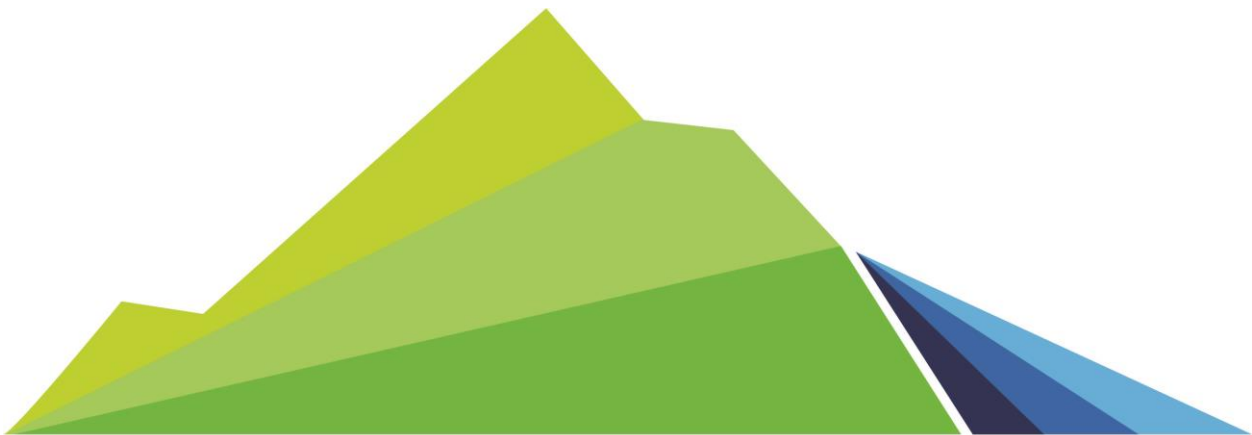


# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin  
Wicklow County Council



W I C K L O W

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

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# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## **This month:**

### **€199,044 IN FUNDING FOR APPLICANTS OF THE LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2025**

The Local Enhancement Programme 2025 was launched in November 2025 with funding of €199,044 allocated to County Wicklow. This funding included €170,609 in capital funding to support community and voluntary groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to carry out works and improvements to facilities, as well as the purchase of equipment for community use. Additionally, €28,435 in current funding was provided to support local groups with ongoing operational costs. A total of 235 community groups in County Wicklow have successfully received funding under this scheme.

The Department of Rural and Community Development and Gaeltacht's Local Enhancement Programme 2025 is administered by Local Community Development Committees, with support from the Local Authority.

### **COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND - €905,535 IN THIRD PHASE OF FUNDING TO DELIVER NINE PROJECTS ACROSS CO. WICKLOW**

On Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD announced over €17 million to deliver 212 community projects nationwide through the Community Recognition Fund 2024. This final phase of projects under the fund will support a wide range of projects such as upgrades to community centres, playgrounds, and walking trails.

The Community Recognition Fund aims to support the development of facilities and infrastructure that benefit entire communities, in recognition of their contributions toward welcoming new arrivals to cities, towns, and villages across the country in recent years. In August 2024, County Wicklow received €694,300 for seven community projects in the first phase of funding.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Social Development

### Housing

	May 2025	May 2024
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	91	105
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1364	1393
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	20
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	21	23

### Allocation of Social Housing

	May 2025	May 2024
Wicklow County Council	09	20
Approved Housing Bodies	4	3

### Social Housing Applications

	May 2025
New applications	35
Awaiting further information/EHO report	55

### Social Housing Stock

	May 2025	May 2024
Tenancies Occupied	5045	4937
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€342,527.78	€331,000.25
Arrears (Including Bray)	€3,016,002.13	€3,060,478.19

### Rent

- Income based Differential Rent Scheme - Last Review – 2019
- 2 Schemes in the County – one in Bray and one for the rest of the County (new tenants in Bray now go onto Wicklow Scheme)

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 31/05/2025
Arklow	935
Ashford	404
Aughrim	40
Avoca	38
Ballinaclash	8
Ballyconnell	4
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	120
Barndarrig	11
Blessington	263
Bray	1143
Brittas Bay	1
Carnew	71
Conary	4
Coolboy	4
Delgany	224
Donard	14
Dunlavin	30
Enniskerry	48
Glenealy	14
Greystones	316
Kilcoole	53
Kilmacanogue	11
Kiltegan	5
Kirakee	2
Knockananna	5
Laken	1
Laragh	14
Newcastle	10
Ntmk	60
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	62
Rathnew	115
Redcross	2
Roundwood	33
Shillelagh	21
Stratford On Slaney	3
Thomastown	8
Tinahely	31
Wicklow	259
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4390</b>

## Housing Needs Assessment 2024 (SSHA 2024)

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

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

The following actions were taken to complete the HNA 2024:

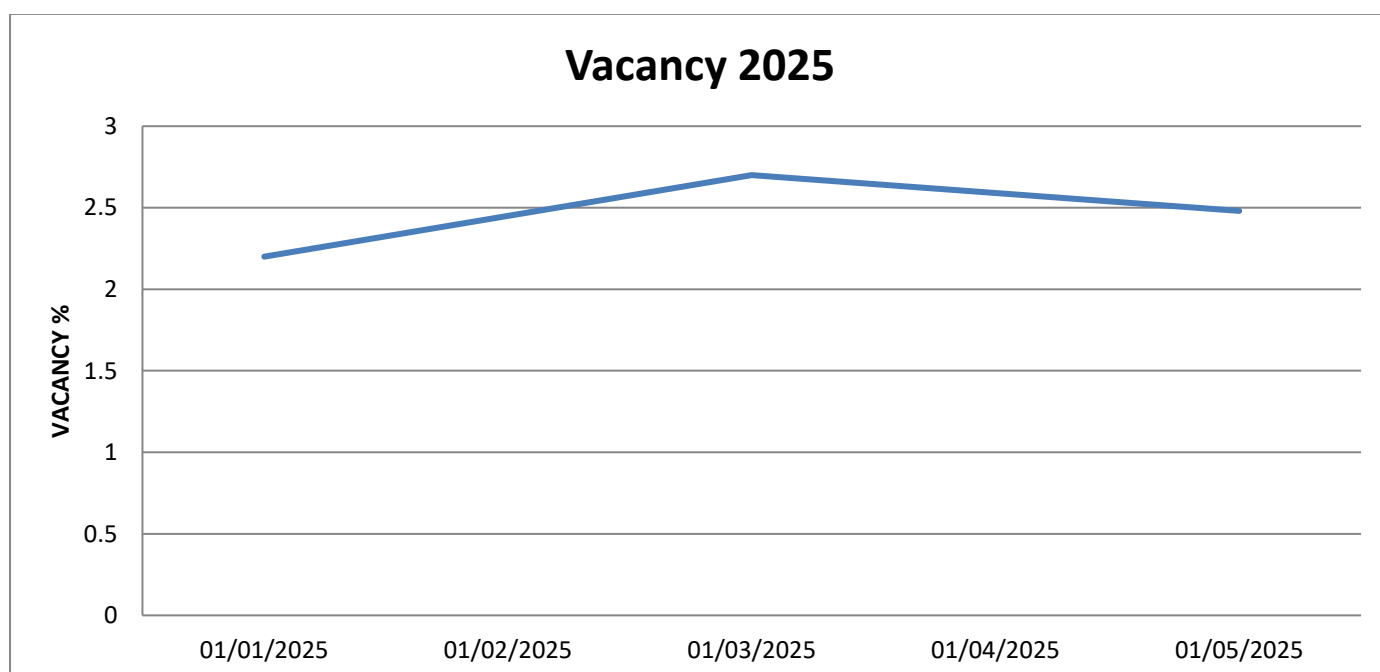
- Forms issued to the social housing support applicant.
- Advertised in paper and on local media to remind applicants to complete and return these forms.
- Reminder letters issued to applicants.
- Follow up emails and phone calls to the applicant.
- Review of list by housing teams – Homeless, Traveller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

## Re-Lets / Voids

MD	Completed in 2025	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	7 (+2)	6 (0)	8 (+3)	10 (+3)	18(-2)
Baltinglass	6 (+1)	5 (-2)	9 (-3)	14(+2)	28 (0)
Bray	23 (+0)	5 (+3)	8 (+3)	10(-8)	25(-21)
Greystones	6 (+3)	9 (+5)	4 (-1)	5 (-1)	15(+2)
Wicklow	15 (+7)	9(-5)	21 (+12)	8(+1)	38 (+7)
<b>2025 Totals</b>	<b>57(+13)</b>	<b>33 (0)</b>	<b>50 (+9)</b>	<b>47(-3)</b>	<b>130 (+6)</b>
<b>2024 Totals</b>	<b>110</b>				
<b>Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)</b>	<b>2.5 (+0.2)</b>	<b>Figures in brackets indicate change on last month</b>			

A new local area maintenance framework was setup in 2024. 17 contractors were appointed to cover all five Municipal District areas for works such as housing refurbishments works, repairs and adaption grants.

The Council can only recoup a maximum of €11,000 per house from the Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage, whereas the average cost of relets was €31,000 per house in 2022 and €35,500 per house in 2024.



Note: No occupied tenancy data available in June/July/Oct/Nov 2024

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Core Capital Programme

### i. Traveller Accommodation

Scheme	Current Status
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date June/July 2025
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Three group housing schemes. Final layout agreed with department/families. Social house layout is being finalised for the rest of the site. Part 8 Expected Q3 2025.
Vale Road, Arklow	Part 8 submitted

### ii. Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

Scheme	Units	Current Status
5A Rednagh Road – Disability house	1	Expected completion Q3 2025
1A Mill Road- Age Friendly	3	Commenced on site

### iii. Energy Retrofit Program

As part of our ongoing energy upgrade scheme, housing services are undertaking works across the county. This includes, depending on house surveyed, and not limited to external wall insulation, attic insulation, heat pumps and upgraded windows and doors. These works comply with our policy on energy fabric upgrades which went through the SPC in 2023.

EERP	Numbers carried out as of May 2025
Houses retrofit	42

## Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement

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

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out to end of May
Targeted and complaint inspections	148

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

Notice Type	Served so far in 2025 (figures in brackets indicate increase on previous month)
Improvement Notice	9 (0)
Prohibition Notice	14 (+5)

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Grants Received/Processed	216	266	327	281	456	769	208

Prohibition Notices are published on the Council's website and there are currently 6 such notices (the oldest dates back to 2020). Note that in the case of properties subject of HAP, service of a Prohibition Notice results in the HAP payment being stopped as per Section 41(2) (d) (i) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 and this happens within a maximum of 13 weeks.

## Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

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

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

## Assessment criteria

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

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

To date, April 2025, Wicklow are working in partnership with Ark Housing and Tiglin to deliver on two properties. Wicklow continues to work with Sunbeam House Services and National Association of Housing for Visually Impaired to bring two active projects to completion. WCC has also offered support in principle to Sunbeam to acquire & upgrade a property which is presently home to four Sunbeam service users. The property is currently leased to Sunbeam and the owner wishes to sell.

Areas of delivery below:

CAS Acquisitions 2025	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Wicklow Town	1	Delivered Q2	CAS
Rathnew	1	Expected Delivery Q3	CAS

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

### Budget Spend

	2025 Budget	Amount Spent as of May 2025
Grant Funding for Private Housing	3,512,851	1,749,522
Grant Funding for Social Housing	1,280,884	649,696

## Local Authority Home Loans up to May 2025

Received	Approved in Principle
28	5

## 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To Date	May 2025
Applications Received	475	1
Completed	123	2
Declined	280	0
Ongoing	15	15



# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Housing Acquisitions

The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage like previous years, have devolved arrangements through the Local Authorities to focus on acquiring properties where a tenant in receipt of social housing supports, including Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), and has received a Notice of Termination (NOT) due to the landlord's intention to sell the property.

	Vacant	Tenant In Situ (TIS)	In Progress	TOTAL
<b>2024</b>	6	6	5	17
<b>2025 (to 31<sup>st</sup> May)</b>	2	5	1	8



(22 Marian Villas, Arklow - sale closed 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025)

## Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

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

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

Wicklow County Council (MTR) Tenants	Approved Housing Body (MTR) Tenants	In Progress
54	50	8

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Homeless Services - Homeless Figures for May 2025

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/05/2025	Year To Date	As at 31/05/2024
No of New Presentations	20	138	32
No. of Repeat Presentations	2	27	0
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	7	49	13
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	19	139	28
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	2	8	3
No. of Children	16	100	26
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	6	27	5
Family Circumstances	5	45	19
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	1	8	0
Mental Health	0	3	2
Risk of Homelessness	16	107	22
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	0	1
Addiction Issues	3	10	1
DV/DA	0	6	0
Medical Issues	1	2	2
Overcrowding	3	14	8
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	0	4	1
ASB:	0	0	1
Rough Sleeping*	1	9	0
Sofa Surfing*	1	16	1
Staying with Family*	4	26	12
Staying with Friends*	1	17	4

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/05/25	
Families	18
Adults	31
Children	43
Single individual	12

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/05/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	22	26	24	7	8	2	2	6

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/05/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	22	25	20	7	2	7	3	6

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## **Homeless HAP Place Finder**

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- Seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs.
- Establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- Supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 634 households (442 families & 192 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025. (249 homeless cases, 354 prevention cases to date and 31 direct provision). 160 properties were sourced by WCC.

## **Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies**

### **Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow**

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

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

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

### **Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow**

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

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

### **Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray**

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

### **Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones**

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

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

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

## Housing First

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

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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 18 clients under Housing First. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation. The main issue facing this programme is the availability of 1-bed units in suitable locations with easy access to required services.

## Homeless Action Plan 2024 – 2026

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

## Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025

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

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Community

### **Local Enhancement Programme 2025**

The launch of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 was announced on the 7th of November 2024 by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD.

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

County Wicklow has received €199,044 as part of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025.

The allocation is broken down as follows:

	<b><u>Capital Allocation</u></b>	<b><u>Current Allocation</u></b>	<b><u>Total Allocation</u></b>
<b>Wicklow</b>	<b>€170,609</b>	<b>€28,435</b>	<b>€199,044</b>

The successful projects under the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025 have been announced by Ministers Jerry Buttimer TD and Minister Dara Calleary TD. The list of projects can be viewed [here](#).

Wicklow County Council has issued letters to the successful applicants.

### **Community Awards Scheme 2025**

As part of its commitment to supporting local community development, Wicklow County Council operates an annual Community Awards Scheme.

