



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin  
Wicklow County Council



W I C K L O W

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

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## **This month:**

### **Community Comes Together to Plant 3,000 Native Trees at Bray Head**

Wicklow County Council is pleased to announce the success of a major native tree planting event held at Bray Head on 8th February, where close to 200 volunteers came together to help restore biodiversity at this iconic coastal site.

The event marked the beginning of the implementation of the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 to 2031. The plan mirrors national policy and the forthcoming National Restoration Plan in seeking to increase native tree cover and deliver biodiversity enhancement and habitat creation on public land. Public participation is central to this work, ensuring that biodiversity action is community led as well as policy driven.

Despite weeks of torrential rain leading up to the event, early showers eased and the sun broke through over Bray Head as individuals, families and community group members from across Wicklow and beyond arrived to take part. Young and old worked side by side, planting 3,000 native trees supplied as whips by Cullen's Nursery and delivered early on the morning of the event. Soft ground made for easy digging and the entire planting was completed in just a few hours.

Ireland has one of the lowest levels of native tree cover in Europe, at less than 2%, and while Wicklow is often thought of as a forested county, the vast majority of its forest cover is non-native. This makes features such as hedgerows critically important for biodiversity. Often described as linear woodlands, hedgerows provide food, shelter and safe movement routes for a wide range of species. In Wicklow, around a third of the county's 9,000 kilometres of hedgerows are in poor condition, underlining the importance of restoration efforts such as this.

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## Social Development

### Housing

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

### Allocation of Social Housing

	January 2026	February 2026
Wicklow County Council	5	9
Approved Housing Bodies	3	10

### Social Housing Applications

	February 2026	January 2026
New applications	76	58
Awaiting further information/EHO report	22	86

### Social Housing Stock

	February 2026	January 2026
Tenancies Occupied	5148	5010
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€339430.17	355788.99
Arrears (Including Bray)	€3029638.10	2583221.97

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## Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 30/09/2025
Arklow	932
Ashford	392
Aughrim	40
Avoca	38
Ballinaclesh	8
Ballyconnell	4
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	127
Barndarrig	11
Blessington	265
Bray 1	36
Bray north	475
Bray south	405
Bray town centre	197
Brittas bay	1
Carnew	70
Conary	3
Coolboy	4
Delgany	217
Donard	14
Dunlavin	29
Enniskerry	51
Glenealy	13
Greystones	308
Kilcoole	51
Kilmacanogue	9
Kiltegan	5
Kirikee	2
Knockananna	3
Lacken	1
Laragh	14
Newcastle	9
Newtownmountkennedy	58
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	60
Rathnew	114

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Redcross	2
Roundwood	32
Shillelagh	21
Stratford-on-slaney	3
Thomastown	8
Tinahely	26
Wicklow	231
Wicklow town	22
Grand total	4314

## Rent

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

## Housing Needs Assessment 2024 (SSHA 2024)

The Summary Social Housing Assessment (SSHA) 2024 is the continuation of the ongoing process of annual assessments of national housing need. It provides vital data to inform the ongoing development of housing policy. The purpose of the process is to identify the current level of national housing need. At county level, it captures the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the county whose social housing need is not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support. The social housing applications were reviewed from 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.

The following actions were taken to complete the HNA 2024:

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

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## 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.

January 2026, Wicklow County Council continues to work in partnership Oaklee, KARE, St John of God & Sunbeam to deliver properties under the disability category of social housing need. Wicklow LA also continues to work with Sunbeam House Services, National Association of Housing for Visually Impaired to bring active projects to completion.

## Areas of delivery below:

CAS Acquisitions 2025	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Wicklow Town	1	Delivered Q2	CAS
Rathnew	1	Delivered Q4	CAS
Rathnew	1	Expected Delivery Q1 2026	CAS
Arklow	1	Expected Delivery Q1 2026	CAS

## 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To Date	October 2025
Applications Received	478	8
Completed	123	0
Declined	280	0
Ongoing	15	15

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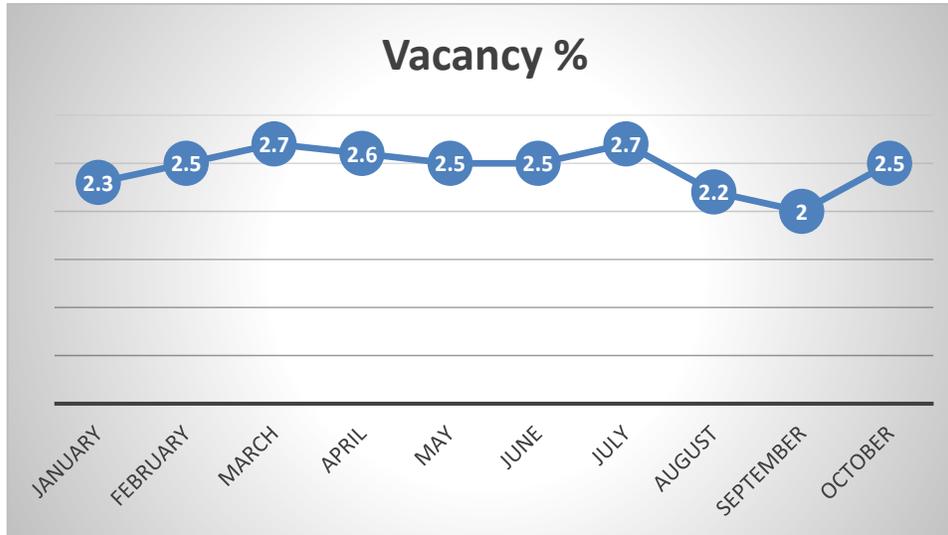
## Voids / Re-Letting Programme

MD	Completed in 2025	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	16 (+8)	4 (-2)	6 (0)	12 (+2)	22(+4)
Baltinglass	16 (+10)	2 (-3)	4 (-5)	14(+2)	20(-8)
Bray	30 (+7)	11 (+6)	7(+3)	7(-3)	25(0)
Greystones	13 (+7)	9 (+5)	0(0)	10 (+5)	19(+4)
Wicklow	26 (+5)	18(+6)	17 (0)	10(+1)	45 (+7)
2025 Totals	101(+40)	44 (+11)	34 (-16)	53(+14)	131 (+16)
2024 Totals	110				
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)	2.5 (0)	Figures in brackets indicate change on last month			

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

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

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## Traveller Accommodation (TAU)

Scheme	Current Status
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	This three-unit group housing scheme forms part of the Housing Capital Works Project at Barndarrig. The Part 8 planning application for this project was approved in October 2025. Detailed design is ongoing.
Vale Road, Arklow	This is a two-unit group housing scheme. The Part 8 planning process is complete. The tender process for the procurement of Design Consultants is ongoing, and TAU funding has been applied for.
Ballinteskin – 2 extensions	The tender for the construction contract is substantially complete, and we are awaiting approval from the TAU regarding updated costs.

## Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

Scheme	Units	Current Status
1A Mill Road, Greystones- Age Friendly	4	Construction works are ongoing and it is expected that the works will be completed in Q3 2026

## Energy Retrofit Program

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

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The driver of this programme is the improvement to energy efficiency of local authority properties (BER – B2 or better), energy cost savings and sustainability. The move from solid fuel to more sustainable, energy efficient and cost-effective heating systems contributes to the climate change agenda and dramatically improves the comfort levels of tenants in these properties.

EERP	Numbers carried out as of February 2026
Houses complete	102



Energy Retrofit works completed at Seamount Drive Kilcoole 2025.

## Regeneration Projects/ Special Projects

- Wicklow County Council have initiated meetings with the DHLGH regarding the inclusion of Hillview Estate, Wicklow Town in the Housing Regeneration Programme. Hillview Estate, Wicklow Town has been identified as a location that would benefit from a housing regeneration project, due to the complexity of issues both structural and social. It is proposed to develop this project in 2026 and apply for funding when the DHLGH Regeneration Programme is open.
- Surveys completed at Farrankelly Close, Delgany (+Addjust). Application to DoHLGH for Planned Maintenance works approved. Phase 1 of works identified (Windows and doors to 11 properties), limited timeframe due to grant system. Finance opportunities to be developed for further phased works.
- Fitzwilliam Apartment Complex, contractor appointed, fire remedial works ongoing and completion expected in January 2026.

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

Grant	Home Adaptations
Disabled Persons Grant (DPG)	61
Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG/MAG/HOP)	102

Includes: Housing Adaptation Grant / Mobility Aid Grant /Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant

## Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement

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

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out to end of September
Targeted and complaint inspections	484

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	27
Prohibition Notice	18

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

## **Stock Condition Surveys (SCS)**

Wicklow County Council completed 350 stock condition surveys on local authority properties in 2025. This formed the basis of drawdown of planned maintenance funding from the DGLGH in terms of surveys, electrical inspections, electrical upgrade works, heating upgrade works and replacement of windows and doors.

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## Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

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

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

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

## Homeless figures for October 2025

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/10/2025	Year To Date	As at 31/10/2024
No of New Presentations	18	212	24
No. of Repeat Presentations	2	46	1
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	9	82	11
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	18	215	28
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	1	23	2
No. of Children	13	218	16
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	2	36	1
Family Circumstances	8	72	11
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	3	17	1
Mental Health	0	8	1
Risk of Homelessness	8	161	3
Arrears/Loss of Income	1	3	1
Addiction Issues	1	17	4
DV/DA	0	7	3
Medical Issues	0	4	2
Overcrowding	1	21	0

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Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	3	8	4
ASB:	1	2	0
Rough Sleeping*	2	18	1
Sofa Surfing*	1	25	2
Staying with Family*	0	34	9
Staying with Friends*	0	27	1

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/10/25	
Families	16
Adults	28
Children	41
Single individual	13

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/10/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	23	24	22	7	5	2	3	6
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/10/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	21	25	25	2	7	3	2	9

## Homeless HAP Place Finder

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

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

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.

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To date, 669 households (469 families & 200 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> October 2025. (259 homeless cases, 367 prevention cases to date and 43 direct provision). 169 properties were sourced by WCC.

	October 2025	October 2024
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)		
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1338	1364
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation		
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation		

## Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

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

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

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

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

### Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

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

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

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

## Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

## Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

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

## Housing First

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

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

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

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## Community



**Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy:** Review of 2025 work & plans for 2026, meeting with key stakeholders, in-person preferably, over December and early 2026, to review actions completed in 2025, ongoing and planned for 2026. Met in January the following; Citizens Information Service, Bray & Arklow, MABS, Bray & Arklow, County Wicklow Partnership, Bray Travellers CDG, Healthy Ireland, Wicklow Library Service, Age Friendly Technical Advisor.

### Age Friendly Ireland programme:

- Laragh Memory Café 9<sup>th</sup> January – Gave presentation to 30+ attendees, covered the structure of the Age Friendly programme, membership of the Older People’s Council, as well as DISC.
- 2025 GAA County Stadium Accessibility Grant Pilot Programme – Initial visit to Echelon 13<sup>th</sup> January to meet the team, Echelon Park are one of 4 successful GAA stadiums around Ireland to pilot a project through Age Friendly Ireland. The aim of this project is the continued implementation of age friendly practices through the GAA’s network of club and county structures and to further develop its stadia to achieve age friendly recognition. Walkability Audit in the GAA grounds in Aughrim, Echelon Park to take place Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.
- Greystones Active Retirement Association 30<sup>th</sup> January – Gave presentation to 40+ attendees, covered Age Friendly programme structure, membership of the OPC, as well as DISC.
- Ongoing meetings with AF Regional Manager

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

### OPC Executive Committee:

Meetings Held 2026	Future Meetings
23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026	20 <sup>th</sup> March
1	1

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## Comhairle na nÓg

- 21<sup>st</sup> January Youth Council met to progress their themes, as decided at the Youth Summit (4<sup>th</sup> November). Group decided to develop a survey, and to link in with the Older People's Council, as transport access is an intergenerational issue.



## Access Officer: Disability & Inclusion

- **Website Accessibility:** Met with Communications department 28<sup>th</sup> January to progress WCC's commitment to ensuring its website is accessible, in accordance with European Union (Accessibility of Websites and Mobile Applications of Public Sector Bodies) Regulations 2020. An Accessibility Statement for the website has been developed and is on the website. This accessibility statement applies to content published on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie).
- **Disability Awareness Training** be rolled out in March.
- **Access Officer queries:** dealing with ongoing queries for support and/or information, linking in with WCC staff including Laura O'Callaghan and externally, as appropriate.
- **The Sunflower Lanyard** aims to support people with hidden disabilities. This initiative was rolled out in Wicklow County Council. In the last 6 months, there have been over 370 lanyard packs distributed, to every library branch in county Wicklow, as well as events held by the Triple A Alliance support group.
- **Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC)** next meeting 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 online.
- **Communication Boards:** Replacement of vandalised sign in Meadowvale, Arklow now in place. Work in ongoing to get rest of planned signs in place for every playground in the county.

