

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



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

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This month:

OUR RURAL FUTURE: €176,338 IN FUNDING TO THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS TO THE LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2024

An Taoiseach Simon Harris announced the successful projects in Co. Wicklow on 21st May 2024, at an Awards Ceremony held in the Tramway Theatre, Blessington.

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

The Department of Rural and Community Development's Local Enhancement Programme 2024 is administered by Local Community Development Committees, with support from the Local Authority, in each area.

WICKLOW SPORTS AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP ALLOCATES €80,000 TO WICKLOW SPORTS CLUBS

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership has announced the recipients of the Club Development Grant Scheme for 2024. A record number, 78 clubs, will receive financial support through this grant scheme for 2024.

One of the remits of Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership is to support sports clubs to provide opportunities for people to participate in organised sport and physical activity. This Club Development Grant Scheme aims to support initiatives that will lead to an increase in participation levels in sports clubs across Wicklow.

This particular scheme focused on:

- Training and education of club volunteers.
- Delivery of programmes or initiatives that will increase club membership.
- Small equipment purchases to facilitate increased membership.
- Youth development programmes to support the youth section of the club by training or upskilling youth members.
- Programmes and initiatives with a focus on inclusion of new communities, women and those with disabilities.

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Social Development (Housing & Community)

Housing

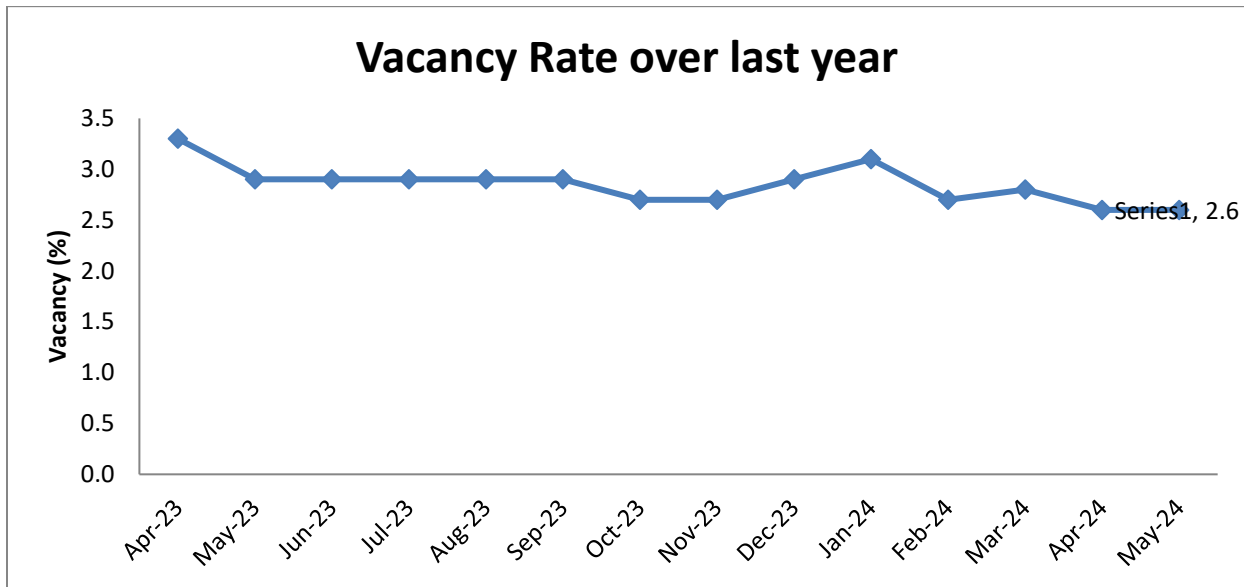
	April 2024	April 2023
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	183	174
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1397	1598
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	23
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	23	32

Re-Lets / Voids

MD	Completed in 2024	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	9 (+3)	5 (-4)	11 (+1)	2 (+1)	18 (-2)
Baltinglass	11 (+1)	5 (-1)	9 (0)	4 (+3)	18 (+2)
Bray	5 (+3)	6 (+1)	35 (0)	3 (-3)	44 (-2)
Greystones	1 (0)	4 (0)	1 (0)	0 (-1)	5 (-1)
Wicklow	13 (+6)	14 (-1)	32(+5)	1 (+1)	47 (+5)
2024 Totals	39 (+13)	34 (-5)	88 (+6)	10 (+1)	132 (+2)
2023 Totals	140				
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)	2.6% (0%)	Figures in brackets indicate change on last month			

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

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According to CSO Census 2022 data:

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

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

Housing Maintenance

Planned Maintenance in the form of electrical remedial works is currently underway at Parkmore in Baltinglass and further estates in West Wicklow will follow.

Gas boiler maintenance Framework Agreements are currently being tendered on www.supplygov.ie for Baltinglass, Wicklow and Greystones MDs.

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Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement

The Targeted Inspection programme on private rented accommodation continues. Housing For All requires 25% of all private rented properties to be inspected annually. This equates to approx. 1500 properties in Co. Wicklow every year. Target properties are selected using a Risk Based approach. The Council is responsible for enforcing the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 (SI 137 of 2019). So far in 2024, the following Notices have been served **by** Wicklow County Council in relation to breaches of SI 137 of 2019:

Notice Type	Served so far in 2024
Improvement Notice	16
Prohibition Notice	2

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

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

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

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

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

	2023 Budget	Amount Spent as of April 2024
Grant Funding for Private Housing	€2,352,438.16	€802,728.90
Grant Funding for Social Housing	€822,111.00	€425,953.51

2024 Overview

- 140 Open Applications
- 79 Approvals (Plus 143 from 2023)
- 125 Applications Paid and Closed

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Grants Received/Processed	249	216	266	327	281	456	153

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Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

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

Homeless Figures for April 2024

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 30/04/2024	Year To Date	As at 30/04/2023
No of New Presentations	35	120	16
No. of Repeat Presentations	1	1	2
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	13	38	9
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	32	95	7
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	2	10	0
No. of Children	19	59	20
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	6	27	6
Family Circumstances	16	45	3
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	0	7	0
Mental Health	2	9	0
Risk of Homelessness	23	55	2
Arrears/Loss of Income	1	5	0
Addiction Issues	1	15	0
DV/DA	0	3	0
Medical Issues	0	3	0
Overcrowding	10	14	2
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	6	22	5
ASB:	1	4	0
Rough Sleeping*	2	9	1
Sofa Surfing*	5	12	4
Staying with Family*	8	26	2
Staying with Friends*	3	11	1

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/04/23	
Families	17
Adults	32
Children	52
Single individual	2

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Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/04/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	22	26	23	8	2	8	2	2
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/03/23								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	23	27	24	9	6	3	1	6

Homeless HAP Place Finder

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- Seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs.
- Establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- Supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 549 households (381 families & 161 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 30th April 2024. (222 homeless cases, 306 prevention cases to date and 20 direct provision). 141 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

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

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

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Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

CWI (Cold Weather Initiative) beds are currently in operation in San Remo and will continue until April 2024.

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

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

Housing First

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

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

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

Homeless Action Plan 2024 – 2026

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

Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025

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

Ukrainian Response

As of the end of April 2024, there are 1726 Ukrainian Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the County.

The breakdown of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection is as follows:

- Arklow MD: 223
- Baltinglass MD: 360
- Bray MD: 767
- Greystones MD: 179
- Wicklow MD: 197

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

Wicklow County Council is also working through a list of pledged properties within the county to match families with appropriate housing. To date, Wicklow County Council has housed 270 displaced Ukrainian individuals in pledged stand-alone 'Offer a Home' properties within the county.

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

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Community

Local Enhancement Programme 2024

An Taoiseach Simon Harris announced the successful projects in Co. Wicklow on Tuesday evening, 21st May 2024, at an Awards Ceremony held in the Tramway Theatre, Blessington.

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

The Department of Rural and Community Development's Local Enhancement Programme 2024 is administered by Local Community Development Committees, with support from the Local Authority, in each area.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy thanked all those in attendance, particularly An Taoiseach, Simon Harris, fellow Councillors, and Michael Nicholson, Director of Services Wicklow County Council and Chief Executive Officer of Wicklow Local Community Development Committee, and Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, Chair of Wicklow Local Community Development Committee. She then went on to thank the local groups and organisations throughout County Wicklow.

"This funding is invaluable to the many groups and organisations who work tirelessly in their area to improve facilities for everyone and foster a sense of community and inclusivity. Your work helps to build communities and leaves a legacy for those who follow."

Announcing the successful projects for Co. Wicklow, Taoiseach Harris said:

"The Local Enhancement Programme is about giving a helping hand to our local groups and clubs, who are the building blocks of Irish community life. I want to congratulate the successful applicants and to thank them for the vital work they do in providing services in our local communities. These grants will help hundreds of community organisations, clubs, men's and women's sheds, youth centres and parish halls, to continue to provide their valuable services to the people in their areas. I'm really delighted that close to 150 organisations in County Wicklow are receiving funding which will go a long way in benefiting so many in the localities. On top of this 26 Women's Organisations in County Wicklow are receiving ring-fenced funding as part of the LEP allocation."

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Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2023

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

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

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	Landscaping
Rathdrum Community Park	Groundworks, Fencing, Gates
	Landscaping, large planters and benches
Greystones Community Park	Boules/Pétanque playing ground
	Landscaping and Community Placemaking

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

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

The Community Recognition Fund was first introduced in 2023 to recognise the huge efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting people coming to Ireland.

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

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

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

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

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

A number of Express of Interest Forms for proposed projects across the county, were received by the closing date of Friday, 10th May 2024. These forms and proposed projects are currently being assessed. The successful projects will be submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development, by Friday 31st May 2024 for final approval.

Pride of Place 2024

The Pride of Place Awards Ceremony 2024 will take place in Monaghan in November.

