 2021:

A new Age Friendly Strategy 2022-2027 is currently being prepared with a consultant appointed. Online survey and consultation with keys stakeholders were carried out in 2021 with more public consultation to be carried out in 2022.

Wicklow's first Age Friendly Lifetime Community was identified in Rathcoran, Baltinglass. This is four-stage application process, with the implementation of a steering committee to be formed early 2022.

An application was made under the Outdoor Recreation Scheme for Age Friendly Trio Bikes. These age friendly bikes are designed to allow older people the freedom of cycling in safety.

The National Age Friendly Primary Care centre guidelines were launched in June. These guidelines were compiled by Kildare and Wicklow Age Friendly Programme Managers.

A number of Age Friendly exercise programmes both virtual and face-to-face were run by Wicklow Local Sports Partnership in 2021 including chair yoga and mobility and stretch programmes.

Training for a new Befriending service in Arklow continued in 2021 with training provided by Alone and phones donated by Vodafone. Volunteers are to be garda vetted.

National Age Friendly newsletter widely distributed as a source of valuable information and ongoing updates for older people.

#### Disability Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC):

The purpose of DISC is to achieve a multi departmental approach to making the services provided by Wicklow County Council accessible to all citizens in the county.

Funding was applied for under from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth to support disability services in the County made through the

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund. This funding will assist the Council in making Wicklow more inclusive and welcoming for people with all disabilities.

International Day of Disabilities, 3rd December was marked with Purple Lights display with the lighting up civic buildings throughout the various MDs. The AD caller initiative for Wicklow was also launched on this day.

#### Community Awards 2021

The Community Award Grants for 2021 had an overall fund of €120,000 and awards were granted in respect of Community Grant/Merit Awards and Community Social Innovation Awards.

Over 130 Community Groups, Clubs and Voluntary Organisations benefitted under the Wicklow County Council Community Grants Award Scheme in 2021.

#### Social Inclusion Unit

Social Inclusion Unit (SIU) continued to support anti-poverty and social inclusion initiatives throughout 2021. Over that period it:

Monitored the implementation of the Department of Rural and Community Development's Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) throughout Co. Wicklow

Represented social inclusion issues on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Supported ongoing development and operation of the Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Participated on regional and national committees, networks and structures

### Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022

This national programme funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the EU European Social Fund (ESF) continues to be successfully delivered in Co. Wicklow by Bray Area Partnership for the Bray and Greystones Municipal District Areas (Lot 15-1) and Co. Wicklow Partnership for the Arklow, Wicklow and Baltinglass Municipal District Areas (Lot 15-2). SICAP focuses on empowering and enabling the county's most disadvantaged communities and individuals to improve their life opportunities, outcomes and local environment.

In 2021 the Department made the decision to extend this Programme by two years to end 2024. Disadvantaged groups and social exclusion issues to be prioritised over the next two years in Wicklow include: Refugees/Asylum seekers; Substance Misusers; Older People; Travellers; Mental health (including youth).

In 2021, Bray Area Partnership supported 27 Local Community Groups and 431 disadvantaged individuals, 39% of whom were from designated disadvantaged areas. Co. Wicklow Partnership supported 13 Local Community Groups and 379 disadvantaged individuals, 31% of whom were from designated disadvantaged areas.

Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), in conjunction with Wicklow

County Council, continued to oversee, monitor and manage the performance of the Programme Implementers in delivering this programme. The LCDC was greatly assisted in this task by the SICAP Sub-group.

### County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network continued to facilitate public engagement and community participation throughout the county and act as the conduit through which Wicklow County Council connected with community, social inclusion and environmental groups. Throughout 2021 it participated in a wide variety of public consultations and policy submissions at local, regional and national level.

At end 2021 Wicklow PPN had in place 34 Representatives sitting across 17 Committees/Boards within the county and local authority including Strategic Policy Committees and Joint Policing Committees. (A full list of Committees and Representatives is available on Wicklow PPN website).

Wicklow PPN continued to play a pivotal role during the ongoing pandemic in 2021. It was an active participant on the Wicklow Community Response Forum and acted as a key point of contact in highlighting community issues/concerns and sharing information and supports.

### Activity Performance Indicator 2021

Y2: Groups associated with the Public Participation Network (PPN)

A Number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2021 = 378

B Number of organisations that registered for the first time in 2021 = 28

C Number of organisations (registered in 2021) that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN = 3

D Total number of groups in the Social Inclusion College = 71



Healthy Wicklow Programme Round 3 received an allocation of €485,225 in total broken down as follows:

Income	Amount
Healthy Ireland Fund allocation	€305,383
Community Mental Health Fund allocation	€94,100
Community Resilience Fund allocation	€85,744

Healthy Ireland Vision

A Healthy Ireland where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.

The four goals of Healthy Ireland are:

Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life.

Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities.

Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing.

Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a Healthy Ireland.

Healthy Ireland Fund allocation breakdown:

Action	Initiatives
1: Healthy Town Blessington Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership	2 X 6 week chair exercise classes Shed to Summit 2 Buggyfit Programmes Online Pilates Beginner Fitness Classes 5 week HFME Programme in 4 national schools Health & Wellbeing talks Playground stencils/Daily Mile Signs 4 Road Signs
2: Meet & Eat Wicklow Dementia	Ran over 8 weeks Volunteer and older person with dementia met for a couple of hours per week in the clients home

3: Social Prescribing Bray Area Partnership	115 participants engaged with to date Delivered workshops thorough WSRP, Suicide or Survive and Shine
4: Health & Wellbeing DEIS Schools Bray Area Partnership	Wellbeing festival style workshops in 6 schools in Bray Focus healthier food choices, exercise & managing mental health
5: Physical Activity For All Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership	Rock climbing for teenagers with Autism Triple A Camp 2 Inclusive Outdoor Activity Camps Learn 2 Cycle in ASD Unit Dance Programme in Rathmore Direct Provision Centre
6: Urban Outdoor Recreation Initiative WSRP	Introduction to Trail Walking for LCA students 6 schools have availed of 3 week Programme
7: Community Kitchen Healthy Families BAP	Location St Kieran's Special School Empowers families to make healthier choices Developed a cook book from the group A new kitchen installed
8: Support Children & Young People Wicklow Traveller Group	Fridge freezer for Youth room Sporting equipment for young Travellers engage in Enniskerry Boxing Club 280 activity packs to

	Traveller families during lockdown Purchase of 4 tablets for online homework
9: Fostering Health & Wellbeing for Families CWP	Practical nutrition for parents Youth Healthy Social Eating Well Now Music Therapy
10: Green Social Prescribing CWP	Carnew/Arklow area Developing a community garden in each 20 participants

Community Mental Health Fund allocation breakdown:

Action	Initiatives
1: Social Prescribing CWP	Wicklow Town & Arklow area Connects with GP services, HSE Primary Centres & mental health teams
2: Supporting Community Mental Health Initiatives	Crosscare – 5 online training workshops Wicklow Child & Family Project – Super Kids Play Therapy West Wicklow Youth Project – Wellness Programme Arklow Springboard – Pottery & Wellness Programme

Community Resilience Fund allocation breakdown:

Action	Initiatives
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1: In Your County	Festival in a Van Talk to Tom Website Active Ageing Health & Wellbeing Programme Vulnerable people register
2: Switching Off/Being Creative	Art/Creative Writing/Ukulele Classes Doula to You Garden Pollinator Book
3: Staying Connected	Time Machine Project Befriending Activities

Library Service

Wicklow County Council Library Service provides a wide range of services and facilities, across its 13 branch library network. The mobile library also visits 32 locations on a fortnightly basis. In addition to borrowing & lending books, DVDs, talking books and music CDs, the following services are available:

Online stock, such as e-books, e-magazines, downloadable audio books, e-newspapers from across the world, e-languages and self-learning courses

Public computers

Wi Fi for the public to use their laptops, tablets or devices

Online catalogue of all 330 libraries in Ireland

Twice weekly request service delivery and collection of stock from those 330 libraries – directly to each branch

All above is free, and there are no longer any library fines for overdue items.

Library Development Plan 2021 -25 + Capital Programme

Wicklow County Council Library Development Plan 2021 -25 was adopted by Wicklow County Council in June. The service has come a long journey over the past 20+ years, since Wicklow County Council led the way, by abolishing library membership charges in 1999 (20 years ahead of a national abolition!). Since then, the majority of libraries in the county has either been substantially refurbished or has been built anew, with a combination of departmental grants and

Wicklow County Council funding. Opening hours have more than doubled, as have membership statistics. Wicklow County Council’s consistent support was acknowledged at the launch of the Plan.

In addition to our continuous commitment to high quality customer based services, the Library Development Plan addresses the need for a new library for Aughrim and a 2 storied extension onto Ballywaltrim library, on Boghall Road in Bray. The redevelopment of Baltinglass courthouse will also include the relocating of the adult library into a tiered facility in the former courtroom.

Construction of a new library for Rathdrum is now completed, with a February 2022 opening date anticipated.

### Statistical Returns 2021

The challenges of Covid 19 meant that all services have had to reinvent themselves in order to be meaningful to the public. This meant bringing many services online and promoting the online services available. Our library staff ensured our libraries were to the fore in being ready for reopening at whatever level permitted, whether Click & Collect, open for browsing or for full services. Wicklow County Council’s response to these challenges is reflected in the statistical usage stats for 2021. In summary, out of 30 local authority library services

– people who borrowed items	10.8%		
Physical Items Borrowed	4,938,427 = 1,056/1,000 Pop	214,095 = 1,503/1,000 Pop	3rd
E-books & E-audio books	2,138,163 = 457/1,000 Pop	92,796 = 652/1,000 Pop	2nd
Combined Books & E-Items borrowed	7,076,590 = 1,513/1,000 Pop	306,891 = 2,155/1,000 Pop	2nd

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

“Vision Net” is a business database, which proves very popular with the business community. Being of a more specialized nature than some of the other products, it still recorded almost 1,300 searches in 2020, by our library members.

A range of national and local newspapers have current and historic.

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

Wicklow libraries during Level 5 Covid-19 restrictions

The first 4 months of 2021 saw our library service return to click & collect. A Home Delivery service of books and items was introduced, which was very much appreciated by those served. A fortnightly rota was established that served all areas of the county. Emphasis was on those living

2021 Statistics	National Average	Wicklow / 1000 Population	Ranking Position Nationally
Active Members	504,299 Total =	23,828 = 16.7%	2nd

alone, with books being delivered in sealed bags, to ensure safety.

(Virtual) library based events featured strongly in the early months of 2021. A wide range of programmes included:

Ukulele lessons

Yoga classes

“Doula to You”, in association with Tusla, connected new and expectant mothers, giving them a discussion forum

Art classes

Creative writing

Family history talks

Some courses were oversubscribed, while all were very well attended, with positive feedback reported.

A number of library staff made themselves available for providing “volunteer” cover at the Covid-19 Vaccination Centre at Shoreline, Greystones, working there one day per week from May to August.

Wicklow County Council Library Service purchased a number of pop up gazebos which provided a sheltered and identifiable space for some socially distanced events, outside, during the summer months. These were used where library gardens and suitable outdoor space exist.

Dormant Accounts Funding for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Groups

A contribution of €24,500+ was provided in grant aid during 2021. This funding was used for Lexia Literacy support licences which will be accessible

to all schools in the County and be very important for children with a literacy delay.

Part of this fund was used for the purchase of assistive technology equipment to improve accessibility in libraries for people with a disability. “Zoomtext” Magnifier Readers have been purchased and will help people with a print reading disability.

The third project is the creation of ‘Visiting the Library’ social stories which proved to be a valuable tool for children with ASD who often find it challenging to prepare for something new.



## Pride 2021

To celebrate Pride for the month of June, all libraries displayed the recently acquired a “Rainbow Collection” which includes child, young adult and adult fiction, non-fiction and video material.

Bray Library hosted their first in-person “Read the Rainbow” book-club session on Tuesday 8th of June in the library garden, which was an exciting departure from five months of Zoom meetings.

Every library in the county displayed the Rainbow flag, either on flagpoles, or on library windows. Wicklow County Council Library Service also launched their new website page -

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Libraries/LGBTQIA-Resources>

This is a ground-breaking achievement for our libraries. It promotes the excellent LGBTQI library collection and also includes important links to relevant websites and support organizations for the LGBTQI community in general and also for parents or guardians of young people.



Outreach activities

In addition to the projects mentioned above, the following are just some of the programmes that library staff engaged in during 2021:

Mending Workshops

"Maisy" Drawing events

Bodhrán Workshop

Summer Stars

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) magformers in libraries

Mandarin Dual Language Storytime

Nature Walks in Lord's Wood Baltinglass & People's Park Bray

Culture Night events

Children's Book Festival

Little Library Bags for all Preschool children

Wicklow Naturally - October Feast

Seachtain na Gaeilge

"Ireland Reads" events

"Grow It Forward" Campaign

Seed Ark

Bray Nature walk

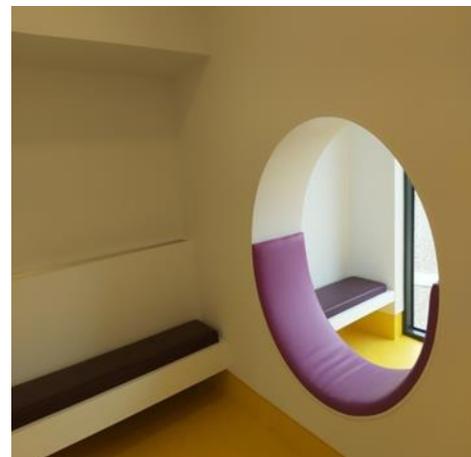
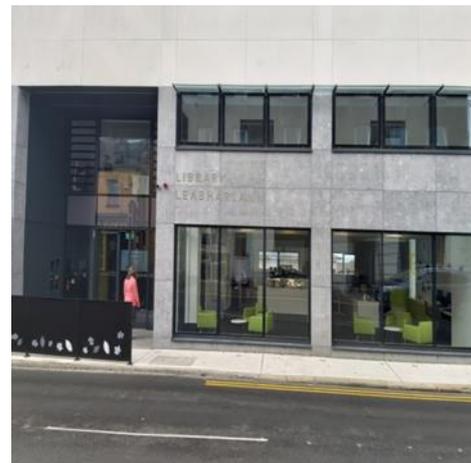


Opening of Wicklow library & County Archives





Wicklow County Council was honoured with having 2 ministers to perform the official opening of Wicklow library & County Archives + Local Studies on August 30th. Ministers Heather Humphreys (DRCD) & Darragh O'Brien (HLGH) performed the joint task of officially opening the library. Minister Simon Harris and Senator Pat Casey were also present. Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council & Wicklow Municipal District, Cllr. Shay Cullen & Cllr. Gale Dunne spoke of the importance the library will play in the social future of Wicklow town. Almost €6m has been invested in the project since 2019, including €2m from Wicklow County Council funding and €4m in grant aid from both government departments.





The building contains a Changing Places (CP) toilet facility.

The new building is over 6 floors, including a dedicated floor to each of the following, from the top floor down:

- Exhibition area
- Study, PC area and Community Room
- Adult lending
- Junior Lending
- Archives
- Local Studies

#### Local Studies Department:

Wicklow County Library Local Studies Service is a reference and research facility dedicated to collecting, preserving and making available material related to all aspects of modern and historic county Wicklow. The Local Studies collection covers a diverse range of topics documenting the activities of individuals, organizations and businesses in County Wicklow, as well as, aspects relating to the topography, geography, flora and fauna of the county. It is a significant information provider and plays a significant role in the cultural remit of Wicklow County Council Library Service. The service facilitates and promotes research, lifelong learning and provides a leisure dimension for the community. This Local Studies facility provides

ample space to display its collection, secure storage for rare and fragile items and improved access to material. The following services are available to the public:

Quiet work spaces equipped with Wi Fi and charging points.

Access to over 5,000 items in the main collection

Public PCs providing access to online databases and other digital resources

Scanning, printing and photocopying facilities

Use of microfilm and microfiche scanners

A number of local history talks were organised over the course of the year to coincide with national events. To celebrate Women's Day, Local Historian Jim Rees gave a wonderful talk on the role Wicklow women have, and continue, to play in the development of the county. While Historian Brian White stepped in to regale us with stories relating to the origins and traditions of St Patrick's Day in County Wicklow. Both events were delivered online through Zoom and were attended by over 130 people.

2021 kicked off with a series of family history talks with expert genealogists Fiona Fitzsimons and Declan Brady from the Irish Family History Centre. Funded under the Resilience Programme, a series of 6 weekly talks were delivered online beginning in February. These were highly successful events with tickets often selling out within hours of registration opening. Over 580 people attended the workshops.

Wicklow Library Local Studies was delighted to offer their patrons remote access to the family history websites Findmypast.ie and the British Newspaper Archive. Providing users with access to Records and historic newspapers, these online

resources proved invaluable during Covid restrictions when traditional repositories were closed to the public. Over 41,000 records were downloaded over the course of the year.

Class visits were organised as part of a wider schools programme. Pods of six secondary school history students were given tours of the Local Studies facility. They were shown the variety of Local History sources available to them and given general guidance in their use. A 'Guide to Local History Resources for Co. Wicklow' has been produced to complement class visits. The guide, aimed at teachers, secondary and third level students, provided a listing of the main sources available in the Collection, including some of the most useful online resources for the study of County Wicklow.



### ARCHIVES & GENEALOGY SERVICE

Wicklow County Archives Service holds a unique collection of Wicklow records relating to the administration of the County and the people's interaction with this administration. They offer a rich research resource for the family and local historian, as well as academics and researchers of wide and varying interests.

Among the jewels of the collection are the 17th and 18th century Wicklow Borough records -

offering a snapshot of Wicklow life in the mid-1600. The County archives also holds the records of the Grand Jury, the precursor of the County Council, as well as the Boards of Guardians of the Poor Law Unions, Boards of Health, rural and district, Town and County Councils as well as private collections.

### Wicklow Genealogy Service

The County Archives offers a genealogy research service, researching and advising those with Wicklow roots, and promoting the County as a key destination to those on the "roots trail". Our parish records database establishes family lines and their connection with the Wicklow landscape. Wicklow is a member of [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie). This research site contains over 20 million Irish records from 30 Counties.

### New Wicklow Library and Archives

Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service is now located at the new Wicklow Library & Archives, Wicklow Town. There is an extensive research area and research resources, as well as a processing room for the preparation of new collections, and an environmentally controlled archives vault for the preservation of our archives.



### Archives & Genealogy Programme 2021/22 Digitisation projects:

Wicklow Board of Health and Public Assistance 1921-42 are now digitised. These important records document the public health function of Wicklow County Council at that time and include information on the County Home and boarded-out children. Other digitised collections of 19th and 20th century Wicklow local government records are available on <https://www.wicklow.ie>.

### Conservation Programme

Programme of archives conservation continues with repairs and conservation of the Archive's oldest collection, the Wicklow Borough Corporation Minute Books which date from early 1600s.

### Special Projects:

New information panel for the Samuel Hayes Bridge:

A new pedestrian bridge to link the Jubilee Walk and Avonmore Way near Rathdrum was officially opened on the 16th of June 2021. The Archives Service researched and compiled an information panel to be located at the bridge, which tells the story of Samuel Hayes, who built Avondale House and estate in 1777.

### Wicklow Decade of Centenaries Programme 2020-2023

"Wicklow and the War of Independence" - county publication and exhibition

The book and exhibition "Wicklow and the War of Independence" was launched at the official opening of the new Wicklow Library & Archives, Wicklow Town (the e-book is also available at <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/>). The book and exhibition brings together a collection of essays and images by 12 of the county's local historians who have researched the revolutionary era in their respective localities from a variety of perspectives. The result is a series of interwoven studies that bring the complex tapestry of this significant part of Wicklow history into new and sharper focus.



### Wicklow in the Revolutionary Period Podcasts

Wicklow County Council's Archives Service is delighted to present the third podcast in the History Ireland Hedge school series. Entitled "Robert Barton – forgotten man Wicklow County Council's Archives Service is delighted to present the third podcast in the History Ireland Hedge school series. Entitled "Robert Barton – forgotten man of the Irish revolution" the panelists explore the story of Wicklow's Robert Childers Barton – his Glendalough estate, political career and role in the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921, and its

aftermath. The podcasts can be accessed at <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org>

### Development of new schools programme



Wicklow County Archives & Local Studies Services welcomes school groups:

Now located at the new Wicklow Library & Archives, Wicklow Town – we were delighted to welcome the first of the school groups to visit our services. The students from Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School were introduced to Wicklow archives collections such as Wicklow Town records from the 1600s, workhouse registers from Famine times, and school group photographs from the early 1900s. They learned about the importance of records for the study of

history and the work of the archivist in preserving them and making them accessible. They also learned how to start researching their family tree. The Local Studies librarian showed the children special collections such as the early newspapers featuring adverts and photographs, Wicklow map resources, postcards and a wide array of sources for the study of Wicklow local history.

The archives and local studies services are planning a comprehensive schools programme to include school visits, projects and resources to assist at Junior and Leaving Certificate work levels. This will introduce the students to Wicklow sources and support their work as part of the history curriculum, particularly in relation to the emphasis on the use of primary source material in history project work.

### Records Management Programme

The Archives Service is a Member of the Wicklow County Council Records Management Group, developing a records management programme for Wicklow County Council, with reference to the National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records published by the LGMSB – in the process of being updated by the LGMA. The Archives Service is also a Member of Wicklow County Council GDPR Governance Group – working with each department to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

### Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations

This includes the operation, maintenance and improvement of the following outdoor leisure facilities.