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Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme Update:

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

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

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

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

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



046-924 8899 (Head Office)  
[healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie](mailto:healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie)



Scheduled Event for September/October

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

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

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

Total Initial Visits	169
Total Additional Visits	114
Total Visits Overall	283
Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit	56



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## **Social Farming**

Social farming is an outcome focused, support placement for people, with a farmer, on a farm using the natural assets of the people, the place, the activities and the community to support a person achieve some of their own chosen goals. There are currently three Social Farms based in County Wicklow which are based near Tinahely Arklow and Aughrim. In February 2026, a service level agreement has been signed with Social Farming Ireland to roll out this project under the Healthy Ireland Fund. For this initiative in Wicklow, partners will include care providers such as HSE Mental Health Services, Sunbeam, Rehabcare, Camphill, KARE and National Learning Network to give opportunities for support to participants on farms.

## **Food Poverty**

The Healthy Ireland allocation of funding for 2026 will enable Aisling Kirwan to continue the role as Countywide Community Food Coordinator with Bray Area Partnership hosting the position.

## **Period Poverty**

An Expression of Interest has been submitted to the Department of Health to secure ongoing Period Poverty funding, supporting the continued delivery and expansion of the project. The funding will provide free menstrual products through community organisations and services working with vulnerable individuals and families, ensuring sustained access to essential health supports. It will also support the delivery of targeted menstrual health education workshops in disadvantaged communities promoting long-term wellbeing outcomes.

## Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

SICAP Annual Plans 2026: Annual Workplans for both Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership are now finalised and approved. The Plans contain detailed actions proposing a range of activities and supports for the year ahead to improve the lives of disadvantaged groups and communities throughout the county.

SICAP 2025 Annual Performance Review: This review process is underway. Programme data, information and financial reports currently being reviewed by LCDC and Pobal. Latest approval date for the end of year reports by the LCDC is early March.

## Public Participation Network:

PPN Membership: 527 community member groups now registered across the county.

Cliff Walk Management Committee: Reps nominated from Bray and Greystones MD. Staff arranging to meet with chairs, administrators and Reps to support mutual understanding as project advances.

Linking with new Wicklow Community Connector Coordinator: Developing ideas for dialogue and belonging in multicultural communities.

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Linking with Irish Environmental Network to train PPN reps as facilitators to engage PPN members on key issues e.g. transport and care in the community. This would support representatives in feeding back strongly to SPCs and other Committees/structures in the future.

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



The Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 came into effect on April 2nd, 2025, mandating all Local Authorities to establish Local Community Safety Partnerships.

Under the Act, Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSP) have replaced the Joint Policing Committees in each Local Authority area.

Membership of the LCSP will consist of 30 members including representatives from state agencies (HSE, TUSLA, An Garda Síochána), local authority members, and community representatives.

Wicklow's LCSP proposed membership has been submitted to the National Office for review. The next tranche of appointments by the Minister is November 10<sup>th</sup> and it is intended that Wicklow's LCSP will be appointed in that tranche. The first meeting of the LCSP will be held in early December – date to be confirmed.

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## Planning, Economic & Rural Development

### Local Plans

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

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

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

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

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

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

Variation 4 to the County Development Plan which is the draft Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2025 went on display from 09 May 2025 to 20 June 2025 with 88 submissions received. Public information days were held in Kilcoole and Greystones on the 29 May 2025 and 04 June 2025, respectively. The Chief Executive's (CE) Report on the submissions received was issued to the Elected Member in August and following on from this the draft LPF and CE report was considered at the Council meeting on the 06 October 2025. Proposed Material Alterations to the draft LPF were proposed by the Elected Members and were on display from 24 October 2025 to 21 November 2025 with submissions invited. 86 submissions were received. The CE report is currently available to view on the Wicklow.ie website and will be considered by the Elected Members at Wicklow County Council meeting scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

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

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

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

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

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

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

## **Blessington Local Area Plan 2025**

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

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

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

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

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

There is no specific date to publish Bray draft LPF.

Bray - More information can be found here -

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

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

As set out in these [new NPF guidelines](#), a Chief Executive's Report was prepared on the implementation of these guidelines and issued to the members for their information. Workshops were held with the Elected Members on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to discuss the CE report. Proposed

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Variation No. 6 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 was on display from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025 until 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 with submissions invited. 119 submissions were received and a CE Report is currently being prepared.

More information is available here -

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

## **Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028**

### **Proposed Variation No 2**

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

Variation No. 2 was made and came into effect on 12 May 2025. The Minister issued a Ministerial Direction with regard to the zoning of 3 sites on the 07 October 2025. The plan as altered is available to view online.

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

### **Proposed Variation No 3**

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

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

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

### **Proposed Variation No 4**

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

### **Proposed Variation No 5**

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

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## **Proposed Variation No 6**

The purpose of Variation No. 6 is to revise the Wicklow Core Strategy and associated housing targets, and a number of related housing objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Written Statement to implement the new NPF Guidelines (see above). Variation No. 6 was on display from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025 until 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and a CE Report is currently being prepared.

## **Call for Sites**

New Ministerial Guidelines on NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements were published on the 29 July 2025 on [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) with the aim of updating development plans to reflect the requirements of the Revised National Planning Framework (NPF) and achieving a significant acceleration in housing delivery. The Guidelines provide for an increased annual housing growth requirement for County Wicklow, and an 'additional provision' mechanism to support the zoning of additional lands in areas where it can be justified.

In response to these new Guidelines, Wicklow County Council is undertaking a non-statutory 'Call for Sites' consultation inviting landowners, homebuilders and other interested parties (including members of the public) to make a submission, identifying possible sites that they suggest could be considered for zoning for new housing development and could meet the objectives of the Guidelines in terms of contributing to the acceleration of housing delivery over the next 15 years.

The "Call for Sites" consultation is now open and will run until 27 February 2026. A drop in service was held to assist members of the public, in County Buildings on:

- Wednesday 07 January 2026 2pm - 4pm
- Friday 16 January 2026 10am - 1pm
- Monday 19 January 2026 10am - 4pm

The online consultation link is <https://call-for-sites-wicklow.hub.arcgis.com/>

## **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 2026 were published on 31 January 2026 and can be viewed [here](#):

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

**Submissions to Final 2026 RZLT Maps.** The final map for 2026 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2026. Owners of such land are invited to make a request to Wicklow County Council to change the zoning of this land until 1 April 2026. If certain conditions are met, a landowner may be exempt from the 2026 liability on foot of such a request. Refer to the following link for further details; <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Draft-Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2026/Making-a-rezoning-request>

The annual draft RZLT maps for 2027 were published on 31 January 2026 and can be viewed here: [Wicklow > Living > Services > Planning > Residential Zoned Land Tax > Draft Residential Zoned Land Tax 2026 > Residential Zoned Land Tax 2027 > Liable Land](#)

**Submissions to Draft 2027 RZLT Maps.** The draft map for 2027 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2027. Owners of such land – and interested third parties – are invited to make submissions by 01 April 2026 regarding the inclusion of land on this draft map.

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**

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

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

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## Heritage Office

**County Heritage Plan (CHP) Work Programme:** Funding applications for County Heritage Plan Fund from Heritage Council in preparation, to be submitted by 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

**Historic Towns Initiative (HTI):** ‘Retracing Greystones’ Heritage Led regeneration project was one of the featured presentations at The Heritage Council webinar on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026. New applications invited by 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**Wicklow Heritage Forum:** Four meetings scheduled for 2026 with the next meeting taking place in March 2026.

**Built Heritage Funds (Architecture):** Co-ordination of the annual Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes. BHIS 2025/26 allocation of €175,000 for County Wicklow confirmed for 18 projects. HSF 2026 applications assessed and forwarded to National Built Heritage Service by 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Await outcome.

**Built Heritage Funds (Archaeology):** Applications to the Community Monument Fund invited and received from the public by end of January 2026. Applications from County Wicklow currently in preparation to be submitted to National Monuments Service by mid-February.

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

**Wicklow Creative Ireland Programme:** HO working with CI Team on 2026 work programme.

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

## Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025	To 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2026
Received (Valid)	64	78

A total of 78 valid applications were received during January as follows:

Type of Development	Number
Individual Houses	18 (13 Rural)
Housing Developments*	03

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Agricultural Structures	01
Commercial	08
Other Developments**	48
Total	78

Housing Developments - PRR26/60005 – 30 additional No. dwellings at Market Close, Pound Road, Dunlavin Upper, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow.

PRR26/60019 14 no. houses at Main Street, Newcastle Middle, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow.

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

Decisions issued in respect of 80 applications in January 2026;

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	02
Other Developments	78
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
Total	80

Decisions issued January 2025, in comparison to the same period for 2026;

	31 January 2025	31 January 2026
Total Number of decisions issued	65	80
Total Number of decisions to grant	55	72
% Grant Rate	85%	90%
No of applications withdrawn		5 (4 refer to rural house)

## Applications Lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála

### Strategic Infrastructure Development

An Coimisiún 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

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and Co. Wexford under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended – ABP-319864-24 refers.

An Coimisiún 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.

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received a planning application for proposed development of a soil recovery facility in the townland Kilmartin, Coyne's Cross, Co. Wicklow – ACP-324033-26 refers.

## **Substitute Consent**

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

## **E-Planning Project**

The E-planning system has been in place since 17 April 2023

For the month of January 2026, a total of 75 planning applications were received of which 28% were hard copy applications and 72% were received online.

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

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

- A number of one-off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Change of use to a number of properties throughout the county
- Extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Construction of 30 No. additional dwellings and a crèche adjacent to the 88 No. unit scheme originally granted permission in Dunlavin

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- Provision of 8 separate but interconnected tables for a marble run activity, 3 pinball tables, hanging pipes and all associated site development works in Rathdrum
- Alterations to 9 no houses as previously as granted to include additional floor areas to comply with current recommended design standards and minor alterations to external fenestration in Redcross
- Residential development of 14 no. houses with car and cycle parking and provision of a new vehicular access off Racefield access road connecting to Main St in Newcastle
- Partial demolition of existing house with a reduction in floor area from 182sq. M to 161.5sq in Ballyross
- 6 no. self-catering units with external decking, unit with office and sensory playroom, wastewater treatment system, access driveway and parking area, and all associated site development works including drainage, pedestrian pathways, fencing, native in Glenroe Open Farm

## Planning Enforcement

New Files	10
Advisory Letters	29
Warning Letters	6
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	0
Closed	13

## Vacant Sites

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

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## Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

A Notice of Intention to Enter on the Register – Section 8(2) issued to 2 property owners in Arklow in December 2025.

## Town Regeneration

### 1.0 Town Teams

There are eight Town Teams in County Wicklow: Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew, Greystones, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, and Wicklow.

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

### 2.0 Town Centre First Masterplans

#### 2.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

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

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

#### 2.2 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre First Masterplan

Newtownmountkennedy was one of 26 towns nationally selected under Phase 2 of the Town Centre First Plan initiative. The town received €30,000 in funding to support the development of its Town Centre First Plan

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The final plan was successfully launched in December 2025 and can be viewed via <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Municipal-Districts/Wicklow/Newtownmountkennedy-Town-Centre-First-Masterplan> .

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

The Town Centre First Suite of Supports provides funding to strengthen local capacity, assess town needs, and prepare regeneration projects for future investment. Baltinglass, Rathdrum, and Kilcoole each received €10,000 in funding under the Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1. This funding was intended to establish or further develop Town Teams in areas where they were either not yet formed or in the early stages of development. Health Checks for each town were completed in 2025 and are being reviewed with the respective Town Teams to explore funding opportunities addressing the identified areas of weakness.

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

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

#### **a) Blessington:**

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

*Update:* Three public consultation workshops were held between August and October 2025, giving the community opportunities to contribute ideas and share their vision for the future of Market Square. The first draft of the final plan was presented to the Elected Members of the Baltinglass Municipal District in December 2025 and is expected to be finalised and published in February 2026

#### **b) Wicklow Town:**

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

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*Update:* Three public consultation workshops were held in August, September, and October 2025, giving the community the opportunity to share ideas for improving the area around the Black Castle. The final plan was presented to the Elected Members of the Wicklow Municipal District and published in December 2025.

## 4.0 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow County Council was awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht under the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme, with three projects successful in securing funding. The selected projects were originally required to be completed, with all associated claims submitted by 31st October 2025. Extension requests were submitted to and approved by the Department for each project to allow additional time for delivery.

- a) **Kirikee, Glenmalure** - Renovation works are planned for the Community Centre, including upgrades to the roof, windows, ceilings, and walls. Construction works have commenced. The Department has approved an extension to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.
- b) **Lacken** - The old schoolhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community centre featuring a café, community shop, and a small heritage section. Construction works have commenced. The Department has approved an extension to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.
- c) **Murrough Pump Track** - complete

## 5.0 Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2025

Six applications were submitted, of which two were successful and awarded funding.