There are three entries from Wicklow for consideration: Tearmann Gardens, Baltinglass; Tinahely Community Recycling Centre and Wicklow Town Murals.

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Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

A public meeting of Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee was held in The Avon, Burgage More, Blessington on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

Presentations were made by Chief Superintendent Derek Hughes and Superintendent Rory Sheriff. Also in attendance were Cllr. Gerry Walsh, Chair of County Wicklow Joint Policing Committee, Ms. Emer O’Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr. Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, Wicklow County Council, Ms. Caroline Fox, A/Senior Executive Officer, Wicklow County Council.

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County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-27

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

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

The service is designed to enable older people to remain living in their own home for longer. The local coordinator undertakes home visits to older people living in the community, where a needs assessment is

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carried out, looking at four key areas of supports: housing, health, community/social supports, and technology. Home visits from the local co-coordinator are available to anyone aged 65+years. The rollout of the programme will commence in January 2024.

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

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

The Older People's Council (OPC) will meet in the Brockagh Centre on Thursday, 13th June 2024 to discuss the following – over 70's driving licence, Travel and Health Insurance, Transportation and G.P. Appointments.

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

Age Friendly Ireland Committee

The Age Friendly Ireland Convention was held in Kilkenny on May 8th to 10th May 2024. Workshops were held in relation to Well Being, Digital Inclusion Walking Tours and a visit to the new Age Friendly Train Station.



Healthy
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Healthy Wicklow

County Wicklow Food Coordinator

Under the key performance indicator, a decrease in the percentage of those at risk of poverty and basic deprivation a County Wicklow Food Coordinator position has been approved under the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4. Bray Area Partnership has been awarded the hosting agency for this position and the successful candidate commenced the role on Tuesday 7th May.

Brain Grooves Hip Hop (4 – 7 year old) Rathnew

Due to the success of the Brain Grooves Hip Hop programme for 7+, a 4-week programme of dance lessons was created by tutor Zoe Patterson and commenced on 27th May in Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin. The programme is designed to target 4 – 7 year old students.

Wicklow Travellers Group Horticulture Project

Healthy Wicklow, HSE and KWETB have collaborated in bringing unwind with plants to the active age group in CEART. 20 participants will propagate indoor plants by division and leaf cuttings, make bird

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feeders and bug hotels as well as sowing seeds to produce different salad leaves so that they can be harvested each week and used in CEART for lunches.

Walk N Talk Coolafancy

To celebrate the official launch of Carnew Emmets Healthy Clubs, a 6 week Walk N Talk was funded by Healthy Wicklow and began on 21st May in Coolafancy Community field.

Darkness into Light

The walk took place in Tinahely and Carnew on Saturday 11th May.

Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Machine

The Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Machine was organised by Healthy Wicklow to attend Carnew Mart on Thursday 2nd May which enabled a heart health check for 25 individuals on site consisting of 18 male and 7 female. Of these 25 people, eight were referred to their GP for blood pressure, three for cholesterol and one person was referred for 'other'.



Local Authority Integration Team

Client engagements

Process Updates

- The LAIT facilitated a meeting with relevant support services for the new centre opened in west Wicklow. It was agreed that the LAIT would conduct initial assessments and provide initial support with the newly arrived residents and then provide relevant information to the services to facilitate targeted supports where needed. This process has worked well and can be replicated in the future where appropriate.
- The LAIT ISC is currently drawing up the team's procedures, which should be completed by end of quarter two. The aim is to provide a clear outline of the team's operations with and on behalf of the target cohorts.

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Advice and Information clinics

During May, the LAIT provided 7 Advice and Information clinics. There was a significant number of new arrivals in the county, and two new centres opened to new residents. According to our process of prioritisation, the team focused primarily on newly arriving families.

The average length of engagement with each individual/family at these clinics was 1 hour, with approximately the same amount of time given to post clinic follow up for each individual/family.

For each new arrival, the LAIT conducted an initial advice and information session focusing on basic rights and entitlements including:

- Orientation to County Wicklow and the local community.
- Providing information on the International Protection Application process.
- Supporting access to the Daily Expenses Allowance.
- Medical card applications.
- Childcare and school placements.
- Urgent health referrals to HSE Social Inclusion.
- Links to KWETB for English classes and education/training advice.
- Registration for volunteering.

For new arrivals in Wicklow Town, we have also agreed that the team will make automatic referrals to the Wicklow Child and Family Project for ongoing support.

Support with employment, volunteering, and health continue to be the main issues raised by residents during the clinics.

Specific Purpose Clinics

It has been recognised by the LAIT as well as several other stakeholders, that access to medical cards is a consistent issue to be addressed for residents in IPAS centres. New arrivals need support to understand and complete the application process, while at the same time the limited capacity of GPs across the county (and country) is a challenge. In addition, there has been a significant amount of movement across all IPAS centres. As such, moved residents need support to change their medical card address and GP, or to renew out of date cards. In West Wicklow, the LAIT has agreed to collaborate with HSE Social Inclusion to provide specific medical card support in IPAS centres. To this end, it was agreed that the Wicklow LAIT would provide a medical card clinic in one of the largest IPAS centres in Wicklow. This was carried out in collaboration with the centre manager, who advertised the specific-purpose clinic to the residents and supported them to access LAIT support.

AOB

The Wicklow LAIT facilitated a coffee morning in the county buildings for managers of IPAS centres hosting IPAs and refugees across the county. The centre managers that attended requested that more such networking opportunities be provided and agreed to rotate hosting the sessions in their centres.

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Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Meet the Candidates: Events planned by PPN and Older People's Council to give the public an opportunity to meet with local election candidates and exchange issues and ideas. Dates: May 7th, 9th, 16th, 21st, 23rd and 28th.

Consultations: Communal Gardens & Allotments Eol; Wicklow to Greystones Greenway Scheme; Whitestown Lower and Hangman's Bends Public Consultation, Part 8- M11 Junction 19 Weighbridge Facility, N81 Hollywood Rural Traffic Calming and Bus Stop.

Collaborations: Working with WCC Biodiversity Officer and Climate Action Team on related work.

Traveller Pride Day event took place on May 20th.

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

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Planning, Economic & Rural Development

Planning

Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028

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

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 as altered is available to view here –

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-CountyPlans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Stage-7>

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

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

Local Area Plans

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

Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan

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

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the draft plan is prepared it will go out on public consultation for 6 weeks with submissions invited from everyone. It is hoped that the draft plan will commence display in Q2 2024.

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

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

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

Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan

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

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

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

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

Blessington Local Area Plan

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

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

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Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan

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

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

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

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

The current LAP for these Bray is available to view here

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

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

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

The draft RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 was published on 01 February 2024. Submissions were invited on the draft maps up to 01 April 2024 with 9 submissions received. Submissions requesting a variation of the zoning of land are invited up to 31 May 2024. To view the draft RZLT maps click on the link below. Details on how to make a submission is also available on this link too.

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

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Vacant Site Levy

This programme is still ongoing and is affected by the proposed deferral of the RZLT. As liability to the RZLT is now proposed to be deferred for one year, it is considered appropriate to maintain provisions in legislation for the management and continued charging of the vacant site levy in respect of land which is identified on the register. This will continue to facilitate imminent placements on the register, conclusion of appeals and to facilitate the issuing of demands in relation to the levy for the period to the end of 2024. This will ensure that the use of the levy as an active land management measure will continue until the RZLT is in effect.

More information can be found online at the following link

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

Heritage Office

County Heritage Plan Review: The process of preparing a new Heritage Plan has commenced and public submissions are advertised and invited via e mail and/or online questionnaire by 30th July. A series of drop in clinics are scheduled to take place from 4-7 pm in the following branch libraries.

Thursday 16th May - Arklow Library, 7 Main Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Y14 PY61

Tuesday 21st May - Wicklow Town Library, The Mall, Main Street, Co. Wicklow, A67 X504

Thursday 13th June - Blessington Library, New Town Centre, Blessington, Co. Wicklow, W91 RW83

Tuesday 18th June - Bray Library, Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 W627

Thursday 20th June - Greystones Library, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 KN52

Wicklow Heritage Forum Meeting: Heritage Forum meeting held 30th April

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

Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) – Five new community groups have signed up to the *Our Wicklow Heritage* network and are currently receiving training in setting up their digital archives. Next (national) network meeting 24th May hosted by Cork County Council Heritage Office.

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

Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture): A funding allocation of €101,000 has been received in respect of 16 projects shortlisted for county Wicklow under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS). Additionally four projects have been successful under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) as follows; Coolattin House €171,000; Clermont House €171,000; Former Post Office, Shillelagh €20,000 and Vernacular house at Rosebank, Avoca €10,000.

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 30 th April 2024	To 30 th April 2023	% difference
Received (Valid)	344	363	-5.5%

A total of 82 valid applications were received during March as follows:

Type of Development	30 th April 2024 Number Received
Individual Houses	13 (09 refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	02
Agricultural Structures	00
Commercial	04
Other Developments**	63
Total	82

**Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger signpost, Well, change of use,

Hoarding, relocation of vehicular entrance, extend the appropriate period of permission, various amendments/modifications to previous planning permission, conversion, retention, boundary screen wall, attic conversion, reclamation of land, effluent treatment system & percolation area.

Large Housing Development PPR24/176, Lusra Teo, 65 dwellings, Ballynerrin Lower, Marlton Road, Wicklow

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Decisions issued in respect of 73 applications in April 2024

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	01
Individual Houses	00
Other Developments	72
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
Total	73

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

	30/04/2023	30/04/2024
Total Number of decisions issued	311	298
Total Number of decisions to grant	256	255
% Grant Rate	82%	86%
No of applications withdrawn		19 (11 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

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

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

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

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

Strategic Infrastructure Development

An Bord Pleanala has received an application for approval under section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-310090-21- Proposed development will comprise the onshore

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grid infrastructure including 220kV export cable circuits and fibre optic cables, new 220kV GIS substation at Shelton Abbey and overhead line connection and all associated ancillary works. In the townlands of Johnstown North, Johnstown South, Seabank, Ballymoney, Killiniskyduff, Templerainy, Coolboy, Kilbride, Shelton Abbey, Ballyraine Lower and Ballyraine Middle, in Co. Wicklow – approved with conditions 27/5/2023.