Playgrounds provided by Wicklow County Council throughout County Wicklow:

Arklow: Seaview Avenue, Arklow.  
 Arklow: St. Peter's Place, Arklow.  
 Arklow: South Green, Arklow.  
 Arklow: Heatherside, Vale Road.  
 Bray: Ballywaltrim, Bray (opened 2020).  
 Bray: Fassaroe, Bray  
 Bray: Giltspur Heights, Southern Cross Road, Bray.  
 Bray: Peoples Park, Dargle Road, Bray  
 Bray: Sidmonton Park, Bray.  
 Bray: Seafront, Promenade  
 Wicklow Town: Ballynerrin.  
 Wicklow Town: Hill View.  
 Wicklow Town: The Murrough.  
 Rathnew Children's Playground and Teen Area with a Skate and BMX Park  
 Baltinglass Recreation Park and Playground  
 Blessington Playground, Business Park, Blessington  
 Carnew Playground  
 Rathdangan Playground  
 Enniskerry Playground, Monastery Grove, Enniskerry  
 Greystones Playground, Mill Road, Greystones  
 Kilmacanogue Playground, Rockfield Park Laragh  
 Newcastle Playground, Wicklow Coast Road, Newcastle  
 Newtownmountkennedy Children's Playground

Newtownmountkennedy (Playground and Scouts Den)  
 Roundwood

### Skate Parks: -

Arklow Skate Park and MUGA at Seaview Avenue  
 Wicklow Town Skate Park and BMX Circuit and MUGA at Seafront, The Murrough  
 Blessington Skate Park, at Business Park, Blessington  
 Charlesland Sport, Recreation and Skate Park, and Athletics Track at Charlesland Greystones.  
 Baltinglass Skate Park

### Playgrounds facilitated by Wicklow County Council in partnership: -

Aughrim Playground.  
 Arklow Skate Park and MUGA at Seaview Avenue  
 Ashford Community Park Playground  
 Charlesland Sport, Recreation and Skate Park, Charlesland, Greystones  
 Dunlavin Playground.  
 Eden Gate Playground, Charlesland, Greystones.  
 Grangecon, Playground.  
 Knockananna Playground.  
 Rathdrum Playground.  
 Shillelagh Playground  
 Tinahely Playground and MUGA

### County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy

The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy Action Plan 2020 -2025 sets out the ambitions for outdoor recreation in County Wicklow and the steps to realise it.

This Strategy Action Plan is the outcome of an extensive consultation process managed by County Wicklow Partnership in conjunction with Coillte, Fáilte Ireland, Irish Sports Council (now Sport Ireland), the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wicklow County Council, Wicklow IFA

and Wicklow Uplands Council. Out of this consultation process, an overall vision was agreed for Outdoor Recreation in County Wicklow.

Five strategic objectives were identified, that collectively, will help to achieve the agreed vision. These objectives are:

- Integrated outdoor recreation management
- Improving opportunities and facilities for sustainable outdoor recreation
- Supporting conservation through outdoor recreation
- Promotion, education and raising awareness of outdoor recreation
- Stimulating outdoor recreation tourism and entrepreneurship

In March 2021 this Strategy was adopted by the County Council.

### Co-operation Ireland All-Island Pride of Place Awards

The Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place competition 2021 judging was held by way of virtual calls in September 2021. The following groups were nominated under these two categories -

### Kiltegan under Population under Population Category 1- 300

### Neighbourhood Network – Time Machine under Community Wellbeing Initiative Category

Kiltegan Village made their impressive presentation to the judges on the 28th September 2021, on a Zoom call. Two days later by Zoom again the Neighbourhood Network presented their novel project of the intergenerational time capsule to the judges.

To date the awards ceremony for this year’s competition has not taken place.



### Neighbourhood Network – Time Machine under Community Wellbeing Initiative Category.



### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is part of the Government’s Action Plan for Rural Development and provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure or the necessary maintenance,

enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland. The scheme seeks to support those sporting and recreational pursuits based on use of the resources of the countryside that contribute to healthy active lifestyles and the economic and tourism potential of the area for both local communities and tourist visitors alike.

The Projects applications will be accepted from Local Authorities (All Measures), Local Development Companies (Measure 1) and/or State Bodies (Measure 3) under the scheme.

The following funding is available under the scheme -

Measure 1 for small scale projects requiring funding of up to €20,000,

Measure 2 for medium scale projects with funding of up to €200,000,

Measure 3 for large scale projects seeking funding of up to €500,000, and

Project Development Measure funding of up to €50,000 for development costs for strategic large scale projects

#### ORIS - Blueway Project

The Bright-light Blueway project commenced with the appointment of a consultant to assist with the development of a delivery strategy for this project. It is proposed that the four Municipal Districts will be involved in the creation and development of the four nodes at Arklow, Wicklow, Kilcoole and Bray for this Blueway.

The Blueway project's overall budget is €554,820, funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, with Wicklow County Council providing match. The areas for expenditure on this project are:

Improved water access

Trailheads and trail links

Marketing and signage

It is envisaged that this project will be completed by summer 2022.

#### ORIS - SAMUEL HAYES BRIDGE

A new pedestrian bridge was officially opened on Wednesday 16th of June 2021 in the Rathdrum area. This new suspension bridge was constructed to link the Jubilee walk and the Avonmore Way trail over the Avonmore River. The bridge is designed to have the look and feel of a walking trail footbridge that is light and transparent.

Wicklow County Council, in conjunction with Coillte and the National Parks and Wildlife Service collaborated on the delivery of this project.

The bridge was officially opened by Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council. The funding was secured from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme to the amount of €392,000.

This bridge is named after Samuel Hayes (1743-1795) who was a member of parliament, barrister, amateur architect, antiquarian, planter and kinsman of Charles Stewart Parnell. Hayes

designed and built Avondale House and estate in 1777.



**ORIS – St. Kevin’s Way trail Up grade**

Wicklow County Council in conjunction with Coillte & the National Parks and Wildlife Service, with assistance from the St. Kevin’s Way Management committee, formally opened the upgrade and re-routed St Kevin’s Way trail on the 16th June 2021.

This upgraded trail will bring new tourists to the area along with enhancing the walk for locals.

The Department of Community & Rural Development under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme funded this project to the amount of €160,000, with match funding provided by Wicklow Council. At the opening

Councillor Kennedy paid tribute to the Minister for Community & Rural Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and her officials for their continued investment in the County.

**St. Kevin’s Way trail upgrade**



**Ronnie Delany Statue**

Wicklow County Council in 2016, commissioned a statue to honour Arklow’s Olympic gold medal winner Dr. Ronnie Delany. This is a fitting tribute to an athlete who outran all others in the 1500m final in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne. The renowned sculptor Paul Ferriter was commissioned to create this statue.

On the 19th November 2021, this statue was unveiled, with Dr. Delany and Paul Ferriter in attendance. Due to Covid restrictions the number of attendees were limited, however a number of the Delany family were in attendance to witness the unveiling of this piece of art that has uniquely captured Dr. Ronnie Delany.

The location on Ferrybank in Arklow was chosen for the placing of the statue, as it is directly across from Dr. Delany's birth place. An information board, some landscaping and some seating will also be provided at this location.



### Blessington eGreenway

The Greenway is designed based on the following elements - Excellence, Exercise, Energy, Environment, Ecological, Exploration and Ease of access.

As the project works/scope and legislation have changed since the previous Appropriate Assessment screening, which was carried out in 2015, AECOM (consulting engineers) conducted an Appropriate Assessment screening and which examined the potential adverse effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 sites i.e. the Poulaphouca Special Protection Area. It was concluded that the project requires a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

The NIS with the relevant planning documentation will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as the competent authority to make decisions on local authority developments under 177AE (relating to appropriate assessment (AA))

of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

It is proposed to submit this planning submission to An Bord Pleanála in January 2022. Listed below are some of the key documents for this submission -

- Ecological Impact Assessment
- Appropriate Assessment Screening
- Natura Impact Statement
- Archaeological Impact Assessment
- Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan
- Arboricultural Survey
- Environment Impact Assessment Screening
- Flood Risk Assessment
- Transport Assessment
- Planning Statement
- Drawing pack

The Council are confident that the scheme is a robust scheme, with all environmental issues and planning concerns addressed, thus making it a high quality and deliverable project, which is ultimately the overall objective of Wicklow County Council. The council will further engage with the public, local community groups and all stakeholders on the progression of this project.

A Section 85 agreement is in place with Kildare County Council for this development.

With the construction phase of the project taking approximately eighteen months, the proposed completion date is in quarter four of 2023.

A number of virtual meetings and engagement with potential developers have taken place during 2021.

[An Aerial view of the current trail in Blessington](#)



Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership is involved in the co-ordination of local sports information, initiating research, compiling a sports directory and database, identifying needs and resources to form the basis of local planning and establishing a consultative sports forum.

### Education & Training

Wicklow Sports & Recreation provides opportunities for education and training at a local level, including generic training courses in areas such as Safeguarding, First Aid and Active Leadership, while also supporting the delivery of sports specific courses in conjunction with National Governing Bodies of Sport.



### Overview

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership was established in 2008, supported by the then Irish Sports Council Local Sports Partnership initiative. Representatives from a variety of Agencies, Organisations and Community Groups involved in sport, physical activity, outdoor recreation and community development make up the Board of the Wicklow Local Sports Partnership.

The main functions of Wicklow Sports & Recreation include: -

### Information provision



### Implementation

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership implements a range of national programmes to encourage participation in Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation. Programmes are delivered in areas such as Sports Development, Community Sport and Physical Activity, Schools Sport, Youth Sport and Sport Inclusion. Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership will also implement sports programmes in the context of the National Physical Activity Plan, The National Sports Policy and other relevant Strategic.

### Actions undertaken in 2021

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership declared compliance with the Sport Ireland Governance code in 2021. This process included hundreds of hours of investment on behalf of the Governance subcommittee and main committee of the Sports Partnership.

Launch of the Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership 2020-2023

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership launched their Strategy in 2021. It is available at <https://wicklowisp.ie/about-us/#strategic-plans>

Launch of Arklow Sports Hub

This is an investment of €170,000 in Physical activity in Arklow over a period of 5 years.



### Disability & Inclusion Programmes

Online Yoga, Dance & Fun Fitness for Children and Adult with a Disability. An Online Easter Camp for Teenagers which was a finalist in the Chamber Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award, Disability Category – 40 participants

Virtual Step Challenge for HSE Day Care Services Centres – 20 participants

Sports Packs & Sensory bags for children with additional needs during Covid when children were not in school – 80 packs/80 families

Summer Sports Camps with disability Inclusion groups – 60 participants

Youth Mental Health Project – Alpaca Walking – 16 participants

Learn to Cycle for Children with a Disability, both school and community based – 60 participants

Sports Inclusion Disability Courses, upskilling coaches, volunteers, SNAs, teachers and parent to development inclusive sports and physical activity teams – 142 participants

Older Adults: A number of virtual and face to face initiatives have been rolled out with a specific target on older adults.

Women in Sport: The following initiatives have been rolled out under Women in Sport:

Virtual Buggyfit Programmes

Women's Only Virtual Recliner – 3K.

Women Only eight week Get into Golf Programme.

2 Women's MTB Courses

A four week Virtual Pregnancy Yoga

Shed to Summit, Blessington Women's Shed - Two, five week mountaineering programmes were delivered

Youth MTB Summer Camp

Three Physiotherapy Intervention Programmes in partnership with the HSE.

Virtual Men on the Move Programme in partnership with the HSE

Direct Provision Centre's:

National Play Day 9th July 2021 – Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership supplied three play packs and giant garden games to the three Direct Provision Centres with 70+ children taking part in activities on the day.

Dance programme was delivered to residents of Rathmore, Ashford. Zoe took 3 groups of different ages, through different dance routines during August over 2 training days.

### Mental Health Intervention

Woodlands for Health - Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership continue to support the Woodlands for Health project with the coordinator sitting on the National steering group representing the Local Sports Partnerships.

### Community Events

A number of Community events were facilitated through the Sports and Recreation Partnership; Operation Transformation - January 2021 saw Wicklow Sports Partnership host a Virtual Operation Transformation walks in the county with approximately 400+ people taking part.

### Planned actions for 2022

Hiring of Staff;

2 Community Development Officers  
1 Sports Inclusion Disability Officer  
1 Strategic Promotions Officer

Wicklow Travelers Group Activity coordinator project

Learn to Cycle teacher training in ASD Units  
Volunteer development and support programmes.

COVID Restart grants for clubs and community groups.

Older Adults exercise classes throughout the county

Women in Sport focused exercise initiatives

Disability Inclusion focused events

Provision of Safeguarding, First Aid and disability inclusion training

Roll out of an outdoor recreation campaign

Distribution of Sports Grants

Promotion and co-ordination of Active School

Week, Bike Week, Operation Transformation and other National initiatives

Actively participate in CYPSC committees.

Actively participate in Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee.

Develop partnerships with other bodies for the strategic and targeted provision of physical activity throughout County Wicklow.

Support target groups to become more physically active.

Continue to educate the population on the importance of physical activity in daily life

Increase awareness of Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership and the opportunities it provides to stakeholders and target groups.

Development of online resources for use in the community

Healthy Ireland initiatives development and grant applications

Review of intervention programmes delivered by Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership.



Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Web: [www.wicklowlsp.ie](http://www.wicklowlsp.ie).

### Wicklow County Arts Office

County Wicklow has a rich artistic and cultural tradition with a range of vibrant activities taking place in the visual arts, music, theatre, literature, sculpture, youth arts, community arts and festivals. Wicklow County Council's Arts Programme is to nurture and develop this rich tradition and to ensure that the Arts are made accessible to all in the county. In 2020 measures were adapted to support the arts sector survive, adapt and sustain themselves through the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges that are to be faced as a result of the global pandemic. All of the measures provided are in line with the Arts Plan Growing the Arts in Wicklow 2020 – 2025.

### Arts Act Grants

The Individual Artist Award Scheme, the Artist and Community Collaboration Award Scheme and the Arts Festival Award Scheme target artistic practice in all disciplines by people and groups from or based in Wicklow. The Individual Artist Award was reviewed and adapted to reflect the reality of cancellation of performances, event and presentations of work which artists would undertake. This Award Scheme had additional investment of 50% in 2020 to assist artists to sustain themselves, capacity build and undertake new approaches to presenting their work to adapt to the Covid-19 situation. The Arts Festival and Artist and Community Collaboration Scheme awards proceeded but with adaptations. Many Arts Festivals cancelled for 2021 to reflect the continued uncertainty in decision making and presenting. Some Wicklow County Council supported Festivals conducted place holding Festivals which were online only and others achieved a hybrid event programme where the events were partly digital with some limited audience participation. All grant schemes were further reviewed at the end of year 2020 with additional changes and Covid-19 adaptations made to reflect the on-going challenges faced by the arts sector.

#### (1) Artist Support Award Scheme

The objective of this Support Scheme is to assist artists develop their practice and to make a significant contribution to the professional life of artists from, or living in, County Wicklow.

#### (2) Arts Festival Award Scheme

Applications were received in respect of high quality programmes by local, national and

international artists presented within the applicants' Festivals. The predominant art form presented within the Festivals was music. Other events included literary events, visual arts and opportunities for arts participation. Four applicants received a total of €12,500.00 in 2021.

### (3) Artist and Community Collaboration Award Scheme

The objective of this award scheme was to support arts groups/organisations in the realisation of an arts project or programme to support their artistic development. It was the intention of this award to fund in total or in part a project/programme to result in realising/showcasing of new work. Applications were accepted for a research and development phase of a new initiative or for the production/implementation of a new arts project or programme. This fund saw the most impact from Covid-19 as many projects were unfeasible given that schools, groups and organisations were not in a position to meet in person and not all practices translate well to online methodologies. Four projects were selected for funding in 2021 however one of these projects had to later withdraw due to Covid-19 issues. The total funding for these awards in 2021 was €15,000.

### Strategic Projects – Awards

These awards were designed to support the development of new work in Wicklow by both residents of Wicklow and those from outside Wicklow. The Arts Office completed the application process for Strategic Project Awards which supports the collaborative development and delivery of new high quality projects during

2022. The projects selected are: Shane Finan, working with two artists on an emerging exhibition on Poulaphuca reservoir from the perspective of myth and ecology; Mary Coughlan, her band and Broken Talkers with 'Mirrors' project; Kate Strain, a photographic and live performance; West Wicklow & Chamber Music, education and outreach programme for young children; Josh O'Caomh, film documentary; Eamon Sweeney, music for young children; Lisa Freeman, performance and site research/documentation; Conor O'Reilly, music and literature project; Aisling Ennis, music collaboration and performance; Susan McKeown, community arts project. The appointment of artists to this Scheme works one year in advance. The total investment in 2020 for projects delivered in 2021 was just over €108,000. The total investment in 2021 projects to be delivered in 2022 is €123,420. The increased investment in the Scheme is a result of additional funding for Covid-19 received by the Arts Council and Creative Ireland.

### Platform 31

Developed by Wicklow Arts Office in late 2020, Platform 31 national artists development initiative was designed to support artists in Ireland following the Covid 19 pandemic. The initiative was funded 50% by the Arts Council with matched 50% from the 31 Local Authority Arts Offices in Ireland. This initiative provided an important collaborative developmental platform for artists in the country.

The overall aim of Platform 31 was to allow 31 artists the space and time to reflect on how they might test new ideas, research new approaches

and make work in a different way, while being connected with and supported by peer practitioners, advisors and mentors. The scheme was specifically not project or output focused. It established a national, peer networking framework for the 31 participating artists, introducing them to a pool of critical thinkers to share their work and learnings, and encouraging a national conversation about creating work in local contexts.

Artists throughout the country were invited to apply for consideration in this scheme via a national Open Call. 31 were selected and each received an €8,000 bursary to invest in themselves and their practice, combined with participation in a developmental framework and a national peer network. The scheme was led by the Local Authority Arts offices throughout Ireland. The programme was broadly successful. Focus groups and statistics gathered revealed that the artists, the agencies and the project management team viewed the initiative as being timely, providing an important collaborative developmental platform for artists in the country and highlighted the work of Local Authority Arts Services. The overall cost of the initiative in 2021 was just over €316,500

### Public Art

The Per Cent for Art Scheme is a government funded programme whereby an additional fund of up to 1% of the cost of publicly-funded infrastructure of building, can be applied for by the client (typically a local authority, school, hospital, the National Roads Authority, the OPW) to commission original, site and context specific works of art. The 1% is subject to a cap of €64k. The fund is available across all government

departments and supports the commissioning of artists and artworks across all contemporary art forms.

Additional investment in the public art scheme will be received in County Wicklow as a result of additional public housing schemes which received approval for development in 2019/20. The programme for these commissions will be rolled out as construction on the sites begins.

### Culture Night

Culture Night saw the safe presentation of four stages in the County by Wicklow Arts Office and a programme of online events and some produced by partner organisations. The total hits on the Arklow commissioned video of performers was 1,600. In total approximately 4,000 people either attended or viewed events from Wicklow for Culture Night in 2021.

### Creative Ireland

The Creative Ireland Programme is guided by a vision that every person in Ireland will have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential. It is a five year all-of- Government initiative, from 2017 to 2022, to place creativity at the centre of public policy. For more information see <https://creative.ireland.ie/en>

### Making Music with Sonamus: The Wicklow Teaching Residency

An interactive shared learning project engaging with County Wicklow residents aged 55 and over, presented by Music Network and Wicklow County Council Arts Office. The programme commenced in January 2021 with 16 eager and enthusiastic Co. Wicklow residents, aged 55 and over, taking on the challenge of returning to music. Benefitting from the combined musical backgrounds of renowned Wicklow quartet Sonamus, Eamon Sweeney (guitar), Annette Cleary (cello), Rachel Factor (harpsichord) and Tim Doyle (whistles), the tuition programme offered participants an opportunity to experience and learn an array of musical styles and techniques, reigniting their love of playing music. The Residency offered participants both individual and group tuition on piano, guitar, cello and whistle. Tuition was entirely free of charge and instruments were provided as needed for the duration of the project. Individual and group lessons took place online and the residency concluded with three outdoor ensemble sessions where participants and Sonamus relished the opportunity to play music together in-person for the first time.

### Summer Songs – Inland & By The Sea

Under the Local Live Performance Programme Scheme (LLPPS), a new series of live music events took place throughout summer 2021 across County Wicklow. There were five days of music at five different outdoor venues across the County featuring amazing bands that are from, living in, or with strong connections to County Wicklow. Artists included Hothouse Flowers, Kíla, Pillow Queens, Wyvern Lingo, Mary Coughlan, and many more. The gigs were intimate without compromising on production values and audiences of 200 to 500 were allowed at each event. There was lots to choose from and something for everyone with traditional Irish,

classical, opera, rock and contemporary gigs all on sale.

### Autumn Songs

For the month of October, a series of concert events were held in the Mermaid Theatre, on the Bray seafront and in the grounds of Russborough House. These concerts featured well-known artists including 'The Penstons', Kate Ellis and Camin Guilfoil, Amy Barrett, Glimpse, the Conor Guilfoyle Octet, Mark Caplice and renowned pianist Fiachra Garvey.

### 'The 12 Days of Christmas'

Throughout November and December, due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and unpredictable weather conditions, in place of outdoor concert events, a series of Christmas recordings with local singers, musicians, and spoken word artists took place in Rathdrum, Arklow, Bray Town Hall and Kilbride. Featuring 19 live performances, the '12 Days of Christmas' series is available for viewing on YouTube.

### Local Live Music Performance Scheme

The Local Live Music Performance Scheme is part of the Government's supports to economically and socially provide opportunities in each local authority area to facilitate the event management and arts sectors to get back to work post Covid-19. The fund is administered by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sports, Gaeltacht and Media.

### Decade of Centenaries

The Decade of Centenaries projects for Wicklow ran alongside the main Creative Ireland Programme. Our Wicklow Wonder Women was a programme of illumination shows, talks, workshops and events celebrating the centenaries of Averil Deverell, the first female Barrister appointed to the Bar in Ireland and Kate Tyrell, the first Irish woman Ship Captain. We collaborated with 'Her Story' and the Bar Council of Ireland as well as the Arklow Maritime Museum in the creation of these events which took place in November in Arklow and at the Whale Theatre and The Cove in Greystones. Billboards with illustrations of the two women were erected in Arklow and Greystones for the period.