- a) **Rathdrum RDA Hall** – grant funding of €225,000 secured which will be used to replace the electrical system to ensure compliance with current safety standards and to refurbish the existing toilet block, including the installation of a fully wheelchair-accessible facility. These works are essential to ensuring the hall remains safe, functional, and inclusive, and continues to meet the needs of Rathdrum's growing population.  
Funding agreements to be put in place and tendering process to begin in February 2026
- b) **Arklow St. Marys Park** – grant funding of €49,500 has been awarded to engage a professional consultancy to prepare a detailed design for the regeneration of St. Mary's Park in Arklow. The project aims to create a vibrant, multi-functional public space capable of accommodating community

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gatherings, events, outdoor dining, and markets, thereby boosting footfall and supporting local employment along Main Street. The proposed design will enhance the park's amenities, visibility, and green infrastructure, ensuring sustainability, accessibility, and stronger integration with surrounding civic and cultural assets.

Funding agreements to be put in place and tendering process to begin in February 2026.

Feedback has been sought from the Department regarding the schemes not chosen for progression. Quotations were sought for Health checks for two towns: Carnew and Wicklow. Quotations have been received and an advisory committee will be convened to select a successful tenderer.

## **Rural Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications**

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

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

### **Blessington RRDF (Category2)**

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

Discussions are ongoing with the Department in relation to reinstatement of the fund for vacant property purchase for refurbishment but this is likely to be a category 1 application to RRDF in the future. Following a meeting with the Department on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025, they have asked for further information. This information has been sent to the Department and is under consideration. As of end of January, there is no response to this information yet.

### **Baltinglass RRDF (Category 1)**

The original RRDF grant was awarded in 2019. It was a category 1 application and included the cost of works. The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow came in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the necessary

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technical plans are complete in order for the works to commence. Works on the Public Park and playground are completed.

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

The Department have given approval to proceed to Tender.

## **Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications**

### **(Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, DHLGH)**

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

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

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

Meetings have been held with 4 no property owners of sites on the Main Street Arklow. All parties are to submit both short term plans for dereliction and also longer term proposals for development and reuse of these sites. This work with these owners is ongoing. One of the sites identified has been cleaned up and is on the market. Works are to start on another site in January, we understand there has been some activity on site.

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

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number of formal notices have issued to owners of properties in Arklow. A review is also taking place of sites in Wicklow Town, with a view to addressing a number of sites that may be deemed Derelict.

## **Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004 (Category B)**

A revised business case was sent to DHLGH in December 2024. A tender brief is currently being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for both the proposed land based and marine works. The department have approved this scheme to progress to the next stage: Planning and Design. Tenders will be placed on eTenders in the coming weeks.

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

## **Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge – URDF Wic0002 (Category B)**

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

## **Tourism**

### **1. Wicklow Gaol**

Extensive time is dedicated to the various repairs and upgrades necessary in order to allow reopening of the Gaol. Those include:

- The Fire Safety Assessment has been completed. From the Assessment, a Fire Safety Plan has been designed, identifying key actions and upgrades to be taken in order to allow safe reopening of the Gaol. Required works include:
  - New fire system for the whole building for fire detection, alarm and warning.
  - New emergency lighting system
  - New fire doors throughout the building

Tendering process has commenced with the objective to start work as soon as possible.

- The roof on the new building has been fully assessed and a specification of the work that needs to be carried out has been identified. Tendering process is being organised.
- Specifications for tendering new windows and heating system for the front building (non-heritage) are being finalised. Once done, the tendering process will commence.

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The tendering process to appoint a new operator is in its final stage, with the signing of the contract next. Until the Gaol is ready to reopen, the new operator is to work on the visitors' experience, define the food, drink and retail opportunities, identify potential events, and develop the promotional and marketing plan.

## **2. Wicklow Naturally**

Wicklow Naturally was present at the 'Love of Creativity' event organised by 'Made in Wicklow' taking place during the month of February at Powerscourt. Chef Paul Smith, Chairperson of Wicklow Naturally, organised a curated tasting event, sharing the stories behind Wicklow's exceptional and diverse flavours.

## **3. Marketing and Promotion**

- Wicklow Passport: 42 Wicklow Passports were sold online in January.
- Digital Marketing: Wicklow County Tourism has now contracted Good As Gold Co. to continue the online promotion for County Wicklow. Good As Gold and Wicklow County Tourism are working on a digital marketing plan taking into considerations the schedule of events happening during the year, seasonal opportunities and special 'Wicklow Themes' for the year.

## **4. Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP)**

Fáilte Ireland has commissioned a report on 'Wicklow Access & Movement'. The draft report is currently being reviewed and provides an overview of current movement and access patterns, from a visitor perspective, with a focus on access to key visitor hubs and visitor experiences.

## **5. Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan (VEMMP)**

Work continues on the implementation of recommendations contained in the 7 – 10 year VEMMP. The Local Advisory Group and the Working Group of the Glendalough Partnership continue to meet regularly to support the implementation of actions contained in the VEMMP. OPW and National Monuments Services have worked together to procure a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) to support actions in the VEMMP and ensure a collaborative approach is taken and that the heritage of the area is preserved and protected. They have appointed 7L Architects as the lead consultant for the development of the CMP and a support team has been put in place comprising a range of disciplines such as landscape architect, stone conservation expertise and ecological professionals. The Local

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Advisory Group met in December where they received an update on the CMP process along with anticipated timelines.

## Economic Development

### 1. Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

Progress on the Abbey Grounds development maintains momentum. The ongoing launch of the Destination Towns project ensures a seamless introduction of new public amenities as the year advances.

### 2. Special Projects

**Avondale Business Park:** Sales of sites at Avondale Business Park continues to progress. The project is moving steadily toward the conclusion of disposals, with each phase of the process advancing as planned.

**Inchinappa, Ashford:** Feasibility reviews for the Inchinappa enterprise land remain underway following initial expressions of interest. The project is progressing through the necessary evaluation stages to determine the most viable outcomes for the site.

**The GRID:** The GRID is moving towards the final phase of tendering and digital promotion as Stage 2 nears completion. Expressions of interest remains strong and active progress is being made to prepare the remaining office units, utilising repurposed furniture to meet the requirements of incoming license requests.

**Sites on Mill Road, Greystones:** Following comprehensive engagement with the Property Registration Authority, the Law Agent continues to advance the site registration. The process remains on track to ensure the final procedural elements are resolved.

**Carnew Remote Working Hub:** Detailed design works are entering the final approval stage, ensuring the project is shovel-ready. Following the announcement of the TVRS funding results, a comprehensive review of alternative financing and delivery measures is underway to facilitate the next stage of the project.

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### 3. Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)

Following the first meeting of the year on January 27th, the ORE Network has established a clear roadmap of collective actions for early 2026. These priorities ensure the group remains fully informed of sectoral developments, with a range of guest speakers scheduled to deliver presentations over the coming months. This ongoing engagement maintains the network’s strategic readiness for Phase 1 and 2 Offshore Wind Projects.

### 4. Skills Strategy

The Skills Taskforce resumed activities on February 10th, moving directly into the implementation phase of the Wicklow Skills Strategy. Work is currently centred on executing key projects for 2026 and establishing the necessary frameworks to guarantee successful outcomes.

#### Local Enterprise Office (LEO) For February 2026 Meeting:

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
	2025	2026	2026
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Market Explorer Grant	14 BEG / 2 Priming / 8 Feasibility / 3 (MEG) Total: 27- <b>€546,033</b>	TBC	-
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
	2025	2026	2026
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	117	TBC	18
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	156	TBC	15

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Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1139	TBC	15
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	20	TBC	2

<b>Metrics: Business Advice &amp; Mentoring</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	580	TBC	42
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	544	TBC	3
<b>Metrics: Student Enterprise Programmes</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/2027</b>	<b>Year to Date 2026/27</b>
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1170	TBC	-

<b>Metrics: Client Transfers To Enterprise Ireland</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	
<b>No of transfers</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>Year to Date 2026</b>
Number of transfers	6	TBC	-

<b>Lean, Green &amp; Digital Start For Micro Projects</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	15	TBC	2
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	21	TBC	7
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	34	TBC	1
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	5	TBC	1
Energy Efficiency Grant	9	TBC	3
<b>Microfinance Ireland</b>	<b>Historical</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	17	TBC	-

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New Exporters	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	2026	2026
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	TBC	TBC	-

## January 2026 Activities:

### Activities took place in January

- Showcase International Craft Trade Fair in RDS: 5 craft companies exhibiting in LEO Hall. Appleberry Atelier won the 'One to Watch' Award and Beyond the Ferns was nominated for 'Best Newcomer' Award. Strong international sales enquiries reported by all Wicklow exhibitors.
- 19<sup>th</sup> January – Network and Fieldtrip with 16 starter craft businesses to Showcase. All participants attended an online webinar about Showcase and what to research during the fieldtrip with Craft mentor Lisa Cunningham.
- 15 participants are booked on the first SYOB of 2026. Strong interest in the Business Skills and IT Skills training programme.
- 18 participants are booked onto the Owner Manager Development Programme starting on 21 January.
- Strong interest in Business Advice clinics from start of 2026.
- Starting Your Canva Journey training programme started on 21 January with 15 participants.
- Preparation underway for the Student Enterprise Awards on 27<sup>th</sup> February in Arklow Bay Hotel
- Preparation underway for Local Enterprise Week, 2-6 March. Events on each day of the week.
- Planning underway for all 2026 LEO supports and programmes.

### Upcoming Training in February:

- Explore Your New Business Idea
- Instagram for SMEs
- Digital Marketing Advice Clinics
- Start Your Own Business
- Costing & Pricing for SME's

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

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

CCTV Works completed. Commissioning underway.

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

Works commenced in October 2025. Completion of works delayed due to weather until March 2026.

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

Works ongoing. Due for completion in February.

### 4) Mara Applications

Marine Area Consent (MAC) and Marine Usage Licence (MUL) applications for Wicklow Harbour dredging project submitted to MARA 26<sup>th</sup> January. Public submission window now open.

### 5) Accessibility to Wicklow Harbour Swimming Areas

Works ongoing to 2 additional step access routes according to weather conditions.

### 6) Storm Damage, Wicklow Harbour

Major damage has occurred to Wicklow harbour beach due to multiple storms and persistent easterly winds. Temporary works are required to make area safe for public. Full design required for permanent sea wall / barrier solution in this area.

## WICKLOW HARBOUR STATISTICS

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-26	7	6	1	8	4	4

GENERAL CARGO DATA JANUARY 2026	
General Cargo/Container	7
Gross Tonnage	14,986

SIZE OF VESSELS BREAKDOWN JANUARY 2026			
Tonnes		Number of Vessels	Gross Tonnage
Lower Limit	Upper Limit		
500	999	2	1704
1,000	1,999	0	0
2,000	2,999	5	13,282
3,000	3,999	0	0
			14,986

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2026 – CARGO BREAKDOWNS			
CATEGORY	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL
Forestry Products	4562.71	1770.16	6332.87
Metals		4837.491	4837.491
	4562.71	6607.651	11170.361

## PROJECTS OFFICE

**The Arlow Flood Relief Scheme** : Planning Application and CPO were approved by An Bord Pleanála in July 2022. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender documents for the project. The detailed design which includes elements such as flood walls, flood embankment design, hydrology and hydraulic modelling, archaeological investigations, utility diversions, environmental inputs & bridge remediation specifications is ongoing and should be complete early 2026.

The project team are currently finalising the design, specification and tender docs. The project will be advertised for tender as a 2-stage restricted procedure, this tender process will be complete by Q2 2026 with an estimated contractor appointment date of Q3 2026. The works will take 3.5 years with completion by Q4 2030.

WCC are also in discussion with UE & ESB in relation to facilitating major infrastructure upgrade to their networks in order to aid the proposed/ pending developments in Arklow. It is intended these upgrades will be undertaken in conjunction with the flood relief scheme works. The Flood Relief Team attended the February Arklow MD meeting and provided an update on the AFRS to all in attendance. A public information day will also be organised within the coming months, where the team will showcase the final design for the scheme.

**Whitestown Remediation Project:** WCC has entered into a contract with Priority Construction Ltd. (PCL) for the excavation and haulage of 350,000 Tonnes of material, from the Whitestown site, over a three-year period. PCL mobilised in January 2026 and have commenced some additional site investigation. Bulk excavation is expected to commence in May 2026.

## CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS

Building Low Carbon Sustainable Communities

All groups who applied in Round 1 are either complete or in delivery stage of their projects.

GROUP	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PROGRESS
Ballinacor Community Projects	Solar PV array LED lighting in community centre / GAA club house	17,491.24	Completed
Newcastle Residents Association / Biodiversity Group	Water fountain x 2 Bicycle parking	12,608.55	In progress
Arklow United FC	Solar PV installation	24,970.00	In progress

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*Ballinacor Community Enterprises CLG, solar PV on roof of community building*

**E-Mobility Scheme:** A Shared Mobility Hub scheme has been retendered for the County. The scheme includes Bray, Greystones and Wicklow with options to extend to Arklow and Blessington. The scheme includes various options for each district to consider.

## Climate Action Events:

**Greystones Municipal District Community Climate Action Team AGM took place on the 12th of February from 8pm to 9:30pm.** This will include representatives from Sports Clubs, Community Groups, Local Business Groups and Wicklow County Council. It is intended to draft a community Climate Action Plan as a live document for the Greystones Municipal District Area.