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

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

Substitute Consent

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

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

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E-Planning Project

The eplanning has now been in place for just over one year, it went live on 17th April 2023 and for the year up to 16th April 2024, during this time we received a total of 1,437 applications of which 744 were received through the new eplanning portal and 693 were received online, 50.62% in the first year were received online.

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

From **1st January 2024 to 30th April 2024** a total of 443 applications were received of which 45.15% were hard copy applications and **54.85% were received online**.

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

There has been a mix of application types received during the month of April via the eplanning portal including:

- A number of one off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Change of use to a number of properties throughout the county
- Extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- 4 no. Padel Courts, associated lighting and fencing to the front of Carlisle Grounds, Bray
- Construction of stableblock consisting of 4 stables and a tackroom/feedroom in Enniskerry
- 16 no. dwellings at Ashford
- Installation of an aircraft noise monitoring terminal in Bray

Planning Enforcement

New Files	10
Advisory Letters	22
Warning Letters	3
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	0
Closed	12

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Short Term Letting – 01/04/2024 – 30/04/2024

Applications received for Registration in April 2024	8
Complaints received in April 2024	0
Warning Letters issued in April 2024	0
Enforcement Notices issued in April 2024	0
Legal proceedings in April 2024	0
Files under investigation as of 30/04/2024	67

Vacant Sites

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

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

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

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Economic and Rural Development

Town Regeneration

Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

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

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

Funding Schemes

Town Centre First – Suite of Supports

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

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

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

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

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Thrive

Under the new Thrive – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme Strand 1, two applications were submitted on the 5th April for Bray and Wicklow Town/Rathnew. The aim of these projects is to enhance and develop existing Town Realms under the Town Centre First approach.

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

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow County Council has been awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023. The Projects selected were Kirikee, Glenmalure for work on their Community Centre to include renovation of the roof, windows ceilings, and walls, Lacken, to renovate the old schoolhouse to be used as a community centre to include a café and community shop and a small heritage section and, Wicklow Towns Murrough BMX pump track, to develop into a best-in-class asphalt covered pump track for all ages and abilities.

Town Teams

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

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

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

Steering Group for the Progression of URDF and RRDF Projects

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

These groups continue to meet fortnightly and monthly for discussions on updates.

Blessington RRDF: Blessington has been awarded over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) to be used for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development

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of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a vacant/derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes Greenway.

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

An application for further funding on this project was made to the Department on the 7th February 2024. However, the submission was not successful.

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

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

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

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

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

Tourism

Wicklow County Council Tourism Office continues to promote County Wicklow as a destination not only to domestic visitors but also on the international market using a range of tools and activities including:

Wicklow Passport: The Wicklow Passport experience was enhanced with the launch of a new mapping system to help Wicklow Passport holders find stamping locations around Wicklow. The mapping system

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was developed by Wicklow County Council and uses Google Maps technologies. The online map displays stamping locations, the respective stamp available at each location, directions and a functionality that identifies the user's current location.

See mapping system at <https://visitwicklow.ie/wicklow-passport-map/>

International Media Support:

Kevin Documentary (French) - A documentary about the name Kevin is being produced by a French filmographer. The documentary is focusing on the struggle people named 'Kevin' suffer in France. The documentary explores the origin of the name Kevin, and the Wicklow County Council Tourism Office helped coordinate a trip to Glendalough to feature the life of St. Kevin, as well as organising an interview with an 'Irish' Kevin. The documentary is to be launched later this year. It has already received extensive media coverage not only in France, but also in Germany, Spain and the US. This is a great opportunity for Wicklow to gain exposure when the documentary is released.

TF1 Evening News (French) - Journalists from French TV channel TF1 were sent by Tourism Ireland's office in Paris to shoot a feature on Wicklow to be broadcast on the channel's evening news. The evening news on TF1 has a potential reach of up to 5 million viewers. Wicklow County Council's Tourism Office helped organise a two day trip to Wicklow that included Powerscourt Gardens and Waterfall, Lough Tay, Glendalough, Woodenbridge Hotel, Mickey Finns Pub, and Beyond the Trees Avondale.

PR Campaign 2024 - Wicklow County Council has secured the services of a PR agency in partnership with Wicklow County Tourism. This campaign is to run until the end of the year. Its objective is to bring the monthly stories and news to a wider domestic audience, engaging with national media and various online channels as well as identify promotional opportunities.

The campaign for May is the relaunch of the Wicklow Passport.

The Wicklow Passport remains a tremendous tool to help promote tourism in Wicklow and attract visitors to the various corners of the County. Following a photo shoot, the agency will focus on gaining media coverage for the Wicklow Passport. The objective is to attract influencers and journalists to experience the Wicklow Passport.

Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

A detailed design of the Abbey Grounds has been completed to date.

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The detailed designs for the amphitheatre and park area are being finalised. These will be issued as a separate contract due to the nature of the works. A proposal for the lighting design for the amphitheatre and park area has also been commissioned.

The tender for the Coach House refurbishment works closed on 5th April. The assessment of the tender responses will be progressed as quickly as possible with appointment of a contractor by mid to end May 2024 (for Coach House refurbishment only).

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

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

A Working Group comprising representatives from all stakeholders has also been formed and has commenced work on short term actions for 2024, along with longer term actions also. As community consultation and participation is a central tenet of the masterplan, a Local Advisory Group has been established to keep the local community informed and ensure their input to the process. The first meeting of the group took place on Thursday 9th May 2024 at the Brockagh Centre.

Special Projects

Greystones Enterprise Centre: The purchase of the Enterprise Space in Greystones has been completed and work is underway to prepare for fitting-out the building. A property management contract has been signed between Greystones Enterprise Hub CLG and Cushman and Wakefield for the fit-out, marketing, and management of the centre.

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

Carnew Remote Working Hub: Contracts have been signed for the design of the former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew for the provision of a remote working hub and ancillary facilities. An initial meeting has taken place and site visit is scheduled with work expected to commence shortly after the site visit.

Marketing Plan: MarketingCoach have been awarded the contract to implement a Marketing Plan for County Wicklow, highlighting the availability of Remote Working Hubs and Broadband Connection Points. A Marketing Plan has been agreed recommending a campaign idea "Choose Wicklow".

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Offshore Renewable Energy

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

Skills Strategy

The draft Skills Strategy for County Wicklow has been presented to the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC and will be included on the agenda for consideration at the Council meeting on 1st July. The Skills Taskforce will then begin implementation of the actions contained within the County Wicklow Skills Strategy.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow Naturally: The board of Wicklow Naturally has now appointed a Digital Marketing Coordinator, as well as an Events & Network Coordinator. Upcoming actions include organising a networking evening for the members, planning for October Feast, reviewing options for the Tinahely Show, revamping the website, and organising short promotional videos

Wicklow County Council has been awarded grant funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to support Destination Wicklow, a project focusing on telling the story of Wicklow Naturally members and their products. Preparation work on this project has commenced.

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Local Enterprise Office

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral 			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 28/ € 672,873 4/ € 6,541	42 Combined	8 €138,423 4 €10,000
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	40	60	26
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73 / 7 programmes	120	63
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	757	1020	272
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	30	20	10
METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	581	500	183

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Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	528	390	223
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METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021/2023	2023/2024	Year to Date 23-24
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1028	1100	1358

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

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2023	2024	Year to Date 2024
Trading Online Vouchers	81	38 (meet demand)	27

Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	15	9
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	5	17	13
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	1	6	3
Energy Efficiency Grant	-	12	1

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024

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No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	6	11	2
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New Exporters	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	3	-

April 2024 Events:

Student Enterprise Awards:

Well done to the Wicklow representatives who took part in the National Final of the Student Enterprise Programme in Mullingar on the 9th of May. County Wicklow were represented by Plant Paradise (students from St Kevins CC, Dunlavin), Bling (Loreto Bray) and Christmas Avondale Community College.

May 2024 Activities:

- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out several times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Business Advice Clinics continue to run 3 days per week to provide advice to those individuals hoping to start a business and to assist existing businesses grow and develop.
- On Thursday 23rd May local coffee roasting company, Brady's Coffee of Wicklow Town, will represent Wicklow in the LEO National Enterprise Awards in the Mansion House Dublin.
- On 16th May a local Tech Business Meet-up group will meet at Clermont Screen Hub and be addressed by Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, LEO Wicklow.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme:

The training programme for Spring 2024 is ongoing. Courses are open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow.

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Training completed in April includes:

- Website Bootcamp: Search Engine Optimisation
- Bookkeeping for Small Businesses

Training scheduled for May includes:

- Start Your Own Business
- Bookkeeping Using Excel
- Using Canva for Businesses; Advanced
- Start Your Own Business 2-day Bootcamp
- Effective Marketing for SMEs
- Digital Marketing Clinics
- Trading Online Voucher Semina

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Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

Climate Action

Communal Gardening

- Community Gardening Expression of interest with Closing date 26th April advertised, 39 expressions received to date with a good graphical spread with Wicklow Town with highest demand.