### Hallowe'en Playfest

Wicklow's Culture Team led by the Arts Office rolled out a Halloween Festival in Rathdrum – Hallowe'en Playfest on the 30th and 31st of October. This involved the Arts, Heritage, Local Sports and Development Partnership, Outdoor Recreation Service, Healthy Ireland Wicklow, the Community Development Officer and the Climate Action Team of Wicklow County Council coming together with the Rathdrum Development Association to programme and present a first outdoor event spectacle in Rathdrum. Approximately 2,500 people attended the festival over the two day period which involved live music and dance performances, workshops, pumpkin carving, discos, fancy dress and sports activities.

### Mobile Music Machine - Covid Care Concerts

The Covid Care Concert series saw world class musicians delivering concerts bespoke for the needs of older persons to ten residential nursing care homes throughout County Wicklow. The engagements were specifically designed with objectives which support mental wellbeing in the community and residential facilities to support positive ageing, mitigate the negative impact of social cocooning and social distancing, and develop and establish new forms of creative engagement for older people that accommodates prevailing public health guidance in the community and for nursing homes/residential care facilities

The Wicklow 'Covid Care Concert' series was rolled out in ten Nursing Homes in County Wicklow with 'Mobile Music Machine' musicians and singers working with carers/nursing staff to create a programme that stimulates repertoire and memory during the sustained series with repeat visits to residential care homes. The outcomes have proven immensely beneficial to the audiences and the programme engaged Wicklow musicians in the initiative. Funding for this initiative was provided by Creative Ireland.



## ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

Key Strategy Objective 3: Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure:

“To develop infrastructure and measures that will sustain the best quality of life for our citizens in a strong economic competitive environment of the highest quality; support interagency collaboration and capitalise on County Wicklow’s unique attributes, harnessing efficiently the entire resources of the County to develop employment opportunities”.

Key Strategy Objective 4: Organisation Development and Financial Matters:

“To maximise and develop the potential of our human resources, fulfilling our duties under Health and Safety, to adhere to the highest stand of governance, integrity, transparency and accountability and to develop new technologies to continuously innovate and improve the delivery of a cost effective, efficient and high quality of service to our citizens”.

### Audit Committee

The Wicklow County Council Audit Committee was initially established in 2007 under Section V of the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2005. Following the May 2019 local elections, the Audit Committee was re-established. The membership of the committee now comprises:

Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman  
 Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman  
 Ms. Mary Savage  
 Cllr. Mary Kavanagh  
 Cllr. Gerry Walsh (up to June 2021)  
 Cllr. Edward Timmons (from June 2021)

The functions of the Audit Committee are prescribed in Section 59 of the Local Government Act 2014 and include:

- To review the financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the Local Authority
- To foster the development of best practice in the performance by the Local Authority of its internal audit function
- To review any audited financial statement, Auditor’s Report or Auditor’s Special Report in relation to the Local Authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its Chief Executive in response to such a statement or report and report its findings to the Authority
- To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the Local Authorities performance of its functions
- To review systems that are operated by the Local Authority for the management of risks
- To review the findings and recommendations of the National Oversight & Audit Committee (NOAC) and the response of the Chief Executive to these and take further action as appropriate.

As part of the reporting process, the Audit Committee presented its Annual Report for 2020 to the Wicklow County Council in March 2021. In the report, the Committee welcomed the receipt of reports on the following assignments during the year:

- Report to NOAC – Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report
- Development Contribution Scheme – Final Report
- SICAP – Bray Area Partnership – 2018

In the report, the Committee also advised of the following audits that had commenced and were due to be finalised shortly:

- SICAP – County Wicklow Partnership – 2019
- SICAP – Bray Area Partnership -2019
- Wicklow County Council Interest in Companies – this report is reviewing the governance structures and reporting relationships of the Mermaid

County Wicklow Arts Centre and the Shoreline Group of Companies.

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial Procedures & Audit) Regulations 2014 the Local Government Auditor was invited to address the Committee. This annual meeting is a constructive opportunity for the Committee to exchange views with the Local Government Auditor on a wide range of issues and for the Local Government Auditor to discuss his statutory audit report on the Council's Annual Financial Statement.

### Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus

2021 saw the formation of a new Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus to address to barriers to women taking part in local politics.

Following the 2019 Local Elections an unprecedented number of female Councillors were elected to Wicklow County Council and in recent months these Councillors have come together as a group to establish the Caucus.

Despite the recent success of female candidates in Wicklow, the picture nationally is that women continue to be seriously underrepresented in Local Government and make up just 25 per cent of all Councillors.

The barriers and challenges identified to participation by the female Councillors of Wicklow County Council have mirrored those outlined in national reports such as the 'Independent Review of the Role and Remuneration of Local Authority Elected Members' (Dept. Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and 'Women Beyond the Dáil' (National Women's Council of Ireland).

The aim of the Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus is to address these barriers and to strengthen co-operation between women across political and ideological lines and strengthen their capacity to effect change. They hope that through

the work of the Caucus they can help build the capacity of women Councillors, through formal and informal mentoring, and to promote women's equality in Local Government in Wicklow.

### Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee held four online meetings in 2021 due to Covid 19.

Section 36(2)(c) of the Garda Síochána Act provides that the function of a joint policing committee is, inter alia, to 'arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area.' Due to Covid 19 the Wicklow County Council were unable to hold public meetings.

JPC Working groups have been set up to implement the objectives of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing 6 year Plan under the 4 key areas identified:

- (1) Policing Communities
- (2) Tackling Crime in Rural Areas;
- (3) Drug Prevention
- 4) Communications.

These groups meet approximately 3 to 4 times are year. Each committee has a Chair and the administrative support is provided by an official of Wicklow County Council. The committee is supported by representatives from An Garda Síochána and comprise representatives from the elected members and community groups. The committees are open to contributions from local stake holders outside of the JPC such as Muintir na Tire, The uplands Council and the Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.



### Members Expenses

Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€30,000
Leas- Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€6,000
SPC Annual Allowance	€30,000
Annual Representational Allowance	€785,912.01
Councillors Annual Allowance	€235,574.16
Foreign Conferences	€0.00

### Health and Safety

Wicklow County Council subscribes to a dynamic and interactive Health and Safety process. Accordingly the Health and Safety Office avails of every opportunity to reflect these principles in terms of consultation, training and the development of a comprehensive Health and Safety Management System.

Training is provided throughout the year on a proactive basis. Training provided includes: Safe Pass, Safety Awareness, City & Guilds Chainsaw,

Confined Spaces Entry, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling, Construction Skills Certification Scheme (C.S.C.S.), First Aid, and Safe System of Work Plans amongst others.

Policies and procedures in Wicklow County Council are constantly being reviewed in line with new best practices, legislative changes and national initiatives. Staff participation in the process is encouraged and the input of the Safety Representatives is valued.

### Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act, 2014 came into effect on the 14th October, 2014. This Act abolished the requirement to pay a fee when making a request. The Freedom of Information Acts assert the right of members of the public to obtain access to official information to the greatest extent possible consistent with the public interest and the right to privacy of individuals.

The Act established three new statutory rights:

- A legal right for each person to access information held by public bodies;
- A legal right for each person to have official information relating to himself or herself amended when it is incomplete, incorrect or misleading: and
- A legal right to obtain reasons for decision affecting oneself.

Wicklow County Council received a total of 94 requests during 2021. A disclosure log detailing all non-personal freedom of information requests can be viewed on the Council's website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie).

### Register of Electors

Under the Electoral Acts, Wicklow County Council is charged with preparing and publishing the

Register of Electors for the County every year. The total number of Electors on the 2021/2022 Live Register of Electors for Wicklow was 102,346. Progressively smaller electorates apply in the case of Elections to the European Parliament, the Dáil and the office of Uachtarán Na hEireann where citizenship requirements exist.

The Council strives to provide a comprehensive and accurate Register of Electors to facilitate the democratic process at election time. Through extensive local advertising and initiatives, both web based and traditional, a Register is produced which is tested at each election. Every opportunity is provided to any qualified person to be included in the Register.

### Training and Development

Wicklow County Council recognises that training and development assists staff and elected members to realise their full potential and can lead to greater organisational performance and job satisfaction and therefore is committed to ensuring that every member of staff has the opportunity and support available to them. The delivery of training was particularly challenging during 2021 due to Covid19 restrictions.

Staff members also regularly attend seminars and conferences directly related to their area of work and expertise. Seminars and conferences moved to online platforms in 2021 due to Covid19 restrictions.

The Council also encourages and assists staff to undertake relevant further education at all stages of their career.

### Ombudsman

Any person who feels that he/she has been unfairly treated or is not satisfied with a decision on a complaint by the local authority may contact the Office of the Ombudsman. By law the

Ombudsman can investigate complaints about any of the local authority's administrative actions or procedures as well as delays or inaction in your dealings with the local authority. The Ombudsman provides a free, impartial and independent dispute resolution service.

The Ombudsman referred 26 complaints to Wicklow County Council in 2021.

### Enterprise and Economic Development

County Wicklow is a great place to live, visit and do business in. As one of the most rapidly growing counties in Ireland, Wicklow has unlimited business potential, some of which can be seen through the significant expansion and development the County has undergone in recent years. Strategically located less than one hour from Dublin, with easy access to the M50, national motorways, Dublin Port and airport, the County has many benefits to offer by way of idyllic location, infrastructural development, proximity to Universities and Institutes of Technology.

The Enterprise Unit of the Council is responsible for the promotion and marketing of County Wicklow and its towns as a location for enterprise and job creation. It promotes and assists in the development of enterprise centres and acquires land to facilitate industrial and commercial development. The unit plays a pivotal role in the economic development of the County and is committed to growing a further education base in conjunction with IT Carlow at Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College, Rathnew.

The Council works closely with other development agencies such as the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office

(LEO) and maintains and broadens links with potential industrial/commercial developers/promoters to achieve job creation and economic growth. It promotes County Wicklow as a premier film location through the County Wicklow Film Commission.

The staff of the Enterprise Unit is available to guide and assist potential business developers who may be considering Wicklow as a business location. Initiatives to promote the County as a place to locate were undertaken virtually throughout 2021.

### Development of Enterprise Centres

The Council in partnership with national and local development agencies and in conjunction with local chambers of commerce works closely with existing enterprise centres in County Wicklow.

The Wicklow Enterprise Centre/Business Park comprises 74,000 sq. ft. of enterprise space providing a complete turnkey facility to existing and new developing businesses. In this centrally located Wicklow facility there is a wide range of workspace units, research & development, manufacturing and distribution and food production training in sizes from 180 sq. ft. up to 5,000 sq. ft. along with hi-spec office accommodation, training facilities and conference room.

The Arklow Business and Enterprise Centre is a community initiative set up to provide workspace for new embryo and small expanding businesses together with a range of support facilities. The centre offers approx. 30,000 sq. ft. of workspace consisting of 14 small/medium sized production units and 14 offices and facilitates 34 businesses.

An exciting new development for Arklow was delivered through the Urban Regeneration Development Fund called ABEC @ the Courthouse. This facility houses a modern blend of co-working space and traditional office space in a town centre location. This results from collaboration between Arklow Business Enterprise Centre (ABEC) and Wicklow County Council.

ABEC @ the Courthouse plans to support the growing demand for employees who want to cut down on long commute times and work in an Enterprise Hub which meets the needs of a modern, professional and flexible work environment with high speed eFibre access.

### Sites for Enterprise/Employment uses

Wicklow County Council has invested some €1.3m on the construction of Avondale Business Park, Rathdrum including essential infrastructure on the site including roads, roundabout, utility ducts and pipes, fencing, entrance pillars and gateway.

The first business has been operational on site since late 2014. The Enterprise Unit has commenced a marketing drive and is engaging with businesses that have expressed an interest in locating to the Business Park, and the Council will continue to push forward with its plans for the development of the site into the future.

The Council has some varying size landbanks at a number of locations throughout the County including Baltinglass, Dunlavin, Greystones, Arklow, Blessington and Ashford. The Council will work with all relevant stakeholders to develop these lands in a strategic and sustainable manner.

### Economic Development Unit

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is the vehicle charged with implementing the economic actions contained in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) including objectives in the areas of Food, Film, Tourism, etc.

The vision of the Economic Development Unit is for a County which provides a high quality of life and well-being for all; values socially inclusive urban and rural communities; is driven by a dynamic and innovative economy; promotes and prioritises sustainable development and protects and enhances the County's unique and rich natural and cultural heritage.

### Networking & Collaboration with Other Agencies

During 2021 the Economic Development Unit met with representatives of Fáilte Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, the IDA, and other agencies engaged in economic development. Formal and informal networking continues with the local businesses, Chambers of Commerce and Town Teams to assist in tackling the challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic and to promote and develop business and develop job opportunities in County Wicklow.

### Food Strategy

The main aims of the County Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy include:

- To tell the Wicklow Food Story,
- To develop a Food Activity Calendar (Business to Consumer),

- To increase Food Stakeholder Networking (Business to Business),
- To get Local Food to Local Consumers,
- To provide appropriate business supports.

Funding of €175,000 was secured via the LEADER Food Programme for a Food and Beverage Co-ordinator role for Wicklow Naturally CLG and for the supply of event costs for the period 2021 - 2023 in support of Wicklow Naturally's Promotional Activities Plan. Wicklow Naturally will contribute 5% from subscriptions and Wicklow County Council will contribute €35,000 over the two year life of the project.

Wicklow Naturally October Feast encompassed a full calendar of activities with different events every day including food tours, demonstrations, markets and restaurants hosting Wicklow Naturally dining experiences.

### Ireland in Music

Following the success of Ireland County by County in 2020, Wicklow County Council funded an episode of Ireland in Music in 2021 aimed at promoting Wicklow as a visitor destination and our musical talent. This episode is due to air in March 2022.

### Business Breakfast Briefing

As part of its ongoing commitment to Economic Development, Wicklow County Council hosted the 2021 Breakfast Briefing but unlike previous years, this year's event was held online with over 120 participants representing the wider business community throughout the county. The Chief Executive delivered an update the various developments in County Wicklow, focusing on

those of particular interest to the business community. The keynote speakers were Mr. David Fitzsimons, Crest Ireland and formerly of Retail Excellence Ireland, who spoke about reviving Town Centres; along with Ruth Andrews, Chair of the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation (ITIC) and recent Chair of the Tourism Recovery Taskforce, who spoke about Tourism Recovery. The presentations were followed by a panel discussion, with questions submitted by the attendees and responses provided by the panel. MC for the event was Alan Shortt from Mediaskills. This was the fifth annual Business Briefing and although delivered in a different format was nonetheless informative and a key method of communication between Wicklow County Council and the business community.

### Tracks and Trails

Wicklow County Council engaged the producers of Tracks and Trails to redevelop some of the existing County Wicklow based programmes for use on the Wicklow.ie website and social media. A feature episode took place on RTE's new series of 'Tracks and Trails' which covered two very scenic County Wicklow routes – Tinahely Trail and Bray Head to the Great Sugarloaf Trail.

### Wicklow Passport

Launched in 2020, The Wicklow Passport continues to be successful with more than 2500 Passports being sold and around 10,000 distributed in 2021. A dedicated video was produced and widely shared on social media along with a PR campaign that helped the Passport feature on national media including TV

and Radio. The network of Stamping Locations has also increased to 23 throughout Wicklow.

### Eco Trail

EcoTrail Wicklow held its second edition in September 2021 with more than 1500 people having booked for the event. Covid restrictions reduced the numbers of overseas participants, but the event's profile was greatly raised through the domestic market as other large events were cancelled. Extensive media content was generated on the day to be used at promotional asset to showcase Wicklow as a great Outdoor destination.

### Destination Town Funding

Wicklow Town was awarded €500,000 Destination Town Funding for the redevelopment of the Abbey Grounds the 13th century ruins of the former Franciscan Abbey which form a picturesque centre-piece located in the heart of Wicklow Town.

It is proposed to restore the garden to its 19th century layout, in tandem with maximising the usability of the entire site as multi-functional public amenity and outdoor events venue with Mosart consultant's appointed to lead the design process.

A planning application was passed unanimously by the members of Wicklow Municipal District and the procurement process for detailed design and construction has begun.

### Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

Fáilte Ireland, along with strategic partners OPW, NPWS and Wicklow County Council engaged with Consarc Consultants to develop a tourism masterplan for Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park and a Visitor Orientation Plan for County Wicklow.

### Urban/Rural Regeneration Development Funding (URDF/RRDF)

#### URDF

Work continued on implementing the projects for which successful funding was secured under the URDF including:

Arklow Historic Town Core – Phase 1 complete; Phase 2 ongoing  
Wicklow Library and Fitzwilliam Square – complete  
Bray Public Transport Bridge - ongoing

Funding was secured in 2021 for another URDF project which will enhance and redevelop Bray Harbour; with preparatory works commencing during 2021.

The URDF team continues to work on a pipeline of projects for future funding applications.

#### RRDF

Work is ongoing on the Baltinglass Town Centre Regeneration project which was awarded €2.7m under RRDF. The project focuses on two key elements; Restoration of the Courthouse with its reuse as a library/heritage centre and Digi-hub, with outdoor event space and public realm enhancements.

Wicklow County Council was awarded funding of €357,750 in respect of Newtownmountkennedy for the design and plans for upgrades to the public realm, street landscaping, traffic management, public spaces and community facilities. This funding builds on the €150,000 that Newtownmountkennedy received in 2018 from the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme, which funded streetscape improvements in the town.

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

### Blessington Masterplan

€100,000 was secured from a funding stream which was newly announced in 2021 to support Town Centre First Plans. This initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future – the Government's

ambitious five-year strategy designed to reimagine and revitalise Rural Ireland. It is also linked to the Government's 'Housing for All' strategy and the forthcoming 'Town Centre First Policy'. Wicklow County Council will work closely with local community groups, retailers and members of the Town Team in devising and delivering on the objectives of the Masterplan; building on the very comprehensive Health Check previously carried out in Blessington. The main aim of the Masterplan will be to have a cohesive plan for Blessington with comprehensive goals to tackle dereliction and revitalise Blessington town centre.

### Outdoor Dining

**Outdoor Seating and Accessories** - supporting individual hospitality businesses with grants of up to €4,000 for seating, tables and outdoor accessories. This scheme which is fully funded by Fáilte Ireland is administered by the Local Authorities. Where the tables and chairs are located in a public space, the business must apply for a Section 254 licence, if the equipment is located on private property, planning permission may be required. This scheme provided funding of almost €410,000 to 121 businesses throughout Wicklow during 2021.

Local Authorities were invited to apply to Fáilte Ireland for funding under Part Two - **Local Authority Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme** to develop streets and public spaces to facilitate outdoor dining in urban tourism centres, enabling access to outdoor seating for extended periods throughout the year. Wicklow County Council applied for and was awarded over €200,000 in funding for Outdoor Dining and Weatherproofing for Market

Square in Wicklow Town and Abbey Lane in Arklow.

### Streetscape and Shopfront Enhancement scheme

Six towns/villages in County Wicklow have been selected to participate in the Streetscape and Shopfront Enhancement scheme with an allocation of €382,486 awarded from the Department of Rural and Community Development Town and Village Streetscape Scheme. The areas selected are Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington, Enniskerry, Kilcoole and Wicklow Town with 108 businesses in total benefiting from the scheme. The Streetscape Enhancement Initiative is a key part of the Government's 'Our Rural Future' and is designed to make our rural towns and villages more attractive places to live, work and visit. Projects included are upgrades to building facades, artwork, murals, lighting, street furniture and canopies and investment designed to make rural towns and villages more colourful, vibrant and attractive places.

### Shop Local Campaign

Wicklow County Council promoted a number of 'Shop Local' campaigns to encourage people throughout the year to shop locally. The Shop Local campaign also linked in with other initiatives around the county including Look for Local by Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Wonderful West Wicklow, Think Local, Buy Local in Greystones, Shop Local, Spend Local, Stay Local in Bray, Shop Local Arklow and Shop Local Wicklow.

## Town Teams

Wicklow County Council continued to support the Towns Teams in Arklow, Blessington, Greystones and Wicklow during 2021. Support was also provided to the Bray Town Re-opening Committee.

Meetings were held virtually and projects were progressed in areas such as:

Community CCTV projects

Working with Fáilte Ireland Tourism Destination Towns guidelines

Liaison with Age Friendly and Accessibility audits

Accessing funding for various projects under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Development of a new and dedicated websites

for Arklow, Greystones and Wicklow Town

Organisation of seasonal events including St.

Patrick's Day Parade, summer festivals,

Halloween and Christmas events

## County Wicklow Film Commission

The County Wicklow Film Commission is the longest established film commission in Ireland, committed to attracting audio-visual production into the county.

Funded by Wicklow County Council, the film commission is based in Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus, but represents the whole county.

The main objective of the County Wicklow Film Commission is to market and promote the county as a film location for any kind of audio-visual or content creation production ranging from feature film to commercial, short film, television production, gaming, animation or music promo. The film office assists any project regardless of

the size of the budget with the aim of bringing economic benefits to County Wicklow.

As a secondary objective the County Wicklow Film Commission is committed to maximise the tourism spin off of film activity.

In 2021 County Wicklow once again experienced high levels of production activity. Over 600 shooting days were recorded containing a mixture of all types of audio-visual production. The financial benefit from audiovisual productions tends to be higher from feature films than from television.

The County was used by a large number of international and national feature film and television productions. Feature films, high end television productions and numerous commercials that used Wicklow locations include:- Disney's *Disenchanted* (Enniskerry) featuring Amy Adams and Patrick Dempsey; *Provision* (Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew) starring Josh O'Connor and Letitia Wright; *Cocaine Bear* (Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew) directed by Elizabeth Banks and starring Keri Russell, Kristofer Hivju, and Ray Liotta. Some of the most popular commercials that were filmed in the county were the Supervalu Christmas commercial (Wicklow Town), Vodafone Christmas commercial (Rathdrum) and The National Lottery commercial (Rathdrum & Ballinaclesh).

Services on offer to any of these productions include location scouting, advice, assistance and location suggestions through personalised web brochures, liaison with Local Authorities personnel and local communities.

The Action plan that came out of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank identified the film industry as of great importance to the local industry. Objective 4 of the Action Plan is to capitalise on the Immediate Economic Opportunity in the Film Industry through a number of actions: To develop a Film Industry

Cluster in County Wicklow (a hub for film making and ancillary industries).