**WCC signed up for NTA Smarter Travel Charter:** A smarter travel survey was launched on the 4th of February. The survey should be completed by close of business on 24<sup>th</sup> February. A consultant is supporting the roll out of this scheme where a Smart Travel Plan with Actions will be drafted in 2026 for the County Buildings.

**COMPLETE THE 2026 SMARTER TRAVEL SURVEY**  
Have Your Say on Commuting to Wicklow County Council

Scan the QR code to take part in our Staff and Workplace Travel Survey to help Wicklow County Council improve travel options for staff and visitors

The survey takes just 6 minutes to complete, and you'll have a chance to WIN 10 One4All Vouchers worth €50

Your feedback makes a difference

**You are INVITED** spongeworks

**An evening of information, learning & Conversation**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February | 19:00hrs - 21:00hrs | Aughrim Pavilion, Y14 WK38

You are warmly invited to the rescheduled launch of the Spongeworks Project in Aughrim – an education and information evening exploring how nature based solutions can help us manage water, and build climate resilience in our local landscape.

**REGISTER**

TFI Smarter Travel  
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Wicklow County Council  
NTA Náisiúnta Iompar National Transport Authority  
Funded by the European Union  
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Wicklow County Council  
Local Authority Waters Programme  
EWRT East Wicklow Rivers Trust  
WicklowUplands

**Spongeworks EU horizon programme:** Following the severe flooding caused by Storm Chandra, which had a devastating impact on Aughrim and the surrounding areas, we will now proceed with the launch of the Spongeworks project on the 26th of February in Aughrim from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Spongeworks is an EU Horizon project focused on development of a landscape level strategy to improve water retention in river catchments. The Aughrim River catchment

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is the Wicklow study area. Wicklow Uplands Council, the East Wicklow Rivers Trust and LAWPRO. Stakeholders from local communities, the farming sector and water management sector have been invited to the event. An implementation plan for Wicklow has been approved by project coordinators.

**Environment Awareness:** Dog fouling - Our 4-month long anti dog fouling campaign continues with primary schools creating strong and engaging posters with messaging to raise awareness of the impacts and threats of dog fouling on the wider community. The poster competition is being run this Spring and will result in the winning posters will being displayed on outdoor digital screens located throughout the county.



**Tree Pruning and Workshops:** Following on from the successful tree care workshops delivered Spring 2025, another series of fruit tree pruning and care workshops are being delivered. Groups, including Tidy Towns, Men's Sheds and national schools are coming together to learn best practice tree care in community orchards. In addition, dead hedges are being created using the cut material and already used tree stakes. The dead hedges will serve as insect hotels.



**Dark Skys:** A County Wicklow Light Pollution Policy and an Environmental lighting master plan, light assessment report and lighting energy audit for the towns of Clonard, Laragh, Roundwood and Aughrim have been tendered and will close on the 25th of February 2026. An application to create a Dary Sky reserve in the Wicklow Uplands is currently under review. The reserve core would be located in the southern part of the Wicklow Mountains National Park with a buffer zone of 700 KM around the park where the lighting policy will be developed to reduce the impact of light pollution. The reserve can help to protect biodiversity, reduce carbon emissions from excess lighting and create an opportunity to develop Wicklow as a nighttime destination for exploring dark skies.

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**Bray - Jacinta Barrins, over 55s Climate Programme, due to commence on the 23rd of February 2026:** A FREE 6-week Climate Course for Beginners for the over 55s, will start in Bray in St. Péter's Church Hall (behind The Coach Inn), A98 K590 on Monday 23rd February 2026, provided by Jacinta Barrins, retired UN Diplomat. This course is run in conjunction with Wicklow County Council and Age Friendly Wicklow

**Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031:** The Biodiversity Action Plan was approved by the members at the Ordinary meeting on the 1st of December. The design has been finalised and the plan will officially be launched on the 23rd of February 2026.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

No. of Complaints Created	150
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	139
No of Litter Fines Issued	7
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	7
No. of Warning Letters Issued	13
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	25
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	11
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	16
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	1
The Council were obliged to withdraw the summons in relation to this matter as the defendant's whereabouts could not be ascertained.	
No of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	2
Two cases were fully concluded during the month of January 2026. The first case involved a prosecution undertaken by the Council in relation to noncompliance by a commercial premises (restaurant) with Food Waste Regulations. Following a strong plea of mitigation on behalf of the company, the judge found the facts proven by Wicklow County Council and awarded the Council €400 in costs. In addition, the judge directed that if the sum of €500 was paid by the company to the Court Poor Box by 23rd February, he would strike the matter out leaving the company without a conviction.	

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The second case involved items dumped in front of one of the Council's recycling centres when the centre was closed. One of the defendant's entered a guilty plea. WCC was again awarded costs of €400 and the judge directed that if the sum of €500 was paid to the Court Poor Box by 23rd February 2026, the matter would be struck out and the defendant left without a conviction.

Other cases which came before the courts during the month of January but which were not concluded were as follows:

2 cases involved prosecutions taken by Wicklow County Council under the Presentation of Waste Bye-Laws whereby the defendants have not shown to the Council that they have authorised waste collections services in place for their households.

Two further cases involve prosecutions undertaken by the Council in relation to dumping incidents where the Council consider the defendants handed over their waste to unauthorised waste collectors.

The final case relates to the mismanagement/storage of waste on the defendant's property.

Income - Litter	€1,100.00
Income- Waste Management	€700.00

## DOG CONTROL, DOG LICENCES AND HORSES

**Dog Licences:** For the month of January 2026, 615 dog licences were issued. Dog wardens have been carrying out inspections during the month and will continue to liaise with other agencies to ensure all dogs are licenced and under control, particularly during the lambing season.

### **Dog Shelter Sharpshill**

Statistics	
In shelter at beginning of January 2026	6
Dogs found/seized	20
Reclaimed	8
Rehomed to rescue	2
Rehomed to public	9
Died	1
Amount in shelter at end month	6

**Horses:** One horse was seized twice during the month of January and was subsequently returned to its owner. 4 horses which were seized in November 2025 but had not been reclaimed, were rehomed in January 2026.

## POLLUTION CONTROL

Pollution Control Statistics up to end of January 2025

### **Pollution Response & Investigation**

<b>Pollution Response &amp; Investigation</b>	
14	Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
13	Water pollution complaints closed.
5	Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
5	Noise pollution complaints closed.
2	Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
0	Air pollution complaints closed.
<b>Private Water Supplies</b>	
1	Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for 118 Regulated Private Water Supplies in preparation.
<b>Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme</b>	

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2	Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
23	Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.
<b>Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations</b>	
Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.	
Investigative samples taken in Three Trout's Stream	
<b>Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026</b>	
1	Inspection Plan prepared.
17	Pre-inspection visit, and letters issued to house owners connected to domestic wastewater treatment systems.
2	Radio and Newspaper advert regarding domestic wastewater treatment system inspections.
<b>Good Agricultural Practice Inspections</b>	
2	Inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.
1	Inspection of a farm carried out on foot of pollution complaint.
5	Sewage sludge nutrient management plan applications to land reviewed.
<b>Well Grants</b>	
8	New Water Grant application received
7	New Well granted
16	New Pumps granted
17	Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
25	Inspections in advance/completion of works
<b>Petrol Vapour Recovery</b>	
2	Stage 1b applications assessed
<b>Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring</b>	
31	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.
<b>Planning &amp; Development</b>	
5	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
7	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
2	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.
1	Environmental reports on compliance with planning permission conditions was completed.

## **CEMETERIES**

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

### **Published Death Notices Data**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	2026
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>												<b>138</b>
<b>WCC</b>	<b>55</b>												<b>55</b>

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<b>Cremation</b>	<b>49</b>												<b>49</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>34</b>												<b>34</b>

138	<b>Total Published Death Notices 2026</b>
40%	Traditional Interment in Local Authority Burial Grounds
36%	Cremation/Other non-traditional interments
24%	Other Burial Grounds

## 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 :

<b>ORIS</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Completion/ Update</b>
OR221WW02	<b>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</b>	The walk remains closed due to safety concerns over instability of the area, which represents a significant safety risk to the public. Cliff Walk Task Force to provide updates on potential works and costs to be allocated to ORIS project.	Extension granted by DRCD.
OR221WW01	<b>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</b>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Damage report due to assess any damage related to recent flood.	Ongoing 2026
OR222WW03	<b>Coolkenno Equestrian Trail</b>	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners pending their planning permission process.	Ongoing 2026
OR322WW01	<b>Roundwood Recreation Area</b>	Pump track bike area works started in February. Tender specification for signage being drafted.	31/03/2026
OR423WW02	<b>Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan</b>	Feasibility project to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. 50% Plan work completed approximately.	31/03/2026
OR123WW01	<b>Hollywood Natural Play Area</b>	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Awaiting sign off to publish tender. Licence Agreement due.	30/04/2026
OR123WW06	<b>Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way</b>	Signage replacement along an 18km route. Ongoing	30/04/2026

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OR223WW01	<b>Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure</b>	Car park upgrade works and fencing completed during November 2025. Tender issued for feasibility / scoping study for remainder of site.	30/06/2026
OR223WW02	<b>Three Trout's Bridge, Delgany</b>	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the pathfinder route. Consent process to progress managed by MD office	Q4 2026
OR223WW03	<b>Tinahely New Loop Trail</b>	Funding for additional spur to loop walks on a 10km route to Tinahely village. Review of project specifics being undertaken.	TBC
<b>ORIS 2024</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Completion</b>
OR424WW01	<b>Disability and Outdoor Recreation</b>	Creation of a strategy and work plan to ensure accessibility for walking, cycling and water access for the disabled community in Co Wicklow. Background specification underway to identify available/usable sites for 2 x water, 2 x bike and 2 x trail access for exploration in the study.	26/02/27
OR124WW01	<b>Brockagh Forest Science and Discovery Area</b>	Provision of rustic, timber exploration, science tables, magnifying glasses play equipment and seating in Brockagh Forest.	26/02/27
OR124WW02	<b>Wicklow Harbour Sea-Trac</b>	Installation of a Sea-Trac system in Wicklow Harbour to create independent swimming access for those with a physical disability. Preparing tender specification and search suppliers.	26/02/27
OR124WW03	<b>Vartry Anglers Disabled Access</b>	Disabled access to the lakeshore with 320m of new trail surfacing for wheelchair use and installation of a self-contained eco toilet and tree planting. Project under review	26/02/27
OR124WW04	<b>Wild Swimming Infrastructure</b>	Installation of changing screens at 4 locations where wild swimming is popular throughout Wicklow. Bike shelter installation at 3 of those locations.	26/02/27
OR224WW01	<b>Glen Turn Cliff Walk</b>	Complete surface upgrade and drainage work on cliff walk trail. Not commenced	30/11/27
OR224WW02	<b>Russelstown Link to Russborough House</b>	Proposed trail linking Russelstown Wood to Russborough House & Park. Review of project being undertaken	30/11/27
OR324WW01	<b>Djouce Mountain Trail construction and habitat restoration</b>	Djouce Mountain trail construction works will significantly reduce the safety issues and habitat damage currently occurring. Project steering group established. Draft MOU and route planning and specification under discussion with NPWS.	30/11/27

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## WICKLOW OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE (WORC)

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

## WICKLOW SPORTS & RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

### Training & Education

Activity	Venue	Date
Safeguarding 1	Online	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Safeguarding 2	Online	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026
Sports First Aid	St. Kevins Hall, Blessington	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2026
Vision Sports Awareness Training	Online	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Safeguarding 1	Online	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Safeguarding 3	Online	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Inclusive Badminton Coaching

The National Learning Network in Arklow are participating in a 6-week Inclusive Badminton coaching programme. The sessions are delivered by Badminton Ireland coach Georgina Ward. 11 participants are attending these coaching sessions in Coral Leisure Arklow main hall. The sessions started on Thursday 22nd January.

### Physical Activity for Health Programmes

#### Chronic Condition Programmes

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Strength & Balance	Fatima Hall, Baltinglass	Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> January	8 weeks	14	HSE Seed Funding

### Up Coming Programmes for People with Chronic Conditions

Strength & Balance, Shoreline Leisure Bray, starting Tuesday 17th February for 8 weeks. Sláintcare Healthy Communities Funding.

Recover Strong with Cancer, Shoreline Leisure Bray, starting Wednesday 18th February for 8 weeks. Sláintcare Healthy Communities Funding

Pilates for People with Chronic Pain & Arthritis, HD Fitness Blessington, starting Wednesday 4th March for 6 weeks. HSE Seed Funding.

Aqua Aerobics for People with Chronic Pain & Arthritis, Coral Leisure Arklow, starting Thursday 5th March for 6 weeks. HSE Seed Funding.

Active Bones for Women with Osteoporosis, Coral Leisure Arklow, starting Wednesday 18th March, HSE Seed Funding.