Biodiversity Week

Events took place such as:

- Friday 17th May. 4 class groups of 30 children (120 in total) for Anyone4science bee and biodiversity programme – **Greystones Library funded by Climate Action Fund**
- Wednesday 22nd May Deer Research in Ireland and their Impact on Biodiversity
- Thursday 23rd May The Barn Owl in Wicklow, Back from the Brink
- Friday 24th May Wings of the Night: Bat and Moth Exploration
- Saturday 25th May Establish a Wildflower Meadow – **Greystones Library funded by Climate Action Fund**
- Sunday 26th May Walk on the Wild Side: Exploring Tomnafinnoge Woods and the Derry River –

Environmental Awareness Officer

Community Climate Action Programme

Funding of €646,000 allocated to Wicklow.

40 Valid applications has been received for the Fund.

An Evaluation Committee reviewed the applications.

The following 20 application breakdown has been selected to be submitted to the department with a report.

The theme with largest interest was energy, particularly relating to solar PV though many projects also incorporated other themes including recycling, food and waste and local climate action.

The DECC is currently assessing the approved applications and is expected to advise in July.

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

Climate Adaptation:

Coastal Erosion

- The ECRIPP consultant engineers are reviewing Wicklow County Councils response to their concept designs. The project is in relation to the coastal protection works from Bray Head to Wicklow. Malachy Walsh have verbally quoted €2,500 to advise WCC in relation to the ECRIPP project. They will also be providing advice to DLR on the ECRIPP project. Site Investigation complete in Wicklow and ongoing in DLR
- Malachy Walsh and Partners have been engaged in relation to Brittas Bay and Ennereilly, And have commenced a condition survey.
- Seabank to Kilmichael Point (An application has been lodged to the OPW for funding and this project was tendered on etenders.) The tender has closed with two tenders received. Awaiting on formal notification of funding from OPW

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- Greystones North Beach (Funding submitted to OPW, Area may be covered by ECRIPP)

Climate Mitigation:

E-Bike Shared Mobility Scheme

- Meeting took place with Bolt in relation to Greystones MD parking locations reviewed on the 05th March 2024, parking locations circulated to district engineer.
- Contract for Bolt in Bray extended until 28th Feb 2025.
- Legal department issued advice in relation to Bray Bolt and Greystones Bolt draft agreements.
- Expression of interest drafted and circulated for Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow, Some revisions been made.
- Will Place Expression of Interest on E-tenders by 7th June.
- Civil Works for E-Bike parking to be tendered for Greystones ideally on Supply Gov

Climate Networking

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

Environmental Awareness

- Currently reviewing work priorities for the year ahead and reviewing expenditure on various historical projects / events
- 14 secondary schools in the Rubbish Film Festival with Create Schools. Each school creates a Poster and makes a 60 second film based on a topic relevant to waste.
- 22 Schools in Wicklow awarded a Green Flag with the Green Schools program
- 12 Toy swap shops taking place in some Libraries and schools in June in collaboration with Rediscovery centre, Wicklow Library Service and EAO

Other Climate Actions:

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

Harbours and Ports

Wicklow Harbour Dredging

A draft licence has been issued to carry out bed-levelling in Wicklow Port. This will ensure appropriate depths are available for shipping for the next 2 years while the council awaits a licence for a full maintenance dredging of the harbour.

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Harbours CCTV and security

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

Arklow Harbour

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

Litter/Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created	172
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	163
No of Litter Fines Issued	10
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	4
No. of Warning Letters Issued	5
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	8
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	3
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	9
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	21
No. of Cases listed for Court during the month under the Litter Pollution Act	5
No. of Cases listed for Court during the month under the Waste Management Act	7
Income - Litter	€1,580.00
Income- Waste Management	€3,730.00

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 5 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 3 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 0 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 2 Noise pollution complaints closed.
- 1 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 10 Air pollution complaints closed.

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Private Water Supplies

- 1 Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for 117 Regulated Private Water Supplies prepared.
- 22 Private Water Supplies Monitored.
- 20 Private Water Supplies were compliant with drinking water parametric limit values.
- 0 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with microbiological parametric limit values.
- 1 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with pH parametric limit values.
- 2 Boil Water Restrictions placed on Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice due to microbial failures.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

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

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 1 Catchment engagement activities was undertaken.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared
- 3 septic tank engagement activities were undertaken
- 15 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems were carried out.
- 9 domestic waste water treatment systems were found compliant.
- 6 domestic waste water treatment systems were found non-compliant and were issued advisory notices.
- 3 inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems and was found compliant with advisory notice.

Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

- 1 Inspection of farm carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.

Well Grants

- 7 New Water Grant application received
- 1 New Well granted
- 7 New Pumps granted
- 16 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 12 inspections in advance/completion of works

Petrol Vapour Recovery

- 3 Stage 1b Installation (Petrol Delivery) applications assessed.

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 2 Paint Retailer inspected.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

- 6 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

Planning & Development

- 4 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.

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- 4 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
- 10 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.
- 3 environmental reports on compliance with planning permission conditions were completed.

Control of Dogs

Dogs

There has been a marked increase in the dog licence renewal figures compared to the same time last year and this continues into this month. The dog wardens have been carrying out patrols in a number of locations in the county, and advertising the location where they will visit, which has contributed to the increase in purchase of licenses.

Lambing season

The annual campaign has commenced, reminding the public to ensure their dogs are under control during the lambing season. Reminders are being broadcast on East Coast Radio a number of times per day



Blue Flags & Green Coast Awards

In May An Taisce announced three beaches in County Wicklow were awarded the Blue Flag: Brittas Bay North & South and Greystones South. After an absence of 4 years Arklow South Beach regained the Green Coast Award.



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Projects Office

Whitestown Remediation Project

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

Avoca Mines Remediation Project

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



Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

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

Wicklow Arts Office

Creative Places Baltinglass

Rathcoran Residency:

The 'Community Planting & Street Feast Festival Day' took place at Rathcoran housing on 25th May. Artist and permaculture expert Suzie Cahn led the community planting and participatory workshops. The community residents enjoyed participating in the arts and creativity events that were laid on for the occasion and brought along dishes native to their countries of origin to share with others.

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Bealtaine Tea Dance

In collaboration with Baltinglass & District A.R.A., the Arts Office provided a social tea dance as part of the Bealtaine Festival for Creative Places Baltinglass.

The event proved hugely successful with over 60 senior citizens from the Baltinglass area attending the event on 8th May 2024.

Creative Ireland Programme

Sing in Wicklow Grant Scheme:

Wicklow County Arts Office will shortly announced the successful applicants of the 'Sing in Wicklow' funding award which offers up to a maximum of €1,000 for each successful applicant.

The 'Sing in Wicklow' award aims to support choirs across the county to participate in workshops and choir competitions, facilitate inter-choir collaborations such as performances, peer-learning and networking, recruit new members and purchase essential equipment and instruments.

Short Film Awards Scheme:

This scheme is a partnership between Wicklow County Council's Arts Office and Screen Hub. A total of €30,000.00 will be made to two successful applicant parties. The purpose of the award is to support Wicklow filmmakers to make high-quality, original films in the county.

Narrative films, documentary, digital film and animation were all eligible to apply. Films had to be shot in County Wicklow.

A total of twenty seven applications were received. The names of the successful applicants will be released following completion of the adjudication process.

Music Programmes for Older Persons

The 'Care Concert' series 2024 with Mobile Music Machine and featuring a host of Ireland's most well-known singers and musicians continues its roll out of concerts in residential and day care facilities across County Wicklow. This year's recipients of concerts are the Kylemore Nursing Home, Dargle Valley Nursing Home, Trinity Care Cairnhill Nursing Home, Sunbeam house and Asgard Lodge Nursing Home. The concerts are programmed with input from the care facility residents and staff and have been hugely successful since inception in 2021.

Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme:

The awardees of this scheme have been announced. There was a high degree of demand on the scheme with applicants requesting almost €80,000.00.

The quality of applications was exceptional, with a host of communities all throughout County Wicklow set to benefit from creative engagement across the fields of heritage, libraries, archives, climate activation and biodiversity. The successful applicants were:

Crosscare East Wicklow Youth Service	2500
Bray Travellers Community Development Group	2000
Tinahely Tidy Towns	2500
The Parnell Society	2300
Open Door Vevay Road	1300
Stratford Grangecon Development Company Limited	2500
The Shaking Bog	2500
Blessington History Society and Blessington Tidy Town	2500
Knockananna Youth Projects	2500
Roundwood & District Historical, Folklore & Archaeological Society	1455
Wicklow Town Team	2500
Baltinglass Friends of Kosova	2500
Arklow Writer's Group	1380

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The Sheds Gallery Bridgewater -402 Cultural Collective	2500
Wicklow Children's Book Collective	<u>2000</u>
Total:	€32,935

Cruinniú na nÓg 2024

Cruinniú na nÓg, the National Day of Creativity for children and young people, returns to County Wicklow on Saturday, 15th June 2024.

A flagship initiative of Creative Ireland's 'Creative Youth Plan,' Cruinniú na nÓg aims to enable, celebrate, and encourage the creative potential of children and young people through creative activities. This year's programme features a diverse and extensive line-up of events, activities, and workshops designed to inspire and delight. All events and activities for free.

This year's theme is 'Performance and Participation' and will showcase a host of opportunities to see children and young people engaged in performance events and also participating in creative workshops.

The Arts Office partnered with Wicklow Library Services, Mermaid Arts Centre, Arklow Music and Arts, Tinahely Courthouse Arts Centre as well as Wicklow Artists and Community Groups have programmed over 40 events, activities, performances and workshops to take place in twelve locations across the County Wicklow. A full list of events taking place on Saturday 15th June is available at <https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/wicklow/>

Wicklow County Library Service

Funding – Ballywaltrim Library

Department of Rural and Community Development issued approval in principle funding of €3m for Ballywaltrim Library in response to the Libraries Capital Programme 2023-2027 funding call.