The fund for 2025 will be available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area.

Maximum grant amount of €500 per organisation for small projects and group running costs.

Wicklow County Council has issued letters to the successful applicants.

### **Community Safety Fund**

The Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan opened the nationwide funding call for the Community Safety Fund 2025 on Monday 7th April.

The annual fund allows for the proceeds of crime, seized by the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) and An Garda Síochána, to be directed into local projects to support and enhance community safety. The Community Safety Fund will be managed by the newly established National Office for Community Safety within the Department of Justice.

This year, €4 million is available nationally, which is double the original allocation of €2 million when the fund first opened for applications in 2022, and grants range from €20,000 to €150,000.

Applications were invited from community safety initiatives as well as groups co-funded with local authorities, NGOs and community organisations working on issues relevant to community safety and youth justice.

Applications were to be made directly to the Department of Justice by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025**.

### **Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024**

On Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD announced over €17 million to deliver 212 community projects nationwide through the Community Recognition Fund 2024. This final phase of projects under the fund will support a wide range of projects such as upgrades to community centres, playgrounds, and walking trails.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

The Community Recognition Fund 2024 aims to support the development of facilities and infrastructure that benefit entire communities, in recognition of their contributions toward welcoming new arrivals to cities, towns, and villages across the country in recent years. In August 2024, County Wicklow received €694,300 for seven community projects in the first phase of funding.

Wicklow is now set to receive an additional €905,535 for the following projects:

Arklow	Arklow Town Team	Walkway upgrade at Arklow North Beach	€65,000
Blessington	Blessington & District Forum Trails Ltd.	Resurfacing works at Blessington Greenway	€150,680
Bray	Purple House Cancer Support	Kitchen redevelopment in Purple House	€52,800
Carnew	Carnew Emmets GAA Club	Resurfacing of walking track at Carnew Emmets GAA ground	€115,543
Greystones	Greystones Town Team	Sustainable infrastructure to enhance Greystones community events capacity	€136,570
Greystones	Wicklow County Council	Upgrade works to Newcastle Playground	€160,000
Newtownmountkennedy	Newtownmountkennedy Community Centre	Construction of modern toilet block and convert existing toilets off main hall to storage rooms	€60,000
Rathdrum	Rathdrum Development Association	Walkway upgrade in Parnell Memorial Park	€43,700
Wicklow	Wicklow Town Team Sustainable Energy Community Group	Window upgrade at De La Salle Pastoral Centre	€121,242
<b>Wicklow Total</b>			<b>€905,535</b>

## Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2023

All projects have now been completed.



## County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

### County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-27

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

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

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

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

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

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

The Older Peoples Council has met three times this year.

OPC Executive is planning for wider engagement with older people across the county and recruitment of more members of the OPC this year. The Programme Manager has received Expressions of Interest.

Age Friendly Ambassadors Day was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 in Visual, Carlow.

OPC AGM date to be confirmed.

## **County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance**

The next Alliance meeting will be held in the Arklow Library on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025. Each stakeholder has been asked to give an update on their strategy.

The Wicklow Train Station Report is being finalised by Age Friendly Ireland.

## **Age Friendly Ireland Committee**

The Age Friendly Programme Manager attended a Memory Café in Áras Lorcan. They meet the second Monday of the month. Next meeting is the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2025.

They tried to set up a memory café in Blessington but only 3 people turned up.

There are five applications in for the National Age Friendly Recognition Awards which will take place in October in the Galmont Hotel, Galway. Short listing to take place at the end of the Summer.

## **Disability Inclusion Steering Group**

The Sunflower Lanyard Programme aims to easily identify people with hidden disabilities. This Programme was rolled out in Wicklow County Council. Members of the Customer Care Unit currently wear these Lanyards so that a person with a hidden disability can identify which member of staff they need to talk too.

The programme was launched in Arklow in March 2025 and there was a great turnout for the event.

Communication Boards for the Playgrounds in Arklow have been sent to the manufacturer. It is hoped that they will be ready in the next few weeks.

The newly formed Newtown Community Forum committee have run a successful awareness campaign in the town, which all members of the community could get behind.

In December 2024 they launched their campaign to make Newtown a with local businesses, schools and community groups to raise awareness and they have distributed Sunflower Lanyards throughout the town so members of the community, who feel that they would benefit from wearing a lanyard, could have access to them, free of charge.

Sunflower lanyards are worn by people who have a disability that you might not be able to see. They are worn by people who want to let you know that they might need some extra help.



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This could be, for example:

- sensory loss, including difficulty seeing or hearing
- a physical disability that may not be obvious
- Autism
- a learning disability
- anxiety or any other mental health condition.

There is no qualifying list of hidden disabilities. If a person has a hidden disability and feel that they would benefit from wearing a sunflower lanyard, they can in the knowledge that their local community that they live in and work in understands this and supports them.

People with hidden disabilities can contribute enormously to their local community and if they feel they are supported by their community around them, this can have an immensely positive impact on their lives too.

When the Forum launched their campaign, they estimated that less than 10% of the community were aware of the existence of the Sunflower Lanyard, let alone what it stood for. Now a mere six months later, due to the work of the group and the buy-in from the businesses, community groups and the community in general, the Forum estimate that over 90% of the town understand what the Lanyard stands for now and would support its users.

The Sunflower Lanyards are now available in several prominent locations spread across the town free of charge, should anyone fall they could benefit from wearing one. The list of locations are The Post Office, Fishers, Red Eye Coffee, The Parkview Hotel, Adrian Dunne Pharmacy, The Pilates Studio, Dunnes Stores, The Primary Care Centre, Newtown Area Sports Development, Newtown Primary School, Woodstock Educate Together School, Cali Special Class, Eugene's Food Store and the Wicklow Wolf Taproom.

The Newtown Community Forum Committee ran their campaign in conjunction with the Community Section in Wicklow County Council and Triple A Wicklow. They would like to thank Máire Halvey from Wicklow County Council and Ann-Marie Kelly from Triple A Wicklow for their support.

## **Comhairle na nÓg**

The position has been filled and meetings are currently underway to get more membership for the group and to discuss topics that are important to the youth.

## **Healthy Age Friendly Homes**


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

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

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

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

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

 046-924 8899 (Head Office)



[healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie](mailto:healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie)



# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

Total Number Home Visits Conducted (up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025):

Total Initial Visits	87
Total Additional Visits	60
Total Visits Overall	147
Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit	46



Healthy  
Wicklow



## Healthy Ireland - Healthy Wicklow

### Active Communities

After 8 weeks the Shillelagh couch to parkrun will finish the programme by completing Avondale parkrun on the 21<sup>st</sup> June. 22 participants have taken part in this tutor led programme. Healthy Wicklow has provided lunch boxes, hat and tote bags for an All Stars Inclusive open day which took place in Blessington GAA on the 8<sup>th</sup> June.

### Farmer's Health

Throughout the month of June, the Social Farming project has enabled placement for a participant who lives with a neurological condition. This placement has been nothing but life changing with his engagement on the farm exceeding expectations and the difference in his mood, motivation and confidence has been remarkable.

Healthy Wicklow organised for the Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Unit to return to Carnew Mart. Two nurses were onboard to provide a free medical check for 25 farmers on the day.

## Community Safety Fund 2025

Sláintecare Healthy Communities (SHC) is in the process of applying for funding under the Community Safety Fund 2025 to support the installation of improved street lighting in key areas of Fassaroe and Little Bray. This application is being submitted in collaboration with the Bray Family Resource and Development Project. The need for enhanced lighting was clearly identified in the SHC Feasibility Study, which highlighted specific hotspots where poor visibility has contributed to increased anti-social behaviour and community safety concerns. By addressing these infrastructural gaps, the project aims to create safer, more welcoming public spaces that support both physical and mental wellbeing across the community.

## Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP Programme Mid-Year Review 2025: Deadline of June 17<sup>th</sup> met by both SICAP Programme Implementers (Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership) to input all required information and upload all necessary documentation to demonstrate that performance indicators have been achieved to date and workplan is on track. This information will be reviewed and assessed by Wicklow LCDC and by Pobal. The final approval deadline for the Mid-Year Review is July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Public Participation Network

Wicklow PPN Membership: 511 Member groups- New Registration/Re-registration process being developed at national level to then be rolled-out locally.

Exploring Community Development event- Hear My Voice held on June 7<sup>th</sup> – PPN members and Reps in attendance.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

IEN SPC Training – Participative information session attended by staff and members to provide support for PPN Reps sitting on local authority Strategic Policy Committees.

Consultations: Range of policy consultations including- Draft Litter Management Plan 2025-2028; Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2025; Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025- 2029; Affordable Housing Survey 2025; Part 8 Consultation - Vale Road Arklow; Draft Greystones - Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan 2025- Proposed Variation no. 4; Draft Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Funding opportunities: PPN currently providing information on 20 different funding streams now open for application.

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

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## Planning, Economic & Rural Development

### Planning

#### LOCAL PLANS

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

#### Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

The Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 was adopted at the full Council meeting of 12 May 2025. This plan will come into effect on 23 June 2025.

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

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

#### Blessington Local Area Plan 2025

The draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025 was on display for 6 weeks from 30 October to 11 December 2024. Following the receipt of submissions a report was prepared by the CE which issued to the members on 31 January 2025.

The members considered this report at their meeting of 03 March 2025 and decided to propose amendments to the draft plan. As these amendments were 'material' (i.e. significant) they went on public display from 24 March – 23 April 2025.

The Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received was issued to the elected members on 14 May 2025 and the members are currently considering this report and are due to adopt the final LAP at the Council meeting of **16 June 2025**.

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

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

Variation 4 to the County Development Plan which includes the draft Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2025 went on display 09 May 2025 with submissions invited up to **20 June 2025**. Copies of the Proposed Variation including the draft LPF are available to view at the following locations, during their normal opening hours, from Friday 09 May 2025 to Friday 20 June 2025 inclusive:

- Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town
- Greystones Municipal District Office, Mill Road, Greystones
- Greystones Library
- Copies of the Proposed Variation will be available to download and view on the Council's website [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) through an **online consultation portal**.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

Public information days were held in and Greystones and on the 29 May 2025 and 04 June 2025, respectively.

Submissions or observations regarding the Proposed Variation / LPF and the associated reports are invited to be made before midnight on 20 June 2025. All valid will be taken into consideration before the making of the Proposed Variation / LPF.

Submissions may be made in one of the following ways:

1. Write to 'Variation No.4, Administrative Officer, Planning Section, Wicklow County Council, Station Road, Wicklow Town.
2. Through the **online consultation portal** at [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) or scan the QR code on this notice.

## OTHER LOCAL PLANS

### **Arklow and Environs & Bray Municipal District (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue) Local Planning Frameworks**

The pre-draft public consultation for both of these LPFs has been completed and work is being carried out on preparing draft LPFs. No specific dates have been set to publish the draft LPF's.

## **WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) 2022-2028**

### **Proposed Variation No 2**

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

Variation No. 2 was made and came into effect on 12 May 2025.

### **Proposed Variation No 3**

The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency between the Wicklow CDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Blessington Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. The members are due to adopt the final Variation at the Council meeting of 16th June 2025.

## **RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX (RZLT)**

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

The final RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 were published on 31 January 2025 and can be viewed here:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2025/Liable-Land-View-the-FINAL-RZLT-maps-for-2025>

**Submissions to Final 2025 RZLT Maps.** The final map for 2025 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2025. Owners of such land were invited to make a request to Wicklow County Council **to change the zoning** of this land until **1 April 2025**. If certain conditions are met, a landowner may be exempt from the 2025 liability on foot of such a

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

request. Click [HERE](#) to see more detail. 1 submission was received on the final 2025 maps. WCC will determine whether to change the zoning and respond to the landowner by 30 June 2025.

The annual draft RZLT maps for 2026 were published on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2025 and can be viewed here:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Draft-Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2026/Liable-Land-View-the-DRAFT-RZLT-maps-for-2026>

**Submissions to Draft 2026 RZLT Maps.** The **draft map for 2026** identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2026. Owners of such land – and interested third parties – were invited to make submissions regarding the inclusion of land on this draft map – these submissions must have been made by **1 April 2025**. 7 submissions were received on the draft 2025 maps. WCC will assess each submission and respond to the landowner by 01 July 2025. Click [HERE](#) to see more detail.

The RZLT process has two parts:

- 1) **Identification and mapping of the land in scope for the tax.** This is undertaken by **local authorities** through the publication of annual draft and annual final maps as outlined above.
- 2) **Administration of the tax.** This will be undertaken by the **Revenue Commissioners**. Please click the following link for further information: <https://www.revenue.ie/en/property/rzlt/index.aspx>

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

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

Residential Zoned Land Tax — FAQ's:

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

## **VACANT SITE LEVY**

This is the last year the Vacant Site Levy will apply. All sites currently on the register are in the process of being inspected and demands for payment will issue shortly where applicable. More information can be found online at the following link <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Derelict-Vacant-Sites/Vacant-Sites>

## **HERITAGE OFFICE**

**County Heritage Plan Programme 2025:** Heritage Council funding allocation confirmed of €37,500 under the County Heritage Plan Fund and €20, 000 under the Community Archaeology Service. Projects underway. Military Road Podcast released/ Michael Dwyer 200 Event planned as part of Heritage Week programme/ Glendalough Heritage Forum Community excavations scheduled for June.

**Minor Placenames Recording Project** underway. Public event hosted in Aughrim on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Event scheduled for Wicklow library on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

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Community Archaeology Events: Open Day at Mullinacuff Church, Tinahely on 13<sup>th</sup> June; Volunteer excavations in Glendalough scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July with UCD Archaeology.

**Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture):** Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2025- an allocation of €175,635 was confirmed for county Wicklow for 17 projects. Co-ordination of projects in progress. Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2025: One allocation of €170,000 secured for Russborough House under HSF. Co-ordination of all projects is in progress.

**Built Heritage Funds (Archaeology):** Secured funding allocations from National Monuments Service for four Wicklow projects under the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) as follows; Mullinacuff Medieval Church €67,500; Kilmacanogue Old Church €30,000(WCC owned); Drumgoff Barracks €130,000; Newcastle Castle €130,000. Funding announced in April, initial tendering etc underway.

**Historic Town Initiative (HTI) Funding:** An application under HTI submitted in partnership with Greystones Town Team for 'Retracing Greystones' – A Heritage led Regeneration study. A funding allocation of €50,000 secured from The Heritage Council. Tendering process is underway.