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## ESF+

Programme	Venue	Sessions	Participants
Active Age - Wicklow Traveller Network Women Exercise Classes	Ceart, Wicklow Town	2	12

- Cross Care – 8 Teenage girls from the Kilcoole area began work on a co-design initiative.
- Jigsaw – Work began with Jigsaw in Bray on designing a physical activity event to raise awareness for Mental Health amongst young people.
- Shelton Abbey – Work began with Shelton Abbey to co-design 2 projects, one for raising awareness for Mental Health, and the other to increase physical activity and new skills amongst prisoners in Shelton Abbey.
- Active Age WTN – Next steps to create a sustainable exercise and physical activity opportunities for women in CEART.

## LIBRARY SERVICE

### **Ireland Reads Day**

It's Ireland Reads month! Throughout February, Wicklow County Council Library Service is encouraging people to get lost in a good book to celebrate the joy and the benefits of reading, ahead of Ireland Reads Day, on Saturday, 28th February. Ireland Reads is a national initiative funded by Healthy Ireland and supported by public libraries, alongside many literacy, arts, and reading advocacy organisations. The campaign highlights the joy and benefits of reading, promoting the idea that it doesn't matter what, where, or how you read - just that you do. Wicklow Libraries will be actively promoting Ireland Reads through events, book displays, and community engagement events and activities.

### **Skills for Life**

Skills for Life is a new nationwide programme delivered through Ireland's public libraries, offering people across the country access to practical learning opportunities to support everyday life. Whether you want to feel more confident online, manage your finances, understand media, or live more sustainably – your local library is here to help.

Funding for year 2 of the Skills for Life programme has been confirmed and covers events and activities in the following areas: Basic Digital Skills, Health Awareness, Financial Literacy, Business & Employment Skills, Sustainable Lifestyles & Environmental Awareness, and Media Literacy.

Skills for Life events running during February in our libraries include, CV Review and Advice drop-in service in Ballywaltrim library every Tuesday from 10.30-12. Facilitated by an adult guidance counsellor from KWETB, it has proved a very valuable addition to the library timetable. Digital skills class in Arklow library on 9th Feb. this is one of a series of DigiLit classes which have proved very popular. DigiLit class commenced in Wicklow library on 5th February and will also commence in Carnew Library on 26th February. A household finance talk provided by MABS in Wicklow town library on 19th Feb.

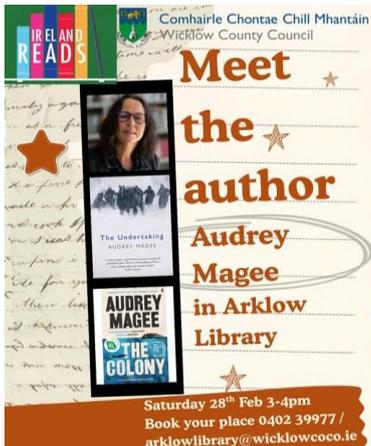
### Library Branch Highlights for February

#### **Arklow Library**

In February, Arklow Library is launching a new Junior Book Club for children aged 9–11, with the first meeting scheduled for Saturday 14th February at 3pm. The club will provide a welcoming space for young readers to discuss books, share ideas and discover new favourites. A "Week of Crafty Fun" is also planned at the library from 14th to 21st February, offering creative engagement opportunities for children and families. Sessions include: Design your own Valentine's Day card (14th February from 11am to 1pm), Create a bright Chinese lantern (Monday 16th February from 2pm to 4pm), Make a Chinese celebration shaker (Tuesday 17th from 2pm to 4pm), Decorate a Rio Carnival Mask (Wednesday 18th from 2pm to 4pm), Fold an Origami Basketball Game (Thursday 19th, 2-4pm), Build an Infinity Triangle Fidget Toy (Friday 20th from 2-4pm), and Craft a Chinese New Year Horse-Head Bookmark (Saturday 21st from 11am to 1pm).

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

As part of the Ireland Reads celebrations, the library will host a 'Meet the Author' event with acclaimed writer Audrey Magee on Saturday 28th February from 3.00–4.00pm, where she will speak about her work and writing journey. In addition, a special story time and play session with Rachel from The Colour Club will take place on Wednesday 18th February from 10.00am – 11.00am. This interactive session, themed around Lunar New Year, will encourage children to develop a love of reading while exploring new cultures and traditions in an inclusive and welcoming library environment.



## Ballywaltrim Library

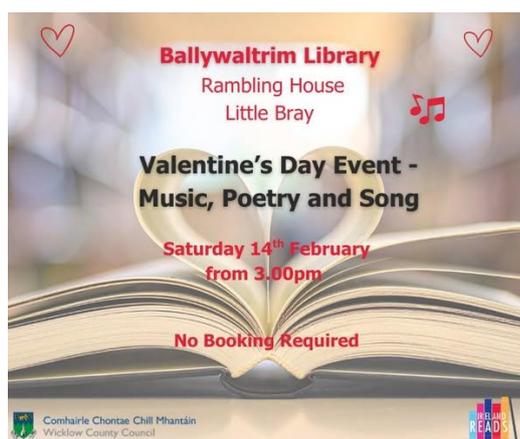
In February, Ballywaltrim Library will host a Valentine's celebration with an afternoon of music, poetry and song featuring Rambling House Little Bray. Taking place on Saturday 14th February from 3.00pm, this warm and welcoming intergenerational event is open to all, with no booking required.

Later in the month, as part of the Ireland Reads campaign, the library will hold a special shared reading event on Saturday 28th February at 3.00pm. Attendees will be invited to listen to readings of favourite passages, poems and pieces of writing, with members of local book clubs sharing selections from much-loved books. Participants will also have the opportunity to bring along a piece of writing to read. This inclusive community event is open to all, with no booking required.

## Baltinglass Library



On 4th



February, Baltinglass Library introduced new monthly Mindfulness sessions, facilitated by local coach Fidelma Farley. The first session was well attended, with participants reporting enthusiasm and positive feedback. Weekly and monthly events continue to be well established and much appreciated, according to participant responses, reinforcing the library's role as a valued community hub.

Regular events and activities in February include Enda's Film Club, which shows a film of his choice every Friday afternoon, and InSync, the Youth Diversion programme, which continues with weekly Monday sessions. Camille Lynch from Creative Places Baltinglass is based at the library every Wednesday for an open clinic, and KARE will commence a

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

new six-week Women's Group programme on Friday 13th February. To mark Ireland Reads, the library is planning a 'Librarians' Choice' book display and a window display to promote the campaign. Regular monthly activities include the Creative Writing Group meeting on Saturday 21st February, and the Baltinglass Film Club meeting on Tuesday 24th February.

Baltinglass library has also undergone recent improvements, including clearing out old Heritage Centre displays, repainting the Adult Library, and reconfiguring shelving and displays. Patron feedback on these updates has been very positive, enhancing the welcoming and functional environment of the library and further establishing it as a hub for learning, creativity, and community engagement.

## **Blessington Library**

Blessington Library will host a special Ireland Reads event, Music and Movement, with Katie from Twinkle Kids on 28th February at 11.30am. This engaging session, designed for babies and toddlers, will encourage early literacy and development through music, movement and interactive play.

Earlier in the month, the library will hold a Valentine's-themed Music Session for Babies and Toddlers with Rachel on Friday 13th February at 12.30pm. This event will provide an opportunity for little ones and their grown-ups to enjoy music, fun and bonding time in a welcoming library setting. Booking is required for this event.

## **Bray Library**

In February, Bray Library continues to offer a wide range of activities for children, families, and adults. Regular children's programmes include Storytime on Mondays at 10.00am and Tuesdays at 3.00pm, as well as the Afterschool Comic Club on Thursdays at 3.30pm. The Shankill Library Craft Circle is temporarily running from Bray Library on Wednesdays at 11.00am during their refurbishment. A Seed & Plant Swap, in partnership with Edible Bray, will take place on Wednesday 25th February from 1pm to 2pm.

Regular monthly book and film clubs provide ongoing engagement for adults and young people. These include Ruth's Book Club (last Wednesday of the month, 11.00am), Michael's Book Club (second Wednesday, 11.00am), Crime Book Club (second Tuesday, 7.00pm), Literary Book Club (last Thursday, 7.00pm), Junior Book Club (second Monday, 3.15pm), Junior Film Club (second Thursday, 6.30pm), and the Festina Lente Film Club. These activities continue to foster a strong reading and cultural community in Bray.

Community outreach remains a priority, with library staff recently visiting Youthreach to engage students and staff about the library's resources and services. As part of the Ireland Reads campaign, the library will host an author talk by Gráinne Hurley on *Affectionately & Gratefully: Mary Lavin & The New Yorker* on Saturday 28th February at 3pm. The Irish Language Conversation Group (Ciorcal Comhrá) continues to meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm.

## **Carnew Library**

In February, Carnew Library continues to provide a strong programme of reading, learning and community engagement activities. The library hosts its monthly Book Club on the second Monday of each month, with February's selected title being *Wild* by Kristin Hannah. In collaboration with Coláiste Bhríde, the library is supporting a Reading Tracker initiative to encourage student reading, and discussion is underway regarding the potential establishment of a local writers' group. The local National School and Secondary School visit the library on a weekly basis, with four classes attending regularly, including students from Carnew N.S. and All Saints N.S. Sensory room visits also continue as part of the library's inclusive outreach.

In partnership with KWETB, Carnew Library will commence a five-week DigiLit digital skills course on 26th February, supporting adult learners in developing essential digital skills.

The library is also actively promoting the Ireland Reads campaign, alongside in-house displays to mark national events including St Brigid's Day and Valentine's Day, further enhancing community engagement within the branch.

## **Enniskerry Library**

In February, Enniskerry Library continues to support an active reading culture through its regular book clubs, including the Wednesday Book Club, the Murder Mystery & Thriller Book Club, and the Junior Book Club. The Spanish Conversation Group meets every Friday, while the French Conversation Group also continues to provide opportunities for language practice and cultural exchange.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

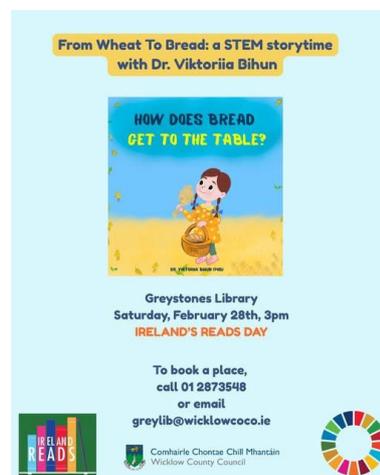
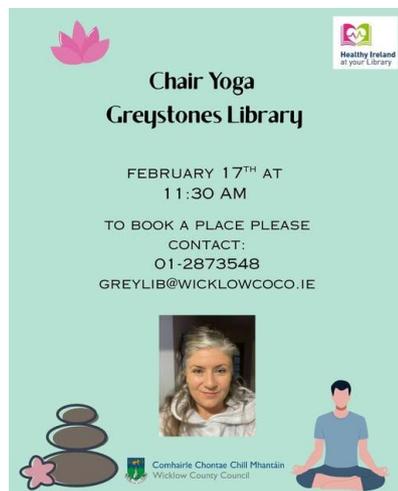
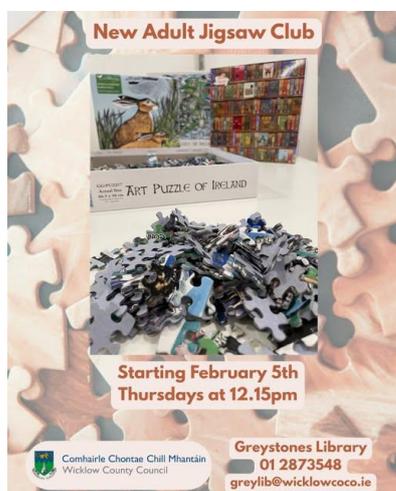
To mark St Valentine's Day and Ireland Reads Day on 28th February, the library is running a Junior Book Lover Valentine Competition. Children are invited to name a book they love, include the author, and write a short piece about why they enjoy it. Prizes of €5 vouchers for the local Enniskerry Store will be awarded across three different age groups. The closing date for entries is 17th March. In addition, the library has created a dedicated Ireland Reads display where patrons can recommend and share their favourite "Good Reads," encouraging community participation and reading engagement.

## Greystones Library

In February, Greystones Library is delivering a wide-ranging programme of cultural, educational and community events. A three-week Mindfulness series with Rosemary Lynch commenced on 5th February at 10.30am, alongside a Chair Yoga workshop (17th February) and a Tai Chi workshop on 26th February to mark Chinese New Year. The library's new Philosophy Club held its inaugural meeting on 7th February, facilitated by Daniel Vasquez, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Philosophy at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. The event had a full turnout, with very positive feedback from attendees.

As part of Engineers Week, children will take part in Robotics and Coding workshops on 21st February at 10.30am, in addition to a "Cartoon Animals" drawing workshop on 20th February at 3.00pm and a Children's STEM Storytime with Ukrainian author Dr. Viktoriia Bihun on 28th February at 3.00pm. For Ireland Reads on 28th February, local author Donal O'Brien will speak at 11.30am about his new book Purpose and Passion, offering reflection and inspiration for those seeking clarity or direction in their personal or professional lives.