Funding- Literacy

Wicklow Library Service has recently secured €21,000 in funding from the Adult Literacy for Life Collaboration and Innovation Fund. The project (a collaboration between ourselves and Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) is called 'DigiLit @ Your Library' and will provide one-to-one digital skills sessions for the general public. The 'DigiLit' project has come about as a result of the needs identified in the Adult Literacy for Life Strategy and will empower our citizens to fully participate in society and take full advantage of all that the digital world can offer, e.g. Government services, employment services, managing finances, shopping online, and paying utility bills. The sessions will commence from September in a number of branch libraries across the County.

Funding –Communicating Europe Initiative 2024

We were successful in submitting an application for funding under the Local Authority Communicating Europe Initiative and will receive €7,500 to host EU themed events to the end of the year.

Biodiversity week 17th-26th May

In fulfilling our commitment to SDGs the Library Service celebrates Biodiversity week with a range of events and themed book displays and storytimes. On 17th May Anyone4Science had Greystones Library buzzing with a beeswax candle making workshop. On Saturday 25th May also in Greystones Library learn from Alex Hobbs how to establish a wildflower meadow in your garden, improve your soil and increase biodiversity in your garden by attracting bees, butterflies and other important insects.

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Online Resources

We've added QR stickers to our Graphic Novels, which take you to the Comics Plus area of our website where you can download the app for free. The app allows access to Adult, YA or Junior comics/graphic novels and is dependent on your library card. If you want only child friendly comics, then you will need a child only card. Same rule applies for YA. Adults have access to the entire collection.

On a national level after a tendering process Borrowbox is now the provider of eNewspapers and eMagazines as well e-books, and eaudiobooks. Titles are still being added to ePress and it is expected the collection will grow over the coming weeks. Mediahuis titles (e.g. Irish independent) will only be available for access within library branches. The Washington Post will be live by the end of the month. The Economist is currently unavailable but negotiations will commence in 2025 when they have fulfilled other contractual obligations.

Language learning remains under Transparent Languages and Universal Class continues as the provider of online learning courses.







Libraries of Sanctuary

Wicklow County Council Library Service have acquired 7 Cyrillic and 7 Arabic keyboards for use in the following branches: Arklow, Ballywaltrim, Baltinglass, Blessington, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow Town. These keyboards are for library use only and can be plugged into any of the public access PCs in the branches listed.

Bealtaine Festival.

Building on our age friendly commitment some fantastic offerings for our older customers during the month of May as we celebrate the Arts and creativity as we age. Cafe Bealtaine in Wicklow Town Library, enjoy afternoon tea on Wednesday the 22nd of May featuring Wicklow Community Choir and a few surprises. Fun and fitness with a series of 'Beginners Zumba Classes' May 9th, 16th, & 23rd, also in Wicklow Town Library. Blessington Library have Hatha yoga on May 20th and a workshop and choir performance on 23rd May. Bray Library host musicians, singers and songwriters of Rambling House, Little Bray on 28th May.

Local History Talks and Events

<p><i>Bray Library presents:</i></p>  <p>The International Hotel <i>Remembered in History & Song</i> A lecture by Robert Butler Monday 20th May at 11.30am</p> 	<p>Using DNA Testing for Family History With Professional Genealogist Claire Bradley</p>  <p>Ballywaltrim Library Saturday May 11th at 3pm</p> 
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Local history is well represented again this month with an exhibition in Wicklow Town Library, a genealogy talk in Ballywaltrim Library and 2 local history talks.

The LEGENDARY LANDSCAPES: HIDDEN STORIES OF THE WICKLOW MOUNTAINS exhibition is based on an ongoing citizen heritage project, Heritage Hiking Wicklow, which aims to showcase the unique history and mythology of the Wicklow Mountains. More specifically, the goal of the exhibition is to creatively present this research in-person for the first time. It includes a series of illustrated photographs, showing the heritage sites as we see them today overlaid with illustrations that bring the stories associated with these places to life.

Also in Wicklow Library a talk by Isable Clissmann 'FIONN MAC CUMHAILL FOLKLORE IN THE WICKLOW MOUNTAINS'

Links between geographic features and Fenian folklore are common throughout Ireland - the most famous example perhaps is the Giant's Causeway. In this talk, Isabel will draw attention to the Fenian folklore sites in Wicklow, contextualise these sites within the wider Irish folklore tradition (with an emphasis on *dinnsenchas* and Fenian folklore specifically), and suggest how we can learn from these older Irish traditions to have a deeper, more meaningful connection to the landscape.

One of our own staff and local history enthusiast Robert Butler presents 'THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL REMEMBERED IN HISTORY AND SONG' in both Bray and Ballywaltrim Libraries.

'USING DNA TESTING FOR FAMILY HISTORY' the fascinating subject of DNA testing presented by Claire Bradley in Ballywaltrim Library. DNA testing is a rapidly growing new angle for research into your family history. This talk on autosomal DNA (the main type used for success) explains the terminology, what companies offer this service, costs and how to use this tool to progress your ancestry. It finds cousins matches for you and also provides an estimate of deep ancestral ethnicity. Claire will also discuss the ethics of testing and considerations regarding the possibility of uncovering a family secret.

Archives & Genealogy Service

Wicklow's Famine Commemoration at Coollattin House

The Archives Service organised an event at Coollattin House to mark National Famine Commemoration Day on 19th May 2024. The National Famine Commemoration Committee was first established in 2008 and is chaired by Catherine Martin T.D., Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The committee includes representatives from government, the Defence Forces, Irish aid agencies, historians and the National Museum of Ireland, among others. Coollattin House was the Irish residence of the Earls Fitzwilliam who owned 85 thousand acres of land mainly in Co Wicklow and the Fitzwilliams assisted over 1000 people to emigrate to Canada during and after the Famine. This event was supported by the local community and particularly historians Kevin and Eleanor Lee and a dedicated group of volunteers and kindly hosted by the owners of Coollattin House. The story of this emigrant programme and its influence in the development of the nation of Canada is documented in a book called *Shoebboxes, From Wicklow Roots to Canadian Branches*, by Kevin Lee and Canadian Tom Jenkins, a descendant of Coollattin emigrants. The digitised collections of Wicklow County Archives include the workhouse registers of nearby Shillelagh Union and also Rathdrum Union, both dating from pre-Famine times and are available to view on www.wicklow.ie, and also at www.coolattinlives.ie. The programme of events on the day included addresses by Leas Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Councillor Gail Dunne and Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District Councillor Edward Timmins. The emigrant songs *Isle of Hope* and *Irish Heart* were performed by Ellie Willoughby and the keynote lecture 'Faces of Famine' was delivered by historian Kevin Lee. Tours of the house were provided and a history exhibition about the Coollattin emigrant programme was also on display.

Digitisation programme

The digitisation of the minute books of the Rathdrum Boards of Guardians 1839 – 1921 was supported by Creative Ireland. This collection has now been uploaded to Wicklow.ie and it is the first of our collections to include the new AI-powered technology *Transkribus* which renders hand-written records machine-readable and searchable for the first

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time. These records are a rich and informative resource for Irish social history. They provide detailed information on the day to day work of the Boards of Guardians who were charged with administering the workhouse and the relief of the poor in their Union. They include the Workhouse Master's Report, numbers admitted, clothing for the inmates, discipline inflicted, staff and provisions - reflecting not only the functions of the board, but also resolutions on internal and poor law matters and on wider political or social issues.

Outdoor Recreation

Coastal Blueway

The Blueway project is moving towards the second stage of the accreditation process with the current accreditation mainly reliant on provider-based activities.

Greystones – Works completed.

Brittas Bay – Works completed: toilet/disabled toilet/shower facilities. Car parking painting in progress.

Wicklow Town – Works in progress: new outdoor showers at Harbour area, toilet facilities and path upgrading.

Arklow – Boardwalk replacement works at South Beach to commence during June. Licence Agreement being finalised with Roadstone, landowner.

Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee (WORC) – NPWS current host

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

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

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

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

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Date for Completion
OR121WW04	<i>Avonmore Kayak Project</i>	Railings are being fitted at Rathdrum bridge and storm damage repair works were carried out at the Meetings of The Waters in Avoca.	Completed
OR221WW02	<i>Bray to Greystones – Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</i>	The TIDES Project team are providing support to Greystones MD with the preparation of CPO maps for the Cliff Walk realignment. Further documentation is required and these are also currently being prepared, an options report and an AA/EIA screening report. A topographical survey is also needed to facilitate the options report as the existing ground levels and gradients are a significant factor in choosing the preferred route. This will be carried out over the coming weeks.	Extension requested not confirmed!!
ORIS 2021-M2 OR221WW01	<i>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</i>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Alter structure of tender to include specifics around access, materials and any other areas. Tender in progress. Extension requested to May'25	In progress
ORIS 2021-M3 OR321WW01	<i>The Sugar Loaf Repair 2021 Scheme</i>	Part VIII submitted to CE and presented to the members of Bray MD in April. Works to be carried out at 3 different stages along the mountain.	Extension to Oct'24

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

Project Development Measure (PDM) 2023

Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan

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

Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan

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

Tender documents are being drafted with local consultation and environmental consultation being completed.

2023 ORIS Projects

6 projects approved for Wicklow County Council to implement around the County. These projects will commence in quarter 2 of 2024.

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

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Measure 2 and Measure 3 2023 ORIS projects will be announced shortly by the Department.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Sports Club Grants

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership has announced the recipients of the Club Development Grant Scheme for 2024. A record number, 78 clubs, will receive financial support through this grant scheme for 2024. The amount of €80,000 was allocated for 2024.

Bike Week

Bike Week 2024 saw Wicklow transform into a haven for cycling enthusiasts. From the 11th to the 19th of May, the county hosted a series of events promoting cycling and active living. The week kicked off with Learn to Cycle programmes across various locations, while Mountain E-Bike tours in Balinastoe Woods added an adventurous twist. Throughout the week, free bike rentals from The Avon in Blessington and a partnership with Bolt offering free rides on city bikes in Bray on Friday, 17th May, made cycling accessible to all.