**Irish Community Archive** Wicklow Network Meeting scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> April in Blessington. National network meeting held in Claregalway, Co. Galway on 23<sup>rd</sup> May with representatives from eight Wicklow groups, Wicklow Heritage Officer and Archivist in attendance

## Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31/5/2024	To 31/5/2025
Received (Valid)	433	444

A total of 127 valid applications were received during May as follows:

Type of Development	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2025
Individual Houses	24 (11 Rural)
Housing Developments*	01
Agricultural Structures	03
Commercial	09
Other Developments**	63
<b>Total</b>	100

\*\*Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger signpost, Well, change of use, Hoarding, relocation of vehicular entrance, extend the appropriate period of permission, various amendments/modifications to previous planning permission, conversion, retention, boundary screen wall, attic conversion, reclamation of land, effluent treatment system & percolation area.

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Decisions issued in respect of 80 applications in May 2025:

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

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

	31/05/2024	31/05/2025
Total Number of decisions issued	384	373
Total Number of decisions to grant	328	304
% Grant Rate	85%	82%
No of applications withdrawn		12 (8 refer to rural house)

## Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

### Strategic Housing Development

ABP-313229-22 – Lands at **Coolagad**, Greystones (586 Units) Members Meeting 27/4/2022, CE report forwarded 30/5/2022 – Application withdrawn 22/1/2025

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

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

ABP-314686-22 Lands at **former Bray Golf Club Lands**, Off Ravenswell Road and Dublin Road, Bray, Co. Dublin and Co. Wicklow, (586 Units), Members meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022, CE report submitted 21/11/2022 – Granted 19/08/2024

### Strategic Infrastructure Development

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

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

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

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

An Bord Pleanála has received a planning application for a strategic infrastructure development in respect of proposed material recovery/recycling facility and inert landfill **Ballinclare & Carrigmore near Kilbride, Co. Wicklow** – ABP-321255-24 refers.

## SUBSTITUTE CONSENT

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for the remainder of the development on **lands at Ashford, Co. Wicklow** - ABP-312283-21 refers. Granted by ABP 16/8/2024 subject to 16 conditions.

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

## E-Planning

The eplanning has now been in place for just over two years, going live on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

For the **month of May 2025**, a total of 95 planning applications were received of which 27.37% were hard copy applications and **72.63% were received online.**

From **1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025** a total of **429** applications were received of which 24.24% were hard copy applications and **75.76% were received online.**



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Due to the complexities of larger applications, it has been necessary to request two hard copies for larger multi-unit developments. This is outlined on Wicklow County Council website.

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

- A number of one off rural dwellings throughout the county as well as extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Construction of 61 dwellings, new entrance to public road, connection to all services and associate works including roads, footpaths, boundaries and boundaries treatments, open spaces and landscaping, attenuation areas in Rathnew.
- Amendments to the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Arklow.
- Construction of a building to display historic Coastguard horse drawn carriages previously used for rescue and ancillary works Seafarers Memorial Garden South Quay, Arklow.
- Internal alterations to provide 6 additional bedrooms at first floor level. 2. Minor alterations to front and side elevations in Bray
- Demolition of 3 no. structures on site including a 2-storey habitable house) and 2 sheds/outbuildings as well as closures of 2 no. existing entrances onto the Kilbride Road (L-6179). In Kilbride
- Extend a historic sand and gravel pit at Whitestown Lower.
- Retention of an existing 1970's large low freestanding workshop building and access driveway, located to the rear of the property. The application also seeks retention of an existing two storey extension to the East (rear) side of the house, in Kilmacanogue.
- Change of use from Stores Area to a constructed Post Office, associated storeroom and lobby located in the eastern side of the existing supermarket and constructed single storey clad lean-to storerooms located in the intake yard at Wicklow Town.

Since January 2025 the total of 429 planning applications submitted include 104 hard copy and 325 received via the online portal.

## Planning Enforcement

<b>New Files</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Advisory Letters</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Warning Letters</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Enforcement Notices</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Legal Files</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Closed</b>	<b>7</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Vacant Sites

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

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

## Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

## Town Regeneration

### 1.1 Town Centre First Masterplans

#### 1.1.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington, as a Pathfinder Town, is leading the way in the development of a Town Centre First Masterplan. This masterplan offers a clear and strategic framework for the positive and sustainable development of the town, both in the short term and in the future. Currently, the implementation of the Town Centre First (TCF) plan is in the planning stage, focusing on revitalising key areas in the town.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) funding has been allocated specifically to redesign Main Street and Market Square, two central areas that will play a significant role in the town's regeneration. The goal is to bring these projects to a shovel-ready stage, which means they will be fully prepared for the next phase, where they can be submitted for Category 1 RRDF funding to secure further financial support for construction and development. This initiative is a significant step toward enhancing the town's infrastructure, economic vitality, and overall community appeal.

#### 1.1.2 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre First Masterplan

Newtownmountkennedy is one of 26 towns selected nationally under Phase 2 of the Town Centre First Plan initiative. The town will receive €30,000 in funding to support the development of its own Town Centre First Plan, aimed at guiding the revitalisation and sustainable development of the town centre, transforming it into a vibrant and thriving hub for the community. The funding is provided under the Town Centre First Measure 2 Suite of Supports. The plan must be completed, and all associated claims submitted to the Department by 5th September 2025.

Following the establishment of the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team in November 2024, the Town Regeneration Officer (TRO), in collaboration with the Town Team, drafted and issued a tender document for the development of the

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

Town Centre First (TCF) Plan. The contract was awarded to ACT (Accelerating Change Together), and the process of compiling the TCF Plan is now underway with the first of public consultation workshops taking place in June 2025.

## **1.2 Town Centre First – Suite of Supports**

### **1.2.1 Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1**

Baltinglass, Rathdrum, and Kilcoole have been approved for €10,000 in funding under the Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1. This funding is aimed at establishing or further developing town teams in areas where they are either not yet established or in the early stages of development. These teams will play a crucial role in driving the revitalisation and sustainable development of the town centres.

The original deadline for drawing down the funding was set for 15th November 2024. However, an application for an extension was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development and subsequently approved. The revised deadline is now 8th May 2025, providing additional time for these towns to finalise their plans and support the successful formation of their Town Teams. This extension offers a valuable opportunity for further planning and preparation within the communities.

Queen's University Belfast has been awarded the contract to carry out the Health Checks and has commenced work on compiling the reports. All three public consultations were completed in April & May 2025. The Health Check reports are expected to be completed and issued in June 2025.

### **1.2.2 Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Support**

Two applications have been approved for funding under *Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Supports*.

- a)** Blessington – Project will create plans to develop a high quality public space in the Market Square. Project will commission professional services to carry out a predevelopment exploration of the Market Square as a de-risking exercise for the construction phase if the project was successful in a later funding application.
- b)** Wicklow Town – Project will engage a supplier/contractor to complete a comprehensive design plan aimed at improving of public lands surrounding the Black Castle in Wicklow Town and assessing the structure and condition of the Castle.

The capital funding agreement was returned to the DRCD on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The *Town Centre First Measure 3* projects must be completed with all associated claims submitted to the DRCD by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The Town Regeneration Officer has been actively collaborating with the respective Town Teams to prepare tenders for the associated works. The tender for Blessington Market Square was issued on 16th March 2025, with a return date of 16th April 2025. The tender for the Wicklow Town Black Castle Public Grounds is scheduled to be issued in April 2025. The appointment of consultants for both projects is expected to be completed in May 2025.

The capital funding agreement was returned to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) on 16th September 2024. Under the Town Centre First Measure 3 initiative, all projects must be completed, with associated claims submitted to the DRCD, by 30th September 2025.

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The Town Regeneration Officer worked closely with the respective Town Teams to prepare tenders for the associated works. The tender for Blessington Market Square was issued on 16th March 2025, with a return date of 16th April 2025. The contract was awarded to ACT (Accelerating Change Together), and the process of compiling the plan is now underway with the first of public consultation workshops taking place in June 2025.

The tender for the Wicklow Town Black Castle Public Grounds was issued in April 2025, and the appointment of the successful tenderer is scheduled for June 2025.

## 1.3 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow County Council has been awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The selected projects are as follows:

**a) Kirikee, Glenmalure** - Renovation works are planned for the Community Centre, including the roof, windows, ceilings, and walls. The consultant originally appointed by the community group to oversee the project has been removed due to a lack of engagement. A new tender to appoint replacement consultants was issued early April and the new consultant was appointed in May 2025.

**b) Lacken** - The old schoolhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community centre featuring a café, community shop, and a small heritage section. As the building is listed in the Record of Protected Structures (2022–2028), a conservation architect has been appointed. Coordination meetings between the community group and consultants are ongoing to prepare a tender for the works.

**c) Wicklow Town – Murrough BMX Pump Track** - This project involves the development of a best-in-class, asphalt-covered pump track suitable for all ages and abilities. Acceptance agreements have been signed, and the tender process was discussed with the associated Town Team and community. The tender was issued on 16th March 2025, with a return date of 16th April 2025. The appointment of the successful tenderer is nearing completion and is expected to be finalised in June 2025 with works commencing in late June or early July 2025.

All three projects must be completed, with all associated claims submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development, by 31st October 2025.

## 1.4 Town Teams

The process of forming new Town Teams in Rathdrum and Baltinglass is expected to be completed by June 2025. Following this, the newly established teams will hold their first meetings over the summer months. This will mark an important milestone in each town's efforts to revitalise and develop their town centre as part of the Town Centre First initiative.

The formation of the Rathdrum and Baltinglass Town Teams will bring the total number of Town Teams in County Wicklow to seven—joining Arklow, Blessington, Greystones, Newtownmountkennedy, and Wicklow.

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The Town Regeneration Team is also in the process of establishing a Town Team in Kilcoole, with teams in Carnew and Newcastle to follow.

## **1.5 Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications**

### **1.5.1 Blessington RRDF**

Blessington has been awarded over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to be used for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a vacant/derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre. Meetings are being planned with the Town Team in June 2025 to progress these works.

### **1.5.2 Baltinglass RRDF**

The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow came in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the necessary technical plans are complete in order for the works to commence. Works on the Public Park and playground are almost completed. Application for further funding on this project was made to the Department on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. However, the submission was not successful. The Town Regeneration Team have met with the consultants regarding the public realm works and a finalised a first phase of the works, which will hopefully go out to tender early in Q3 2025.

### **1.5.3 Newtownmountkennedy RRDF**

The project is at a standstill over contested issues regarding the design of the public realm. Following the necessary revisions, it is hoped that agreement will be reached with the plans signed off and submitted for Category 1 funding. A revised design will also form part of the Town Centre First Plan referenced previously.

### **1.5.4 Urban Regeneration Development Fund Call 3**

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

An additional property has been identified in Arklow and approval has been received from the department to start the process of acquiring this property.

### **1.5.5 Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004**

A revised business case has been sent to DHL&H in December 2024. A tender brief is currently being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for the proposed works. A WCC project team are meeting monthly to track progress of the project.

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## 1.6 Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) 2025

The HTI is a joint initiative between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Heritage Council. Wicklow County Council has been awarded €50,000 in funding to support the procurement of consultants to develop a heritage-led regeneration plan for Greystones.

The tender was issued in May 2025, with the appointment of consultants expected to be completed in June 2025.

## Tourism

### 1. WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Analytics are showing growth on all digital platforms in terms of reach and engagement. May's top digital content include the 'Trail Running video', 'Hidden Valley Giveaway' and the 'Local Sea-Swimming' pieces. Early June, Wicklow welcomed UK TV presenter Timmy Mallet on his journey around Ireland offering some great content around Arklow, Wicklow Town, Ashford, Newcastle and Bray.

### 2. WICKLOW PASSPORT

The 'Mini/Free' Wicklow Passports has been printed, offering a reduced version of the original passport which is cheaper to print and can be used for smaller more specific itineraries. The bulk of the 'Mini/Free' passports will be made available through the network of the Wicklow Libraries. There are now two dedicated Wicklow Passports for Wicklow Town and The Wicklow Way with relevant cover design. The Wicklow Town and Wicklow Way itineraries are being finalised with the support of the Town Team in Wicklow Town and businesses along the Wicklow Way.

### 3. WICKLOW COUNTY TOURISM

Fáilte Ireland has appointed Repucon Consulting to help restructure and strengthen Wicklow County Tourism. Repucon is the same agency that is working on the Destination Experience Development Plan for Wicklow. A survey has been sent to the Wicklow tourism trade to get feedback on the existing promotional tourism structure in Wicklow.

### 4. WICKLOW GAOL

The Conservation Management Plan for the Gaol is being finalised and should be available by the end of July. This document will identify emergency repair work to be carried out and help structure future investments and upgrades. The current contract with Wicklow Enterprise Park to operate/manage the Gaol is coming to an end later this year. Wicklow County Council has advertised a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire as the first step in the process to find a suitable new management company.

### 5. DESTINATION EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Repucon Consulting has presented their initial feedback from the extensive engagement conducted with visitors, tourism providers and key stakeholders in Wicklow. Some of the findings identify Sceneries, Nature and Outdoor activities as key assets for tourism in Wicklow.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## 6. GLENDALOUGH AND WICKLOW MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND MANAGEMENT MASTERPLAN (VEMMP)

Work continues on the implementation of recommendations contained in the 7 – 10 year VEMMP. The Local Advisory Group and the Working Group of the Glendalough Partnership continue to meet regularly to support the implementation of actions contained in the VEMMP. Recent actions include:

- Fáilte Ireland has appointed DESIGN ID as consultants to design an All Ability Trail connecting Laragh to the Monastic City and Upper Lake. They will carry out full consultation with all stakeholders, local community and landowners, in conjunction with the Local Advisory Group.
- Fáilte Ireland has also appointed KSN Project Management to provide key Project Management Services to assist in the delivery of Phase 1 of the VEMMP over the next two years. These consultants will work closely with the Glendalough Partnership partners and the Local Advisory Group, to provide additional support, and consistency across actions being delivered.
- The National Monuments Service and the OPW have collaborated in preparing a brief for a Conservation Management Plan to advise on the delivery of the VEMMP. A consultant has been appointed and preparatory work has commenced.
- Wicklow County Council have arranged for traffic management, additional temporary parking and VMS signage for Summer 2025 in order to maintain a flow of traffic through Laragh and to the various car parks. This will be supplemented by a social media campaign encouraging drivers to park responsibly and respectfully.
- NPWS, working with Coillte, have secured funding for phase 3 of the Spinc upgrade. This will build on the improvements made in 2024 in removing boardwalk and replacing with aggregate trails.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Economic Development

### **Abbey Grounds, Wicklow**

The Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns project at the Abbey Grounds continues to progress, with completion anticipated later this year.