Adult learning initiatives continue, including Age Action IT Classes on Fridays at 11.30am and DigiLit Classes for Seniors on 9th, 16th, and 23rd February at 11.45am. Regular book clubs and language conversation groups remain active throughout the month. Community engagement is further supported through initiatives such as the monthly "Artists in Conversation" series (3rd February), Greystones Music Circle and the Greystones Creative Writers group (4th February), as well as the launch of a new weekly Adult Jigsaw Club, which commenced on 5th February at 12.15pm, providing an informal and welcoming social space within the library.



## Wicklow Library

In February, Wicklow Library continues to deliver a diverse

programme of events and initiatives for all age groups. To celebrate Ireland Reads Day on Saturday 28th February, the library will host an author talk with Gráinne Hurley at 11.00am, where she will discuss her book Gratefully and Affectionately: Mary Lavin and the New Yorker. This adult event forms part of the national Ireland Reads campaign. The library is also marking St Brigid's Day and Valentine's Day through themed displays and programming.

Regular children's activities continue, including Story Time (Saturdays at 11.00am), Toddler Rhyme Time (Mondays at 10.15am), Junior Chess Club (Tuesdays 7.00–8.00pm), Junior Book Club, and Comhrá & Ceol (Thursdays at 10.15am). A Mid-Term Arts & Crafts session will take place on Friday 20th February from 11.00am–12.00pm, offering a creative workshop for children aged 6+, with parents/guardians in attendance. Adult programmes include a DigiLit digital skills course (from 5th February), the launch of an Adult Chess Club (from 12th February), a five-week Pregnancy Yoga course (Mondays at 11.00am), and ongoing Adult Knitting Groups (Mondays at 11.00am and Tuesdays at 7.00pm).

Community engagement remains strong, with over 35 Girl Guides visiting the library during the month, and meeting space provided for the Community Integration Forum, the Greenway Public Participation Network consultation (attended by over 150 people), the Friday Diversity Social Group, and the Newcastle Hospital Arches Recovery meeting.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

Additionally, the library will host a practical “Health & Wealth” talk in collaboration with MABS on 19th February (7.00–8.00pm), offering guidance on household budgeting and financial management, as part of a wider sustainability and wellbeing series.

**WICKLOW LIBRARY**  
presents

**Author Talk:**  
Gráinne Hurley  
discussing her book  
about  
Mary Lavin & the New Yorker

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
11:00 - 12:00 pm

To sign-up please ask at the desk,  
call 0404-67025  
or email: [Wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:Wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie)

IRELAND READS  
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin  
Wicklow County Council

**Children's Arts and Crafts**  
Wicklow Library

FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 11:00 - 12:00 PM

Limited Spaces  
Sign-Up Soon

Ask at the desk, call 0404-67025, or email: [Wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:Wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie)

Libraries Ireland  
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin  
Wicklow County Council

## Local History talks

In February, Wicklow Library's Local Studies Department will host a special illustrated talk, “Famous Wicklow Men and Women and Lesser-Known Wicklow Connections,” on Thursday 26th February at 7.00pm in Wicklow Town Library. Historian Brian White will explore the lives of 25 Wicklow men and women who made a significant impact both at home and abroad. From polar exploration to international place names, and from Australia to America, the talk will highlight the remarkable global reach of Wicklow people — some widely known, others remembered through street names and local landmarks. This free event is open to all, though booking is advised as spaces are limited.

The Local Studies Department also continues to promote family history research through free in-library access to Findmypast, one of the world's leading genealogy websites. Library members can explore Irish and UK census records, church registers, gravestone inscriptions, migration and military records, and a wide range of local history sources using public PCs — no personal subscription required. Staff guidance and a free introductory guide are available in all branches, supporting both beginners and experienced researchers in discovering their family stories.

## ARCHIVES & GENEALOGY SERVICE

County Archives collections continue to be catalogued on our collections management platform *Axiell Collections*. Collections catalogued to date include the private estate collections of the Acton, Barton and Frizzel estates; business collections; Grand Jury and Boards of Guardians. Cataloguing of county council records series is ongoing.

## Digitisation programme

Work is completed on the digitisation of the Labourers Cottages Ledgers (1880s to the 1920s), and the Rathdrum Rural District Council minutes dating (1899-1925), supported by the Commemorations Programme of the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport. Both collections will be uploaded to [Wicklow.ie](http://Wicklow.ie) shortly.

## Special projects /Outreach activities

The Arklow Street Preachers publication has progressed with a final proof from Wordwell Publishers. Research continues for the Wicklow Town Atlas project. Schools programme and Genealogy Service continue.

## Conservation programme

The next items identified for conservation treatment are two Wicklow Town maps dated 1850s and two Wicklow Corporation rental rolls dated 1850 and 1860.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## ARTS OFFICE AND CREATIVE IRELAND

### **2026 Creative Ireland Funding Schemes**

Applications have been received for the three schemes under the 2026 Creative Ireland Funding. The assessment process is underway and results will be made available once adjudication is completed.

#### **Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme – 21 Applications**

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

#### **Creative Wicklow Innovation Award – 7 Applications**

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

This Award aims to support ambitious projects which grow the capacity of individuals and communities.

Total budget €50,000 (5 x €10,000 awards for each of the Municipal Districts)

#### **Sing in Wicklow Award - 8 Applications**

The goal of the 'Sing in Wicklow Award' is to support choirs across the county in participating in workshops and competitions, fostering inter-choir collaborations, and facilitating performances, peer learning, networking and member recruitment. Successful applicants to the 'Sing in Wicklow' Awards Scheme will receive up to €1,000. Total budget €7,000

These schemes have been put in place to support Wicklow County Council's role in delivering the Creative Ireland Programme.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

### Transportation

#### Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (16/02/2026) outstanding stands at **337 – 1.85%** of total stock of 18,255. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we have ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults, and progress has been made to repair long standing faults. A large number of faults also require civil works or infrastructure installations to undertake the repair; a number of these faults have been completed, and others are currently in progress. A total of 175 faults were attended in January, while 184 faults were reported during the month.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Faults Reported – January	48	42	44	30	20	<b>184</b>
Faults Attended – January	44	39	45	25	22	<b>175</b>
No Supply			1			1
Access Issues (Attended)	1	1	10	2	3	17
Cable Fault (Attend)	1		2	4	1	8
Civils	3		6	1	6	16
Council Approval	1			4		5
ESB Notified	13	35	11	8	21	88
ESB Required	5	9	11	6	12	43
On Hold	1	3	36	3	5	48
Submitted	9	17	16	12	12	66
TMR	5	2	5	5	6	23
Tree Cutting Required	2	1	12	5	2	22
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>337</b>
<b>Percentage not working</b>	<b>1.09%</b>	<b>2.51%</b>	<b>2.90%</b>	<b>1.39%</b>	<b>1.56%</b>	<b>1.85%</b>
No. of Lamps	3775	2713	3799	3598	4370	18255
Percentage of Total Lamps	21%	15%	21%	20%	24%	100%

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

The retrofitting of lanterns has commenced in all MDs with c. 1,564 lanterns upgraded to date (10/02/2026).

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## Transportation Statistics

	Total 2024	Total 2025	Total 2026	December 2025	January 2026
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	1014	1065	85	78	85
<b>Road closure applications</b>	50	56	9	4	9
<b>Road Opening licences</b>	1254	1494	106	77	106
<b>Abnormal Load applications</b>	50	33	0	2	0

## National Roads, Greenways and Projects

### **Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme**

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website [www.n11m11.ie](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**

TII approval was received on 18/12/2025 to appoint Technical Consultants to progress the scheme through Phase 3 and 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines. Following the mandatory stand still period the letter of acceptance was issued to the successful tenderer on 16/01/2026. The Phase 3 design work will commence shortly and could take up to two years to complete.

TII confirmed that the approval to appoint the technical consultants is subject to certain revisions. The revisions require that the following preliminary intervention measures, that are considered to provide relatively lower bus priority benefits, will not be progressed at this point in time:

- Junction 6 to Junction 7 Southbound (bus priority measures, active travel facility & junction closures including junction of N11 and Herbert Road)
- Junction 8 to Junction 9 Southbound (active travel facilities)
- Junction 9 to Junction 8 Northbound (bus priority measures)

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

### **N11 Junction 12 Road Safety Improvement Scheme**

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

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

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

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

The Phase 3 Design Report has been approved by TII on 09/02/26. A public consultation under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) is proposed.

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

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

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

## **N81 Hollywood Cross to Tallaght Road Improvement Scheme**

The preferred route corridor was published in 2016. The scheme is not included in the National Development Plan.

## **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 Preferred Option was published in October 2025 on the project website [www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie](http://www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie).

The project team is currently progressing at Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation).

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

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

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

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

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

## **N81 Blessington Gateway Project**

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

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## **N81 Baltinglass South Gateway Project**

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) for the proposed scheme on the southern approach to Baltinglass was approved by TII on 22nd October 2025. The tender to procure a Technical Consultant to progress the scheme through to next phases was published in December 2025.

## **N81 Hearn's Cross**

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

## **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

The Preferred Route for the Arklow Shillelagh Greenway was published in December 2025. The Phase 2 Options Study Phase of the project concluded with the confirmation of the preferred options to be brought forward to the design and environmental evaluation phase. The Options Study Report and plan drawings of the preferred option are available on the project website. The preferred route option will be further refined and developed into preliminary designs over the coming months. Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Considerations) and Phase 4 (Statutory/Planning Process) are currently out to tender for the appointment of a consultant to progress the scheme through these Phases.

## **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

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

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

Construction work commenced on Section 1 of the Scheme in April 2025. The main footpath, cycle lane and road surfacing works was completed in Section 1 in December 2025 and are fully open to the public. The full road closure for Section 2 is currently in operation. The completion of the full scheme is expected Q2 2026

## **Wicklow Greystones Greenway**

A non-statutory public consultation for the Emerging Preferred Route for the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway is currently underway. The Public Consultation will last for one month starting on 13/01/2026 with two public display events taking place in Greystones and Wicklow during the month. Submissions and observations will be accepted by the public up to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Meetings are ongoing with landowners along the emerging preferred route. Any updates required following the Public Consultation will be undertaken and reflected in the Options Selection Report submitted to TII for the Phase 2 Options Selection Gateway Review approval. Following this TII approval, this route will advance to Phase 3 for Preliminary Design.

## **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.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

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

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

## **Active Travel Updates**

### **Project Updates**

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

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

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

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

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

New footbridges and alterations to the road to make provision for cyclists. Atkins are progressing with the preliminary design phase. An inspection of the existing Fran O'Toole bridge structure has been carried out, and procurement has commenced for the required topo and traffic surveys. Atkins are also progressing with an Options Assessment Report for the proposed bridge structures.

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

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. Atkins Realis are progressing with the options selection phase. The Architectural and Heritage impact assessment has been completed. A draft Options Assessment Report has been completed and has been issued to WCC/NTA for review. Atkins are currently preparing a feasibility working cost estimate for the preferred option.

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

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

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

The phase will include new and improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Construction works are nearing completion. New Toucan Crossings installed at 5 roundabouts. Project Completed.

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

This phase includes the design of pedestrian and cycle improvement works to be completed along the public road linking Greystones Train Station with the Marina to the north and Charlesland to the south. AtkinsRealis appointed

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

as consultants to manage the project through Phases 4 -7. Revised design drawings issued to WCC for review and to be issued to NTA for approval.

## **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. Meeting had with school management, Parents Council and An Taisce to review designs and scope given the layout and confined space to work with. The school are looking to review the options for a school street to trial for the current church car park. New guidance issued for school street. Designer is updating design considering school street option for car park and review scope on the public road areas for upgraded foot path and crossing point. School is engaging with residents and local business on the option of a school street

## **Convent Road Active Travel Scheme (Greystones MD)**

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on Convent Road, Delgany. The Options Assessment Phase has been concluded. A presentation was provided to GMD Elected Members at the December meeting – approval was received to progress the preferred option through the Part 8 process. EGIS is currently finalising the Part 8 deliverables along with the relevant Road Safety and Quality Audits. It is planned to advertise the Part 8 in February.



## **Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme (Greystones MD)**

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on the R761 Kindlestown Lower Road, with new Public Lighting, and Public Realm improvements in Killincarrig Village. The Detailed Design phase is ongoing. Construction works are scheduled to commence when the Chapel Road Scheme has been completed. Expected start date is Q3 2026.

## **Blessington Main Street to Deerpark**

WCC and NTA met to review preliminary design. NTA comments have been noted and under review with the consultant who is preparing the Gateway 2 / 3 report for submission.

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## **Delgany Village Accessibility Scheme – Mill Road (Greystones MD)**

The provision of new and improved pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure along Church Road, Delgany. The Scheme is at Phase 5 – Detailed Design and Procurement. It is planned to complete the Detailed Design and Procurement Phase in 2026, and progress to the Construction Phase in 2027.