Establishing the appropriate infrastructure and supports to attract and sustain the film making industry in Wicklow requires a collaborative approach, facilitated and supported by Wicklow County Council. Such an approach will enable the County to realise the potential value from film making directly plus film tourism, accommodation services and other support services.

### County Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy

During 2020 Wicklow County Council engaged Saffery Champness, working with Nordicity, to prepare a Screen Sector Development Strategy for the next 5 years.

The Strategy will assess the County's financial, human, physical and cultural capital and help to develop policies for strengthening the County's position in respect of each.

In particular, the strategy will look at areas such as:

A business and economic case analysis for the new Content Creation Enterprise Hub for Wicklow.

Attracting foreign direct investment (including marketing and promotion).

Support for the indigenous screen content creation sector.

Developing screen tourism.

Support for the development and training of local screen sector creatives and crew.

The Strategy will be published in Q1 of 2022.

### Wicklow County Campus, Clermont College, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow

Wicklow County Campus in Rathnew is an exceptional development and continues to be developed by Wicklow County Council to be a Centre of Excellence in Enterprise, Education and Innovation in County Wicklow and to act as a catalyst for Economic Development in the County. The Clermont Campus is an impressive 55 acre facility. The buildings comprise offices, meeting rooms, a conference and exhibition venue, lecture rooms, I.T. rooms, a college library. Clermont House accommodates the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow.

A strong partnership is in place with the national and local development agencies such as the IDA, EI, the Local Enterprise Office, County Wicklow Partnership and the Chambers of Commerce to achieve the vision and to create a high-quality environment for a thriving business quarter on the campus.

### Strategic Plan 2016-2022

In 2017 The Wicklow County Campus Strategy Document 2016-2022 was adopted with the following headings:

Academic Portfolio and Learner Population

Enterprise and Economic Development

Management and Organisation

Physical Infrastructure

Financial Planning

### Wicklow County Campus and IT Carlow

Wicklow County Council in conjunction with IT Carlow is providing a range of part-time Lifelong Learning Education and Training Courses which

delivered online during 2021 due to COVID 19. In 2021 there were 519 students registered with Wicklow County Campus for part-time evening courses and this figure is expected to grow considerably over the lifetime of the plan for the campus with the introduction of new academic programmes. On the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022 the 13<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony took place with some 240 graduates. Some 1900 students have graduated from the College with various degrees since the commencement of this partnership in 2006.

All events and meetings held face to face and online throughout 2021 continued to promote the Campus as a unique and exceptional venue for a range of uses as well as highlighting the Life Long Learning and higher education and training programmes run by the Institute of Technology Carlow. The main objectives of hosting these events are to promote the overall concept of Wicklow County Campus and to bring the Campus to the notice of the general public

### Actions Undertaken in 2021

In 2021 Wicklow County Council undertook a range of projects on the Campus, including:

Installation of Solar Panels which was grant aided by SEAI.

Installation of a BMS to control the heating for the Campus and was grant aided by SEAI.

Upgrade of broadband facilities for tenants.

Extension of the CCTV system to incorporate The Foley Studio.

Ongoing maintenance works were carried out during the year such as roof repairs and electrical works.

Renovation of two rooms in the main house took place.

The tennis court car park spaces were repainted and Age Friendly parking spaces installed at the front of the building.

Following the retirement of the Caretaker in May 2021 the Acting Caretaker was appointed permanently in December.

A 'Community Employment' worker continued to assist with the maintenance and caretaking of the buildings and grounds throughout the year.

### Development of a Content Creation Enterprise Hub

In January 2020 the Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew was approved REDF funding in the sum of €1,4m through Enterprise Ireland. The estimated cost of this project is in the region of €3m. and Wicklow County Council is committed to providing the balance. The development of this remote working hub is one of main objectives in the Mid-East regional Enterprise Plan.

Consultants were appointed for the Architectural Design, Project and Design Preparation in 2019 and the Part 8 Planning approval was secured in February 2020.

This new Enterprise Hub will comprise of a new 2-storey building linked to the refurbished courtyard cottages, conference facilities in the former school chapel and administrative offices in a section of former dormitory at second floor level in the school block. The facility will provide approximately 10,000 sq. ft of private and co-working spaces in a dynamic and synergetic environment for creative/media cross-fertilisation. It will offer specialised and customised, sector specific business supports that drive start-ups and economic growth. Construction is commenced in 2021 and well underway and the launch for the Hub is planned for quarter three in 2022.



### Local Enterprise Office

The Local Enterprise Offices were established in April 2014 to enhance the national enterprise support model for small and micro businesses. This new partnership model builds on the 20 year success of the City and County Enterprise Boards. The Local Enterprise Office commenced operations within the Wicklow Local Authority structure in April 2014 under a Service Level Agreement between the Local Authority and Enterprise Ireland.

### Mission Statement:

The aim of Local Enterprise Office Wicklow is to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups and develop existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation and to provide high quality supports for business ideas in County Wicklow.

The Local Enterprise Offices serve as a “first-stop shop” to provide support and services to start, grow and develop micro and small businesses in each local area. The Local Enterprise Office is strategically charged with stimulating economic activity at county level through the development of indigenous enterprise potential in the county. The key focus of the Local Enterprise Offices is to maximise opportunities for job creation and retention, attained through:

creating and raising local enterprise awareness and developing an enterprise culture and community-based enterprise activity;

providing a single/first point of contact service to the business community - providing business advice, direction and signposting, business counselling and mentoring;

providing support to private sector and community initiatives to secure the establishment and/or expansion of commercially viable micro-enterprise projects;

providing comprehensive pre-and post-start-up supports to new and expanding micro-enterprises;

influencing the allocation of resources for micro-enterprise from EU, private and public funding sources  
Promoting the general economic development of their areas.

The following supports and services are offered through the Local Enterprise Office:

### Supports for micro business include:

#### Information Provision

Supports for business networks including Network for women business owners (NEW)

One to one Business Advice clinics

Assignment of mentors to companies

Financial support to boost sales via Trading Online Vouchers

Technical Assistance Grants

Exhibitions & trade shows

Access to Microfinance Ireland loans

## Student Enterprise Programme

Business and IT skills training programmes & Seminars

Leadership and management capability programmes, such as Lean for Micro and the Management Development Programme for Owner / Managers.

Grant funding for eligible companies

The Network of LEOs (31) design and develop a number of programmes that are implemented by all the LEOs across the country. These include:

Student Enterprise Awards

National Enterprise Awards to showcase local business excellence

Showcase, the international trade fair for the crafts industry in the RDS

Food Academy, a specialised training programme for food producers run in conjunction with Board Bia.

A LEO marquee showcasing LEO clients at the National Ploughing Championships

Local Enterprise Week with training and events for clients at all levels of business growth.

Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur programme

The LEO Wicklow also has a role to play in the formulation of local economic development plans for the County, aimed at maximising the opportunities for enterprise and capitalising on the features in the County that offer sustainable competitive advantage.

### Impacts in 2021:

Due to COVID 19 lockdowns and its impact on the

national and local businesses, The LEO remit was widened in 2020 and 2021 to support a larger cohort of SMEs with their business continuity plans and to provide a wider range of supports which resulted in a sharp increase in demand for supports across the various offerings.

LEO Wicklow provides a critical frontline service to support small business with their business continuity throughout the COVID pandemic.

The LEO remains open for business but public reception is closed for walk ins. All engagements are online or by phone.

Dealt with 1300 new enquiries.

Delivered one to one business advisory meetings to 930 entrepreneurs.

Assigned a mentor to 56 companies.

Provided business and business IT skills training to 1143 participants across all 77 training workshops, specialised clinics and events and seminars.

Provided Start Your Own Business training to 105 individuals.

Provided Management Development to 17 businesses.

Approved over development grants to 37 eligible enterprises.

Approved export grants to 4 eligible enterprises

Assisted 7 businesses to apply for MicroFinance Ireland funding.

Received over 140 Trading Online Voucher grants and approved 135.

Finalised the consultancy element to 30 portfolio clients under the Client Stimulus Scheme.

To assist clients get Brexit Ready, the LEO provided a large range of supports, mentoring and customs training in 2021.

## Priorities for 2022:

Focus on assisting enterprises at risk from Brexit and impact of COVID 19 restrictions.

Maximise the opportunities for entrepreneurs from National programmes and new initiatives at local and regional level.

Further develop an excellent and effective First Stop Shop for businesses in County Wicklow.

Heighten awareness of the services available to businesses locally and nationally and help develop relationships between businesses and these service providers.

Generate awareness of the LEO brand and services.

Target supports at client companies in the LEO Wicklow portfolio with a view to maintain employment levels, stimulate further growth and job creation.

Provide progression pathways for client companies to access Enterprise Ireland services and supports.

Provide a suite of capability building supports while focusing on Innovation, Financial capability, Productivity, Export, and Competitiveness thus adding value and bringing benefits to business and increase productivity.

Provide the Lean for Micro and the Green for Micro programme to mitigate impact of climate change.

Commence the pilot programme Digitalisation for Micro to assist portfolio clients with digitalization of their business.

Support employment creation in the county through investment in eligible businesses.

Support economic development aimed at job

creation in the County.

Engage with partners at local and national level to design and deliver enterprise creation and support initiatives.

## Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan 2021-2024

County Wicklow and the East Coast Region are at the heart of the screen content sector and the international opportunity, with an existing internationally recognised screen industry. Wicklow County Council's objective to develop a Content Creation Enterprise Hub is one of a number of objectives in the Regional Enterprise Plan 2024. Other objectives include the development of a Crew Hub for the East Coast to further strengthen the screen sector cluster in the Mid-East and to develop a network of remote working hubs throughout the region. These would include the Clermont Enterprise Hub, the Baltinglass Hub and the Arklow Courthouse Hub.

## Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan 2024 Strategic Objectives and Actions

<b>Strategic Objective 1: Position the Mid-East as the primary location for the development of the agri food hubs</b>
<b>Action 1:</b> The completion of the Boyne Valley Food Hub (Phase 1) and the development of the Digital Innovation Smart Agri Hub (Phase 2)
<b>Action 2:</b> The development of the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub
<b>Action 3:</b> The development of an incubation food development hub in County Wicklow
<b>Action 4:</b> The creation of the Boyne Valley Culinary Centre of Excellence
<b>Strategic Objective 2: Develop the Mid-East as a hub for the screen content creation sector</b>

<b>Action 1:</b> Develop and operate a Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew
<b>Action 2:</b> Collaborate with strategic stakeholders to establish a Crew Development Hub to develop and nurture new and diverse talent from across the region
<b>Action 3:</b> Implement the Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy to support the growth of the industry across the region
<b>Strategic Objective 3: Enable the development and expansion of equine businesses across the Mid-East</b>
<b>Action 1:</b> Establish the first National Equine Innovation Centre in Ireland
<b>Action 2:</b> The development of programmes and training to support the growth of the equine sector
<b>Action 3:</b> Conduct a feasibility study to examine the expansion of the National Equine Innovation Centre
<b>Strategic Objective 4: Develop key projects that facilitates the job creation opportunities that result in the transition to a low carbon economy</b>
<b>Action 1:</b> Conduct a feasibility study for the development of a regional green technology enterprise hub that facilitates the creation of a green cluster of companies
<b>Action 2:</b> The development of a Green investment and enterprise zone in Allenwood, County Kildare
<b>Action 3:</b> The establishment of Marine Education, Training and Enterprise facilities to drive job creation in the Mid-East
<b>Action 4:</b> The creation of a circular economy cluster for the Mid-East
<b>Strategic Objective 5: Support the continued development of a positive enterprise ecosystem in the Mid-East</b>
<b>Action 1:</b> Deliver upon multi stakeholder initiatives that will support the competitiveness of Start Ups, SMEs and microbusiness across the region

**Action 2:** Commission a regional strategy that will adopt an evidence-based approach to co-working hub and innovation space development and investment for the Mid-East



**Construction of the Clermont Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew**

**Minister Damian English visiting the LEO team at Wicklow County Campus.**



**Construction Site of Clermont Enterprise Hub with Minister Damian English, Frank Curran CE, Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise and Bill O’Neil of Cumnor Ltd**



## ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



### District Members:

#### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Sylvester Bourke (FG)

#### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Miriam Murphy (IND)

### Council Members

Councillor Tommy Annesley (FF)

Councillor Pat Fitzgerald (FF)

Councillor Peir Leonard (IND)

Councillor Pat Kennedy (FF)

### Municipal District Staff:

#### District Manager:

Colm Lavery

#### District Administrator:

Claire Lawless

#### District Engineer:

Avril Hill

### Executive Engineer:

Rob Mulhall

### Technician:

Stephen Howes

### Assistant Staff Officer

Sinead Boddy

### Clerical Officers

Catherine Murphy

Jenny Seabrooke

Pauline Canavan

Orlagh Hall

Jennifer Bell

### Contact Details:

Arklow Municipal District Offices,  
Castle Park, Arklow, Co Wicklow

**Telephone:** 0402 42700

**Email:** [arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

**Website:** [www.mwicklow.ie](http://www.mwicklow.ie)

**Area:** 48,380 hectares

**Population of District:** 26,185

Arklow Municipal District (AMD) covers 26% of roads in County Wicklow (598 KM) being the second highest District in the County. AMD includes Arklow town, Aughrim, Rathdrum, Avoca, Redcross, Ballinaclesh, Glenmalure and Annacurra.

The offices are open to the public from 9.00 – to 4.00 pm each day and queries are dealt with in relation to housing applications, housing repairs, roads etc. Cash receipting also takes place in AMD for housing rent, rates, parking fines, leases etc.

Following the Government announcement in March in relation to COVID 19 the office of

Arklow Municipal District remained open to the members of the public from 9.30am-12.30pm and 2.00pm-4.00pm and by appointment only at Level 5 Restrictions.

The regular functions that the District provided included local authority housing maintenance and repair, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, outdoor maintenance and grass cutting, drain clearing, maintenance of burial grounds, public convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.

All functions were carried out in line with government guidelines.

### District Meetings

The Members of Arklow Municipal District hold their District Meetings in “The McElheron Chamber” on the second Wednesday of each month at 3.30pm, with the exception of August when there is no meeting. . The schedule of meetings is approved at each Annual Meeting. Due to Covid-19 the Meetings were held on the Zoom Platform. The June, October and November Meeting were held in the Arklow Presbyterian Church Hall to facilitate social distancing.

Arklow Municipal District is represented by its elected representatives on the following Strategic Policy Committees:-

Community Cultural and Social Development –  
Councillor Miriam Murphy  
Transportation Water and Environmental Services –  
Councillor Pat Fitzgerald  
Planning and Development – Councillor Sylvester Bourke,  
Housing & Corporate Estate - Councillor Tommy Annesley  
Economic Development & Enterprise – Councillor Pat Kennedy  
Climate & Biodiversity Action – Councillor Peir Leonard  
Access and Inclusion Committee - Councillor Miriam Murphy

### Community Sector

Number of Press Releases issued 2021 = 5  
Estate Development Grants were awarded to twenty successful Residents Associations to help in the upkeep of the green areas of the various Wicklow County Council housing estates throughout the District. A total sum of €4,100 was awarded to them.

Awarding of Festival Funding to 5 Festival Committees.

Number of Roundabouts in Sponsorship Agreements = 8

### Arklow Community CCTV

Arklow Community CCTV system is a great benefit to the town. It is a valuable policing tool and creates a safe environment. 35 requests for footage were received in 2021.

### Chatting Benches

New “chatting benches” where the public can have a chat with a member of the Gardaí were introduced in Arklow. The Arklow Gardaí, in conjunction with Arklow Municipal District was delighted to extend the initiative that was already in operation in Bray. The bench in Arklow’s is in St. Mary’s Park, near the bandstand.

Retail / Business Sector

Pay Parking

Wicklow County Council continued to operate a pay parking scheme for Arklow Town which includes:-

Free parking between 9.00am and 10.00 am each morning.

15 minutes official grace period at any time of the day.

Arklow Town continues to offer free parking throughout the town on Saturdays and Sundays.

Paying for parking in Arklow is faster and easier with Parking Tag. The cashless parking solution allows motorists to park by phone in the town and extend their parking without returning to their vehicle.

Free parking was provided in Council owned carparks in Arklow town during the Christmas period.

2 free annual parking permits for businesses whose rates are up to date.

### Failte Ireland

Arklow Municipal District was awarded €81,000 from Failte Ireland under the Local Authority Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme, which will be used to enhance the outdoor dining experience in Arklow. Abbey Lane was identified as an area of opportunity to become a much needed outdoor community space within the town centre.

### Town Team Initiatives

Despite the challenges of not being able to meet face to face, the volunteers of Arklow Town Team, with the support of Arklow Municipal District Council, were busy completing a number of projects during 2021.

Nine meetings held during 2021. The meetings were held remotely via zoom.

The mission of Arklow Town Team is to contribute to the improvement in the quality of life for people living in Arklow and enhance the attractiveness of the Town as a place in which to live, work, visit and invest.

The Flower Basket Scheme continued in 2021. A total number of 125 baskets were purchased. Local businesses kindly sponsored the flower baskets this year. The scheme enhances and improves the image of the Main Street.

The Arklow Town Team International Women's Day 5/10km virtual challenge event took place

from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March. The event was a great success. 259 participants around the country signed up for the event. All participant received a custom made medal and a bag of calm. Proceeds raised went to Brays Women's Refuge and an Arklow Town Team Tourism project.

Jim Callery WCC gave a presentation to the Town Team members on Arklow town being piloted as Co. Wicklow's Decarbonisation zone.

Following successful applications submitted to LEADER for funding the following projects were completed.

Arklow's 19 Arches Bridge, the longest multi arched bridge in Ireland, is in bloom thanks to a project completed by the Town Team and Arklow Tidy Town's Committee with assistance from the Men's Shed. The bridge will be in bloom throughout the summer and winter months with pollinator friendly planters following the installation of a Flower Irrigation system on the bridge.



The bridge planters complement the annual Flower Basket Scheme for businesses in the town.

[Visit Arklow](#)

The 'Visit Arklow' tourism brand was developed and launched in the summer months. A Marketing Consultant was hired to maintain and update the website. New Visit Arklow Bunting was purchased and placed around the town. This project was funded by LEADER with support from Arklow Municipal District.



#### Community Garden Biodiversity project

Arklow Town Team teamed up with Glenart College and secured LEADER funding to build a Community Biodiversity Garden. A polytunnel and raised beds were installed. The students were educated about community, gardening, the environment, biodiversity and many other life skills.

#### Harbour to Headwaters Project

Progress on the Harbour to Headwater Project was also made, which will map the Avoca River Catchment from Glenmalure to Arklow and install educational panels of aqua life of the river and the wildlife on the riverbank with a view to linking to an educational website. This project will be a great base for the starting of future projects to promote our wonderful waterways.

#### The Goods Store Project

Following a successful application to The Heritage Council, a Measured Survey & Conservation Report of The Goods Store was carried out at Arklow Railway Station.

The Town Team hope to work closely with Irish Rail and Wicklow County Council to bring this building back to use as a community space.



#### Kynocks Park Painted Playground Project

A sum of €3,000 was secured from the Community Enhancement Programme 2021 to contribute to the painted playground project at Kynock's Park. The proposed project will include a Painted Playground and Colourful Court and will really uplift and transform the space.

#### Playgrounds

Arklow Municipal District was awarded €14,466.25 following a successful application submitted to The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) under the Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation.

The purpose of the scheme is to fund new play and recreation facilities and/or the refurbishment of existing play and recreation facilities. The funding will be used to carry out refurbishment works to the playground at Seaview Avenue.

**Pride Pedestrian Crossing**

Arklow leads the way by installing the first pride crossing in the Republic of Ireland. Arklow Municipal District, Arklow Town Team and its Elected Members are very proud to show their support for the members of the LGBTQ+ community through the installation of a “Pride” crossing on Arklow Main Street.



This project will highlight to those passing through the Main Street area that the community in Arklow and its environs is an inclusive one where everyone is treated equally.

Arklow Municipal District is delighted to be setting an example on a national level in this regard and we hope that this project will lead the way for other local authorities and communities to follow.



**To mark UN International Day for Persons with Disabilities, The 19 Arches Bridge was lit up in purple.**

**Events**

Facilitated the Arklow Christmas Festival Ronnie Delany Commemorative Statue was Unveiled for Olympic Champion Ronnie Delany, who won the 1500m in Melbourne in 1956 in November.



AMD was also shortlisted for the LAMA All Ireland Community & Council Awards 2021 awards for the Arklow Courthouse and Enterprise Hub in the ‘Best Local Authority Innovation for attracting inward Investment’ category.

AMD was also shortlisted for the LAMA All Ireland Community & Council Awards 2021 awards for Arklow Dog Park under the ‘Best Public Park Category’.

**Tidy Towns Committees**

There are 5 active Tidy Town Committees in Arklow MD – Arklow Aughrim, Clean up Aughrim, Rathdrum, Avoca and Ballycoog.

Arklow Municipal District acknowledges that the great effort by teams of volunteers around the District who work hand in hand with Council staff. This effort is reflected in the continued successes

achieved in the IBAL and the Tidy Towns competitions.

Arklow has taken fifth place out of 40 Irish towns and cities in the final survey of 2021 by business group Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) and is 'Cleaner than European Norms'.

### Town Reopening Committee

The Town reopening committee continued to meet in 2021.

The following actions were implemented in Arklow:

A new shop local poster has been designed for the approach roads into the town to encourage people to shop local and support their town. It also promotes Free Weekend Parking that is available in Arklow every Saturday and Sunday. Stickers with the Arklow Shop Local Logo have been distributed to the businesses to place in their shop windows.

### Twinning

Twinning helps to develop a better understanding of other nationalities and cultures. In addition to educational, cultural and sporting exchanges, partnerships with international communities have led to lifelong friendships, to business exchanges and commercial opportunities.

Arklow Town is twinned with two towns:

- Châteaudun
- Aberystwyth, Wales

Arklow Municipal District continues to support the Twinning Committees.

### Infrastructure Projects within Arklow Municipal District

Works have commenced on site for the Parade Ground Public Realm Project.

The Avonmore Link Bridge Project was completed.

Improvement works at Ballinaclash Junction completed.