Blessington's Street Velodrome was a highlight, with local schools testing it out on Friday before the Blessington Bike Week Festival on Saturday. The festival featured Learn to Cycle sessions, Funky Disco Yoga with Jo Yoga, an Outdoor Spin class with High Definition Fitness and a Bike Maintenance and Repair Workshop by Cahill Cycles in addition to street performers and face painters.

Chronic Condition Programmes - HSE Seed Funding

Chair Yoga Taster for People with Neuro Conditions

8 people with neuron conditions took part in the chair yoga taster Tuesday 14th May. From this taster session a 6 week programme will be delivered with the start date TBC.

HSE Grant Aid Agreement Funding

Sheds on the Move with Tinahley Men's Shed

An 8-week physical activity programme started 14th May with Tinahely Men's Shed. There are 10 men.

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Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery & Emergency Services

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (20/05/2024) outstanding stands at 293 – 1.88% of total stock of 15,561. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults. For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults over the previous weeks.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	2	3	6	1	2	14
Cable Fault (Attended)			4		1	5
ESB Interface Required			1	1		2
ESB Required (Attended)	14	19	8	15	19	75
Knock Down (Attended)				1		1
Materials Required		4	7	1	1	13
No Supply		1	1	1	23	26
On Hold	4	4	12	4	10	34
Submitted	20	23	31	18	17	109
TMR	2		7		2	11
Tree Cutting Required			3			3
Grand Total	42	54	80	42	75	293
Percentage Not Working	1.36%	2.23%	2.36%	1.43%	2.01%	1.88%

Date	02/04/2024	09/04/2024	15/04/2024	22/04/2024	29/04/2024
Access Issues (Attended)	10	11	11	11	11
Cable Fault (Attended)	8	7	6	6	6
ESB Interface Required	2	2	2	2	2
ESB Required (Attended)	65	65	56	59	64
Knock Down (Attended)	0	0	0	0	0
Materials Required	11	11	11	11	13
No Supply	3	3	3	3	3
On Hold	30	26	26	26	25

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Submitted	201	240	230	199	175
Traffic Management Required	4	5	5	5	4
Tree Cutting Required	6	6	2	2	3
TOTAL	340	376	352	324	306
PERCENTAGE NOT WORKING	2.20%	2.44%	2.28%	2.08%	1.97%

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The initial survey element of the above project has been completed. This is the initial phase of the project, and the design and fitting of lanterns will follow on in due course.

Periodic Speed Limits

PWS Signs Ltd. has substantially completed the erection of the signage for the periodic speed limits at schools. Snagging of the installations will follow in the coming weeks.

Speed Limits

New guidelines for managing speed limits are due to be announced. The initial proposal is for all local roads without an existing special speed limit in rural areas will be reduced from 80km/h to 60km/h.

Noise Action Plan

The Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan (NAP) has been put out for public consultation by DCC (as the lead authority). This plan includes the majority of Bray MD.

The Wicklow Noise Action Plan is currently being drafted and is due for public consultation shortly.

Transportation Statistics

	Total 2022	Total 2023	Total 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024
Solicitors Queries	838	1026	336	89	68	95
Road closure applications	78	42	26	4	6	7
Road Opening licences	1414	1956	553	137	123	134
Abnormal Load applications	60	54	26	8	6	8

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

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

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

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

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

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

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

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

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

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

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

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

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

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

N81 Pavement Capital Works

Advance drainage works have been completed and the resurfacing works of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove were completed in May 2024. Two other sections of the N81 received surfacing renewal works namely at N81 Trooperstown Blessington and N81 Mullycagh Lower. Works are expected to be fully completed by end May 2024.

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

The Feasibility and Options report was finalised and approved by TII in November 2023. TII have also approved funding to proceed with the design phase in accordance with TII Standards. The preliminary design report was submitted to TII in March 2024 following which a Pre-Part 8 briefing was provided to the members of Baltinglass Municipal District on the 25th March 2024. The Part 8 statutory process commenced on the 28th March 2024 and the period for submissions by interested parties ended on the 14th May 2024. The Chief Executive's report that follows the part 8 public consultation will be presented to the elected members of Baltinglass Municipal District on 27th May 2024.

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 was finalised and approved by TII in October 2023. TII have also approved funding to proceed with the design phase in accordance with TII Standards. Wicklow County Council will now progress this project to the design phase to be followed by any necessary statutory approvals process.

N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities

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

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The Chief Executive's report, that followed the part 8 public consultation for the park and ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe, was presented to the full meeting of Wicklow County Council on the 6th November 2023 where it was passed following a vote by Councillors.

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

Arklow Public Realm

The Parade Ground Public Realm works are complete on site. Following a meeting with DoHLGH, Project Completion Reports were submitted with additional funding requested in December 2023.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

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

Baltinglass Town Centre Plan

Enabling works started in Baltinglass in mid-February with the WCC Direct Labour crew completing site investigation works and have started utility works. The consultants are actively engaged in preparing documents for the delivery of a revised tender package for the town centre works, focusing on a reduced scope.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

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

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

The CPO Notice to Treat was issued on all landowners in October 2023. There is active engagement between Wicklow Roads Project staff and landowners who are part of the CPO, with landowner meetings taking place on November and December and January. Our project valuer is engaging with valuers and homeowners as part of the CPO process. Consultants are making steady progress in the detailed design phase and are currently focused on preparing the tender documents and drawings for the construction phase with these documents anticipated to be issued Q3 2024.

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Meetings and information sharing is ongoing with Irish Rail for their East Coast Rail Infrastructure Protection Project. Meeting with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) took place in June 2023. The meeting provided an opportunity to engage with the NPWS and discuss important aspects related to the project. Greenway Project Consultant Atkins have issued a Constraints Report and a 4 weeklong public consultation period has recently been completed for the emerging route corridors. The project was presented at the April Council meeting with two public events taking place in Greystones and Wicklow during April.

Blessington eGreenway

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

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Active Travel Updates

Projects under Construction

Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities (Wicklow MD)

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

Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

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

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

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

Project Updates

Bray Transport Interchange (Bray MD)

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. David Walsh Civil Engineering have commenced works on site.

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

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

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

Wicklow Station Pedestrian and Cycle Link (Wicklow MD)

New pedestrian and cycle bridge to be provided at Wicklow Train Station, linking Station Road to the Port Access Road. Bus and vehicle set down to be provided along with cycle parking. Part 8 report being prepared for submission to the Council Members.

Greystones Active Travel - Pathfinder Project (Greystones MD)

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

and cyclist improvements on Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Preliminary Design of route from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Park to be issued to NTA for approval.

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

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

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

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

Kilcoole Road Footpath (Greystones MD)

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

Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work on Raheen Bridge in the Dunlavin area is ongoing bridge walls need rebuilding due to damage from road traffic / farm machinery etc.

Winter Maintenance

All salt stocks have been measured and matched to what has been used.

Surface Dressing

A Traffic management company has been appointed, surface dressing chippings have been ordered from Plazamont and Roadstone quarries, and roads have been tested for surface dressing design.

Machinery Yard

Compliance with conditions is advancing with lead times for delivery reducing progressively.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	313,027
Greystones Municipal District	91,335
Wicklow Municipal District	130,694
Arklow Municipal District	74,954
Parking Permits	37,907
Parking Fines	197,891
Wicklow County Council	845,808

Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing information as at the 30th April 2024

Greenhill Road – 36 Houses

- 35 sold
- 1 works being finalised in preparation for sale.

Aldbrough Manor Baltinglass – 22 Houses – Phase 1

- 58 applied

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- 29 Eligible
- 29 offered
- 6 accepted

Phase 2

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

- 80 applications received
- 16 offers made (letters sent)
- 15 income too high (letters sent)

Continuing to work through all applications.

Rathnew – 44 houses

- Finalising details to be advertised shortly

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

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completed and allocated
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completed and allocated
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completed and allocated
Sheehan Court Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed
Greenhills Road (Affordable)	36	Completed
Schemes on Site	Units	Current Status
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completion anticipated Q2 2024
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completion anticipated Q2 2024
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2025
Merrymeeing Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completion anticipated Q2 2024
Liam Kavanagh Park Ballynerrin	10	Completion anticipated Q2 2024
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	About to commence Part 8
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Preparing tender documents
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Has been retendered due back May 2024
Rehills, Bray	193	Not continuing due to high estimated costs
Burnaby, Greystones	272	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Ballinahinch Ashford	19	Part 8 to commence May 2024

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Tinahask, Arklow	75	Part 8 to commence July 2024.
Sheephouse Arklow	30	Design Stage
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Part 8 to commence June 2024

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

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

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

Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

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

Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2024:

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

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Rathnew, Rathdrum, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy, Blessington, Baltinglass, Dunlavin and Wicklow with delivery ranging from 2024-2026. This includes the units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2024:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	17	Delivery Due Q3 2024	CALF
Greystones	5	Delivery Due Q2 2024	WCC
Baltinglass	2	Delivery Due Q3 2024	WCC
Arklow	3	Delivery Due Q3 2024	WCC
Rathnew	1	Delivery Due Q2 2024	WCC

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Expression of Interest for Turnkey Housing Developments for the provision of social housing was advertised on 17th April 2024.