## **Other Projects -**

- ***SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara HSRR\*, Brittas Bay.***  
The school zone (NTA Project) is now being progressed with the Brittas footpath project. Consultant appointed. An Taisce have circulated the delivery plan to the school. The project will be divided into two phases. Phase 1 from the junction of the L5108 to past the school and will include the school zone works under Section 38. Preliminary design and project cost have been submitted to the NTA. Ecology reports are being updated for phase 1 Section 38 planned to be advertised in February.
- ***SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird***  
Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Meeting with School and District Engineer took place in March. Traffic Count and Speed Surveys have been completed. Stakeholder meeting held with school on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2025. Further meeting to be scheduled once revised outline delivery plan has been issued. Delivery plan is currently with Active travel for review.
- ***Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry***  
Provision of footpath along Scalp Road, Enniskerry. Topographical survey is complete. Consultant to be appointed to carry out feasibility study.
- ***Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely***  
Provision of a new Zebra/Controlled Crossing and upgraded footpath to link Kilcommon National School to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. Works extended to include two additional pedestrian crossings on School Road Section 38 consultation completed. Construction works ongoing.
- ***Kiltegan Road Pedestrian Crossing, Baltinglass***  
Provision of a new Zebra Pedestrian Crossing and footpath extension at Baltinglass GAA Club Grounds to link to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. Gateway 5 approval received from NTA, and construction work has commenced.
- ***Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Arklow***  
Construction of 150m footpath and pedestrian crossing linking to the GAA Club. Topographic survey completed. Gateway 5 approval received from NTA, WCC to prepare design for extension of footpath works. Construction works have commenced.
- ***Redford Park Junction, Greystones***  
Redford Park Junction upgrade to provide improved pedestrian and cycle facilities. Inception meeting held with consultant. NTA have reviewed design updates and approved scope change to extend scheme footprint to include extra junction. Design works ongoing. Meeting was held with Lidl, and the designer has issued the design to Lidl who are seeking board approval for the boundary adjustments required.

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- **Bus Priority Little Bray**

Consultant review of options assessment completed. Meeting held with the NTA and stakeholders. Meeting also held with WCC planning dept and developers for Fassaroe to review BETS and Upper Dargle Rd status, Consultant to progress MCA for Upper Dargle and Cycle Way options.

- **Wicklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**

Pedestrian crossings to be installed at 2 locations. Construction works have commenced.

- **Arklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**

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

- **Greystones MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**

Pedestrian crossing to be installed in Kilcoole. Construction works completed Belisha Beacons to be installed.

- **Bus Enhancement Scheme**

#### **Baltinglass MD.**

- 2 new stops ready to commence construction by Dave Walsh Civil Engineering opposite MD Office Blessington.
- 2 new stops ready to commence construction By Dave Walsh Civil Engineering (DWCE) beside Deerpark Blessington on Naas Road
- 2 enhancements to stops in Dunlavin to commence
- 2 enhancements to Stratford Stops planned with locations to be agreed on Main Street

#### **Wicklow MD**

- 4 stops to commence installation in Wicklow MD by DWCE (Hawkstown New stops & upgrade in Ashford)

#### **Other districts**

- Identified locations on Connecting Ireland list to be tendered for installation over next month. Possibility of some minor works to be considered by District crews.

### **2026 Budget Allocation**

The NTA have recently announced Budget Allocations for 2026, the following projects have been allocated funding:

- Bray Transport Interchange
- Active Travel Bridge (Wicklow Train Station to Port Access Route) Pathfinder
- Bray Bridge Footbridge and tie ins
- Bus Priority in Little Bray

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- Delany Village to Mill Road Active Travel Elements
- Wicklow Town Active Travel
- Blessington Main Street to Deerpark
- Greystones Charlesland Roundabouts Upgrades
- Convent Road Active Travel Scheme
- Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme – cofund
- SRTS Round 2 – Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Greystones
- SRTS Round 2 – Greystones Educate Together
- SRTS Round 2 – Kilmacanogue NS
- SRTS Round 2 – Temple Carrig School, Greystones
- Baltinglass Active Travel River Crossing Study
- Greystones Seafront to Charlesland Active Travel Provision
- SRTS Round 3 – Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara, Brittas Bay
- Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely
- Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Arklow
- SRTS Round 3 Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird
- Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry
- Redford Park Junction
- Wicklow MD crossing
- Arklow MD Crossing
- Greystones MD Crossing
- Bray MD Crossing
- Baltinglass MD Crossing
- Arklow MD Permeability Link
- SRTS Round 4 Scoil Naomh Brid, Talbotstown
- SRTS Round 4 St. Brigid's NS, Greystones
- SRTS Round 4 St Brigid's NS. Manor Kilbride
- SRTS Round 4 Wicklow Educate Together
- Deerpark Cycle Link, Bray
- Giltspur to Charnwood Active Travel Link

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

Storm Chandra blocked several bridges which required 3 weeks of work to clear

These include, Clara Vale, Newrath, Charvey Lane, Aughavannagh.

Planned work recommenced at Knockanree Bridge.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## Winter Maintenance

The season continues.

Between 21/01 and 12/02, over 23 nights there were 5 callouts. All singles.

## Machinery Yard

Most of the framework Circle K cards have been distributed and usage has commenced.

New 26 tonne trucks 3 and 4 are due for delivery in the coming weeks.

Surface Dressing plant and machinery has been ordered.

New loading shovels and telescopic handlers have been ordered too.

New 7.5 tonne pickup trucks to be ordered soon.

## Parking Income

\*January 2026\*

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	61,595.11
Greystones Municipal District	22,439.31
Wicklow Municipal District	21,714.41
Arklow Municipal District	19,327.86
Parking Permits	7,890.00
Parking Fines	55,930.00
<b>Wicklow County Council Total</b>	<b>188,896.70</b>

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## Infrastructure Delivery

### Affordable Housing Information as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

#### Mariner’s Point, Wicklow – 4 x Affordable Houses

- 4 x two-bedroom houses are currently advertised. Portal will open 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 12:00 noon

#### Lott Lane, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow – 26 x Affordable Houses

- 26 Affordable houses have been approved. 24 x three-bedroom, 2 x two bedroom
- Due to launch Q4 2026

#### Rockbrae, Bray, Co. Wicklow – 9 x Affordable Houses

- Application for 9 Affordable Houses at Rockbrae, Bray was approved 28/01/2026

#### Market Close, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow – 7 x Affordable Houses

- AHF application for 4 Affordable Houses at Market Close, Dunlavin, was submitted 24/09/2025, awaiting approval
- The sale of 3 x 3 bed terraced houses in Market Close has been Part V agreed

#### Sheephouse, Arklow, Co. Wicklow

- AHF application for a small number of Affordable Houses at Sheephouse, Arklow will be submitted this quarter

### Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Ballard, Shillelagh	20	Completed and allocated
Merrymeeting, Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completed, allocation in progress
Lugduff, Tinahely	20	Completed, allocation in progress
5A Rednagh Road, Aughrim	1	Completed, allocation in progress
Scheme on Site	Units	Current Status
Fassaroe, Bray	11	Contractor on site.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor on site.
1A Mill Road, Greystones	3	Completion expected Q1 2026
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Contractor on site.
Ballinahinch, Ashford	19	Contractor on site.

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Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Burgage More, Blessington PPP	106	Tendered by WCC due back March 26
Rehills, Bray Phase 1	140	Options being considered
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Tender docs being completed
Carrig Eden Tiglin	14	On hold
Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	16	Stage 1 approved.
Burnaby, Greystones PPP	262	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Tinahask, Arklow	74	Tender docs being completed
Tinahask PPP, Arklow	128	PPP Bundle 6 continuing
Sheephouse, Arklow	48	Design Stage
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Tendered by WCC due back March 26
Hawkstown Park Phase 2, Wicklow Design & Build	54	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	20	Part 8 approved Oct 25
18 Old Conna, Bray	3	Part 8 approved Dec 25

## Traveller accommodation

### Capital Programme

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

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

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

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

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

### Energy Efficiency upgrades to Council Stock

Wicklow county council has an ongoing Programme of works retrofitting our council housing stock. The works selected and completed comply 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.

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## Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2026:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Baltinglass	7	Delivery due Q1 to Q2 2026	WCC
Delgany	3	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Dunlavin	14	Delivery due Q2 to Q4 2026	WCC
Wicklow	7	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Newcastle	1	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Delgany	6	Delivery due Q1 to Q3 2026	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Bray	12	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Arklow	2	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Delgany	11	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Delivery due Q1 2026	CALF
Rathnew	15	Delivery due Q1 2026	CALF
Wicklow	13	Delivery due Q1 2026	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q2 2026	CALF

## Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Rathnew, Bray, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy, Baltinglass, Wicklow, Rathdrum, Newcastle and Arklow with delivery in 2026. This includes the units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

## Turnkey D Porter

The following Turnkey units are due during 2026:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Baltinglass	2	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Roundwood	4	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Delgany	1	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Arklow	2	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Delivery due Q1 2026	CALF
Baltinglass	10	Delivery due Q1 2026	CALF
Newcastle	11	Delivery due Q2 2026	CALF

- 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 to be advertised in Q1.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## Vacant Homes Scheme

Current Compulsory Purchase Orders on long term vacant houses around the county 2026.

No.	Property Location	Current Status
1.	114 Hillside, Greystones	Works completed.
2.	108 Charnwood, Bray	Works completed.
3.	36 Wheatfield, Bray	Works completed.
4.	10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow	Works commenced. ESB connection awaited.

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

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

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

There are 2 types of Grants available:

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

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

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

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

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

Number of Applications to date	290
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants to date	9
Applications Approved in Principle to date	149
Number of Applications paid to date	71
Value of 71 Grants paid out to date	€3,856,973.40
Applications withdrawn/Rejected to date	61

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## Emergency Response

### Fire Service

There were **120** incidents attended during the month of January 2026. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **141 occasions** including **13** mobilisations in other counties. On one occasion an incident commander requested additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance, a water tanker from Rathdrum to a tractor with bales on fire in the Arklow area.

Operational activity for the month of January 2026 **Increased by 8% (+10 mobilisations) on the preceding month December 2025 (131 mobilisations)**. Month on month there were small decreases in mobilisations to building fires (-10) and RTCs (-4) but as a result of Storm Chandra over 26<sup>th</sup> / 27<sup>th</sup> January there was an increase in mobilisations to flooding and associated incidents (+21). RTCs accounted for 21% of overall activity, domestic house fires 9%, automatic fire alarm activations 13% and small malicious fires in urban areas 16%. Incidents in other counties resulted in 13 mobilisations or 8% of overall activity.

Operational activity for the month of January 2026 **decreased by 1% (-2 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2025** (January 2025, 143 mobilisations). There was a decrease in mobilisations to fires in buildings (-20) and RTCs (-5) but there was an increase in incidents relating to flooding as a result of Storm Chandra (+18). The heavy rain throughout the month resulted in a reduction in malicious fires in urban areas (-9).

### Incidents in County Kildare (9-incidents total, examples):

- 01/01/2026 Baltinglass crew were mobilised to assist the ambulance service at Ballyraggan, Castledermot.
- 03/01/2026 Blessington crew supported Naas Fire Station at an RTC at Rathmore West involving a car hitting a tree.
- 14/01/2026 Dunlavin crew supported Naas Fire Station at an RTC at Kilgowan involving a car which had left the road.
- 15/01/2026 Blessington crew supported Tallaght Fire Station (DFB) at an RTC involving a van and a car at Junction 9 on the M7.
- 16/01/2026 Dunlavin crew supported Athy Fire Station at an RTC at Moone involving a van and a motorcycle.
- 24/01/2026 Dunlavin crew alarm.
- 24/01/2026 Blessington crew supported Naas Fire Station at a 2-car RTC at Haynestown, one person injured.
- 27/01/2026 Baltinglass crew supported Carlow Fire Station at a high speed 3-car RTC near Castledermot.
- 27/01/2026 Dunlavin crew were mobilised by Gardaí to an entrapment at Grangemore, Brannockstown.

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## Incidents in County Wexford (1-incident total):

- 08/01/2026      Tinahely crew responded to 2 cars on fire at Ballythomashill, Hollyfort.

## Fire Prevention Statistics January 2026

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	5	0	14	0	12
Revised FSCs	0	0	0	0	0
FSC 7-Day Notice	2	0	0	0	0
Regularisation FSCs	0	0	0	0	0
DACs	3	0	11	0	16
Revised DACs	0	0	0	0	0
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0	0	0

26 planning files were referred to the Chief Fire Officer for comment. Observations were made on 21 files received.