Irish Water commenced works on the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Works undertaken in 2021 using central government funding in Arklow Municipal District included the following:

There was approximately 8.5km of road improvement works carried out in 2021:

Road No.	Road
R755	Rathdrum
R753	Aughrim to Ballinaclash
L-5156	Kilmacurragh
L-6124 & L-6125	Ballyteige Rathdrum
L-2180	Beech Road, Avoca
L-2900	Emoclew Road, Arklow
L-6204	Tocher Hill, Killavaney
L-2196-30	Moorehill

### Safety Improvement Works:

Safety Improvement Works:	
Road No.	Road
R747	Arklow to Woodenbridge - 800m of crash barrier
R752	Avoca – 650m of safety barriers
R747	Arklow and Woodenbridge – LED Warning Signs
R752	Rathdrum & Laragh – LED Warning Signs
L-59561 & L5956	Barndarrig

### Former National Roads:

R-772	Wexford Road Resurfacing Works from Main Street to Carysfort Roundabout
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### Local Improvement Schemes:

Kilahurler, Arklow
Knockanree, Avoca
Clonerkin, Rathdrum
Ballykillygeer, Ballycoog

### Community Involvement Schemes:

Kilahurler, Arklow
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### Routine Maintenance (Surface Dressing):

There was approximately 42km of road surfacing works carried out in 2021.

L-1113	Deputy's Pass
L-6699	Kilacoran – Killaveny
L-6204	Killanevey
L-747	Woodenbridge – Aughrim
L-7213	Killavaney-Rosnastraw
L-6125	Rathdrum - Tanseyclose – Greenan
L-2140	Aughrim - Greenan Beg - Rathdrum
L-6124	Knockrath Little-Greenan Beg
L-6189	Ballygriffin, Ballyduff Johnstown
L-2196-60, L-2196-68, L6194-0	Kilahurler Lower
L-6197-0, L-6198-27, L-6197-29	Ballycoog - Clone - Annacurra

L-6143, L-2143-30	Annacurra - Preban
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Additional works undertaken in Arklow Municipal District during 2021 using funding from the National Transport Authority included the following:

R-752	The Meetings to Rathdrum footpath – 4km
R-752	Avoca to The Meetings footpath refurbishment works – 2.2km
L-2137	Rednagh Road, Aughrim – Retaining wall and footpath – 120m

### Climate Adaptation Funding:

L-6145	Garrymore to Ballincarrig
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### Drainage Grant:

R747	Kilacoran Culvert Repair
R754	Avoca-Redcross (Ballinacor)
L-6175	Chapel-Oughill Upper-Kilpatrick
L-69002	Fernhill, Arklow.

### Other Infrastructure Projects within AMD

Part 8 planning secured for the proposed development of a Community & Enterprise Centre at St. Joseph's, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, site adjacent to St. Saviour's Church. Part 8 planning secured for the proposed development in Redcross Village - Main Street Improvement Works

### Public Realm Projects for 2021 included

Arklow Main Street Enhancement Scheme. New planters with seats & bike parking installed.

Rathdrum Main Street Enhancement Scheme-  
New planters and seating installed.

Rathdrum Graveyard – Entrance improvement works

The Samuel Hayes Bridge, Rathdrum was officially opened. The bridge creates a link from the Jubilee Loop Walk to the Avonmore Way.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme in Redcross



Rathdrum Main Street Enhancement Scheme



Arklow Main Street Enhancement Scheme



**Water Refill Station installed at Rednagh Road, Aghrim**

## BALTINGLASS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Ann Marie Butler (Tinahely Area Office)  
Eamonn Phelan (Blessington Area Office)  
Denise Smith (Blessington Area Office)

### District Offices:

#### Blessington Area Office:

Address:  
Civic Offices  
Blessington Business Park  
Blessington  
Co. Wicklow  
W91 RTV0  
Telephone No: 045 - 891222  
E-mail: [baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie);  
Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

#### Tinahely Area Office:

Address: Council Offices  
Coolruss  
Tinahely  
Co. Wicklow  
Y14 AY19

Telephone No: 0402 - 38174  
E-mail: [baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie);  
Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

### District Meetings

Monthly Meetings are held at 10.30 a.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (third Monday if the fourth Monday is a public holiday) at 10.30 a.m. – no meeting in August. Meetings are usually held in Civic Offices in Blessington. The schedule of meetings is approved at each Annual Meeting. Due to the effects of the Covid- 19 pandemic and the requirement for social distancing a number of Baltinglass Municipal District meetings in 2021 were held by zoom and also in local community centres around the Municipal District.

### District Members

#### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Avril Cronin (FG)

#### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor John Mullen (FF)

#### Members:

Councillor Gerry O’Neill (IND)  
Councillor Edward Timmins (FG)  
Councillor Vincent Blake (FG)  
Councillor Patsy Glennon (FF)

### Municipal District Staff

#### District Manager:

Breege Kilkenny

#### District Engineer:

Patrick Byrne

#### Tinahely Area Engineer:

Dermot Graham

#### District Administrator:

Liam Cullen

#### Technician:

Denis Jones

#### Assistant Staff Officers:

Geraldine Jordan (Tinahely Area Office)  
Andrea Connolly (Blessington Area Office)

#### Clerical Officers:

## General

Baltinglass Municipal District includes the towns of Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew and the villages of Coolboy, Dunlavin, Donard, Knockananna, Tinahely, Manor Kilbride and Shillelagh. The population of the Municipal District is 25,267 (18%). Baltinglass Municipal District covers 45% (352 square miles) of the area of Wicklow and 40% (943 km) of the county's roads.

Baltinglass Municipal District has two Area Offices in Blessington and Tinahely – Public Counters are open to the Public from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Motor Tax Office is open in Blessington Civic Offices on Tuesdays from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. and provides a valuable service to the local area.

### Strategic Policy Committees:

Community Cultural and Social Development – Councillor Vincent Blake  
 Transportation Water and Environmental Services – Councillor Vincent Blake  
 Planning Development and Environment – Councillor Gerry O'Neill and Councillor Edward Timmins, Councillor Patsy Glennon  
 Economic Development and Enterprise Support – Councillor Avril Cronin  
 Wicklow County Council Access and Inclusion Committee – Councillor John Mullen

The regular functions that the District provided included local authority housing maintenance and repair, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, outdoor maintenance and grass cutting, drain clearing, maintenance of burial grounds, school traffic warden services, public convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.

Wicklow County Council was allocated additional funding by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards the development of the Blessington Greenway. Baltinglass Municipal District is looking forward to working with the different sections of Wicklow County Council to bring this exciting project to fruition.

Members of staff continued to work with Tidy Towns groups in the District. The efforts of the many volunteers whose hard work and dedication was reflected in the success of local villages and towns in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) and the Wicklow County Council Tidy Towns, Estates and Environmental Awards.

Estate Development Grants were awarded to eighteen successful Residents Associations to help in the upkeep of the green areas of the various Wicklow County Council housing estates throughout the District.

The Elected Members of Baltinglass Municipal District provided Discretionary Funding to various projects:

Footpath Works:

#### Edward Street Baltinglass

Reconstruction/renewal of defective footpaths at Edward Street Baltinglass was completed in 2021.

#### Burgage Blessington

Reconstruction and provision of a new footpath at Burgage Blessington was completed in 2021.

#### Red Lane footpath Blessington

Funding has been secured to provide a new footpath at Red Lane footpath Blessington, on L4371 linking Blessington with Blessington Educate Together National School. The first phase

of this project has been completed and phase 2 will commence in 2022.

#### Shillelagh Road, Carnew

Reconstruction/renewal of defective footpaths at Shillelagh Road, Carnew commenced in December 2021

#### Kelly's Hill, Tinahely

Reconstruction/renewal of defective footpaths at Kelly's Hill, Tinahely commenced in December 2021

#### Rathdangan Road, Talbotstown

Reconstruction/renewal of defective footpaths at Rathdangan Road, Talbotstown commenced in December 2021

#### Drainage Improvement Works:

Drainage works at N81 Hempstown, Blessington  
Drainage works at L8285 Grangecon Park to Rathtoole.

Drainage works at L- 43655 Ballyknockan  
Drainage works at R748 Kilcavan Lower

#### Public Lighting Projects:

LED upgrades on the N81 at Hollywood and Lamb junction Kilbride

#### N81 Works

##### Knockroe Bend Realignment N81

Works commenced on site in Mid-September 2019 at N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment Scheme. The Realignment Scheme involves the upgrade of the N81 National Secondary Road at Knockroe Bend over approximately 1 kilometre. The scheme has been prepared to improve road standards, to implement an improvement in the

road safety performance of this section of the N81 and reduce the occurrence of collisions by realigning and widening the road at this location. This Project is now fully completed and open to traffic.

#### N81 Category B Projects Resurfacing Schemes

TII have provided funding for surfacing works on two locations along the N81 at Site 1 Hollywood Lower and Site 2 Ballinacrow Upper to Saundersgrove. This scheme was completed in July 2021.

#### Annual-clean-up of the N81 National road

An annual clean-up of the N81 National road from South Dublin County Boundary at Brittas, to Carlow County Boundary South of Baltinglass commenced on Monday the 19th July 2021 and was completed in August 2021. The works consist of grass cutting, litter removal and drainage rehabilitation.

#### N81 Minor Works Projects

WCC have looked for TII approval / funding for a number of minor drainage and surfacing works on the N81 in 2021. A drainage scheme at Hempstown and minor surfacing repairs on Main Street Blessington has been approved for this year. These schemes were completed in September 2021.

#### Baltinglass Roads Programme 2021

##### Restoration Improvement Works (RI)

The 3 year road programme is in place for years 2019 – 2021 inclusive. The annual Wicklow County Council allocation from the department for RI Works has been received and the final allocation for the Baltinglass Municipal District is €2,249,460.00. The Baltinglass Municipal District allocation will be divided equally between the Blessington Area and Tinahely Area (i.e.

€1,124,730.00 for Blessington Area and €1,124,730.00 for Tinahely Area).

**Blessington Area Restoration Improvement Schemes**

The procurement process is complete and contact is awarded. Works have commenced and were completed during the month of July.

Road Number	Scheme Location	Schedule
R747	Knockanreagh	Completed July 2021
L8381	Ballyfolan Road	Completed July 2021
L4371	Threecastles to Kilbride Road	Completed July 2021
L8324	Banninlea to Knockanarrigan Road	Completed July 2021
L8316	Cowpasture Road	Completed June 2021
L8339	Merginstown Road	Completed June 2021
L8341	Dragoon hill to Conlan’s Hill Road	Completed July 2021
L8333	Conlan’s Hill to Donard Road	Completed July 2021

**Tinahely Area Restoration Improvement Schemes**

The majority of works have been completed. The remaining schemes will be completed in December 2021.

Road Number	Scheme Location	Schedule
R747	Ballytore Road, Baltinglass	December 2021
L7632	Kilcarney Road	Completed 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021
L7758	Donard Road, Knockananna	Completed 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021

L7766	Ticknock Road, Kiltegan	Completed 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2021
L3230	Deerpark to Tomacork Road, Shillelagh	Completed 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021
L7248	Kilquiggan to Laragh Road, Tinahely	Completed 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021
L7206	Whitefields Road, Tinahely	Completed 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021

**Restoration Maintenance Works (RM) – Surface Dressing**

The annual Wicklow County Council allocation from the department for RM works has been received and the final allocation for the Baltinglass Municipal District is €376,380.00. The Baltinglass Municipal District allocation will be divided equally between the Blessington Area and Tinahely Area (i.e. €188,190.0 for Blessington Area and €188,190.00 for Tinahely Area). Wicklow County Council Roads crews across the Baltinglass Municipal District have completed preparatory works. Works were completed by the end of July 2021.

**Blessington Area RM (Surface Dressing) Schemes**

Road Number	Scheme Location	Schedule
R759	Sally Gap Road	Completed July 2021
L8362	Tulfarris Road	Completed July 2021
L8365	Boystown Road	Completed July 2021
L4321	Donoughmore Road	Completed July 2021
L8316	Boherboy to Annalecky Road	Completed July 2021
L8336	Dunlavin to Mullycagh Upper Road	Completed July 2021

### Tinahely Area RM (Surface Dressing) Schemes

Road Number	Scheme Location	Schedule
R749	Coolruss, Tinahely	Completed 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
R749	Barton Street, Tinahely	Completed 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
L3253	Knockeen Road	Completed 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
L7227	Coolattin to Carnew Road	Completed 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
L3260	Talbotstown to Graigue Crossroads	Completed 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
L3134	Ballinglen to Ballycumber	Completed 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2021

### Blessington Inner Relief Road

The Inner Relief road is a partially completed distributor road, which is designed to provide a town centre 'by-pass' from a new roundabout adjacent to the existing entrance to Roadstone on the north side of the town, to a point on the N81 south of the town centre. The objective in the current Blessington Local Area Plan is to facilitate the completion of the inner relief road.

To date, this road is complete between the Naas Road and the Blessington Industrial Estate junction (opposite the Maxol petrol station) and between the N81 south of the town and the Kilmalum Road and was delivered as part of a number of private developments that were granted permission by Wicklow County Council. The section of road to be constructed lies between the roundabout on the R410 Naas Road

and Roundabout on the L8364 Kilmalum Road. The proposed route alignment would bring the road through a corridor already provided for when planning was granted by Kildare Co Co for Blessington Manor, It should be noted that this portion of land is now in the ownership of Wicklow County Council. The remainder of the route is located on Greenfield sites. It should be noted that the majority of this section of road lies within the functional area of Kildare County Council and Wicklow County Council have entered into an agreement pursuant to Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act, 2001 providing for the execution of such works.

### BIRR – Status

Consultants appointed  
 Topographical survey complete  
 Ecological assessments underway  
 Arboricultural (Tree) surveys complete  
 Ground Investigation works contractor about to be appointed  
 Both Kildare County Council and TII have been consulted as part of the on-going project Route identified

### Timelines for Delivery

Given the anticipated timeframes for completing the various additional seasonal ecological surveys and the possibility that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) may be required (watercourses are discharging to the Blessington Lakes SPA), then the anticipated submission of planning will be at least mid-2022. Should an EIAR be required then the programme will most likely be delayed (this has not been assumed in the programme dates above). On submission of the planning scheme then depending on the planning route option selected, different periods of consideration will be required.

An application to An Bord Pleanála in general requires a longer review period before any final grant while a part 8 planning submission to the Local Authority would normally receive a decision in a shorter time period.

On the premise that an EIAR is not required following the EIAR screening, the key dates to construction are outlined below (best case scenario) -

End 22 - Planning / Compulsory Purchase Order in place  
 Mid 23 - Start construction  
 Mid to End 24 - Complete construction.

### Blessington Greenway

Wicklow County Council has obtained Part 8 planning permission to construct a Greenway around the lakes of Blessington. The scope of works for the project was changed during the process of route identification. These project changes triggered the need to review the environmental reports undertaken to date, which has led to the project requiring a NIS and a planning submission to ABP. The new planning documents are going through the final reviews and it is planned to lodge early December 2021. The scheme runs through ES&B lands and a licence Agreement will be in place for the scheme and lands needed.

### Time Lines for project

Lodge Planning Documents to ABP early January 22  
 Period for submissions close Feb 22  
 Oral hearing, if required, Mar 22  
 ABP Decision / Planning confirmed May 22  
 Any amendments/ modifications incorporated into scheme June 22  
 Proceed with detailed design during the planning process  
 On the date that planning is confirmed ready to appoint specialist sub-contractors - Tree felling, Bridges, lake shore retaining structures  
 Start construction July 22  
 (Construction by direct labour so save 3 months on contractor procurement)  
 End construction Dec 23

### Next Steps once planning documents lodged

Detailed design

Further engage with the public, local community groups and all stakeholders on the progression of this project.

Start procurement of specialists for tree felling, bridges, lakeshore protection measures

Appoint team to manage the construction

Prepare HSE Building for office for site team

Arrange for Ecologist, Arborist, Archaeologist who will work as part of team to ensure works are carried out in accordance with planning documents.

### Funding Secured for Blessington

#### RRDF

Blessington has been awarded just over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). This will be used for a major regeneration of Blessington Town Centre and related projects.

The funding was announced by Government as part of a €21.5m programme of support for 27 landmark regeneration projects in rural communities across the country.

It will be utilised for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway.

This strategic funding along with the planned completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road and the funding for the Blessington Lakes eGreenway will help achieve Wicklow County Council's long-term vision for Blessington and enhance the Blessington as a place to visit.

### Other Projects:

#### Blessington Town Square

Baltinglass MD received €95,000 funding from the NTA Additional Outdoor Infrastructure measure

fund, in June 2021. This funding has been used to pedestrianise a large area in the town square which is now open to the public. The works completed consists of the following:

- paving a large area of the square
- provision of public lighting in the square
- back light of the monument
- age friendly seating
- planters





## Big Belly Bins

Baltinglass MD applied for and received Outdoor Litter Infrastructure funding in September 2021, the amount received for the District was 25k. As a result of being allocated this funding we have purchased six Big Belly Bins for the District. The locations for the new bins are two for Blessington, two for Baltinglass and two for Carnew. These bins will be delivered and installed in early December



## Bus Shelters

Two new Bus shelters have been erected in Baltinglass on the N81 road.

## Road Safety Campaign

Operation Impact, Project safe took place within the Baltinglass District and bordering Districts from the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The aim was to make roads safer in the lead up to the Christmas Period. The focus of this campaign was lifesaver offences including speeding, not wearing seat belts, mobile phone usage and driving under intoxicants. The overall objective was to reduce the number of collisions, save lives and reduce injuries on our roads.

Baltinglass Municipal District worked on this campaign in conjunction with An Garda Síochána in Baltinglass District, with the aim to reduce the number of offences on our roads and to raise awareness of the importance of staying safe this Christmas. As part of this campaign Baltinglass Municipal District sponsored two VMS signs which displayed road safety messages to all road users. These signs were in place in Baltinglass and Carnew from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> December

New pedestrian crossing in Hollywood

Upgrade of disabled parking bays in Blessington

New village signs for Hollywood

Installation of Driver Feedback Signs in Dunlavin

New village signs for Shillelagh

New village signs for Tinahely

New village signs for Carnew

Installation of Driver Feedback Signs in Talbotstown

Construction of new Car park at Askinagap GAA Club under the CLAR programme

Construction of new Car park at Knockananna Playground under the CLAR programme

Construction of new Footpath and Car park at Knockananna Community Hall under the CLAR programme

Safety Improvement works on Wicklow and Sally Gap roads (line markings)

### Christmas Lights

Contributory funding for Christmas Lights was provided to a number of community groups around the Baltinglass Municipal District. The aim of the scheme is to support the excellent work being done around the Municipal by community groups.

### Blessington Town Team

Baltinglass Municipal District works closely with Blessington Town Team to make Blessington a better place to work, shop, socialise and live in. The Town Team has six key working groups as follows;

Tidy Towns and Public Realm  
 Planning and Infrastructure  
 Business  
 Tourism  
 Culture and Heritage  
 Projects

In 2019 Future Analytics were commissioned to undertake a Blessington Town Health Check

Phase 2 to inform future community and socio-economic planning and development in the town. This Health Check has now been signed off on by Blessington Town Team and the focus is on implementation of the recommendations contained in the report.

Baltinglass Municipal District is a member of the Blessington Access Group and is working with all members on the implementation of the Blessington Street Route Accessibility Audit which was completed by Universal Access. Due to the impact of Covid -19 and associated restrictions implementation of the actions contained in the Health Check and the Access study were delayed and will be a priority for 2021.

### Blessington Covid – 19 Community Response Group

A Blessington Covid-19 Community Response Group was set up as a sub group of the Town Team. Members of the group consist of representatives from Wicklow County Council, Garda Siochana, First Responders, Fire Service, HSE, Business Network and Blessington and District Forum.

Getting accurate and timely information out to the community especially the most vulnerable across Blessington and surrounding area was seen as vital and therefore the first actions of the group were the following

Setting up a Facebook page for Blessington Town Team  
 Establishing a Twitter Account  
 Development of ‘Hello Neighbour’ campaign.  
 Design and distribution of Posters for ‘Hello Neighbour’ campaign with contact details for key people  
 Design and distribution of ‘Hello Neighbour’ flyers

The posters were put up in public buildings and businesses around the town and at entrances to all estates. It was decided to call the community support initiative “Hello Neighbour” as volunteers would provide support in their local area. We

wanted everyone to know that they have a community around them that is willing to help and that no person or family is alone at this uncertain time.

It was decided that the Group would focus on the following activities:

Co-ordination of the activities of various local bodies responding to the needs of the community during the Covid-19 crisis.

Local dissemination of national information in relation to dealing with the crisis.

Dissemination of reliable local information.

Acting as the local Blessington district contact point for the Wicklow Community Call Centre and for the Wicklow Branch of Volunteering Ireland

Creation of a list of previously Garda vetted Covid volunteers and their allocation to selected areas throughout the district.

Identifying potentially vulnerable persons and including their details in the list maintained by the Garda Siochana Community Unit.

Providing a variety of supports directly to individual vulnerable persons principally through a network of volunteers and our 'Hello Neighbour' campaign.

In the 'Hello Neighbour' campaign each volunteer undertook to identify any potentially vulnerable persons in their zone. These were then directly offered personal assistance by their local volunteer for matters such as shopping, medicine collection or just a friendly word. This initiative was hugely effective and particularly well received by the community. Apart from the extensive practical assistance provided over the following weeks and months the Group received several messages from people indicating that while they did not require this service they found it very reassuring to know that it was there if they did.

### Special Projects

Following the easing of restrictions the Blessington Reopening Committee was established.

In order to support local businesses and service providers a campaign was run to encourage people to spend/support locally.

### Events

Baltinglass Municipal District was delighted to support the West Wicklow Festival which held a number of concerts online this year due to the pandemic and brought a wide range of world class artists to an online audience across Wicklow.

Baltinglass Municipal District continued its support for the Coollattin Canadian Connection which continues to develop the relationship between Wicklow and Canada.