### **Special Projects**

**Avondale Business Park:** A number of expressions of interests in sites have been received and are currently under review.

**The GRID:** The GRID Steering Committee meets on a monthly basis. In June, conferencing equipment was successfully installed and ready for use by licensees or those holding events in the GRID. The level of enquiries from potential licensees is positive with regular viewings conducted.

**Sites on Mill Road, Greystones:** Wicklow County Council is awaiting PRAI confirmation of site registration. Legal advice received outlined a process to progress this matter and this is currently being pursued.

**Carnew Remote Working Hub:** The members of Baltinglass Municipal District approved the proposed development of a Remote Working Hub at the former Bank of Ireland, Carnew, Co. Wicklow and the project can now progress to the next stage.

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme Expression of Interest application for funding to upgrade the former Bank of Ireland was submitted by the Economic Development Unit and was successful. The next phase of the application process for the mainstream funding measure is now being prepared.

A Request for Quotations for the construction phase of this project was advertised and it is expected that a contractor will be appointed in the coming months.

### **Offshore Renewable Energy**

It is planned to host another ORE Event in November this year. Online event planning meetings will take place over the summer months, with the next meeting planned for 15<sup>th</sup> July. Regular meetings of the ORE Network will resume from September.

### **Skills Strategy**

The Skills Taskforce continues its active work on implementing the Wicklow Skills Strategy. The Taskforce met on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June to discuss progress and updates relevant to each of the key industries. The next meeting is planned for 19<sup>th</sup> September.



# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow Naturally is scheduling a members' Networking Event to take place in early July. The traditional live food demo will be at the 'Best of Wicklow' tent at the Tinahely Show early August. Wicklow Naturally will welcome the Food Writers Guild in late August; this event should offer tremendous promotional and PR exposure for the food produced in Wicklow. Early plans are being put in place for October Feast.

## Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.</li> <li>- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.</li> <li>- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.</li> <li>- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.</li> <li>- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland</li> <li>- Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral</li> </ul>			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME)	22 €671,740 7 €12,500	42 TAME Is discontinued. New support: Market Explorer Grant	6 €103,984
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	54	105	19 – AOMDP 15 – Strategic Retail Master Class = 34
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	145	105	65
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1223	840	436
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	24	20	15
METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	443	400	327
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	578	345	206

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2023/2024	2024/2025	Year to Date 2024-25
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1358	1100	1135

METRICS: Client Transfers to Enterprise Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of transfers	2024	2025	Year to Date 2025
Number of transfers	6	5	4

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2024	2025	Year to Date 2025
Trading Online Vouchers	124	Nil TOV are discontinued	Nil TOV are discontinued

Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	17	15	11
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	20	18	7
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	7	15	20
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	N/A	6	0
Energy Efficiency Grant	3	18	1
Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	12	13	11
New Exporters	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	3	0

## May 2025 Activities:

Various events which took place:

### - Blas na hÉireann supported by Wicklow LEO

Entries for Blas na hÉireann 2025, the Irish Food Awards are open. Blas na hÉireann is the largest blind-tasted food awards on the island of Ireland, designed to recognise and celebrate the very best Irish food and drink. Entries are open to producers across all categories of food and drink with the deadline of 15th May.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

- **16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Tariffs, Trade & Tactics: What Every Business Needs to Know About Mitigating Risk – One to One Mentoring**  
Fully booked one to one session for clients with global trade expert Brian Murphy, following our successful breakfast briefing on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- **22<sup>nd</sup> May – National Enterprise Awards, Mansion House Dublin**  
JTM Energy of Rathnew represented LEO Wicklow at the National Enterprise Awards, at the Mansion House Dublin on the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> May at a black-tie event. LEO staff attended, along with the management team of the company. Unfortunately, no prizes were awarded to Wicklow this year.
- **26<sup>th</sup> May - Strategic Retail Masterclass: Wicklow Retail Leaders – Unlocking Growth Together**  
The aim of the course is to empower local retailers with the tools, strategies, and collaborative mindset needed to grow stronger together, through unified branding, smart digital marketing, and data-driven decision making.
- **Pilot LEO Village at BLOOM, June Bank Holiday**  
The LEO Village allows one LEO Wicklow client, The Paper Petal Studio to exhibit with assistance of the LEO Network at Bloom to gauge interest and success for future years
- **Dublin Tech Summit**  
On 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May LEO Wicklow supported a number of businesses to attend the DTS in the RDS, and staff attended to get updated on the latest developments in tech and AI for business.

## June 2025 Activities:

Various events taking place:

- The Network Ireland (Wicklow Branch) Businesswomen of the Year Awards will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June in Tinakilly House. Two members of LEO Wicklow staff will attend to support this LEO sponsored business network.

## Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The training programme for Spring/Summer 2025 is open for bookings through our online portal on [www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow](http://www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow).

## Training which took place in May:

- 20<sup>th</sup> May: Digital Marketing Advice (1)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May: Digital Marketing Advice (2)
- 26<sup>th</sup> May: Strategic Retail Masterclass: Wicklow Retail Leaders – Unlocking Growth Together

## Upcoming June Events:

- 6<sup>th</sup> June: Digital Marketing Advice (1)
- 9<sup>th</sup> June: Digital Marketing Advice (2)
- 16<sup>th</sup> June: Social Media for Your Business
- 26<sup>th</sup> June: Start Your Own Business

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

### Harbours and Ports

#### **1) CCTV and Access Control**

Wicklow County Council successfully applied for funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme 2025 (LAMIS). This funding will be used to install new CCTV and access control systems at Wicklow and Arklow Harbours. The required civil works have been completed, and a CCTV contractor will be appointed in June. Improvement works to gates and approach roads at both harbours are also ongoing to enhance safety and security.

#### **2) Concrete Repairs to East Pier, Wicklow Harbour**

Additional funding has been approved under the LAMIS scheme to carry out underwater concrete repairs to fill voids in the East Pier at Wicklow Harbour. Over the years, significant voids have formed due to erosion and now require urgent attention. The works will be tendered in June and are scheduled for completion by September 2025.

#### **3) Bed-Levelling at Wicklow Harbour**

Bed-levelling works at Wicklow Harbour have been completed to ensure that the main shipping channel maintains the required water depth.

#### **4) New Toilets at Wicklow Harbour**

A total of six new public toilets have been installed at Wicklow Harbour: four next to the lifeguard hut and two at the port entrance. All facilities are now open for public use.

#### **5) Storage Units at Arklow Harbour**

Fourteen new fisherman's storage units have been completed at Arklow Harbour. Allocation of these units to eligible applicants is currently underway and expected to be finalised in July. These units will allow licensed fishing vessels to store equipment quayside, facilitating the removal of the shipping containers currently used for storage.

### Projects Office

**Whitestown Remediation Project:** The draft remediation plan has been presented to the court and has been approved in part. The Tender process to secure outlets for the excavated material from the site and also for the main contractor are ongoing.

**Avoca Mines Remediation Project:** The Council is working in Partnership with DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project. Currently, this work primarily involves making the mines sites safe, by replacing fencing and making safe access to locations that require sampling and monitoring. The contract has been awarded to complete the fencing around Cronebane and Tigroney sections of the Mines. Monitoring and repair works to existing fencing continues. **Works were carried out by** Priority Construction Ltd. to make safe an opening to a mine shaft safe, which was discovered in the area of the Ballymurtagh Landfill.

**Arklow Flood Relief Scheme:** Planning Application and CPO has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender documents for the project. The detailed design is ongoing. Site Investigation has been carried out and awaiting final report. Archaeological Investigations in the river channel will be carried out in 2025. This will inform the process of removing old wrecks from the riverbed in advance of dredging.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Climate & Biodiversity Action and Environment Awareness

### 1) E-V

- Moby E-Bike Scheme was launched on the 23rd June in Wicklow and Rathnew.
- To support a workplace shift to smarter travel. Wicklow County Council's Green Team and Climate Action Team launched a Workplace Travel Survey from 21st July 2025.
- Wicklow County Council also rolled out three 100% electric Mean Green mowers in the Greystones, Bray and Baltinglass Municipal Districts. These electric mowers mark a significant step forward in reducing emissions from public realm maintenance.



### 2) Coastal Erosion

Malachy Walsh And Partners completed Interim Reports in June for the Brittas Bay and Ennereilly Study. An additional Topographic and Bathymetric Survey was required by the consultants for this Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study.

RPS have the Interim report 95% complete for the Seabank to Kilmichael Point Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study. As part of this study an extension of the tender will allow RPS to conduct a Wave Overtopping and associated flood inundation analyses to characterise this problem along the coastline of Arklow., This was requested due to Wave Overtopping Flooding in January 2025.

### 3) Wicklow's Dark Sky Reserve

Wicklow Uplands Council, the NPWS and the council are seeking to develop a Dark Sky Reserve. An area has been selected which includes two thirds of the national park as the core of the reserve with a 700 KM squared buffer zone to the east, west and south. The proposed area has been added to ARC GIS. The towns of Roundwood, Laragh and Aughrim would be the most significant settlements in the reserve.

### 4) Community Climate Action Programme

- Strand 1 Building Low Carbon Sustainable Communities: €643,000 has been allocated to 20 Projects under the Community Climate Action Programme. This allocation supports a variety of community organisations in areas such as energy, waste, biodiversity and active travel.

### Drawdown - March 2025

GROUP	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PROGRESS
EireOg Greystones	Energy Efficient Lighting and various initiatives	72,114.00	Complete
Wicklow Town Team / SEC	Insulation of walls/roof parochial community centre Heating control upgrade	58,028.90	In progress
Kilcoole Mens Shed / Tidy Towns / Biodiversity Group	Dispersed orchard	4,365.67	In progress
Signal Arts Centre	Insulation of walls/ceiling of community arts centre	22,700.00	In progress

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

Donard Community Enterprises CLG	Insulation of community centre walls/roof. Installation of solar PV	71,732.00	In progress
Rathnew Community Centre	Installation of solar PV array on community centre	12,300.00	In progress
Arklow Tidy Towns	Community water harvesting unit	11,536.14	In Progress
Kilbride GAA Club	Bike rack and shelter, bike repair stand, water refill station, 2-Go cups	13,704.00	Complete

## 5) Sustainable Energy Communities

SEAI are producing a case study on the Arklow Sustainable Energy Community insulation meitheal project. As part of the process a video was shot in Arklow to record how the project was delivered and its impact. Additionally an SEC has commenced for the various sports clubs of Greystones as a pilot which will be replicated in other parts of the county.

## 6) Community Climate Action Programme with IKC3 team

Recruitment has commenced for a community climate innovation training programme in Arklow which will be delivered from September to December. The training is open to community group representatives, businesses, sporting organisations and individuals. The training programme is co delivered with Trinity College Dublin and Munster Technical University. It aims to build climate knowledge and develop opportunity to network

## 7) Circular Economy

Our Litter Management Plan public consultation closed on the 25th April. Four submissions were received and have been considered when compiling the final draft.

## 8) Biodiversity Officer Projects

- Wicklow County Council participated in a Re-Farm Event on 7<sup>th</sup> June on a demonstration farm in Kildare. The learning will be used to inform a pilot project being launched in Wicklow in July 2025.
- Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030: The development of the Biodiversity Action Plan is supported by the Biodiversity Forum. 50 actions have been drafted and presented in a workshop to the SPC. The draft plan should be completed by 30th June for presentation to the SPC in the July meeting.

## 9) Environment Awareness

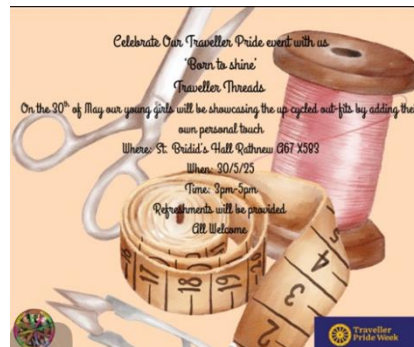
- Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara invited into the Council Chambers by Cathaoirleach Cllr Paul O'Brien in recognition of their excellent and award-winning work on the marine environment. They received the national award from the Marine Institute for the Explorer's Educational Programme and they also excelled in An Taisce's Green Schools programme under the Global Citizenship Marine Environment theme.



- Supported and funded two textile upcycling workshops for the CEART Youth Group as part of their Traveller Pride event 'Born to Shine'.



# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025



- In partnership with the Regional Waste Management Plan Office, organised and delivered a county based Food Waste Recycling Week campaign. Funded and organised a series of food waste and composting workshops in the Wicklow Library Service. Engaged the Wicklow Municipal Districts and County Building's staff with the support of Crioich Catering. Delivered a social media campaign.



- Leave No Trace 'Love This Place' 2025 campaign commenced in early June and will run through to August.
- Anti Littering & Anti Dog Fouling audio devices and social media campaign commenced June 2025 and will run until 2026.



# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

6. Marine and Nature inspired textile upcycling mini Summer camps taking place during July.



## Litter/Waste Management

### Litter/Waste Statistics up to end of May 2025

No. of Complaints Created	155	
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	280	
No of Litter Fines Issued	15	
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	3	
No. of Warning Letters Issued	4	
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	9	
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	0	
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	9	
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	1	
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	17	
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	0	
No of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	3	In two of the cases listed during the month, the Council were satisfied that the defendants were attempting to clear up their properties and allowed further time to the defendants to successfully do so. The third case was listed for mention.
Income - Litter	€1,500.00	
Income- Waste Management	€1,000.00	

## Pollution Control

### Pollution Response & Investigation

- 1 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 5 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.



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

## Ambient Air Monitoring

- 0 Inspection of Ambient Air Monitoring Station

## Private Water Supplies

- 18 Regulated Private Water Supplies scheduled in Drinking Water Monitoring Plan.
- 24 Private Water Supplies were monitored.
- 18 Private Water Supplies with available results were compliant.
- 3 Private Water Supplies with available results were non-compliant for coliform bacteria and 1 enterococci.
- 3 Private Water Supplies were requested to take remedial actions.

## Bathing Water

- 7 Bathing Waters were monitored and had excellent quality in May.
- Bray South, Greystones Cove, Greystones South, Silver Strand, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga.
- Public consultation on the identification (designation) of existing and new bathing waters in County Wicklow and length of the bathing season is now opened until September via [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)
- Prior warning notices were issued for 11 bathing waters on 12<sup>th</sup> June informing the public of the potential drop in microbiological quality in view of Met Eireann's yellow status rainfall warning. The notices were lifted on 18/06/25 after excellent/good water samples on 16/06/25.
- Heavy rainfall can result in wastewater overflows, runoff from agricultural and urban areas which can cause short term deterioration in water quality.

## Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

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

## Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 3 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.
- 3 Investigative river samples taken

## Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared.
- 4 Engagement activities undertaken.
- 4 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems were carried out.
- 3 domestic waste water treatment systems were found compliant.
- 1 domestic waste water treatment systems were found non-compliant and were issued advisory notices.

## Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

- 1 Inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.
- 0 Inspection of a farm carried out on foot of pollution complaint.
- 0 Sewage sludge nutrient management plan applications to land reviewed.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Well Grants

- 23 New Water Grant application received
- 0 New Well granted
- 5 New Pumps granted
- 5 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 17 inspections in advance/completion of works

## Petrol Vapour Recovery

- 0 Installation inspected
- 1 Installation issued with Certificate of Testing
- 0 Stage Ib applications assessed
- 0 Stage Ib Installations Inspections.

## Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 0 Dry cleaner installations inspected.
- 0 inspection of vehicle refinishers carried out.
- 0 Letters issued to vehicle refinishers.
- 0 Paint retailer inspections for compliant products.

## Smokeless Coal Regulations

- 4 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.

## Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

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

## Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

- 38 River samples were taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
- 4 Lake samples were taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.

## Planning & Development

- 3 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
- 6 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
- 4 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.
- 1 environmental report on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning quarry development.
- 0 environmental reports on compliance with planning permission conditions were completed.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Animal Control

- **Dog Licences:** In the month of May a total 549 dog licences were renewed, with 232 being purchased on-line. This represents a total of 42% purchasing on-line. Dog wardens have been carrying out weekly inspections on estates within the county checking for licences, etc.
- **Horses:** There were no seizures of horses in the month of May 2025.

## Outdoor Recreation

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) supports the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the necessary repair, enhancement, or promotion of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure in countryside areas across Ireland. The table below is a list of current projects funded under ORIS being completed during 2025:

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion
OR320WW01	Wicklow Coast Project	Project infrastructure completed. Ramp repair works at the Cove, Arklow and project signage being installed.	31/05/2025
OR221WW02	Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	Established Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk Task Force. Substantial work needed to repair sections of the original route and alternative routes need to be assessed. A tender process is underway to contract consultants on a feasibility study and advise on short, medium and long term solutions. Timelines depend on the solutions proposed and the co-operation of relevant stakeholders, including landowners. Funding will be required to complete all works.	Extension granted by DRCD. Updates due from Task Force.
OR221WW01	Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Meeting on site to find route in for piling equipment – last piece for input to new tender and access works required.	In progress. Extension granted.
OR321WW01	The Sugar Loaf Repair	Interpretative signage installed and a newly constructed baby Sugarloaf at the start of the walk to showcase the upgrade trail works. New fencing installed at the entrance and gates moved. Car park upgrade works completed.	31/05/2025
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW03	Coolkenno Equestrian Trail	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners pending their planning permission process, which is not resolved yet.	In progress
ORIS 2022 M3 OR322WW01	Roundwood Recreation Area	Groundworks and extension of existing car park with fencing works completed. Play equipment installed, surface works completed. Resurface of main trails in progress with emergency repair works completed after extensive storm damage and rerouting signage in place. Tender published for bike area. Running routes planned.	31/05/2025

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## ORIS 2023 - Project Development Measure (PDM), Measure 1 and Measure 2

The total funding awarded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to 2023 ORIS Measures 1, 2 and Project Development Measure projects in Wicklow amounts to **€858,780**.

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion
ORPDM23WW01 CC781	<b>Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan</b>	Recreation Plan for the area at design stage.	30/06/2025
ORPDM23WW02 CC782	<b>Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan</b>	Feasibility project to provide a work plan to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. Bray MD Engineer currently compiling tender documentation.	30/06/2025
OR123WW01- CC791	<b>Hollywood Natural Play Area</b>	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Play Equipment area works due to commence. Play area at design stage. Specification ready, being signed off before publication.	31/10/2025
<b>OR123WW02 - CC792</b>	<b>Wicklow Way (Glencree River) Re-surface</b>	<b>200m of new trail construction and 800m of surface dressing. Works completed.</b>	<b>30/06/2025</b>
OR123WW03 CC793	<b>Knockree Bridge</b>	Knockree bridge replacement at the Glencree brook on the Wicklow Way, between Ballyreagh and Onagh Bridge. To be completed during June.	30/06/2025
OR123WW04 CC794	<b>Knockamunnion-Stranahely Bridges</b>	Replacement of 2 bridges and additional drainage works between them over a track of some 200m. Contractors on site with works completion in June.	31/10/2025
<b>OR123WW05 - CC795</b>	<b>Three Wells and Cushbawn Link</b>	<b>8m of surfacing on Three Wells crossing and 270m of surfacing on the looped upper trail. Completed. Signage installation due.</b>	<b>31/05/2025</b>
OR123WW06 CC796	<b>Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way</b>	Signage replacement along an 18km route. Discussions ongoing with WUC and Roundwood community group. Project planning ongoing.	31/10/2025
OR223WW01 CC903	<b>Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure</b>	Enhancing parking, trail specification underway with RFQ in progress. Tenders received and awarded. Delay caused by anti-social behaviour in the area. Meeting with local focus groups.	30/06/2026
OR223WW02 CC904	<b>Three Trouts Bridge, Delgany</b>	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the route. Greystones MD Engineer to manage this project and submit updates.	30/06/2026
OR223WW03 CC905	<b>Tinahely New Loop Trail</b>	Additional spur to loop walks on a 10km route to Tinahely village. Design and landowner agreement in progress. Tinahely walking group in discussions with landowner regarding access to trail crossing land. Alternative routes being identified.	30/06/2026

## ORIS 2024 - Project Development Measure (PDM), Measure 1, Measure 2 and Measure 3

Applications for DRCD's 2024 ORIS funding round were submitted during March 2025. Wicklow Co Co have applied for 2 Project Development Measures, 6 x Measure 1, 3 x Measure 2, 1x Measure 3 projects with a total funding application of **€1,355,740** for the 2024 ORIS funding round.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## **Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee (WORC)**

WORC is comprised of members from Coillte, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wicklow County Council, County Wicklow Partnership, Wicklow Local Sports and Recreation Partnership and Wicklow Uplands Council and is an information sharing forum of parties most involved in planning, development and management of recreation in Wicklow.

The draft Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2025-2029 has now been reviewed by the County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee. This will inform the development and management of outdoor recreation in the County.

## **Wicklow Arts Office**

- The Arts Council responded to the funding application submitted by Wicklow County Council through the Arts Office for the Creative Places Baltinglass Programme giving the feedback from the panel that the application was excellent. As a result, Creative Places Baltinglass has guaranteed funding support from the Arts Council for the next two years, the amount of funding will be €85,000.00 per annum a total investment of €170,000.00. The maximum award for the two years which could have been granted was €180,000.00. The Arts Office will now prepare to proceed with the implementation plan for Creative Places Baltinglass for the next two years. This will include operating with new supports to build local capacity as well as investment in programmes and a local creative arts participation activation award scheme. The programme will be launched in September 2025.
- Cruinniu na nÓg took place on June 7th with forty four workshops and activities for children and young people arranged by the Arts Office. Cruinniu na nÓg is the National Day of Creativity for Children and Young People through the Creative Ireland Programme. Almost 2000 people turned out in the county to participate in workshops and see also young people perform new work in the towns of Baltinglass and Rathdrum where they worked with artists to write, create and perform their own new work.
- The Arts Office has commenced its annual preparation for Culture Night implementing a plan to have the programme prepared for the Culture Night team in the Arts Council by July 18th. The date of Culture Night for 2025 is Friday September 19th.
- The Strategic Project Award Scheme for artists, arts groups or collectives opened in June. The purpose of this Award is to provide increased opportunities for the presentation of new work in the county in specific areas of interest under the objectives of the County Wicklow Arts Plan and to increase networking supports and artist development in the county. Annually just over €100,000.00 is available for this Award Scheme.
- An application is being prepared for the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport for three artist workspaces as part of the new Library extension in Blessington Library. If successful €150,000.00 will be allocated by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport for the development of three artist studios.
- The final Creative Places Baltinglass Residency under the first three years of the programme was premiered by children from Baltinglass, 136 children and young people from 5th and 6th classes in Scoil Naoimh Iosaf, Baltinglass Community College, Slaney Court IP Centre, Kippure Lodge IP Centre and Rathcoran Housing Estate participated in a 9 month long residency led by Artist Andy Spearpoint and a variety of artists working on puppetry, design, visual arts and music. The residency received very positive feedback from all the stakeholders and the children and young people gave the performance their all.

## **Wicklow County Library Service**

### **1) Library Statistics January to May 2025**

From January to May 2025, the library recorded 272,186 visits, demonstrating strong community engagement with the service. Physical borrowing remained high, with 182,197 physical items issued, reflecting continued demand for traditional library stock.

Digital resources also saw significant use:

eAudio books: 42,573 issues

eBooks: 16,958 issues

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ePress (digital newspapers and magazines): 102,306 issues

In total, there were 161,837 digital issues, showing a healthy appetite for online access, particularly ePress content.

Combined, physical and digital issues reached 344,034, underlining the library's vital role in providing access to information, entertainment, and learning in multiple formats.

## 2) Summer Stars 2025 at Wicklow Libraries

Now in its 21st year, Summer Stars continues to grow as a national reading initiative that encourages children to read for fun over the summer months. Evolving over two decades, the programme now includes both traditional and digital reading options, along with a vibrant calendar of activities across the county. The programme is live in all 13 branch libraries in County Wicklow as well as the Mobile Library, ensuring countywide access. In less than two weeks, almost 1,000 children have already registered a clear sign of the enthusiasm and continued relevance of the programme. Summer Stars is entirely free to join and open to all children. Upon registration, each child receives a cotton book bag, a beautiful activity book, and a seeded bookmark that can be planted at home – adding an eco-friendly twist to their reading adventure. Wicklow Libraries have lined up a wide range of free, fun events and activities throughout the summer including storytimes, crafts, games and more, designed to support and inspire young readers of all abilities.



## Cruinniú na Nóg

Cruinniú na nÓg took place on Saturday 7th June, with Wicklow Libraries delivering a county-wide programme of creative events for children and young people.

Arklow Library welcomed the Barn Ensemble for a live performance and interactive music workshop through Music Generation and also ran a card-making session for young adults. Ballywaltrim Library hosted a comic book workshop where children designed and created their own comics, while Blessington Library focused on teamwork and design in a Minecraft workshop.

Bray Library offered a cultural experience with a traditional Gamelan performance and Indonesian puppet show. In Enniskerry Library, children took part in a lively Musical Theatre dance class and learned bookbinding skills. Greystones Library explored visual storytelling through a graphic novel workshop and ran a DJ session with Helena Byrne, where participants tried mixing and had time to dance.

Tinahely Library combined art and sustainability in a bug hotel workshop using recycled materials. Wicklow Library offered a full day of activities including book cover design, a mindfulness-based "Calm and Create" workshop, and a planting session linking storytime with pollinator awareness.

The programme encouraged creativity, participation, and hands-on learning across all library branches involved.



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*Image – Bookbinding workshop Enniskerry*

## **The Green Thread**

The Green Thread is a six-week project currently running in Wicklow Town Library, launched on 9th June. Led by Wicklow County Council Library Service in partnership with County Wicklow Partnership's Ukrainian Hub and the HSE Dublin South and Wicklow, the initiative is funded through the Adult Literacy for Life Collaboration and Innovation Fund.

Participants include members of the Ukrainian community and adults over 55 who previously completed a Digital Literacy course at the library. The programme supports literacy development particularly for Ukrainian participants—while promoting environmental awareness, well-being, and social connection.

The course is delivered by sustainability expert Aoife Munn and explores weekly topics such as growing herbs, reducing food waste, making eco-cleaners, soap crafting, and planting for pollinators. It concludes with a guided visit to Kilmacurragh Botanic Gardens to learn about biodiversity.

Sessions are practical, inclusive, and conversation-focused, supporting vocabulary building and fluency. Tea, coffee, and biscuits are provided weekly to encourage informal interaction and peer connection. Participants are also invited to adopt simple climate actions each week.

The first two sessions were well attended and warmly received. Last week, participants enjoyed homemade Ukrainian Borscht prepared by Tanya from the Ukrainian Hub.

The upcoming session will focus on making natural household cleaners, continuing the programme's blend of practical learning and sustainability in a relaxed, engaging environment.

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## Arklow Library

Throughout June, Arklow Library is delivering a dynamic and inclusive programme designed to engage individuals of all ages through creativity, lifelong learning, and community participation.

Children's programming remains a core part of the library's service. Weekly Toddler Storytime and Craft sessions on Wednesdays promote early literacy and creative play, while Baby Sing-Alongs on Thursdays offer a supportive and welcoming space for bonding and social interaction among parents and carers. On Saturdays, families can drop in to a self-guided Arts and Crafts Station from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., encouraging informal learning and creativity in a relaxed setting.