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

Activities during the month of January included:

- A meeting of Station Officers on 26<sup>th</sup> January.
- A meeting with Coillte to plan for the annual wildland fire season.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## **Building Control**

### **Commencement Notices for January 2026:**

Commencement Notices Submitted: 44

- 5 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 21 Opt Out Declarations
- 15 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 3 Seven Day Notice

### **Submission Statistics**

- 47 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 66 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 29 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
  - 4 with Compliance Documentation (14%)
  - 17 are Opt Out (59%)
  - 6 Without Compliance Documentation (21%)
  - 2 Seven Day Notice (6%)
- 35 Valid Commencement Notices
- 476 new build residential units
- 19 domestic extensions
- 5 Non Res new builds
- 9 Invalidated CNs from January

### **Certificates of Completion processed in January 2026**

- 17 New No. of CCC submitted
- 11 Required Revised Information (65%)
- 23 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 62 new Residential units & 80 Apartments
- 2 Non Res. Builds

### **Submission Statistics**

23 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 15 No. CCCs submitted in January

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

- 8 No. CCCs submitted in December 2025

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

476 new residential houses, 19 residential extensions and 5 Non-res buildings were notified to LA for Commencement & 62 newly residential units with an additional 80 apartments & 2 non-residential units were for completion submitted, assessed and validated in January. This commencement figures would indicate that construction activity in Wicklow will continue to rise in 2026.

4 No. Commencement Notice submissions were invalidated this month; this is due to a joint direction by both NBCO & Dept of HLGH to LA's. Commencement Notice data extracted from BCMS is being used in the National Action Plan on Housing Supply. If Revised Information request have not been responded to by the Commencement Date, submissions are to be invalidated, so BCMS real time statistics can be extracted.

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

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

Revised Information requests remained high in January for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 66% of Commencement Notice submissions & 65% 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.

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

## **Civil Defence**

Wicklow Civil Defence – Storm Chandra Response

During Storm Chandra, our Civil Defence volunteers responded to multiple calls across the county, assisting Wicklow Fire Service with evacuations, carrying out welfare checks, and setting up and staffing an emergency rest centre in the Pavilion in Aughrim along with the wonderful volunteers of Aughrim Tidy Towns.

Once again, our volunteers stepped up in difficult conditions to support those affected and to help keep communities safe.

A huge thank you to every volunteer who gave their time, skills, and commitment during this response.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026



**LAIT WICKLOW**  
 Foireann Udaráis Aitiúil um Imeascad  
 Local Authority Integration Team

## Top Line Data

Totals per Municipal District (in Department run emergency accommodation only)			
MD	IPAS	Ukrainian Response	Total
Arklow	36	16	52
Baltinglass	670	38	708
Bray	195	536	731
Greystones	0	110	110
Wicklow	210	90	300
Total	1,111	790	1901

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IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	9
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1,111
Of which are children	374

IPAS Totals per MD	
Arklow	36
Baltinglass	370
Bray	195
Greystones	0
Wicklow	210

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2026	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	16
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	84
Total number of sessions with single adults	22
Total number of sessions with couples	3
Total number of sessions with families	31

## LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for December

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	12
No. of Individuals	73
No. of Couples	2
No. of Families	25
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	7
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	66
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	11
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	22
No. of International Protection Applicants	44
No. Persons with Status	4

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No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	16

## Integration Supports – Key Enablers

In Session Support	Incidence
Accommodation	11
Community/Family	14
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	15
Employment/Enterprise	10
Events	1
Finance/Welfare	8
Health/Wellbeing	17
Language/Communication	2
Legal/Justice/Civic	22
Transportation	4
Miscellaneous	6

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

Overall Support December	
Emails sent for Clinic work	56
Emails Received	222
Emails Sent	144
Contacts with stakeholders	46
Referrals	16

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## Ukrainian Response

### **BOTP in State Contracted Emergency Accommodation**

As of the end of December 2025, there are **790** Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the county.

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

- Arklow MD: **16**
- Baltinglass MD: **38**
- Bray MD: **536**
- Greystones MD: **110**
- Wicklow MD: **90**

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

<b>BOTP Centre information in Wicklow</b>	
Current number of BOTP centres in County Wicklow	14
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	790
Of which are children	199

### **Offer a Home programme**

The 'Offer a Home' programme is being managed by local authorities on behalf of Government. Rent is not payable to homeowners as they are offering the property but a tax-free payment, Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP), of €600 per month per property is available through the Government's Recognition Payment Scheme, managed by the Department of Social Protection.

We are currently waiting for an update from the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in relation to the ARP as the scheme is due to expire 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## Organisational Development

The following interviews were held in January 2026:

- Permanent Part-Time Branch Librarian Interviews
- Assistant Engineer Interviews
- Graduate Engineer Interviews
- Technician Grade 1 (Civil/Architectural/Construction/Building)
- Executive Technician (Civil/Architectural/Construction/Building)
- Part-Time Retained Firefighter Dunlavin
- Part-Time Retained Firefighter Greystones
- Part-Time Retained Firefighter Carnew
- Retained Fire Driver/Mechanic Carnew
- Community Safety Development Officer Shortlisting

### Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
Managerial/Administrative	343	356	365	361
Professional/Technical	147	150	144	146
Outdoor	250	246	245	238
Temporary/Seasonal	66	95	96	58
Non DoHPLG	2	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>805</b>

\* Decrease in Temp/Seasonal category due to end dating of Lifeguard appointments.

### **Freedom of Information**

January 2026: 21	January 2025: 3
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### **Ombudsman Requests**

January 2026: 1	January 2025: 5
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### **Press Releases**

January 2026 – 6

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## Register of Electors

As part of the move to a National Register of Electors Database, data quality work continues on the Register and online applications via [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) continue to be received and processed. Applications that were parked due to their minor nature such as updating contact details etc. have now been followed up and completed.

Phase 1 of the testing of the new National Database is now complete with sign off in mid-December 2025, Phase 2 of this works is 95% complete with a minor adjustment to be made on the developer’s side to reach final completion and Phase 3 of the testing will commence before the end of January 2026. Wicklow is one of three local authorities selected to carry out this testing and troubleshooting on the developer’s behalf before it is rolled out to all local authorities as part of a phased programme of works.

## Customer Hub

<b>Customer Service Innovation Hub</b>			
<b>2026 - January</b>			
<b>Communication Channels</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Public Counters</b>	<b>No.</b>
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	8,913	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,916
No. of Customer Service Emails received	3,618	Revenue Transactions	1,621
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	89	Housing Counter Visits	n/a

## Energy Office

Wicklow County Council achieved ISO 50001 certification in September 2024. ISO 50001 is an international standard for establishing, implementing, maintaining, and improving our energy management system. In order to maintain the system an annual surveillance audit is carried out. Wicklow County Council appointed NSAI as external surveillance auditors to carry out the annual audit on Wicklow County Council’s ISO 50001 energy management systems. The Energy Office is striving for continuous improvement of the energy management system identifying any non-conformances and corrective actions each month.

The Energy office collaborates with all sections of the council and supports the development of other energy efficiency opportunities.

- Monthly energy reports on our Significant Energy Users (SEU)
- Library Service – New builds and energy efficiency projects in existing libraries
- Fire Service - New builds and energy efficiency projects in existing fire stations and fleet
- Fleet Management – Monitoring energy and carbon emissions of the WCC fleet
- Wicklow Gaol – Installation of new boiler transitioning from kerosene to HVO fuel and new boiler

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

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

The Energy Office is currently scoping a number of energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects for 2026 with support from the Mid-East Energy Unit, Codema and SEAI

Planned SEAI Pathfinder Projects for 2026.

- Arklow MD / Library - Part removal of gas boiler, installation of Air Source Heat Pump, Solar Photovoltaic Panels
- Blessington MD office - Removal of gas boiler, installation of Air Source Heat Pump & Solar Photovoltaic Panels
- Shoreline Leisure Centres Energy Performance Contract (Preparatory Work Ongoing to inform competitive dialogue throughout 2026)

Other ongoing projects - District Heating Feasibility Study – Arklow Decarbonised Zone final version due Q1 2026

## **Mid-East Energy Unit**

- Tender published to establish multi-party framework for smaller works outside EPC
  - One stop shop for SEAI Pathfinder projects for Mid-East Region
  - Finalising framework agreement with preferred contractors
- First EPC project for Kildare County Council anticipated contract signing Q1 2026
- Second EPC for Meath County Council anticipated contract signing Q1 2026
- Installing heat meters in leisure centres across the region to inform EPC process

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## Finance, Water & Information Systems

### Finance

#### Revenue Account

<b>REVENUE ACCOUNT</b>			
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st JANUARY 2026</b>			
	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>NET</b>
	<b>Adopted Full Year Budget</b>	<b>Adopted Full Year Budget</b>	<b>Adopted Expenditure / (Income)</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Housing and Building	62,990,719	(65,142,671)	(2,151,952)
Road Transport & Safety	28,055,651	(19,804,843)	8,250,808
Water Services	4,382,330	(5,354,831)	(972,501)
Development Management	19,296,387	(11,199,854)	8,096,533
Environmental Services	20,044,291	(6,082,483)	13,961,808
Recreation and Amenity	10,517,175	(1,393,762)	9,123,413
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,081,928	(694,328)	1,387,600
Miscellaneous Services	9,588,050	(17,287,651)	(7,699,601)
Central Management Charges	27,283,644	(1,050,000)	26,233,644
Local Government Fund		(21,810,080)	(21,810,080)
Commercial Rates		(34,419,672)	(34,419,672)
	<b>184,240,175</b>	<b>(184,240,175)</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements daily and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st January to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

#### Capital Account

<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST January 2026</b>					
	<b>Opening Balance at 01/01/2026</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>Transfers to/from Reserves</b>	<b>Closing Balance at 31/01/2026</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Housing and Building	14,004,772	4,344,669	(634,660)	0	17,714,781
Road Transport & Safety	(30,511,318)	272,201	(24,495)	0	(30,263,612)
Water Services	(6,318,619)	75,820	(1,705)	0	(6,244,505)
Development Management	(62,512,563)	(24,980)	(1,116,558)	0	(63,654,102)
Environmental Services	146,059	4,892,808	(276,237)	0	4,762,630
Recreation and Amenity	2,745,982	86,021	(61,060)	0	2,770,943
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,138,019)	4,540	0	0	(2,133,479)
Miscellaneous Services	(5,457,883)	75,437	(1,314)	0	(5,383,761)
	<b>(90,041,591)</b>	<b>9,726,515</b>	<b>(2,116,030)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(82,431,106)</b>

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31st January 2026										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2026	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/01/2026	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
<b>Rates</b>	2,830,108	34,482,520	0	0	121,396	37,312,628	(485,961)	36,826,667	630,042	1%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	2,758,693	1,827,016	0	0	0	4,585,709	(1,833,580)	2,752,129	0	40%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	447,005	205,690	0	0	0	652,695	(204,058)	448,637	0	46%

**NB:** Collection percentage 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 2026

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on 7th July to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% generated circa €1.4m 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 2026 is set out below:

Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	34,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	9,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	65,500
Festivals / Other	25,000	20,000	52,000	20,000	25,000	142,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Local Road Maintenance Ringfenced Budget	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	550,000
Local Road Footpath Renewal	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
Discretionary Funding	263,901	263,901	416,868	263,901	263,901	1,472,472
<b>Total</b>	<b>534,901</b>	<b>510,901</b>	<b>700,368</b>	<b>511,901</b>	<b>515,901</b>	<b>2,773,972</b>

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## Capital Investment Programme 2025-2027

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

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2025	2026	2027	TOTAL	Dev Charges <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 – FEBRUARY 2026

## 7. 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 Newtownmountkenny	€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 – FEBRUARY 2026

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 – FEBRUARY 2026

## 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

#### Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

Work progressed on the development of an Experience Builder web map to host the Annual Draft Map 2027 under the Residential Zoned Land Tax process. The application is being prepared for publication on the Wicklow County Council RZLT webpage to support public consultation and transparency. The map has been configured to present zoning information clearly and accessibly for members of the public and stakeholders.

#### Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership – County Wicklow Food Environment Map

- Ongoing collaboration took place with Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership in relation to the County Wicklow Food Environment Map project. Two mapping outputs are being progressed: a Research & Development Map and a public-facing interactive map presenting background data in an accessible format. Enhancements were made to the web map, including the addition of bus routes and stops and improved user interaction tools. Further engagement is planned with project stakeholders, including the Healthy Ireland Wicklow team, to support the next phase of development.

### Planning & Environmental Data Support

- Spatial data processing was undertaken to support Forward Planning, including land contour outputs and National Tree Map data extraction for Bray, Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue. Tree crown, polygon and point datasets were prepared to assist with evidence-based plan preparation. Support was also provided to the Environment section, including updates to buffers on a Nutrient Management Plan and completion of the associated ETL process. In addition, SEAI Building Energy Rating data was integrated into the Environment GIS Viewer to enhance internal access to environmental datasets.

### GIS Application Development & System Improvements

- Progress continued on the development and enhancement of internal GIS applications to support service delivery. Further configuration work was completed on the new Planning GIS Viewer, including the assignment of data groups and preparation of specific widgets for deployment. These improvements contribute to a more reliable and user-friendly GIS environment across departments.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

## **Interdepartmental Support & Data Management**

- Ongoing support was provided to a range of departments through data preparation, map production and technical guidance. This included facilitating access to relevant datasets and ensuring information was structured in a clear and usable format. Routine data management and housekeeping activities were undertaken to maintain consistency across web maps, datasets and metadata.

## **Infrastructure**

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