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

CALF Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	2	Delivered February 2024	CALF
Bray	1	Delivery Due Q2 2024	CALF

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

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

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands

Parnell Road (Central Garage site)

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

Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas

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

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Infill Sites

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

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

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

Vacant Homes Scheme

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

2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry.	Refurbishment works near completion.
30 South Green, Arklow.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
5 Priory Way, Delgany.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
6 Ashleigh, Ashford.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
114 Hillside, Greystones.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
53 South Green, Arklow.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
53A South Green, Arklow.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
108 Charnwood, Bray.	Closing stage of Contracts for Sale.
2 Harbour Road ("Merdenville"), Arklow.	Closing stage of Contracts for Sale.
10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow.	Compensation/Vesting Pending.
36 Wheatfield Bray.	Compensation/Contracts for Sale.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	Pending registration in the PRAI/Compensation Agreed March 2024
27 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray.	Negotiations under way.

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

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

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

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

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

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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

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Number of Applications	105
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants.	19
Applications Approved	55
Applications paid	4
Applications pending execution of Legal Deed of Charge/payment	8
Applications withdrawn/Rejected	20

Serviced Sites – Kilcommon, Tinahely

Number of Sites	5
Letters of Offer Issued	5
Number of applications	7

Derelict Properties

The following four derelict properties have been approved for sale:

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

Emergency Services

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics April 2024

There were **96 incidents** attended during the month of April 2024. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **125 occasions** including **10** mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of April 2024 **increased by 5% (+6 mobilisations) on the preceding month** (March 2024: 119 mobilisations). There was a decrease in RTCs (-10 mobilisations), but an increase in fires in buildings (+22 mobilisations), automatic alarm activations (+6), gorse fires (+4).

Operational activity for the month of April 2024 **increased by 12% (+13 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2023** (April 2023, 112 mobilisations). Year on year there was an increase in fires in buildings (+17 mobilisations) and a decrease in RTCs (-5 mobilisations).

Examples of Incidents attended:

- 06/04/2024 Crews from Carnew and Tinahely attended a motorcycle incident at Tombreen, Carnew.

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- 08/04/2024 Blessington crew supported crews from Naas at a single car RTC, vehicle on side with driver trapped.
- 15/04/2024 Arklow and Wicklow town crews attended a fire at Homesavers Arklow.
- 17/04/2024 Bray and Greystones crews attended a fire in Saint Andrew's School, Newcourt Road, Bray.
- 18/04/2024 Baltinglass and Dunlavin crews attended a single car RTC on the N81 at Saundersgrove. Single car on roof, driver trapped.
- 26/04/2024 Crews from Wicklow Town and Rathdrum attended a kitchen fire at Rosehill.

Incidents in County Kildare (6-incidents total) examples:

- 04/04/2024 Blessington crew supported crews from Naas at an RTC at Rathmore East. Car in ditch with two patients.
- 16/04/2024 Blessington Crew and Dunlavin crews attended a two car RTC at Perrystreet Cross, Ballymore Eustace.
- 19/04/2024 Dunlavin crew supported a crew from Athy at a tractor fire at Mullamast.
- 25/04/2024 Baltinglass crew supported crews from Carlow Town at a two car RTC at Knocknacree crossroads involving 4 patients.

Incidents in County Wexford (3-incidents total) examples:

- 22/04/2024 Arklow crew supported the crew from Gorey at a car fire on the M11 near Junction 21 southbound.
- 30/04/2024 Carnew crew assisted the National Ambulance Service at a fatal incident in Monaseed.

General Update

- Interviews have taken place for 2 Assistant Chief Fire Officer positions (Executive Engineers), panel has been established, 2 candidates estimated to start in June.
- A 3-week firefighter recruit course was completed on 26th April, 12 candidates successfully completed the course, from the following fire stations, Bray (2), Wicklow (1), Rathdrum (1), Arklow (3), Blessington (2), Baltinglass (2), Carnew (1).
- A second firefighter recruit course is scheduled to take place in Bray in 1st July for 3 weeks, approximately 10 candidates.
- New fire stations for Baltinglass and Dunlavin to proceed to Part 8 Planning on receipt of documentation from consultant.
- Upgrade works (Climate Action)
 - Bray Fire Station and Fire Service Headquarters to be completed in coming weeks, new doors windows, boilers, heating system, decarbonising (replace gas with air to water heat pump).
 - Wicklow Town to commence in coming weeks, heating and insulation.
 - Blessington to commence in coming months, heating, PV panels, decarbonising (replace gas with air to water heat pump).
- 2 water tankers have started construction and will be finished by years end. (Greystones and Rathdrum)

Fire Prevention Statistics April 2024

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	4	1	2	0	7
Revised FSCs	0	0	0	0	0
FSC 7-Day Notice	13	2	8	0	8
Regularisation FSCs	0	0	0	1	0
DACs	4	1	6	0	10
Revised DACs	1	0	0	0	0

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Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	1	0	0
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The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 25 planning files during the month of April 2024.

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

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	4	0	0	2	2
Circuit	0	0	0	0	0
Dangerous Substances Act	2	2	1	0	0
Explosive Act	6	0	0	3	N/A

Building Control Statistics April 2024

Commencement Notices for April 2024:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 54

- 13 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 27 Opt Out Declarations
- 6 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 8 Seven Day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 55 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 77 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 42 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 10 with Compliance Documentation (24%)
 - 23 are Opt Out (55%)
 - 1 Without Compliance Documentation (2%)
 - 8 Seven Day Notice (19%)
- 46 Valid Commencement Notices
- 287 new build residential Units and additional 167 Apartments
- 2 Non Res new builds
- Invalidated CNs for April = 1

Certificates of Completion processed in April 2024

- 23 New No. of CCC submitted

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- 14 Required Revised Information
- 22 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 61 new Residential units
- 6 Non Res. Builds

Submission Statistics

22 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 1 No. CCCs submitted in February 2024
- 10 No. CCCs submitted in March 2024
- 11 No. CCCs submitted in April 2024

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

287 new residential houses and 167 apartments were notified to LA for Commencement & 61 newly completed residential units plus 6 non-residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in April. There has been an increase in both Commencement Notice and Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions compared to the same period in 2023. The Temporary Waiver in respect of Development Contributions is believed to be leading the urgency in submitting Commencement Notices prior to April 2024.

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

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

Revised Information requests remained high in April for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 77% of Commencement Notice submissions & 60% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. The Temporary Waiver in respect of Development Contributions is believed to be leading the urgency in submitting Commencement Notices prior to April 2024 and some Opt Out Submissions are requiring 2 to 3 Revised information requests which results in submissions being assessed 2 to 3 times to ensure compliance prior to commencement.

Opt Out submissions are both extensions and single unit dwellings, generally from BCMS users who are unfamiliar with both BCMS and Building Regulations which leads to Building Control resources being directed to resolving both administration and technical issues with Opt-Out Submissions. Wicklow Building Control continues to perform rigorous assessment of submissions at commencement stage and onsite presence during construction. These methods remain the best way to promote compliance with Building Regs.

Civil Defence

Tasking

Our volunteers were tasked as part of a multi-agency missing person search in the Glenmacnass area of the Wicklow Mountains, our drone team were deployed along with our search responders. The missing person was located safe and well.

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Assistance in the form of medical cover was provided by our volunteers for the Wicklow sports partnership event “Marathon for Kids with Olympian David Gillick” at the Ballymore Eustace GAA grounds. Over 500 kids from primary schools across west Wicklow completed the final leg of their marathon.



Our Emergency First Responders completed the necessary recertification training ensuring that our volunteers maintain their skillset. This training has been ongoing over the last couple of months with successful completion in early April.

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Organisational Development (HR & Corporate)

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in April 2024:

- Shortlisting Temporary Senior Executive Engineer
- Sláintecare Local Development Officer
- Shortlisting Senior Staff Officer
- Senior Staff Officer
- Shortlisting Administrative Officer
- Assistant Chief Fire Officer
- Senior Executive Technician Bray Municipal District

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024
Managerial/Administrative	316	318	319	323
Professional/Technical	134	143	150	150
Outdoor	260	263	265	261
Temporary/Seasonal	68 *	64	43	44
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	5
Total	783	793	782	783

** Increase due to lifeguards (lifeguards retained for 1st week of Q3)*

Freedom of Information

April 2024: 11	April 2023: 7
January – April 2024: 62	January – April 2023: 38

Ombudsman Requests

April 2024: 0	April 2023: 2
January – April 2024: 6	January – April 2023: 9

Press Releases

April 2024 – 18

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Register of Electors

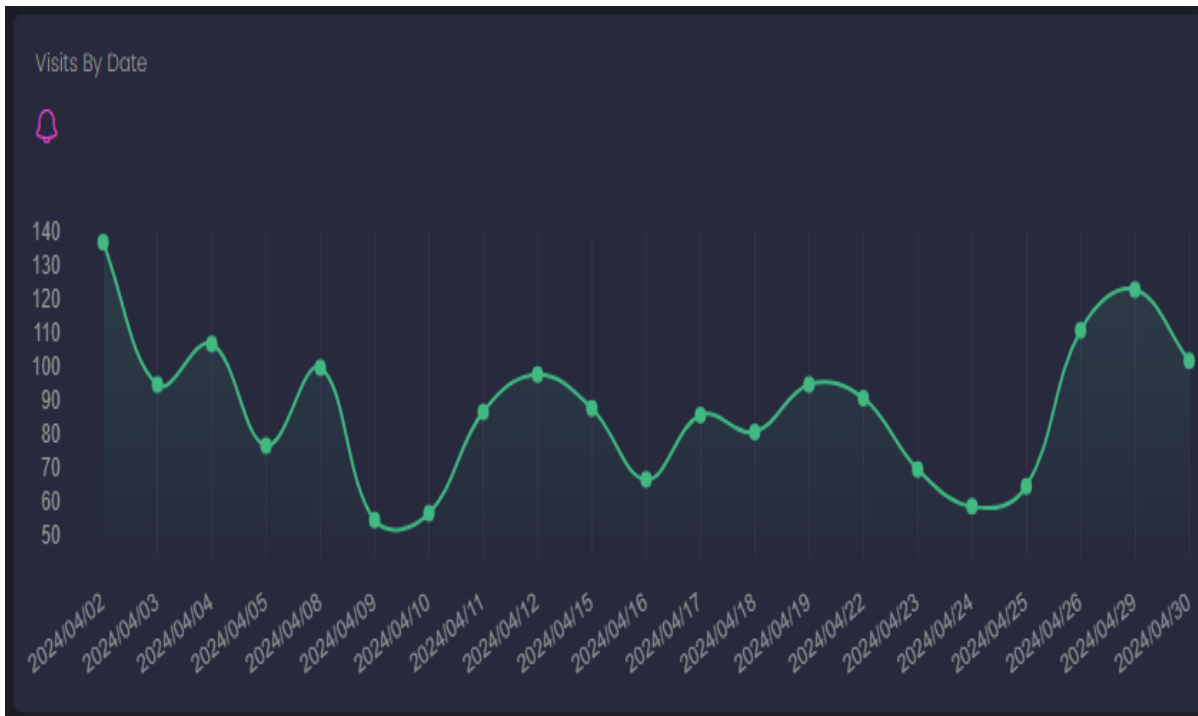
Online applications via www.checktheregister.ie continued to be received and processed daily throughout the month of May up to and including Saturday 25th of May when the register and balancing list were closed off ahead of the Local and EU Elections due to take place on 7th June 2024. High volumes of applications were received throughout the month.