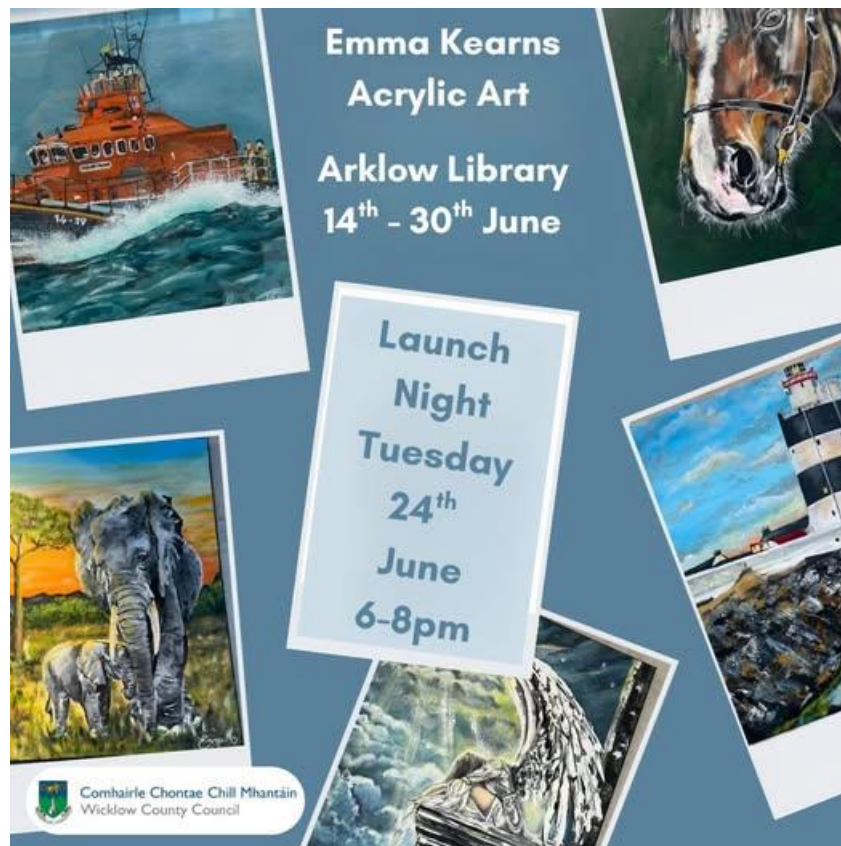
Adult programming this month included a wide range of opportunities for connection, skill-building, and wellbeing. These include arts and crafts mornings for parents and carers, beginner-level Irish and Italian language classes, book clubs, knitting circles, and Irish conversation groups. A dedicated support group for male carers is also ongoing. In addition, an exhibition of abstract works by local artist Tom Garrigan is on display until 14 June, enriching the library's cultural and visual arts offering.

Later in the month, the library hosted a Sustainable Gardening workshop in partnership with Unwind with Plants. This hands-on session promotes environmental awareness and mental wellbeing and is open to the public by advance booking.

Art Exhibition running from 14<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June featured work from local artist Emma Kearns.



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## Blessington Library

Language and cultural exchange remain strong, with Irish, Spanish, and English conversation groups continuing to attract regular attendance. As part of the Bedtime Story Time initiative, two special sessions were held with Rachel Drew and Katie Fu, supporting early literacy among young families.

Bealtaine Festival was marked with a well-attended Social Dancing session and a Safety Talk & Coffee Evening delivered in collaboration with Eoin from Wicklow Fire Brigade.

Support groups and creative programmes also remain active. The parent support group for families of neurodivergent children welcomed new members, while adult and children's book clubs, poetry, and writing groups continued to grow.

Residents from local care centres engaged in regular sessions using the library's Tovertafel table. Biodiversity Week was celebrated with a children's Storytime and an adult talk on Gardening for Biodiversity by Patrick Hunt.

A special Teen Podcasting Event took place on 26th June, offering young people the chance to explore podcast production and develop media skills in a guided, interactive format.

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## Wicklow Library

At the end of the month, Arklow Library hosted its annual End-of-Term Pizza Party for teenagers, a popular event that celebrates the close of the school year and provides a creative and social outlet for local teens. This year's event featured a Teen Comic Drawing Workshop facilitated by artist Kate Escolin, offering participants a chance to develop their illustration and storytelling skills in a fun, supportive environment.

The session ran over four hours and include structured workshop time alongside an extended break for pizza, snacks, drinks, and informal socialising. The event was designed to foster creativity, peer connection, and confidence in self-expression. In addition to local attendees, members of the Bray Library Teen Comic Book Club were invited, creating an opportunity for young people from different parts of the county to meet and collaborate through a shared interest in comics and visual storytelling. The event reflected the library's ongoing commitment to youth engagement and creative development through inclusive, welcoming programming.

## Greystones Library

A new Seed Library was launched in partnership with Greystones Tidy Towns. A custom-built seed box at the library entrance invites the public to take and share seeds, supporting sustainability and community gardening efforts.

The SDG Art Competition, run in collaboration with the Reading Goals Book Club, remains open to 5th and 6th class students in the area. Winning entries will feature in an upcoming 18-month school calendar, with support from Cllr. Lourda Scott.

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The poster features a grid of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) icons at the top, arranged in three rows. Below the icons is the title "LIBRARIES, DEVELOPMENT AND THE UN2030 AGENDA". A paragraph explains that the SDGs are a collection of 17 global goals designed in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The main title "SDG Art Competition" is in large red letters. Below it, the text "Design a Poster for any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals" is in white. Further down, "Winning artwork will be featured in a special calendar" is also in white. At the bottom left is the Wicklow County Council logo, and at the bottom right is the text "Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin Wicklow County Council".

LIBRARIES, DEVELOPMENT AND THE UN2030 AGENDA

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global goals designed and set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all".

## SDG Art Competition

Design a Poster for any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Winning artwork will be featured in a special calendar

 Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin  
Wicklow County Council

## Archives & Genealogy Service

- **Digitisation programme:** The digitisation of the minute books of Arklow and Wicklow Harbour Commissioners is now completed and online at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections>.
- **Collection management:** Cataloguing of the collection's business archives has been completed - collections include records relating to milling, merchants, blacksmiths and dairy suppliers. Descriptive lists will be uploaded to Wicklow.ie shortly.
- **Cataloguing of local authority collections** continues with records of labourers' cottages and early vehicle registration volumes.

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## Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

### Transportation

#### Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (16/06/2025) outstanding stands at **299 – 1.89%** of total stock of 15,813.

Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we have ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults and progress has been made to repair long standing faults. A large number of faults also require civil works or infrastructure installations to undertake the repair; a number of these faults are currently in progress.

93 lighting faults were attended in May, while 66 faults were logged during the same period.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOWMD	Grand Total
No Supply		1	2	1		4
Access Issues (Attend)	2	1	10	1	2	16
Cable Fault (Attend)			2			2
Civils	13		10	1	6	30
Council Approval	14			2		16
ESB Interface required	1		6			7
ESB Notified	6	29	25	14	21	95
ESB Required	3	2		1	6	12
Knock Down (Attended)	3		3	4	1	11
Materials required						0
On Hold	1	2	6	2	4	15
Submitted	9	20	2		10	41
TMR	7		21	3	7	38
Tree Cutting Required			8	3	1	12
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>299</b>
<b>Percentage Not Working</b>	<b>1.85%</b>	<b>2.27%</b>	<b>2.79%</b>	<b>1.09%</b>	<b>1.50%</b>	<b>1.89%</b>
<b>No. of Lamps</b>	<b>3181</b>	<b>2424</b>	<b>3400</b>	<b>2943</b>	<b>3865</b>	<b>15813</b>
<b>Percentage of Total Lamps</b>	<b>20.12%</b>	<b>15.33%</b>	<b>21.50%</b>	<b>18.61%</b>	<b>24.44%</b>	<b>100%</b>
Faults Reported (May)	9	9	14	6	28	66
Faults Attended (May)	19	12	15	9	38	93

#### Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The retrofitting of lanterns has commenced in all MDs with c. 908 lanterns replaced to date.

#### Road Schedule

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

#### Speed Limits

A review of urban speed limits is due to commence shortly.

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## Transportation Statistics

	Total 2023	Total 2024	Total 2025	April 2025	May 2025
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	1026	1014	480	90	129
<b>Road closure applications</b>	42	50	33	4	7
<b>Road Opening licences</b>	1956	1254	771	165	193
<b>Abnormal Load applications</b>	54	50	18	3	2

### Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

### M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

The BPIS seeks to achieve the early delivery of bus priority measures along with addressing operational and safety issues in advance of the main scheme between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview). The scheme is concluding the Options Selection phase (Phase 2 of TII's Project Management Guidelines).

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #7 on the project website [www.n11m11bpis.ie](http://www.n11m11bpis.ie) on 10 April 2025. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in September 2023. This review resulted in a revisit of the preferred option that now includes additional major road improvement features, such as: -

- A major upgrade at Junction 7 Bray South to a full grade separated junction
- A northbound Service Road at Junction 8 Kilmacanogue
- A northbound Service Road linking Junction 7 Bray South to Junction 6 Fassaroe

The Phase 2 (Options Selection) preferred option will be used at Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) as the basis on which the project design will be developed. The design will be subject to further and more detailed analysis including more detailed traffic analysis and the further examination and assessment of alternatives to the Herbert Road access to the N11. An environmental evaluation will also be completed. This design and analysis will ensure that the project progressed through to the Statutory Approval submission is fully appraised and all implications are known and addressed. Wicklow County Council anticipates that following the publication of the Phase 2 Options Selection Report that the Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation will be progressed, with the statutory approval phase following thereafter

The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet with stakeholders any interested parties.

### N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) have directly appointed the contractor for the construction of the Noise mitigation fence. The start date advised by TII has been pushed out by the contractor. A new confirmed start date is to be advised. Wicklow County Council is continuing to liaise with residents as required.

### N11 Junction 12 Road Safety Improvement Scheme

Feasibility and Options report was submitted to TII on 9/5/25 for a proposed scheme to improve the southbound diverge ramp at the Garden Village / Newtownmountkenedy exit. TII returned comments on 16/6/25. An amended report will be reissued in due course.

### N11 Kilpedder 'Rat-Run' Road Safety Improvement Scheme

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

### N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities

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

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The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe commenced construction work in April 2025.

The Bus Park & Ride at Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in March 2025.

The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) is being progressed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office.

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

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

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

The Phase 2 Options Selection work is currently progressing under TII's Project Management Guidelines. A non-statutory Public Display event on the Route Options was held in Baltinglass, on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. A second non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred option commenced on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 with a display event in Germaines in Baltinglass. Submissions and observations were accepted up until 12:00 noon on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The public display documents are available to view on the project website [www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie](http://www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie).

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

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) was approved by TII in November 2023. The Design Report (Phase 3) was approved by TII in April 2024. The Part 8 statutory process (Phase 4) commenced on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 with the period for submissions by interested parties ending on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024. At the May 2024 meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District the Elected Members voted to approve the Chief Executive's recommendation for the scheme to proceed. The Detailed Design and Contract Documents (Phase 5) were completed in advance of the publication of a Tender in March 2025 for the procurement of a contractor for construction. Tenders were received on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Following the tender assessment process, a Tender Award Request was issued to TII on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025. TII approved the awarding of the contract on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The tender award process is currently underway.

## **Park & Ride/Share at Hollywood**

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

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

## **N81 Blessington Gateway Project**

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

## **N81 Baltinglass South Gateway Project**

The construction of the roundabout by the developer (Aldbrough Manor), under the auspices of WCC, is nearing completion. A Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) has been submitted to TII for a proposed scheme on the southern approach to Baltinglass.

## **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

The Phase 2 Options Selection Report, which will determine the preferred route for the Greenway, is currently being reviewed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Negotiations are still ongoing with landowners. Following TII approval of Phase 2 we will proceed to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation. A meeting was held in April with NPWS on site to review the impacts of the scheme on Tomnafinnoge Wood which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

## **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

An Bord Pleanála (ABP) granted permission for the northern section of the Blessington Inner Relief Road on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024. However, the residential element of the development (330 units) was refused permission by ABP.



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

Construction work commenced on Section 1 in April 2025. A road closure currently in place on Section 1 until August 2025. The completion of section 1 is currently expected in Q4 2025. Section 2 follows with completion of same currently expected Q2 2026

## **Wicklow Greystones Greenway**

Wicklow to Greystones Greenway is at the options selection phase of TII's Project Management Guidelines. A Public consultation on the emerging preferred corridors was held in April and May 2024. Route options within those corridors are now being developed and are undergoing a Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA). A public consultation on the emerging preferred option is expected in later in 2025.

## **Blessington eGreenway**

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

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

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

## **Kilmacanogue to Bray Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme**

TII have instructed Wicklow County Council to issue tender documents for design services for the development of the Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme.

The appointment technical consultants are necessary to prepare an EIAR for the scheme for submission to An Bord Pleanála. The tender was published on e-tenders on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 with submissions received on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The tender evaluation is currently being progressed.

## **Active Travel**

### **Projects under Construction**

#### **Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities (Wicklow MD)**

Provision of new pedestrian facilities and road safety improvements along the Ballyguilemore Road between Carrig View and the entrance to the proposed new St. Patricks GAA Pitch. The scheme includes for new footpaths and road widening works. Construction of the new footpath is complete, along with the drainage and public lighting works.

Remaining accommodation works have commenced and a contractor has been appointed to complete the stonework wall at a residential property. The Scheme is scheduled to be completed in the coming months.



**Ballyguilemore**



**Arklow South**

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## **Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)**

Provision of 2.8km of segregated cycle track along the R-772 Wexford Road, Arklow between Knockmore Roundabout and M11 Junction 21. The scheme will also construct 1.4km approx. of pedestrian footpath. Construction works have been completed on this project. A Consultant was appointed to complete a Stage 3 of Road Safety Audit and this has been completed. WCC to address issues raised in the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit.

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Front of school implementation works are completed.

New pedestrian crossing and footpath civil upgrade works are completed on Church Lane. Construction completed including new boundary lines and treatments, lighting, automated gates, ramp, cycle parking, retaining wall and CCTV. The permeability link was opened to students on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March. The Official Opening will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025.



**Scoil Nioclais Naofa**

## **Safe Route to Schools: Scoil Nioclais Naofa, Dunlavin (Blessington MD)**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. This project includes implementing a one way system on the eastern side of Fair Green. The front of schoolworks, for the school zone, have been completed and works on permeability link are also complete. Public lighting is scheduled to be installed, date to be agreed with contractor. Stage 3 of Road Safety Audit completed. The Official Opening will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025.

## **Kilcoole Road Footpath (Greystones MD)**

Footpath to be constructed linking Greystones to Kilcoole. Construction works have been completed on the new boundary wall at Barna Cottage. Contractor has been appointed for the footpath resurfacing works. The works are scheduled to be completed in the coming months.

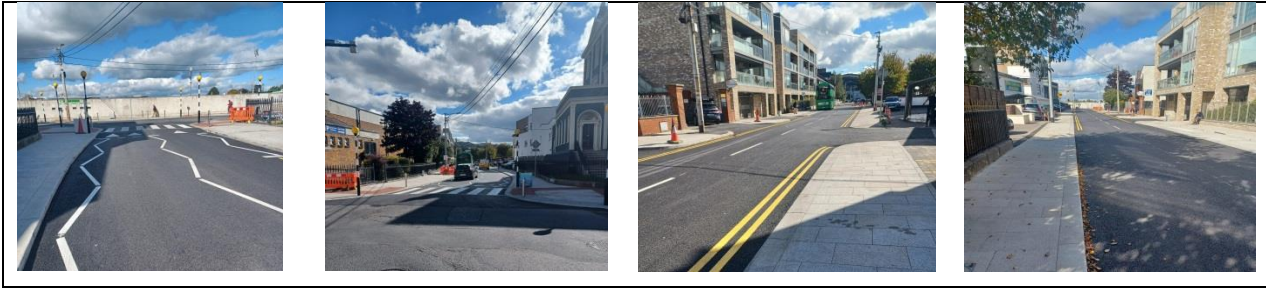
## **Project Updates**

### **Bray Transport Interchange (Bray MD)**

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. Works are substantially complete apart from ESB undergrounding works and paving in front of McEleney site on Station Road. Station Road is now fully operational with buses returned to the station forecourt. Station Road was declared a public road at the Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April. Discussions ongoing with ESB and Developer.