Baltinglass Municipal District was delighted to support the "half way to St Patrick's festival. The festival took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Baltinglass Municipal District was delighted to support Carnew musical society. This festival took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

### ACTIVE TRAVEL MEASURES

#### Blessington Town Centre Public Realm Regeneration Project

Project involved the placement of kerbing, planters and paving slabs to pedestrianize part of Main Square Blessington. Give priority to pedestrians and cyclists in a public space. Provide age friendly seating and bike parking to encourage walking and cycling. Upgrade lighting and provide link to public transport at existing bus stops.

#### Edward Street Baltinglass

Reconstruction/renewal of defective footpaths at Edward Street Baltinglass was completed in 2021.

### Burgage Blessington

Reconstruction and provision of a new footpath at Burgage Blessington was completed in 2021.

### Red Lane footpath Blessington

Funding has been secured to provide a new footpath at Red Lane footpath Blessington, on L4371 linking Blessington with Blessington Educate Together National School. The first phase of this project has been completed and phase 2 will commence in 2022.

### Safety works in Kilbride at St. Brigid's Primary School, Manor Kilbride

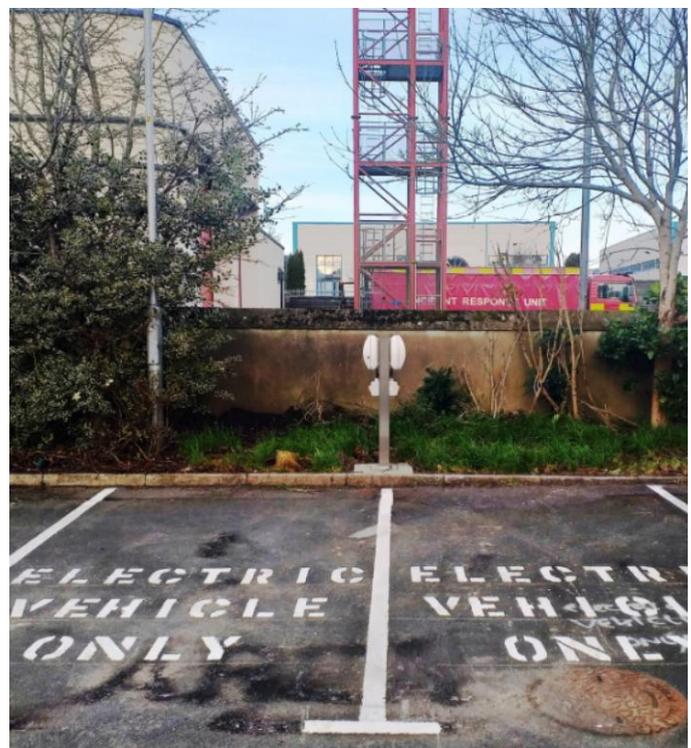
Extra funding has been secured for safety works in Kilbride at St. Brigid's Primary School, Manor Kilbride, including footpaths and appropriate set down area. This project started in late 2021 and will be completed in early 2022.

### Cycle facilities Blessington

Provision of cycle facilities at Blessington Main St to Deerpark and Old Ballymore Road is planned for 2022. A layout design and design consultant will be in place in 2021.

### CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTION WORKS

Installation of electric vehicle charge points (EVCPs) in the Blessington area  
Wicklow County Council has installed electric vehicle charge points (EVCPs) in the Blessington area in early 2021. The proposed EV Charge Points are located at Blessington Main Street – the Square Blessington and at Wicklow County Council Area Office.



R748 Raheenglass

Climate Action funding has been provided for protection measures for the road at Raheenglass, Coolboy (Aughrim to Carnew Road) which was vulnerable to collapse and slippage due to the high volume of HGV's using the road coupled with limited space between the road edge and an existing watercourse. Works were carried out using a timber post a rail system to stabilise the roadside embankment with fill material retained using mesh. Planting will be undertaken during 2022 to encourage root formation to establish long term stability. Interest has been expressed by neighbouring authorities in utilising this system for similar works.

## BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### District Members

#### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Anne Ferris (LAB) (until June 2021)  
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy (FG) (from June 2021)

#### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy (FG) (until June 2021)  
Councillor Erika Doyle (GP) (from June 2021)

#### Members:

Councillor Joe Behan (IND)  
Councillor Melanie Corrigan (FG)  
Councillor Erika Doyle (GP) (From Feb 2020)  
Councillor Anne Ferris (LAB)  
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy (FG)  
Councillor Grace McManus (SF)  
Councillor Dermot O'Brien (SF)  
Councillor Rory O'Connor (IND)

#### Municipal District Staff:

#### Director of Services:

Lorraine Gallagher

#### District Engineer:

Liam Bourke

#### Executive Engineer:

Stephen Fox

#### Executive Engineer:

Conor Carty

#### District Administrator:

David Forde

#### Technician:

Dominic Gillian

#### Contact Details:

**Address:** Civic Offices  
Main Street  
Bray  
Co Wicklow

**Telephone No:** 01 2744900  
**Fax No:** 01 2860930  
**E-mail:** [braymd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:braymd@wicklowcoco.ie)

**Population:** 32,600

Bray Municipal District covers 180km of roads in County Wicklow.

The offices of the Municipal District are situated on Bray Main Street, Civic Centre.

The offices are open 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 3pm Monday to Friday (excl. bank holidays). The motor tax office is open Tues – Thurs 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 3pm. Due to Covid restrictions these hours are subject to change.

#### District Meetings

The members of Bray Municipal District hold their district meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm with the exception of August when there is no meeting. The schedule of meetings is approved at each Annual Meeting.

#### Roads Programme 2021

Road Name and/or Townland Name	Length of Work (m)	Comment

Glaskenny Road	927	Road recycling works completed
Monastery Grove, Enniskerry	393	Ralumac base and surface course completed
Red Lane, Kilmurray	1161	Structural Overlay and surface dressing completed.
Waterfall Road Crone	1116	Structural overlay and patch repairs completed.
Bray Southern Cross	967	Works complete
Onagh Road	2408	Structural overlay with surface dressing and road recycling completed
Blackstick Lane	546	Road recycling works completed
Convent Avenue	161	Reconstruction of concrete road. Contractor appointed
Little Newtown	151	Structural overlay and surface dressing completed
Upper Dargle Road	722	To be surface dressed
Waterfall Road	4339	Surface dressing completed
Killarney Road, Bray	656	To be surface dressed
Tinnahinch Road	1026	Surface Dressing completed

**Drainage Works**

Essential drainage works have been funded from Road maintenance. The associated costs may impact on the delivery of planned drainage works still to do in the table below.

The confirmed funding of €100,000 for planned drainage works is less than required for all of the drainage issues identified. The Bray MD was also

unsuccessful in obtaining Climate Action funding. The following is current status of works that had been planned for this year:

Location of Drainage Works	Comment
L5008 Killegar Lane: Upgrade of defective drains	80% complete
R117, The Scalp Drainage	Completed
R760 Ballybawn Cottages: Outfall improvement,	To do
R755 Calary Upper Drainage Improvements	To do
L1011 Glenree Road, Cloon: Culvert Restoration	Completed
L1013 Waterfall Road: Piping a roadside ditch	Completed
L5014, Glasskenny: piping a roadside ditch	In progress

**Safety Improvement Works**

Anti-Skid specialist surfacing has been completed. Safety Improvement funding had been allocated to Powerscourt National School to flashing amber school warning signs at the approaches on the Cookstown Road. Installation of the units has recently been completed.

**NTA Works**

<p><u>Seafront Plaza:</u> Works have now been substantially completed</p>
<p><u>Bray DART Interchange:</u>  A design review meeting has taken place between the key stakeholders to finalise</p>

some detailing and resolve interface issues. Planning permission has been granted to demolish two buildings on the adjacent Irish Rail car park and it is proposed that this site will be included as the compound for the interchange works. It is also proposed that the station forecourt will be taken in charge as a public road by the council.

#### Killarney Road & Vevay Road Cycle Schemes:

A review meeting between the designers and the council has taken place that examined our feedback on the amended draft design. Some further amendments have been agreed but other issues are still being examined.

#### Bray Bridge footbridges and tie ins:

Scheme provides separate parallel bridges for pedestrian. A review of options report has recommended the extra space on the bridge be given to a southbound bus lane. However, how best to address conflicts for southbound cyclists has not yet been determined. Widening of Seapoint Road, which would have provided for a wider path and an east bound cycle lane, has been omitted from the scheme.

#### Swan River Park:

Scheme provides a linear park with improved pedestrian and cycle permeability from Boghall Road to the Killarney Road with active travel linkages between the estates. Route options have been reviewed following an ecological assessment. A presentation on the scheme and the public engagement process is proposed for the October meeting.

#### Southern Cross Road VRU Improvements:

Scheme aims to bring the road in line with DMURS with ne cycle track, improved

pedestrian facilities and extended bus lanes. The outline of two scheme options has been presented. The council preference is for a two way cycle track along the northern side of the road with appropriate linkages to the south and extended bus lanes, while the NTA favour a mostly one-way track on each side of the road.

#### Convent Avenue to Vevay Crescent Permeability Scheme:

Scheme aims to provide a pedestrian and cycle link from east Bray to schools on Convent Road and open up parkland as public amenity. A new topographical survey was carried out and a revised draft plan of a route through the Sans Souci Wood has been prepared by the council. Engagement with the Convent to agree access is on-going.

#### Kilmacanogue to Bray Retail Park Greenway:

Scheme aims to remove pedestrians and cyclists off the N11. GI has been carried out and Part 8 is being prepared.

#### 2021 Covid Programme:

ATV and maintenance machinery for the Cliff Walk have been delivered. Tender for cycle track at the Deerpark Road linking between the Boghall Road and the new shopping centre is being discussed with local residents and design and tenders will be prepared

#### 2021 Active Travel:

Tender for public lighting at Ballywaltrim Park to be issued shortly. Design for the Peoples Park lighting is still under review.

Bray Central

All the main construction work associated with the Shell and Core are near completion. All scaffolding on the Main Street has been removed and any remaining minute scaffolding remaining on site will be removed shortly. Practical completion is scheduled for the end of January 2022.

Heads of terms have gone out to several new retail and leisure tenants. To date, there is excellent interest from a number of operators for the smaller retail units. Overall, the let-up campaign is moving extremely positively.



### County Parking Office

Paid parking is in operation in Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow Towns. Apcoa Parking Ireland Ltd were awarded the contract for the provision of Managed Car Parking Services for Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow Town and this contract has been fully operational since June 2019. Bray Municipal District is responsible for the back office administration for parking countywide.

### Bray Harbour

Funding of €7.14m was announced for the Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration Project from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) in March 2021.

The harbour, its piers and adjacent lands are a major asset for Bray and this funding will facilitate an integrated scheme to develop the harbour and associated public realm works to provide a vibrant waterfront area with excellent connectivity between the promenade, the town centre, the Dublin Road area and beyond.

The works will include:

Review potential for harbour wall extension, dredging of the waterbody  
 Amenity and Public Realm: Extend amenity areas, improve street lighting, paving, parking, cycle provision and sporting facilities  
 Promenade Board Walk linking the Promenade with the harbour  
 Relocation of boat storage to the north of the harbour.

RPS Ltd was appointed to appraise and develop a masterplan for the on shore elements of Bray Harbour following their report on the Bray Harbour Improvements Feasibility Study. This work is essential to provide clarity to the overall direction of the Bray Harbour Improvements before progressing to detailed design. Additionally RPS have been asked to explore an option that does not necessitate relocating existing occupiers but aims to gain space for the public realm and new activities by a combination of reduced parking provision and land reclamation. A draft masterplan is to be presented to the Members in January 2022.



### Enniskerry Village Renewal

The Part 8 planning approval was obtained at the June meeting. A conservation architect was engaged and has identified structural issues with the retaining walls surrounding the town clock

monument. A proposal to address this will be determined before a contract for the substantial paving works can be prepared. Structural investigations are planned. It is intended that ancillary works, particularly marking the general layout of the paving around the Square, and at the Community Garden will proceed with the available funding becomes available.

### Outdoor Performance Space

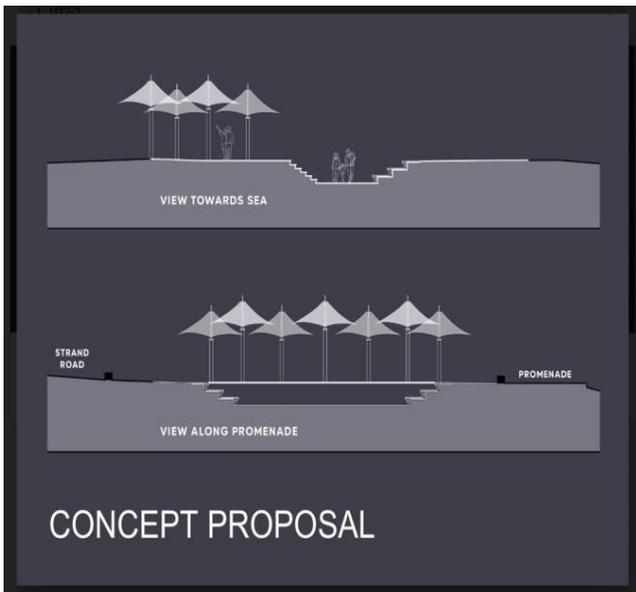
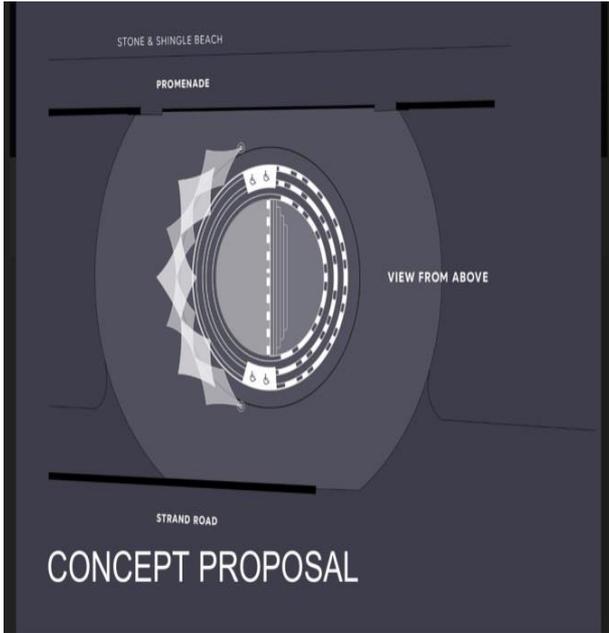
Wicklow County Council was awarded a significant grant of €250,000 in October 2021 from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media for the development of a high-quality arts and culture performance space at Bray Seafront.

The performance space, which will be located at the north end of the Bray Esplanade will link the public realm to the arts and culture directly with potential audiences and will include:

- A tented canopy structure providing cover for performing artists
- It will be equipped with sound and lighting equipment
- Have a backdrop to the rear of the stage area
- Treated hardwood timber seating.

An encircling pedestrian access pathway to frame the space and connecting it to the existing main seafront footpaths and promenade at either side is proposed.

Work will now begin on the preparation of architectural drawings to facilitate public consultation and engagement and the procurement process. Work is expected to be completed in late 2022.



Initiatives that took place in the Bray Municipal District area during the year



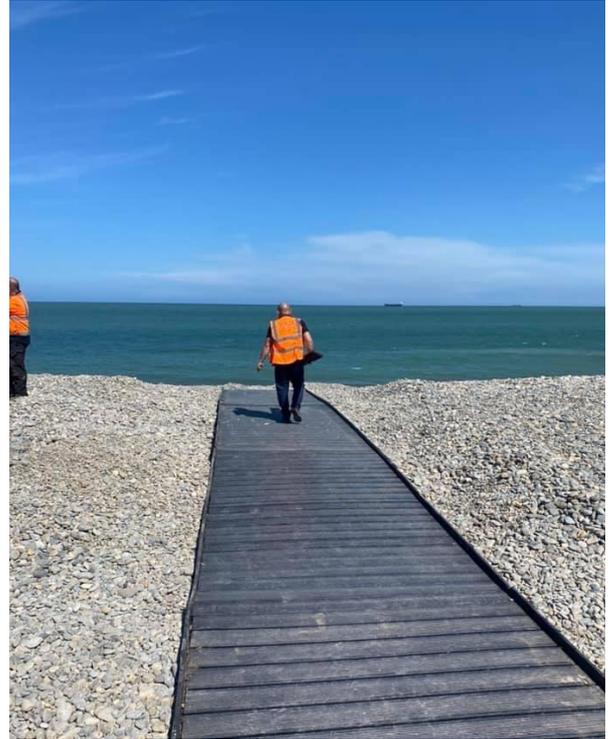
Going green for St. Patrick's Day – Bray Civic Offices

Drinking water fountains installed





Seafront Plaza works completed



Boardwalk installed for summer season



New bike shelter – Bog Meadow Carpark





Christmas in Bray



## GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### District Members

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Lourda Scott (GP)

**Leas-Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Mags Crean (IND)

### Members:

Councillor Tom Fortune (IND)  
Councillor Gerry Walsh (FF)  
Councillor Jodie Neary (SD)  
Councillor Derek Mitchell (FG)

### District Staff:

**Director of Services:** Michael Nicholson  
**District Engineer:** Ruairi O' Hanlon  
**Executive Engineer:** William Halligan  
**District Administrator:** Richella Wood  
**Technician:** Sarah Kate Foley  
**Assistant Staff Officer:** Orla Greene  
**Clerical Officers:** Kay Coughlan  
Lily Davis  
Andrea Egan  
Catherine Murphy

### Contact Details:

**Address:** Civic Offices, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow  
**Telephone No:** 01 – 2876694  
**Fax No:** 01 – 2877173  
**E-mail:** [greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie)  
**Population:** 26,323

Greystones Municipal District includes the villages of Delgany, Kilcoole, Newcastle and a small part of Newtownmountkennedy. Greystones Municipal District covers 6.5% of roads in county Wicklow (64,840 KM). The number of social house within the district is 616.

The offices of the Municipal District are situated on Mill Road, Greystones.

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, except during the month of August.

In addition to general maintenance works in the district, a number of road improvement projects were completed during the year funded by the Department of Transport. These included Bellevue Hill Delgany, Sea Road Kilcoole, Ballyronan Road, Kilquade and Kilquade Road, Kilquade.

Also funded by the Department of Transport were a number of road maintenance schemes including Bellevue Hill Delgany, Templecarrig road Greystones, Old Downs road Delgany, Kilmullin Lane Greystones, Blackditch road Newcastle, Sea Road Newcastle.

Road safety improvement works were completed at Knockroe, Kilcoole road. A signalised controlled pedestrian crossing from Farrankelly Close pedestrian access on west side to the east side giving pedestrians a level of control over the high volumes to access the bus stop and the greater Greystones area footpath network on the east side of the road.

Drainage works were completed in Kilquade from Ballyronan Road junction to Woodstock Road junction.

Under the active travel funding the following works were completed Bellevue Hill to provide footpath. Extra funding to install public lighting has been approved by the NTA.

Under Climate Adaption Measures 2020 Beechwood Park, Kilcoole Works fully completed November 2021.

Other works carried out by Greystones Municipal district included:

Age friendly parking spaces installed on Killincarrick Rd to assist with the elderly accessing Church Rd via on street parking.

Burnaby Park outer paths refurbished under Town & Village Renewal fund 2020.

Paths in old section of Redford Cemetery refurbished.

Railings at steps to the sea at the Cove replaced.

Refurbishment of Golf Driving Range commenced.

Planters installed on Church Rd, Delgany inside the flexible bollards previously installed. Prevents illegal parking by delivery vehicles, improved aesthetics and a safer place for outdoor dining.

Applewood Heights, temporary closure to vehicular traffic commenced December 2021 and will continue to June 2022.

Greystones Tidy Towns were the proud winners of a silver medal in the National Tidy Towns awards.

Delgany won the national Waters and Community award for its programme of citizen science, awareness and protection for the Three Trouts River. Detailed monitoring of the whole river catchment took place with local schools and youth involved in studying life in the river. The community is playing an active role in improving water quality and removing impediments to fish in the river.

South Beach Greystones was again awarded Blue Flag status as a result of compliance with a set of stringent criteria from bathing water quality to environmental management and education, as well as safety and services.

Greystones won gold at the LivCom Awards beating over 160 entries from over 30 countries to win the title of The World's Most Liveable Community 2021.

Led by Cllr. Mags Crean and supported by Greystones Municipal district and Greystones town team, the application was shortlisted and

was judged internationally through a number of rigorous criteria.

The Greystones town team also excelled with the assistance of Holyhead Santa and team in providing a fabulous Santa sleigh ride through different estates in Greystones culminating with the turning on of the Christmas lights by Cathaoirleach of Greystones MD Lourda Scott. The atmosphere created was magical and was an evening to remember.

The members of Greystones Municipal District provided funding for the following from their discretionary budgets:

Christmas Lights

Tidy Towns groups in Greystones, Delgany, Newcastle & Kilcoole

Greystones 2020 website

Renovation of public toilet block at Greystones harbour.

The monthly meetings of the Municipal District provided lively debate on a variety of issues and received presentations from Sispar, Church of the Nazarene and Greystones Town Team as well as a number of Wicklow County Council departments in relation to proposals for Council owned land at Mill Road, proposals for an Art and Cultural Centre and for age friendly housing developments at Mill Bank, Carrig Villas, Carrig Eden and Kilcoole.

Greystones Municipal District continued to support the retail and business sector by allowing free parking on Saturdays in the run up to Christmas.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19, many local annual events usually organised by Greystones Municipal District such as the St. Patrick's Day parade and the People of the Year Awards did not go ahead in 2021.

## WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Gail Dunne (FF)  
Leas-Cathaoirleach:  
Councillor Paul O'Brien (LAB)

### Members:

Councillor Shay Cullen (FG)  
Councillor John Snell (IND)  
Councillor Irene Winters (FG)  
Councillor Mary Kavanagh (IND)

### Municipal District Staff:

#### **District Manager**

Brian Gleeson

#### **District Engineer**

Kevin Scanlon

#### **District Administrator**

Joan Sinnott

#### **Executive Engineer**

Alan Martin

#### **Executive Technician**

Aidan Doyle

#### **Assistant Staff Officer**

Josephine Hayes

#### **Clerical Officers**

Sinead Turner

Pauline Myler

Irene Kinsella

### Contact Details:

Address: Wicklow Municipal District  
Town Hall  
Market Square  
Wicklow Town  
Co. Wicklow A67 YO18

Telephone: 0404-20173

Email: wicklowsmd@wicklowsmd.ie

Website: www.wicklowsmd.ie

Wicklow Municipal District covers an area of 43,240 hectares which includes the County Town of Wicklow, Rathnew, Ashford, Roundwood, Glenealy, Laragh, Glendalough and Newtownmountkennedy.

The offices of the Wicklow Municipal District are situated in the Town Hall, Market Square, Wicklow Town.

The regular functions that the District provides include local authority house maintenance, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, maintenance of parks and open spaces, operation & maintenance of Brittas Bay North & South Beaches and car parks, drain clearing, maintenance of burial grounds, school warden service, public convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.

In addition to the general maintenance works in the district, the Wicklow Municipal District has responsibility for 423 kilometers of road and the repair and maintenance of 1142 local authority houses in the district. 967 housing repairs were completed in the year.

The population of Wicklow Town is 10,584 and the overall population of the Municipal District is 28,219.

### District Meetings

The Members of Wicklow Municipal District hold their meetings on the fourth Monday of each month (third Monday if the fourth Monday is a public holiday) at 3:00 p.m. with the exception of August when there is no meeting held.

In order to facilitate social distancing Meetings in 2021 were held by zoom or in the Council Chamber in County Buildings.

During 2021 the Offices were open to the public from 9.30a.m. - 12.30p.m. and 2.00p.m. – 4.00p.m.

Wicklow Municipal District Members are represented on the following Strategic Policy Committees:

Planning & Environment – Councillor Shay Cullen  
Transport Water & Emergency Services – Councillor Irene Winters  
Housing & Corporate Estate – Councillor John Snell & Councillor Paul O’Brien  
Community Cultural & Social Development – Councillor Gail Dunne  
Economic Development & Enterprise Support – Councillor Irene Winters & Councillor Mary Kavanagh

### Roads and Infrastructure Projects

In addition to general maintenance works in the district the following road improvement and surface dressing projects were completed during the year.

#### Road Improvement/Overlay/Microsurfacing Projects:

Wicklow Town Main St  
Trudder  
Mountjohn  
Ballintekin  
Rathnew Coast Rd  
Knockfadda  
Derrybawn  
Trooperstown  
Sleanaglogh  
Tomriland  
Dunbur Glen  
Laragh-Rathdrum Rd

Rosanna Close  
Sycamore Drive  
Beechwood  
Carrig View  
Carrig Court

#### Surface Dressing Projects:

Dunbur-Glen Turn  
Marlton Rd  
Newrath  
Ballymanus Lower  
Cronroe  
Castlekevin  
Sraghmore  
Trooperstown  
Knockraheen  
Knockfadda

#### Footpath Works:

Glen Turn Footpath



#### Other Projects funded from the Members 2020 Discretionary Budget:

Dunbur Rd crossing  
Garden Village footpaths  
Laragh traffic calming  
Ashford to M11 footpath  
Black Castle benches  
Cliff Walk benches  
Scenic car park benches

#### Roundabout Sponsorship

Two roundabouts have been successfully sponsored in 2021.

Broomhall  
Merrymeeting

#### Local Improvement Works

Coolharbour  
Moyntiagh  
Callowhill  
Ballydowling  
Cronroe

#### Drainage Works (Local and Regional Roads)

Greenhill Road  
Rocky Road  
Dunbur Road  
Brittas Bay  
Castlekevin  
Sraghmore  
Milltown Lane  
Mount John  
Tomdarragh  
Parkmore

#### Promotion of Interests of Local Community

13 Resident Associations in the Wicklow Municipal District benefited from the Estate Development Grants fund of €8,000 in 2021. Applications are invited from Residents Associations of Wicklow County Council Social Housing Estates for funding in relation to the upkeep of green areas within their estates. Private Housing Estates in which there are a number of Local Authority properties may also apply.

#### Christmas Lights

The Wicklow Municipal District provided the annual contribution of €20,000 towards the towns Christmas Lights. Further additional lights were introduced this year.

The switching on of the Christmas lights for 2021 took place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November, however the planned “Light up Your Christmas” event was cancelled due to Covid public health advice.

Retail/Business

2021 saw the official opening of the redeveloped Fitzwilliam Square in Wicklow Town. The Square now provides for a new and safe pedestrianised outdoor venue which is helping to support the tourism and hospitality sector.



2021 also saw the official opening of Wicklow Town’s new €6m Library and County Archives. The new modern facility is spread over 6 floors and now provides a library which is delivering a positive impact for the economy of Wicklow

Town as local businesses benefit from a steady footfall to the building.

Trial One Way System for Wicklow Town

The trial one way system became live on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The main objectives of the trial include:

- Create a new and usable public space
- Provide a safe space for pedestrians to travel between the north and south of the town
- Ease traffic congestion
- Provide additional disability parking
- Provide more suitable loading bays
- Create additional pedestrian crossing points
- Encourage use of existing links to the South Quay

Following continual feedback from local businesses, members of the public, the Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce and Wicklow Municipal District Elected Representatives, a number of alterations have been made to the one way system and further changes will be made over the coming weeks. Thus far 19 additional parking spaces, including extra disability spaces have been provided. Further consultation will continue with all stakeholders with a view to maximizing the public experience and increased footfall in Wicklow Town.



Wicklow Town Trial One Way System



### Tidy Towns

The Members allocated €11,000 to the seven Tidy Town Committees in its district.

Wicklow Tidy Towns again achieved the coveted Gold Medal award in the 2021 National Tidy Towns Awards as well as winning the regional award for engagement of younger people in its work, ensuring local youth and schools had opportunities to undertake project work and actively participate in Tidy Towns.

Wicklow Town and Laragh were also commended for their work on energy through the Sustainable Energy Communities programme.

The seven Tidy Towns groups in the district work closely with the Wicklow Municipal District to make our towns and villages more sustainable and attractive vibrant communities.

### Twinning

On St Patrick's Day each year Wicklow Town usually experiences a large attendance from our twinned towns of Eichenzell and Montigny however due to Covid -19 the 2021 St. Patrick's Day Parade did not take place. However the Committee created a Virtual St. Patrick's Day Parade which consisted of parade footage from previous years.

Each year Eichenzell have been well represented in the parade as they send over a band to take part.

Montigny is Wicklow's French Connection which commenced in 2003 and despite changing personnel the links have remained strong.

### Parking

Free parking is available in Wicklow Town between the hours of 9.00am and 10.00am and thereafter there is a 15 minutes courtesy period to allow the customer to purchase a parking ticket. The District helps to support the commercial and retail sector by providing 2 hours free parking on a Saturday and free all day on Sundays. Two hours free parking is provide for the Christmas period and free all day parking at the Murrough Car Park and St. Manntains Hill Car Park. The parking tag app is also available for use and actively promoted by the District.

### Town Team

**Mission Statement:** Make Wicklow Town a better place to live work and play.

The 2021 achievements of the Wicklow Town Team included the following:

- Opening of Wicklow Towns Heritage Trail
- Successful application for funding to enhance outdoor dining
- Completion of feasibility study for Theatre (Oct 2021).
- Application for feasibility study for community power
- TII, NTA and WCC are progressing the Town Teams proposal for priority bus lane and park and ride
- Successful lobbying for action on Wicklow Court House,

WTT worked very closely with WCC to bring all parties together for a successful outcome on the development of the Abbey Grounds. WCC together with WTT applied for funding to Fáilte Ireland under Animation Town, unfortunately this funding application was not successful.

General

Heritage Trail

Wicklow Towns Heritage Trail was officially opened on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021 by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD.



The Heritage Trail links the key heritage attractions of the Town Centre with the seafront at Black Castle. The almost 3km long trail encompasses the former Abbey, St. Patrick’s Church, Wicklow Church of Ireland, the Halpin Memorial on Fitzwilliam Square, heritage properties along Main Street, across Barrow Green and terminating at Wicklow Gaol. The Trail is animated through QR codes on the 7 lecterns located throughout the trail.

Car Parks

Due to additional demands on Wicklow Municipal Districts amenity areas four temporary car parks and temporary toilet facilities were provided at Luggala, Laragh, Brittas Bay and Magheramore in 2021.

A new car park to facilitate the popular Vartry Reservoir Walks in Roundwood was provided and

officially opened by Minister Simon Harris in August 2021



Temporary Toilets

To support a safer outdoor summer temporary toilet facilities were provided in Wicklow Harbour to facilitated outdoor activities and leisure in the Harbour area for the summer months.

Abbey Gardens



A Part 8 planning application to enhance and redevelop the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow, into the Abbey Gardens and event space was passed unanimously by the members of Wicklow Municipal District at their meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Wicklow County Council was awarded €500,000 Destination Town Funding from Fáilte Ireland to restore the garden, in tandem with maximising

the usability of the entire site as a multi-functional public amenity and outdoor events venue.



Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme 2021



Wicklow Municipal District was successful in achieving €118,000 funding for 7 awnings under the Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme 2021 which enabled the provision of 5 awnings for Market Square and 2 at Wicklow Gaol.

The aim of this scheme is to support Local Authorities, to support the hospitality sector by the upgrade and enhancement of streets and public spaces and implement weather proofing solutions which will facilitate year-round outdoor dining in key tourism centres, whilst meeting the needs of all citizens.

### Christmas Markets

Christmas Markets were held on the Riverwalk and Leitrim Place from November to December.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021

<b>Financial Statement</b>				
The Income and Expenditure Statement summarises all revenue related receipts and expenditure.				
It shows the surplus/deficit for the year.				
<b>Income And Expenditure Account Statement For The Year Ended 31st December 2021</b>				
Expenditure By Programme Group	Gross Expenditure 2021	Income 2021	Net Expenditure 2021	Net Expenditure 2020
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	31,086,086	31,574,494	(488,409 )	(5,074,894 )
Road Transportation & Safety	28,388,860	17,441,956	10,964,904	11,499,284
Water Services	7,048,827	6,577,604	471,223	137,809
Development Management	16,523,951	10,116,190	6,407,761	6,272,656
Environmental Services	13,960,908	2,238,780	11,722,129	11,578,655
Recreation & Amenity	10,576,998	1,691,649	8,885,349	8,396,916
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,508,959	868,316	640,643	644,157
Miscellaneous Services	16,969,664	18,238,092	(1,268,428 )	(1,009,288 )
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>126,064,253</b>	<b>88,747,081</b>		
<b>Net Cost Of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund</b>			<b>37,317,172</b>	<b>32,445,293</b>
<b>Rates</b>			<b>31,177,500</b>	<b>32,009,800</b>
<b>Local Property Tax</b>			<b>12,006,898</b>	<b>13,720,320</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year before Transfers</b>			<b>5,867,226</b>	<b>13,284,826</b>

Transfers From/(To) Reserves	(5,509,031 )	(12,878,616 )
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	358,195	406,210
General Reserve @ 1st January	(1,646,263 )	(2,052,474 )
General Reserve @ 31st December	(1,288,068 )	(1,646,264 )

### Capital Account Statement of Balances

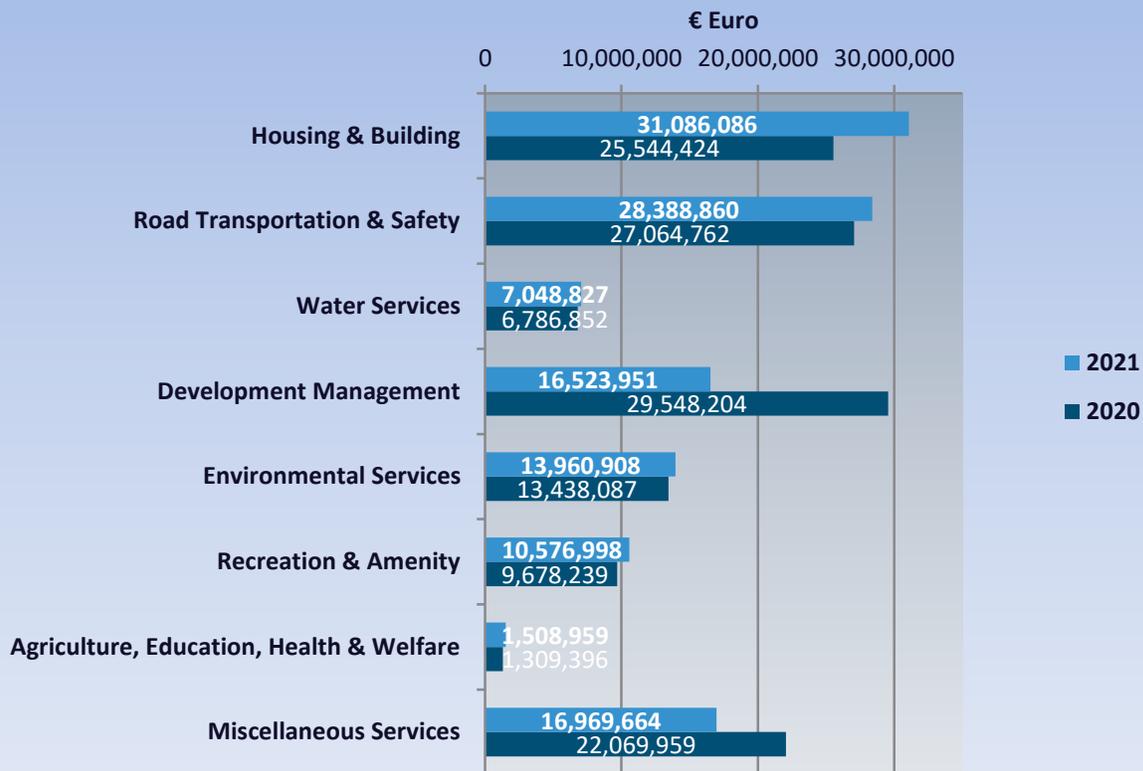
	2021	2020
	€	€
Housing & Building	(13,706,643 )	(17,611,344 )
Road Transportation & Safety	35,706,853	44,050,309
Water Services	10,436,363	11,018,071
Development Incentives & Control	25,225,375	8,802,936
Environmental Protection	(743,438 )	(1,504,016 )
Recreation & Amenity	(446,620 )	1,312,600
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,443,763	1,234,386
Miscellaneous	18,825,824	16,085,971
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,741,477</b>	<b>63,388,913</b>

### Balance Sheet For The Year Ended 31st December 2021

	2021	2020
	€	€
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	1,213,352,906	1,179,239,482
Infrastructural	1,551,134,834	1,549,493,552
Community	19,006,515	19,069,643
Non-Operational	220,010	220,010
	<b>2,783,714,266</b>	<b>2,748,022,687</b>
Work In Progress And Preliminary Expenses	90,822,598	66,502,468

Long Term Debtors	64,741,746	54,856,408
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock	9,166	-
Trade Debtors And Prepayments	36,365,196	43,348,807
Bank Investments	86,327,265	66,285,338
Cash at Bank	2,182,058	1,299,945
Cash in Transit	400	400
	<b>124,884,085</b>	<b>110,934,489</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	36,273,963	35,729,817
Finance Leases	-	-
	<b>36,273,963</b>	<b>35,729,817</b>
<b>Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	<b>88,610,122</b>	<b>75,204,673</b>
<b>Creditors ( Amounts greater than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	68,110,838	71,270,089
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable Deposits	19,817,828	19,682,297
Other	29,615,062	22,166,232
	<b>117,543,728</b>	<b>113,118,618</b>
<b>Net Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>2,910,345,006</b>	<b>2,831,467,618</b>
<b>Represented By</b>		
Capitalisation	2,783,714,266	2,748,022,687
Income WIP	79,046,477	52,068,794
General Revenue Reserve	(1,288,068 )	(1,646,264 )
Other Specific Reserves		
Other Balances	48,872,331	33,022,401
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>2,910,345,006</b>	<b>2,831,467,618</b>

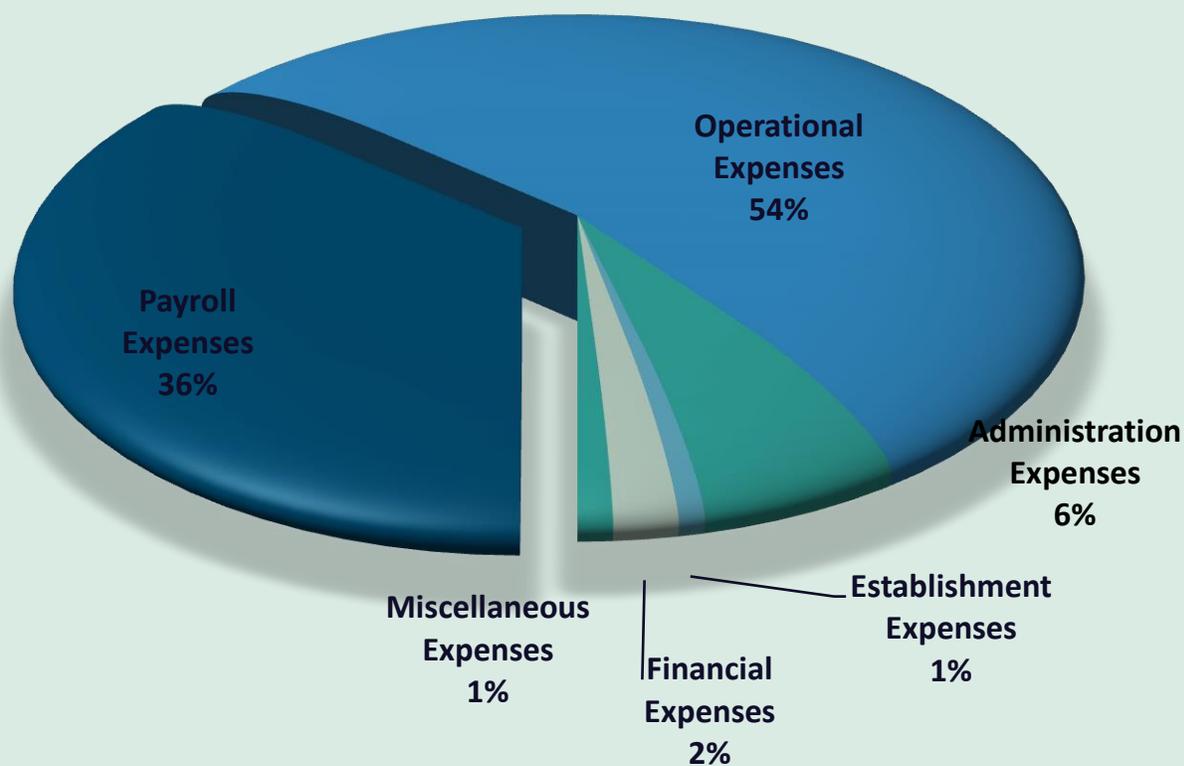
## Revenue Account 2021 V 2020 / Comparisons at a Glance



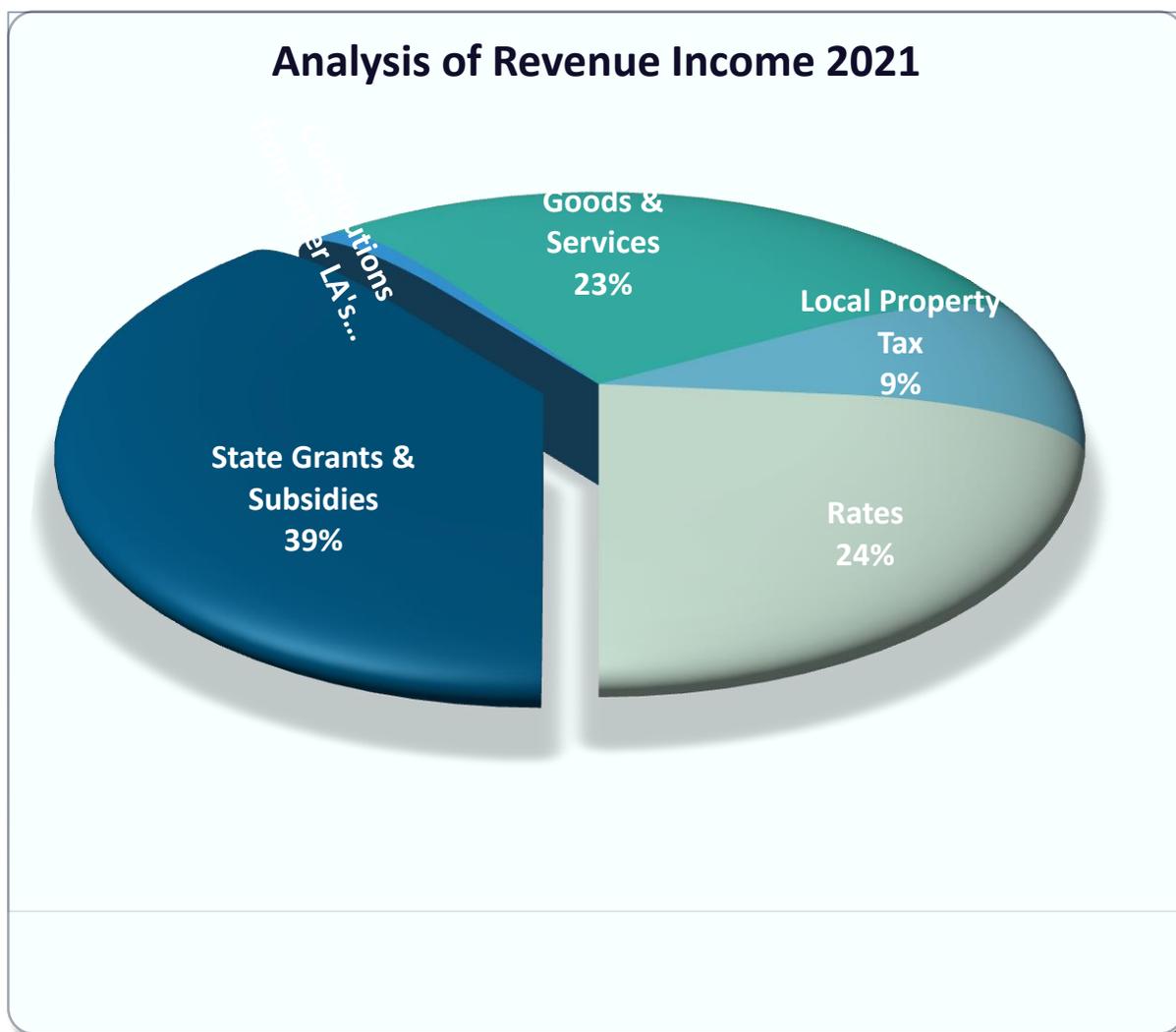
	2020	2021
Miscellaneous Services	22,069,959	16,969,664
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,309,396	1,508,959
Recreation & Amenity	9,678,239	10,576,998
Environmental Services	13,438,087	13,960,908
Development Management	29,548,204	16,523,951
Water Services	6,786,852	7,048,827
Road Transportation & Safety	27,064,762	28,388,860
Housing & Building	25,544,424	31,086,086
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>135,439,923</b>	<b>126,064,253</b>