The Boundary Commission Report was issued at the end of August 2023 and preparatory works are ongoing on the Polling Scheme following the issue of this report.

Customer Service Innovation Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2024 – April			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	8,565	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,884
No. of Customer Service Emails received	200	Revenue Transactions	1,457
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	97	Housing Counter Visits	255

Total in person visits for April 2024 – 1,851



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Energy Efficiency

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

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

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Finance, Water & Information Systems

Finance

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30th APRIL 2024							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	19,250,242	53,458,479	36%	(20,302,075)	(57,560,824)	35%	(1,051,833)
Road Transport & Safety	5,250,640	25,608,536	21%	(2,589,952)	(18,366,119)	14%	2,660,687
Water Services	1,562,506	4,809,015	32%	(1,903,389)	(5,729,978)	33%	(340,883)
Development Management	4,655,458	15,877,727	29%	(2,883,057)	(10,024,717)	29%	1,772,401
Environmental Services	4,471,644	15,632,861	29%	(614,579)	(4,087,049)	15%	3,857,065
Recreation and Amenity	2,849,958	9,440,065	30%	(223,573)	(1,079,718)	21%	2,626,385
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	631,004	2,283,534	28%	(225,813)	(1,104,228)	20%	405,190
Miscellaneous Services	2,965,628	9,997,953	30%	(3,972,851)	(13,219,706)	30%	(1,007,223)
Central Management Charges	7,469,284	22,890,755	33%	(320,667)	(1,050,000)	31%	7,148,617
Local Government Fund				(5,626,900)	(16,880,701)	33%	(5,626,900)
Commercial Rates				(10,490,037)	(31,045,885)	34%	(10,490,037)
	49,106,364	159,998,925	31%	(49,152,895)	(160,148,925)	31%	(46,531)

Cashflow/Overdraft

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

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30th APRIL 2024					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2024	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/04/2024
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	13,566,712	19,230,545	(10,429,718)	7,380	22,374,919
Road Transport & Safety	(41,551,755)	2,222,299	(267,718)	0	(39,597,174)
Water Services	(6,530,052)	73,256	84,521	0	(6,372,275)
Development Management	(32,037,828)	823,296	(7,926,434)	0	(39,140,967)
Environmental Services	(936,699)	640,658	(477,231)	0	(773,272)
Recreation and Amenity	(2,144,873)	1,072,370	(425,129)	0	(1,497,633)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,046,613)	40,624	0	17,433	(1,988,556)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,410,645)	(1,858,653)	(241,255)	1,895,379	(10,615,175)
	(82,091,754)	22,244,394	(19,682,965)	1,920,192	(77,610,133)

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Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30th APRIL 2024										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2024	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/04/2024	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,457,366	31,472,297	0	10,129	0	34,939,792	(14,361,861)	20,577,930	631,456	42%
Rents & Annuities	3,434,905	5,805,526	0	(5,518)	0	9,234,913	(5,899,593)	3,335,320	0	64%
Housing Loans	276,649	625,240	0	0	0	901,889	(603,083)	298,805	0	67%

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

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2024

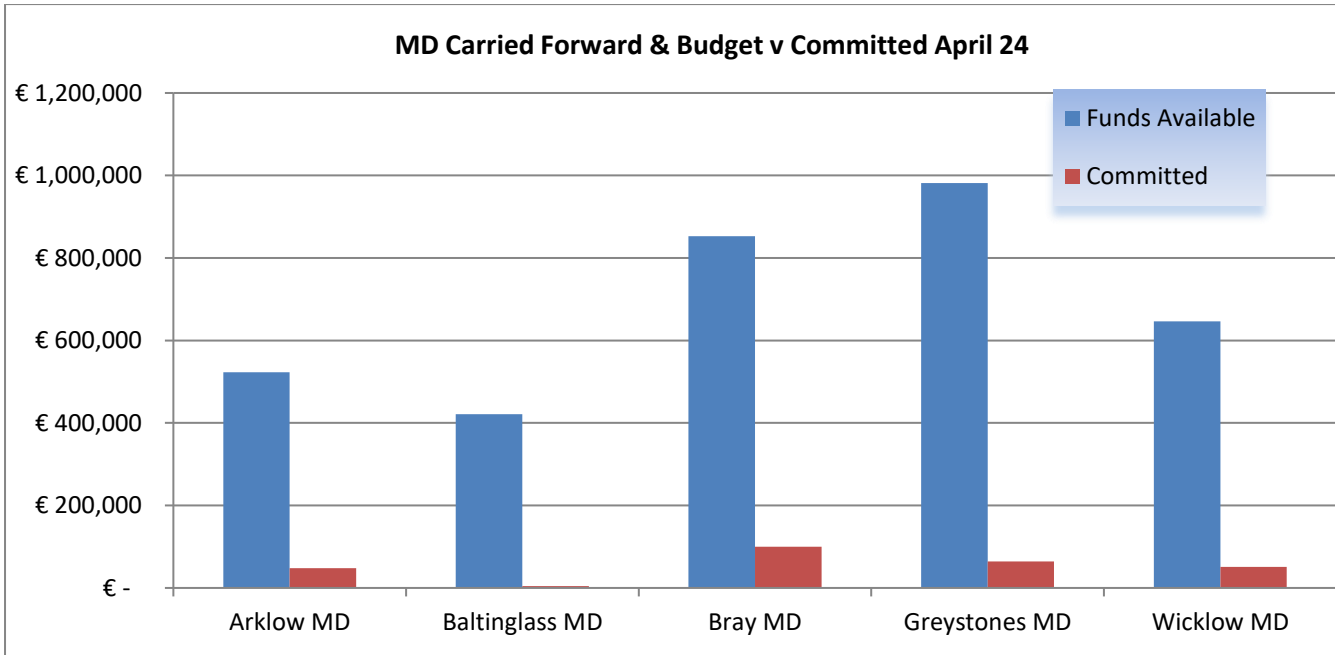
The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 9th 2023 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% generated circa €1.2m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the 5 Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General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

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

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

Municipal District	C/F from 2023	Adopted Budget 2024	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	238,944	284,028	522,972	47,739	475,233
Baltinglass MD	160,175	261,028	421,203	4,663	416,540
Bray MD	411,666	440,870	852,536	100,213	752,323
Greystones MD	720,591	261,028	981,619	64,074	917,545
Wicklow MD	381,436	265,028	646,464	51,390	595,074
Total	1,912,812	1,511,982	3,424,794	268,080	3,156,714

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Capital Investment Programme 2024-2026

The Capital Investment Programme 2024-2026 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of April 8th 2024. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

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

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Capital Funded Projects

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

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

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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

- Development of a Project Management Portal for the management team has commenced. This initiative aims to streamline project tracking, enhance collaboration, and improve overall efficiency across the team.
- Further procurement of AutoCAD software, investigating the procurement of ReVIT for Housing. This includes assessing the cost, compatibility, and potential benefits of integrating ReVIT into our current systems.
- In talks with Greystones MD over the incorrect naming of a new estate in Greystones. Have contacted Geodirectory for clarification. This issue is being prioritised to ensure all records and communications reflect accurate and consistent naming.
- Arklow Green Infrastructure - ESB network added as well as road schedule from TII. This integration will facilitate better planning and coordination for future infrastructure projects in the area.
- Traffic Counts updates for Arklow MD and Roads Department. These updates are crucial for traffic management and planning, helping to identify areas needing improvement or intervention.
- Processed consultants' drawings for Arklow flood scheme maps. These maps are essential for understanding flood risks and planning mitigation measures effectively.
- Fixed script exporting BER results for the Housing Department. This fix will ensure accurate and efficient reporting of Building Energy Ratings, which is vital for energy efficiency assessments and compliance.
- Stormwater network review with Roads, in particular, the Greystones MD. This review aims to identify and address any issues in the stormwater management system.
- In conversation with KPMG/NTA to assist with updating their forecast year datasets for population, employment, and education to the year 2040. This collaboration will help in developing accurate long-term planning strategies.
- Traffic Management Map - Wicklow-Town Rathnew LAP. This map will provide a comprehensive overview of traffic flow and management strategies within the Local Area Plan.
- Met with Coillte and Chief Fire Officer over an application developed to show Coillte land and contact details of personnel responsible for access. This application will improve coordination and response times in case of emergencies or required access.
- AutoCAD training organized for Housing through Diatec. This training will enhance the team's technical skills, enabling them to utilise AutoCAD more effectively in their projects.

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Infrastructure

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