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**Bray Transport Interchange**

## **Wicklow Station Pedestrian and Cycle Link (Wicklow MD)**

New pedestrian and cycle bridge to be provided at Wicklow Train Station, linking Station Road to the Port Access Road. Bus and vehicle set down to be provided along with cycle parking. The acquisition of lands on northern side of rail line has been completed. Work has commenced on Detail Design Stage and APIS application for the bridge has been submitted to Irish Rail. Continue Detail Design, Advertise tender for Archaeological Testing Contract. Meet with Irish Rail to agree project co-ordination.

## **Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)**

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvements along the R750 and Station Road from Abbey Street carpark to Station Road Junction to improve linkage to Wicklow Train Station. The project scope has been revised. Design to focus on pedestrian and cycle improvements between the town centre and Train Station. Preliminary Design issued to NTA and comments received. Traffic modelling of the 3 junctions completed. Tender advertised for Consultants to manage the project through Phases 4 to 7. Tenders have been assessed and Letters of Notification issued.

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

New footbridges and alterations to the road to make provision for cyclists. Tender documents have been prepared for the appointment of a new Consultant to progress the scheme from Phase 3 to Phase 7. Consultants Brief has been issued to the NTA for approval. Advertise tender for Consultancy Services using the new NTA Framework

## **Baltinglass Bridge Active Travel Scheme (Baltinglass MD)**

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. The tender period has concluded for the appointment of a Technical Consultant to progress the scheme through Phases 2 to 4. A total of 5 tender submissions were received. The Tender Assessment has been completed and it is intended to award the contract to the most economically advantageous tenderer; Atkins have been appointed as Consultant to progress the scheme through phases 2 to 4.

## **Greystones Pathfinder (Greystones MD)**

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to Greystones Train Station. The spine route extends from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Centre

### **• Phase 1 – Charlesland Dual Carriageway Roundabout Upgrade Works –**

The phase will include new and improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. NTA approval received to proceed to construction stage. RNCE Construction works to be completed. Traffic signals to be installed.

### **• Phase 2 - Church Road Improvement Works -**

This phase of the project will reduce vehicle speeds and provide a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists along Church Road through the narrowing of the carriageway, junction realignment, new and improved pedestrian crossings and road resurfacing. Works completed and road markings installed. Final Account Report to be submitted.

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

This phase includes the design of pedestrian and cycle improvement works to be completed along the public road linking Greystones Train Station with the Marina to the north and Charlesland to the south. Tender advertised for Consultants to manage the project through Phases 4 to 7. Tenders have been assessed and a Letters of Notification issued. Preliminary Design issued to NTA. Atkins appointed as consultants for Phase 4 - 7.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

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

Provide improvements on Blacklion Manor Road to make the area safer for school children. These works aim to encourage more children to walk and cycle to school. Section 38 consultation process has closed with 5 submissions received. Section 38 report submitted for approval. Preparing NTA gateway approval pack for submission.

## **Safe Routes to Schools: Kilmacanogue NS (Bray MD)**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Preliminary Designs are being updated by the designer. Site meeting held with District Engineer and Consultant to review park 'n' stride area and the crossing required on R755. A draft of the one way system for the church car park and grounds where drops off are currently taking place has been provided. Meeting held with the designer to review progress and expedite project. Updated preliminary design has been issued from the designer. Further meeting has been requested by the School, meeting to take place in early June. Complete design for park n stride and crossing point on R755. Submit preliminary design and cost estimate to NTA for review.

## **2025 Budget Allocation – New Projects**

From the NTA Budget Allocation for 2025 the following project proposals will be initiated this year -

- ***SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara HSRR\*, Brittas Bay.***

Meeting with School and District Engineer has taken place. An Taisce have arranged a further meeting with the School in April. The school zone (NTA Project) is planned to be progressed with the Brittas footpath project. Consultant is currently being appointed. The project will be managed by the Wicklow Municipal District for now as the footpath is their project. Appointment of designer and PSDP to be completed. Preparation, preliminary design and cost estimate for review and approval to commence

- ***SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird***

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Meeting with School and District Engineer took place in March. An Taisce to provide delivery plans and surveys. Traffic Count and Speed Surveys have been completed. Date to be reviewed. An Taisce preparing delivery plan

- ***Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry***

Provision of footpath along Scalp Road, Enniskerry. A topographical survey is to be carried out to help determine the extent of works required.

- ***Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely***

New Zebra / Controlled Crossing and upgraded footpath to link Kilcommon National School to Residential Areas. Topographic survey completed. Design to be prepared.

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

New Zebra Pedestrian Crossing and footpath extension at Baltinglass GAA Club Grounds to link to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. NTA to review Gateway 5 request

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

Construction of 150m footpath and pedestrian crossing linking to the GAA Club. Topographic survey completed. WCC to prepare design for extension of footpath works.

## **Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)**

Work commenced on 1 new bridge (Grangecon) in April.  
Work completed at Georges Bridge.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Surface Dressing

Commenced three weeks ago- 16 jobs completed in two Municipal districts.

## Machinery Yard

Audit underway for yard safety.

## Parking Income

\*January to May 2025\*

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	430,513.59
Greystones Municipal District	145,294.54
Wicklow Municipal District	199,932.42
Arklow Municipal District	112,781.09
Parking Permits	56,983.33
Parking Fines	265,398.20
<b>Wicklow County Council Total</b>	<b>1,210,903.17</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Infrastructure Delivery

### Affordable Housing information as at the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025

#### Aldborough Manor Baltinglass – 11 Houses

All sales closed as at 31/03/2025

#### Murrough View Greenhill Road – 36 Houses

- 35 sold
- 1 sale to close Quarter 2 2025

#### St. Ernan's Rathnew – 44 dwellings, 35 Houses, 10 Apartments

- 32 closed, 8 paid pending close, 3 pending payment, 1 awaiting documents as at 31/05/2025

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

### Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed and allocated
Greenhills Road (Affordable)	36	Completed and sold
Ballard, Shillelagh	20	Completed and allocated
Merrymetting, Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completed, allocation in progress
Lugduff, Tinahely	20	Completed, allocation in progress
Scheme on Site	Units	Current Status
Fassaroe, Bray	11	Contractor on site.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor on site.
1A Mill Road, Greystones	3	Completion expected Q1 2026
5A Rednagh Road, Aughrim	1	Completion expected March 2025
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Merrymetting, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Contractor appointed. To commence on site July 2025.
Burgage More, Blessington PPP	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Site clearance commenced
Rehills, Bray Phase 1	140	Stage 1 funding application to be submitted to Dept.
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Stage 2 funding application submitted
Carrig Eden Tiglin	12	Preliminary Design Stage
Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	16	Stage 1 approved. Masterplan being developed prior to Part 8.
Burnaby, Greystones PPP	262	PPP Bundle 5 continuing

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

Ballinahinch, Ashford	19	Tender assessment done. Contractor to be appointed pending review by WCC shadow design team and further Stage 4 approval from Dept.
Tinahask, Arklow	74	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Tinahask PPP, Arklow	128	PPP Bundle 6 continuing
Sheephouse, Arklow	48	Design Stage
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Design team being appointed
Hawkstown Park Phase 2, Wicklow Design & Build	54	Detailed design and tender docs underway

## Traveller accommodation

## Capital Programme

Ballintreskin – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date July 2025
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Three group housing schemes. Final layout agreed with department/families. Social house layout is being finalised for the rest of the site. Part 8 to be advertised July
Vale Road Arklow – 2 Units	Part 8 permission expected July

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

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

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

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

## Energy Efficiency upgrades to Council Stock

Wicklow county council has an ongoing Programme of works retrofitting our council housing stock. The works selected and completed complies with our Energy Fabric Upgrade Policy that went through SPC in 2023. In 2024 we took on a second contractor from our framework to cover the Arklow, Tinahely Area.

Work has been completed on 110 units by the end of the year.

Monastery Grove Was Nominated for LAMA award 2024.

## Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2025:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivered Q1 2025	CALF
Bray	3	Delivery due Q3 2025	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q4 2025	CALF
Delgany	2	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Rathnew	36	24 Delivered Q2 2025, remainder due Q3 2025	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q3 2025	WCC
Rathnew	3	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q3 2025	WCC

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

Baltinglass	9	Delivery due Q2 to Q4 2025	WCC
Delgany	10	6 Delivered Q2, remainder due Q3 2025	WCC
Bray	3	Delivery due Q3 2025	CALF
Roundwood	2	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Delgany	2	Delivery due Q3 2025	WCC

## Potential units

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

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

## Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2025:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	17	Delivered Q1 2025	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	56	Delivery due Q2 2025	CALF
Newcastle	11	Delivery due Q4 2025	CALF
Baltinglass	12	Delivery due Q3 & Q4 2025	CALF
Rathnew	1	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Arklow	3	Delivered Q1 2025	WCC
Baltinglass	2	Delivery due Q3 2025	WCC
Roundwood	4	Delivery due Q3 2025	WCC
Rathnew	5	1 Delivered Q2, remainder due Q3 2025	WCC

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

## Vacant Homes

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

No.	Property Location	Current Status
1	5 Priory Way, Delgany	Tenants in situ.
2	30 South Green, Arklow	Tenants in situ.
3.	53 South Green, Arklow	Tenants in situ.
4.	88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	Works completed.
5,	6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Works due to complete June 2025
6.	2 Harbour Road, Arklow	Works commenced.
7.	114 Hillside, Greystones	Works commenced.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

8.	108 Charnwood, Bray	Works commenced.
9.	53A South Green, Arklow	Works complete.
10.	36 Wheatfield, Bray	Works commenced.
11.	10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow	Works commenced.

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

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

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

There are 2 types of Grants available:

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

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

### **To qualify for the grant, applicants must:**

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

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

Number of Applications to date	228
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants to date.	30
Applications Approved in Principle to date	111
Number of Applications paid to date.	46
Value of 45 Grants paid out to date.	€2,564,847.69
Applications pending execution of Legal Deed of Charge/Payment to date.	7
Applications withdrawn/Rejected to date.	46



# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Emergency Response

### Fire Service

#### Operational Fire Statistics May 2025

There were **127 incidents** attended during the month of May 2025. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **152 occasions** including **14** mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of May 2025 **decreased by 8% (-13 mobilisations) on the preceding month April 2025 (165 mobilisations)**. There were decreases in domestic fires (-8 mobilisations), RTCs (-8 mobilisations), rural fires (-9 mobilisations). There were increases in small malicious urban fires (+3 to 23), ambulance assists (+3 to 11), false alarms (+15) and incidents in other counties (+6).

Operational activity for the month of May 2025 **decreased by 4% (-6 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2024** (May 2024, 158 mobilisations). There was an decrease in domestic fires (-16 mobilisations), vehicle fires (-6), flooding (-5) and increase in rural fires (+14), small malicious urban fires (+8), false alarms (+7).

#### Incidents in County Kildare (4-incidents total):

- 15/05/2025 Baltinglass crew supported crews from Carlow Town attended a single vehicle RTC south of Castledermot.
- 19/05/2025 Dunlavin crew supported a crew from Naas at a 2-vehicle RTC at Ardenode.
- 24/05/2025 Blessington crew supported a crew from Naas at an RTC involving an overturned vehicle near Kill.
- 27/05/2025 Dunlavin crew supported a crew from Athy at a 2-vehicle RTC in Narraghmore.

#### Incidents in County Wexford (8-incidents total):

- 01/05/2025 Tinahely crew attended a chimney fire at Monaseed.
- 10/05/2025 Arklow crew supported the ambulance service with a patient lift at Inch.
- 15/05/2025 Arklow crew supported Gorey crew at a fire in a scrap yard at Coolgreaney.
- 18/05/2025 Crews from Arklow, Carnew, Tinahely and Greystones assisted crews from Gorey, Enniscorthy and Bunclody at a forest fire on Tara Hill.
- 18/05/2025 Carnew crew attended a forest fire at Ramsfort.
- 18/05/2025 Tinahely crew supported crew from Enniscorthy at an RTC involving an overturned car at Kilmichael.
- 23/05/2025 Carnew crew supported Bunclody crew at a 2-car RTC at Ferns.
- 25/05/2025 Carnew crew attended a small outdoor fire in Gorey.

### Training

- Dignity and Respect training were completed by DCM Learning with the crews in 4 Fire Stations to complete the delivery of the training in all 10 stations.
- Two 2-day Breathing Apparatus Refresher training courses were delivered to 28 firefighters in Dundalk Training Centre.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

- Five 1-day Cardiac Fire Responder courses were delivered in Baltinglass, Wicklow, Dunlavin, Tinahely and Arklow Fire Stations.

## Fire Prevention Statistics May 2025

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	7	0	8	0	19
Revised FSCs	1	0	0	0	6
FSC 7-Day Notice	3	0	2	0	1
Regularisation FSCs	1	0	0	0	0
DACs	7	0	0	0	12
Revised DACs	1	0	0	0	0
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0	0	0

33 planning files were referred to the Chief Fire Officer in the month of May for comment. Observations were made on all files received.

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

## Building Control

### Commencement Notices for May 2025:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 31

- 6 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 22 Opt Out Declarations
- 4 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 3 Seven Day Notice

### Submission Statistics

- 70 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 77 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 24 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

4 with Compliance Documentation (17%)

16 are Opt Out (66%)

1 Without Compliance Documentation (4%)

3 Seven Day Notice (13%)

- 31 Valid Commencement Notices
- 19 new build residential Units and additional 15 Extensions
- 8 Non Res new builds
- 4 Invalidated CNs from May

## **Certificates of Completion processed in May 2025**

- 17 New No. of CCC submitted
- 11 Required Revised Information
- 16 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 101 new Residential units and 46 additional apartments
- 0 Non Res. Builds

## **Submission Statistics**

16 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 1 no. CCCs submitted in March 2025
- 2 no. CCCs submitted in April 2025
- 13 mo. CCCs submitted in May 2025

\*\*BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

19 new residential houses and 15 Extensions were notified to LA for Commencement & 101 newly completed residential units with an additional 46 apartment were submitted, assessed and validated in May. In May, 4 BCMS submissions were invalidated.