Revenue Expenditure	2021
<b>Analysis of Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>€</b>
Payroll Expenses	45,739,762
Operational Expenses	67,396,503
Administration Expenses	8,020,099
Establishment Expenses	1,026,118
Financial Expenses	2,518,180
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,363,591
<b>Total Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>126,064,253</b>

### Analysis of Revenue Expenditure 2021



Revenue Income	2021
<b>Analysis of Revenue Income</b>	<b>€</b>
State Grants & Subsidies	51,550,081
Contributions from other LA's	1,345,051
Goods & Services	35,851,949
Local Property Tax	12,006,898
Rates	31,177,500
<b>Total Revenue Income</b>	<b>131,931,480</b>



**Rev Expenditure**

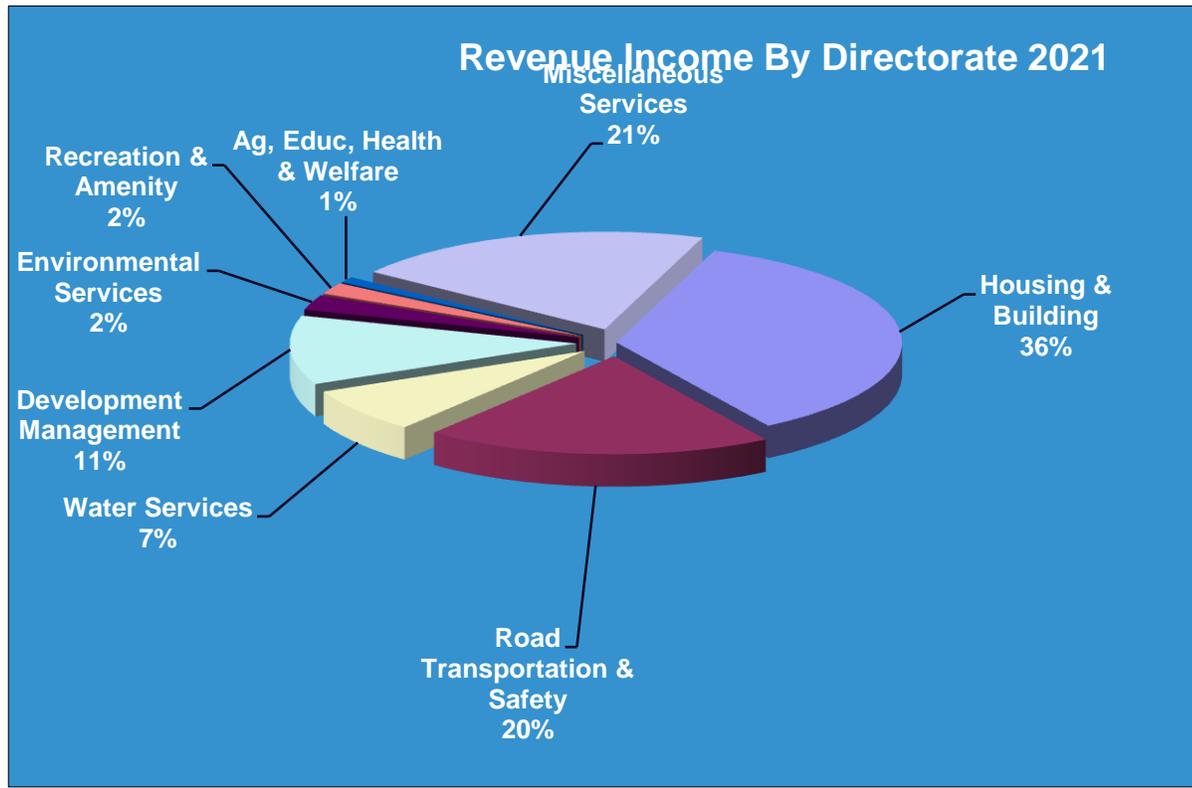
Housing & Building	31,086,086
Road Transportation & Safety	28,388,860
Water Services	7,048,827
Development Management	16,523,951
Environmental Services	13,960,908
Recreation & Amenity	10,576,998
Ag, Educ, Health & Welfare	1,508,959
Miscellaneous Services	16,969,664

**Rev Income**

Housing & Building	31,574,494
Road Transportation & Safety	17,441,956
Water Services	6,577,604
Development Management	10,116,190
Environmental Services	2,238,780
Recreation & Amenity	1,691,649
Ag, Educ, Health & Welfare	868,316
Miscellaneous Services	18,238,092

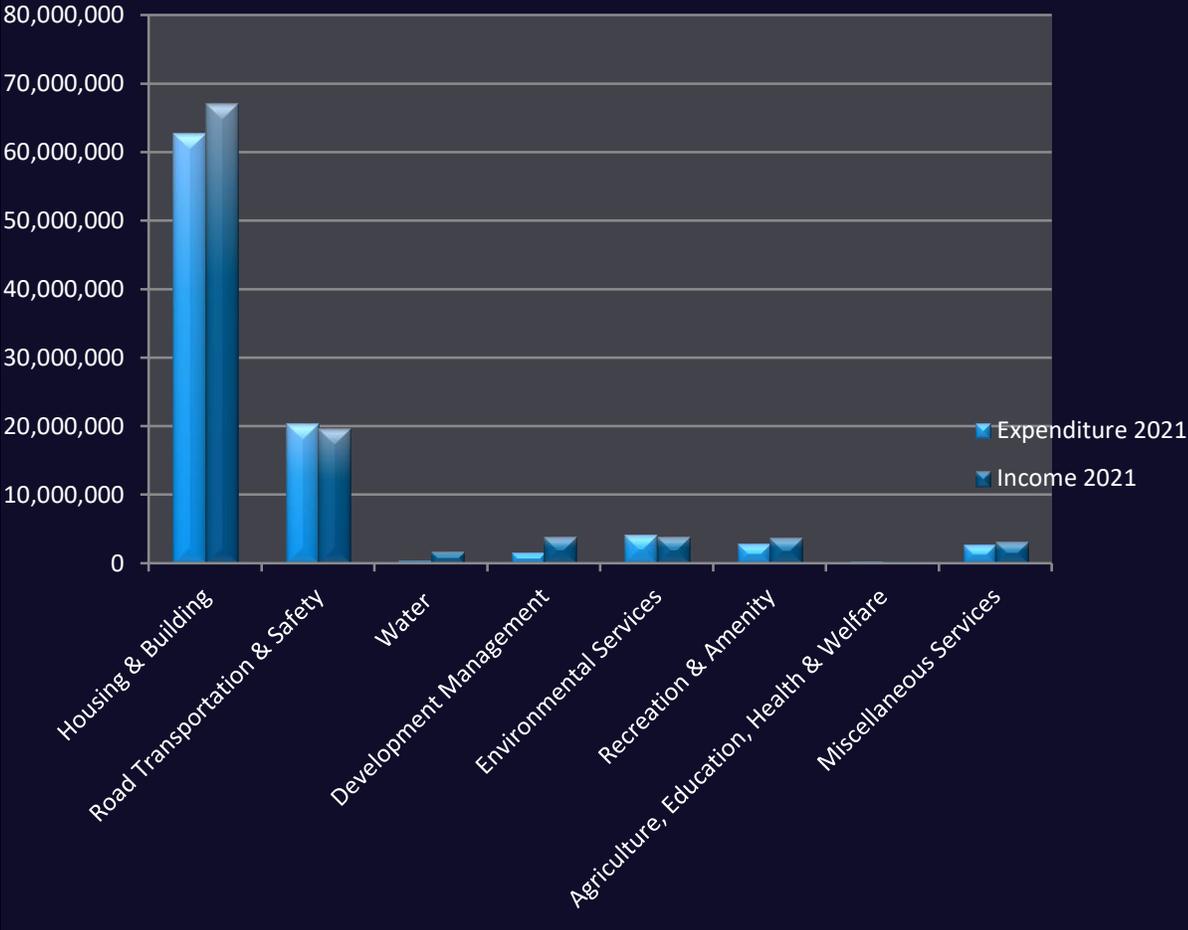
**Revenue Expenditure by Directorate 2021**





	Expenditure 2021	Income 2021
Housing & Building	62,825,961	67,208,754
Road Transportation & Safety	20,368,259	19,622,581
Water	366,047	1,681,306
Development Management	1,520,233	3,840,659
Environmental Services	4,090,045	3,821,116
Recreation & Amenity	2,861,278	3,645,994
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	323,713	179,964
Miscellaneous Services	2,755,209	3,162,948
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>95,110,745</b>	<b>103,163,322</b>

### Capital Expenditure & Income 2021



## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS JANUARY – DECEMBER 2021

## Performance Indicators

01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021 (Annual)

Wicklow County Council

Status: Complete

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1/1/2021	4786	
	B. Number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2021 (whether constructed or acquired)	145	21 purchased, 124 PART V purchases, turnkeys and constructed
	C. Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2021	9	
	D. Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2021	0	
	E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31/12/2021	<b>4922</b>	
	F. Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a D/HLGH approved scheme at 31/12/2021	0	
	A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2021	<b>3.80 %</b>	
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2021	187	
	A. Expenditure during 2021 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, divided by the no. of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31/12/2021, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	<b>€852.54</b>	

	Expenditure on maintenance of local authority stock compiled from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€4196215.51	
<b>Housing: H3 &amp; H5 Approved</b>	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2021 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2021	<b>0.28 wk</b>	
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2021, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2021	<b>€36710.59</b>	
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2021 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	111	
	The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	31.63 wk	
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€4074875.76	
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at the end of June 2021		
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2021	445	
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2021 not compliant with the Standards Regulations	73.09 %	
	D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2021 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)	145	
	E. The number of inspections (including reinspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2021	522	
<b>Housing: H6</b>	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation	<b>56.25 %</b>	

<b>Approved</b>	that are long-term (i.e. 6 months or more within the previous year) homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2021		
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2021 as recorded on the PASS system	32	
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2021, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	18	
<b>Roads: R1 &amp; R2 Approved</b>	A. (a) The percentage of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2021	99.00 %	
	A. (b) The percentage of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2021	97.00 %	
	A. (c) The percentage of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2021	99.00 %	
	A. (d) The percentage of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2021	87.00 %	
	B. (a.1) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2021	0.32 %	
	B. (a.2) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2021	8.75 %	
	B. (a.3) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2021	53.78 %	
	B. (a.4) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2021	36.67 %	
	B. (b.1) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2021	0.51 %	
	B. (b.2) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres	21.35 %	

with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2021		
B. (b.3) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2021	50.09 %	
B. (b.4) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2021	27.88 %	
B. (c.1) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2021	6.60 %	
B. (c.2) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2021	27.23 %	
B. (c.3) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2021	39.60 %	
B. (c.4) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2021	25.93 %	
B. (d.1) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2021	5.14 %	
B. (d.2) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2021	16.70 %	
B. (d.3) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2021	52.45 %	
B. (d.4) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2021	18.52 %	
A.1 Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2021	9.4 km	
A.2 The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2021	€2441725.00	
A.3 The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m <sup>2</sup> )	€34.89	
B.1 Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2021	16.4 km	
B.2 The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2021	€433245.00	
B.3 The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m <sup>2</sup> )	€4.43	

	C.1 Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2021	53.6 km	
	C.2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2021	€5338278.00	
	C.3 The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m <sup>2</sup> )	€20.12	
	D.1 Kilometres of local road resealed during 2021	81.7 km	
	D.2 The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2021	€1544541.00	
	D.3 The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m <sup>2</sup> )	€3.65	
<b>Motor Tax: R3 Approved</b>	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2021	90.67 %	
<b>Water: W1 &amp; W2 Approved</b>	Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements		
	The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	<b>93.28 %</b>	
	The number of registered schemes monitored in 2021	111	
	Total number of registered schemes in 2021	119	
<b>Waste: E1 Approved</b>	A. The number of households, which are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2021	28158	
	B. The percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	94.77 %	
<b>Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved</b>	A. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2021	2262	

	A. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021	2327	
	A. Total number of pollution cases on hands at 31/12/2021	702	
	The opening number of pollution cases carried forward from the year end 2020	767	
<b>Litter Pollution: E3 Approved</b>	A1. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was unpolluted or litter free	10 %	
	A2. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was slightly polluted	74 %	
	A3. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was moderately polluted	11 %	
	A4. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was significantly polluted	4 %	
	A5. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was grossly polluted	1 %	
<b>Green Flag Status: E4 Approved</b>	A. The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2021	30.56 %	
	Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2021	1	
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2021	14	
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2020 and therefore do not require renewal until 2022	18	
<b>Energy Efficiency: E5 Approved</b>	A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2021 relative to baseline year (2009)		
<b>Public Lighting: E6 Approved</b>	A. Total billable wattage of the public lighting system	5533.00 MWh	
	B. Average billable wattage of the public lighting system	89.51 W	
	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	38.00 %	

	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	5779	
	Number of non-LED lights (e.g., SOX-SON) in the public lighting system	9418	
<b>Climate Change: E7 Approved</b>	Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) climate action officer?		
	Does the local authority have a climate action team?		
<b>Planning: P1 Approved</b>	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	<b>24.95 %</b>	
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 by a builder or developer on the local authority	1086	
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2021 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2021 undertaken by the local authority	271	
<b>Planning: P2 &amp; P3 Approved</b>	A. Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2021	61	
	B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority	<b>75.41 %</b>	
	Number of determinations confirming the local authority's decision (either with or without variation)	46	
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 that were investigated	185	
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2021	188	

	C. Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	<b>36.70 %</b>	
	D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	<b>4.79 %</b>	
	E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	<b>58.51 %</b>	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2021	551	
	Number of cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	69	
	Number of cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	9	
	Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	110	
<b>Planning: P4 &amp; P5 Approved</b>	A. The 2021 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census	<b>€29.24</b>	
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2021	€4163888	
	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	<b>35.00 %</b>	
	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	<b>56.25 %</b>	
	The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	80	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in	28	

	2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application		
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	45	
<b>Fire Service: F1 Approved</b>	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2021 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	<b>€38.01</b>	
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2021	€5521626	
<b>Fire Service: F2 &amp; F3 Approved</b>	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire		Not Applicable
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	5.23 min	Not Applicable
	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents		Not Applicable
	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	5.41 min	
	A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	<b>38.09 %</b>	
	B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	<b>50.29 %</b>	
	C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	<b>11.62 %</b>	
	D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	<b>29.86 %</b>	

	E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	<b>58.26 %</b>	
	F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	<b>11.88 %</b>	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021	775	
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	259	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	342	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	79	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021	365	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	103	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	201	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	41	
<b>Library Service: L1 Approved</b>	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area per the 2016 Census	<b>1.35</b>	
	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	443798	
	C. Library active members per head of population	0.14	
	D. Number of registered library members in the year	16618	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021	191779	

<b>Library Service: L2</b> Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2021 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census	<b>€37.20</b>	
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2021 to 31/12/2021	<b>€1.73</b>	
	A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2021	€5298534	
	B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	€246034	
<b>Youth and Community: Y1 &amp; Y2</b> Approved	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	<b>80.0 %</b>	
	Total number of second level schools in the local authority area at 31/12/2021	25	
	Number of second level schools in the local authority area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2021	20	
	A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2021 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	<b>18.78</b>	
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register (maintained in accordance with section 128 of the Local Government Act 2001) for the local authority area as at 31/12/2021	378	
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2021	28	
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	71	
<b>Corporate: C1, C2, C4 &amp; C5</b> Approved	A. The wholtime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2021	723.20	

	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2021	<b>1.76 %</b>	
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2021	<b>0.17 %</b>	
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2021	3351 day	
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2021	280 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2021	4.5 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2021	464 day	
	If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave		
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021, divided by the WTE no.	<b>€4209.23</b>	
	Total ICT expenditure in 2021	€3044115.9	
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	<b>2.41</b>	
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 before transfers to or from reserves	126064253	
<b>Corporate: C3</b> Approved	A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2021	<b>21.66</b>	
	B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2021 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	<b>1.11</b>	
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	3084323	

	The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2021, were following the local authority on any social media sites	157431	
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	50	
	Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect		
<b>Finance: M1 to M4 Approved</b>	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-2686945	
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-2357748	
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-2052474	
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-1646264	
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2021 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-1288068	
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2021 as a percentage of Total Income in 2021 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	<b>-0.98 %</b>	
	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2021	<b>€885.13</b>	
	H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2021 excluding significant out of county / shared service expenditure	<b>€885.13</b>	
	The 2021 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€131931479	
	The 2021 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€126064253	

The 2021 Revenue expenditure excluding county / shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services	€126064253
A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	81.0 %
A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	90.0 %
A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	75.0 %
B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	85.0 %
B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	90.0 %
B. c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	76.0 %
C. a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	87.0 %
C. b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	88.0 %
C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	80.0 %
D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	70.0 %
D. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	85.0 %
D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	80.0 %
E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	83 %
E. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	85 %
E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	83 %
A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2021	<b>€10.19</b>
IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2021	110

	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2021	70	
	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2021	€1451406.24	
	Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2021		Not Applicable/ included above
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2021		
	Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2021		
	Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2021		
	A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account	<b>15.37 %</b>	
	B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure	<b>36.28 %</b>	
	Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget	€19382159	
	Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2021 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)	€45739762	
<b>Economic Development: J1 to J5</b> Approved	A. The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 per 100,000 of population	35.1062	
	The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021	50.0	
	A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2021 per 100,000 of population	94.0846	
	B. The number of trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2021 per 100,000 of population	55.4678	
	The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2021	134	
	The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2021	79	
	A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 per 100,000 of population	456.3806	
	The number of participants who received mentoring during the	650	

	period 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021		
	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes	
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes	
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2021 per head of population		<b>€49.89</b>
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2021		€7105517

## Conferences attended by Wicklow County Council Members in 2021

Date	Organising Body	Location	Theme	Councillors in attendance	Amount Claimed (T&S)	Conference/Training Fee	Total Cost
18 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	AILG	Waterford	Module 1	Cllr. Patsy Glennon	€132.64	€65	€197.64
7 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	AILG	Galway	Module 1	Cllr. Anne Ferris	€284.77		€284.77
7 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	AILG	Galway	Module 1	Cllr. Paul O'Brien	€317.02		€317.02
15-17 October 2021	Celtic Conferences	Cork	Guide to Budget 22	Cllr. Patsy Glennon	€557.55	€100	€657.55
4-5 November 2021	LAMA	Sligo	Autumn Seminar	Cllr. Tommy Annesley	€540.34	€150	€690.34
4-5 November 2021	LAMA	Sligo	Autumn Seminar	Cllr. Vincent Blake	€442.01	€150	592.01
4-5 November 2021	LAMA	Sligo	Autumn Seminar	Cllr. Anne Ferris	€458.58	€150	€608.58
4-5 November 2021	LAMA	Sligo	Autumn Seminar	Cllr. Paul O'Brien	€488.25	€150	€638.25
6 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	AILG	Galway	Module 2	Cllr. Vincent Blake	€221.67		€221.67
3-5 December 2021	Celtic Conferences	Louth	Mental Health	Cllr. Paul O'Brien	€439.09	€100	€539.09
3-5 December 2021	Celtic Conferences	Louth	Mental Health	Cllr. Gail Dunne	€581.34	€100	€682.34
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>€4,463.26</b>	<b>€965</b>	<b>€5,428.26</b>

**Wicklow County Council Members appointed to Committees and other bodies 2021**

Committee/ Other Body	Name	Amount Paid 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2021
Eastern and Midlands Regional Authority	Cllr. Gerry Walsh	€268.24
	Cllr. Avril Cronin	€357.82
Regional Health Forum (Dublin – Mid Leinster)	Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy	Nil
	Cllr. Gerry O’Neill	€244.02
	Cllr. Patsy Glennon	€165.20
	Cllr. Joe Behan	€249.40
Local Authority Members Association	Cllr. Vincent Blake	€808.68
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Cllr. Gail Dunne	
	Cllr. Joe Behan	€556.90
	Cllr. Shay Cullen	
Bray Area Partnership	Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy	Nil
	Cllr. Grace McManus	Nil
	Cllr. Lourda Scott	
Board of Wicklow Enterprise Park CLG	Cllr. Gail Dunne	
	Cllr. Mary Kavanagh	Nil
Board of Mermaid, County Wicklow Arts Centre	Cllr. Mags Crean	Nil
	Cllr. Melanie Corrigan	Nil

	Cllr. Erika Doyle	Nil
Arklow Business Enterprise Park (ABEC) CLG	Cathaoirleach of Arklow MD Ex Officio	
Wicklow Enterprise Park	Cllr. Mary Kavanagh	Nil
	Cllr. Gail Dunne	
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Ltd.	Cllr. Gerry O'Neill	Nil
Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board	Cllr. Patsy Glennon	€19.70
	Cllr. Tom Fortune	
	Cllr. Paul O'Brien	Nil
	Cllr. Lourda Scott	
	Cllr. Anne Ferris	Nil
	Cllr. Edward Timmins	
East Coast Regional Drugs Task Force	Cllr. Mags Crean	
	Cllr. John Snell	
	Cllr. Tommy Annesley	Nil