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

Building Control continued with multiple site inspections in May to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 5 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests remained high in May for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 77% of Commencement Notice submissions & 64% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. Revised information requests are issued to nominated role holders of submissions when compliance with Building Regs has not been demonstrated.

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

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

administration and technical issues with Opt-Out Submissions. Some Opt Out Submissions are requiring 2 or 3 Revised information requests which results in submissions being assessed multiply times to ensure the proposed design is illustrating compliance prior to commencement.

It has been observed by Building Control during CN Assessments that there has been an increase in the proposed use of non-traditional, uncertified products and systems. Additional resources have had to be used to assess both these new products/systems and associated alleged certification. These resources are being used for Market Surveillance & Construction Product Regulations which is one of the key roles of Building Control.

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

## Civil Defence

Wicklow Civil Defence & Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue are often tasked to assist An Garda Síochána with missing or injured persons, over the weekend the 2 team came together in a joint training exercise demonstrating the importance of team work and sharing knowledge.



## 75 Years of Civil Defence!

President Michael D. Higgins hosted Civil Defence Officers and Volunteers from across Ireland at Áras an Uachtaráin, marking 75 years of dedicated community support. Reflecting on decades of service, President Higgins praised the incredible commitment of volunteers who stand ready to support their communities in times of need from search and rescue to medical response and beyond.



# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025



Wicklow Civil Defence has had a very busy weekend. Our volunteers were busy at 4 events over the weekend.

- The Art O'Neil Pursuit from Dublin Castle to Kippure in Wicklow with Dublin/Wicklow Mountain Rescue
- Baltinglass Darkness into light
- Newcourt School Festival
- 



# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025



**Wicklow**

Local Authority Integration Team



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,  
Gnídehal Biall agus Imirce  
Department of Justice,  
Home Affairs and Migration



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin  
Wicklow County Council



LGMA  
An Gníomhaireachtas  
Bian-riachtu Biall agus  
Local Government  
Management Agency

## Top Line Data

Totals per Municipal District (in Department run emergency accommodation only)			
MD	IPAS	Ukrainian Response	Total
Arklow	36	55	91
Baltinglass	673	131	804
Bray	260	519	779
Greystones	0	94	94
Wicklow	384	92	476
Total	1,353	891	2,244

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	10
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1353
Of which are children	418

IPAS Totals per MD	
Arklow	36
Baltinglass	673
Bray	260
Greystones	0
Wicklow	384

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2025	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	44
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	259
Total number of sessions with single adults	131
Total number of sessions with couples	4
Total number of sessions with families	109

## LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for May

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	11
No. of Individuals	26
No. of Couples	1
No. of Families	10
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	1
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	13
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	7
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	7
No. of International Protection Applicants	45
No. Persons with Status	4
No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	0



# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Integration Supports – Key Enablers

In Session Support	Incidence
Accommodation	4
Community/Family	2
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	4
Employment/Enterprise	5
Events	0
Finance/Welfare	6
Health/Wellbeing	17
Language/Communication	5
Legal/Justice/Civic	11
Transportation	4
Other	1

Follow up Support	Incidence
Accommodation	4
Community/Family	0
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	5
Employment/Enterprise	1
Events	0
Finance/Welfare	6
Health/Wellbeing	1
Language/Communication	2
Legal/Justice/Civic	2
Transportation	1
Other	3

Overall Support May	
Emails sent for Clinic work	15
Emails Received	419
Emails Sent	263
Contacts with stakeholders	8
Referrals	0

## Other Activity

- FGM training: two sessions were delivered—one at Wicklow County Council and one in Blessington—for NGOs and relevant Government bodies.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## **Ukrainian Response**

As of the end of May 2025, there are 891 Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the county.

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

- Arklow MD: 55
- Baltinglass MD: 131
- Bray MD: 519
- Greystones MD: 94
- Wicklow MD: 92

Note: These figures do not contain details of BOTP clients placed in accommodation providers by any other bodies separate to DCEDIY. Therefore, the total in any accommodation provider may not reflect the total number of BOTP clients in that establishment.

UCTAT (*Ukrainian Crisis Temporary Accommodation Team*) | DCEDIY (*Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth*) stated the relocation of BOTPs from all state contracted accommodation has been temporarily paused.

## **Accommodation Recognition Payment for hosting refugees from Ukraine**

The Order to reduce the monthly payment to €600 was signed by the Minister on 30th May. The Order takes effect from 1st June. It was assigned Statutory Instrument Number 228 of 2025 and published in Iris Oifigiúil. As the payment is payable monthly in arrears, the first payment at the reduced rate will be received by hosts on 8th July 2025.

The ARP scheme has been extended to 31 March 2026 in line with the extension of the EU Temporary Protection Directive.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Organisational Development

The following interviews were held in May 2025:

- Interviews Senior Staff Officer
- Interviews Clerical Officer
- Interviews Building Supervisor

### Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025
Managerial/Administrative	337	334	333	343
Professional/Technical	146	146	146	147
Outdoor	259	255	252	250
Temporary/Seasonal	87	91	68	66
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>808</b>

\* Decrease in Non DoHPLG as Veterinary function has transferred to the Department of Agriculture

### Freedom of Information

May 2025: 8	May 2024: 6
January – May 2025: 38	January – May 2024: 66

### Ombudsman Requests

May 2025: 1	May 2024: 4
January – May 2025: 16	January – May 2024: 10

### Press Releases

May 2025 – 17

### Register of Electors

Online applications via [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) continue to be received and processed daily.

Work is ongoing on the Electoral Registration Project in advance of the migration to a national database of Register of Electors. Preparatory work in advance of the Presidential Election has commenced.

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Customer Service Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2025 – May			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	9,153	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,866
No. of Customer Service Emails received	1,492	Revenue Transactions	1,658
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	114	Housing Counter Visits	

## Energy

Projects Completed in 2024;

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

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

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

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

### SEAI Pathfinder Funding 2025

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

Other ongoing projects

District Heating Feasibility Study – Arklow Decarbonised Zone

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Mid-East Energy Unit

- Tender published to establish multi-party framework for smaller works outside EPC (Evaluation Stage)
- First EPC project for Kildare CoCo gone to tender (competitive dialogue stage)
- Second EPC for Meath County Council gone to tender (competitive dialogue stage)
- Installing sub heat meters in leisure centres across the region to inform EPC process

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Finance, Water & Information Systems

### Finance

#### Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MAY 2025							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	24,092,992	56,316,634	43%	(25,240,447)	(59,446,038)	42%	(1,147,455)
Road Transport & Safety	8,623,738	26,329,169	33%	(5,797,117)	(18,925,016)	31%	2,826,621
Water Services	2,007,806	4,633,084	43%	(2,733,381)	(5,554,021)	49%	(725,575)
Development Management	6,022,262	16,414,646	37%	(3,215,342)	(9,859,576)	33%	2,806,920
Environmental Services	7,488,566	17,038,883	44%	(2,097,393)	(5,011,509)	42%	5,391,173
Recreation and Amenity	4,093,465	10,003,906	41%	(332,132)	(1,151,712)	29%	3,761,334
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	880,531	2,393,346	37%	(352,463)	(1,103,228)	32%	528,068
Miscellaneous Services	1,230,645	9,487,115	13%	(4,173,966)	(16,490,485)	25%	(2,943,322)
Central Management Charges	10,923,081	25,473,897	43%	(810,052)	(1,050,000)	77%	10,113,030
Local Government Fund				(7,166,862)	(17,200,469)	42%	(7,166,862)
Commercial Rates				(13,520,261)	(32,448,626)	42%	(13,520,261)
	<b>65,363,086</b>	<b>168,090,680</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>(65,439,415)</b>	<b>(168,240,680)</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>(76,330)</b>

#### Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements daily, and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1<sup>st</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

#### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MAY 2025					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2025	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/05/2025
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,210,356	36,526,833	(10,360,931)	(178,250)	38,198,008
Road Transport & Safety	(36,985,832)	5,423,040	(1,628,558)	(175,000)	(33,366,350)
Water Services	(6,760,795)	537,439	(226,373)	(45,000)	(6,494,729)
Development Management	(58,018,087)	12,146,806	(15,409,383)	(181,816)	(61,462,480)
Environmental Services	4,260,881	3,559,312	(2,259,431)	(219,000)	5,341,761
Recreation and Amenity	1,466,601	2,096,442	(1,315,696)	(37,564)	2,209,782
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,069,769)	98,541	(380)	(161,250)	(2,132,858)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,918,102)	2,547,589	(255,397)	2,549,474	(6,076,436)
	<b>(96,814,747)</b>	<b>62,936,002</b>	<b>(31,456,149)</b>	<b>1,551,594</b>	<b>(63,783,301)</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST MAY 2025										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2025	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/05/2025	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,064,245	32,762,832	0	0	0	35,827,077	(17,028,672)	18,798,405	912,509	49%
Rents & Annuities	3,310,655	7,814,747	0	0	0	11,125,402	(7,855,423)	3,269,979	0	71%
Housing Loans	513,181	1,009,628	0	0	0	1,522,809	(1,035,494)	487,315	0	68%

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

## General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2025

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 14th 2024 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% generated circa €1.3m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the 5 Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2025 is set out below:

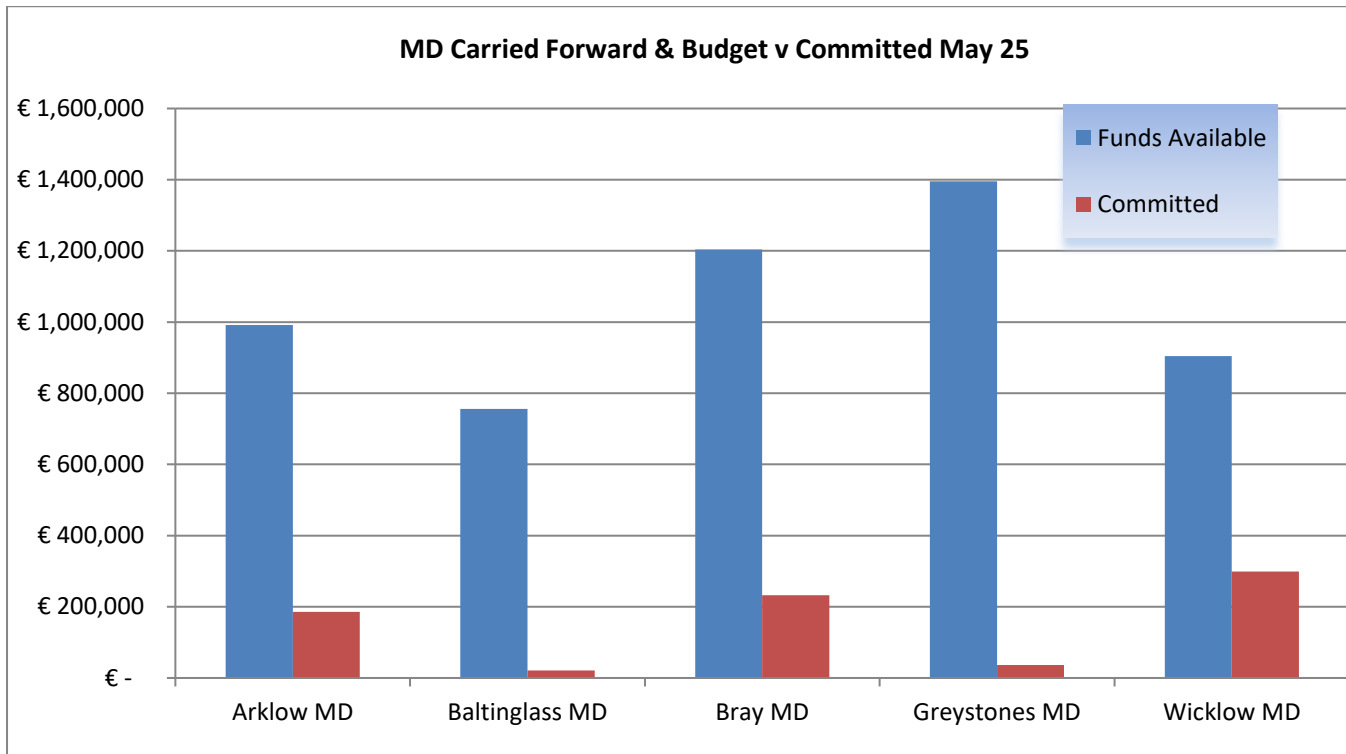
Municipal District	C/F from 2024	Adopted Budget 2025	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	399,545	591,804	991,349	186,019	805,330
Baltinglass MD	228,949	527,124	756,073	21,268	734,806
Bray MD	512,742	691,048	1,203,790	232,285	971,505
Greystones MD	873,886	521,458	1,395,344	36,327	1,359,017
Wicklow MD	374,922	529,443	904,365	299,444	604,921
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,390,043</b>	<b>2,860,877</b>	<b>5,250,921</b>	<b>775,342</b>	<b>4,475,578</b>

## Capital Investment Programme 2025-2027

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



# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025



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

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Capital Funded Projects

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

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

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

# Chief Executive's Report – June 2025

## Information Systems

### Operations

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

### GIS & Systems Analysis

- **Forward Planning and RZLT**  
Updated settlement and zoning maps following the adoption of the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan. Completed analysis to identify Council-owned lands liable for the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT), supporting effective land management.
- **MyPlan Uploads**  
Updated and corrected local zoning datasets, including Laragh-Glendalough and Aughrim, and uploaded them to the MyPlan system to support accessible and up-to-date public mapping.
- **Data Processing and Traffic Counts**  
Extracted geospatial data such as the National Tree Map for local planning areas. Restored legacy traffic count data for Arklow Municipal District.
- **Training and Development**  
Attended key training sessions, including GeoCollect and SWEMS, to enhance technical skills and support resilience during severe weather events. Continued to upskill with FME Accelerator Training.
- **Bray Municipal Office Support**  
Provided mapping support to Bray Municipal District, including the preparation of updated Electoral District maps to support local administrative processes.
- **Deposit Return Scheme**  
Developed a new Survey123 form for the Deposit Return Scheme to streamline data collection for the Environment team, improving the accuracy and efficiency of the programme.

### Infrastructure

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