

W I C K L O W

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

**Wicklow County Council**  
**Annual Report**  
**2022**



# Wicklow County Council

Annual Report 2022

Mission Statement

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

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As Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report for the year 2022. This report outlines the very many and varied activities of Wicklow County Council across all services. Wicklow County Council provides and funds a broad range of services including; housing, roads, playgrounds, libraries, fire stations, sports facilities, arts centres, recycling centres, as well as serving as a platform for local democracy.

During 2022 Kiltegan Village won a prestigious Pride of Place community award. The village claimed a special award in the Population 0-300 category, with judges drawing attention to years of hard work by local volunteers.

Contracts for the design and management of construction of a new library in Aughrim and an extension to Ballywaltrim Library at Boghall Road in Bray were signed with award-winning architects, De Blacam & Meagher.

The planned work, which will jointly cost in the region of €5m, will include the demolition of the existing library building in Aughrim and its replacement with a modern facility while there will be an extension to the current Ballywaltrim library in Bray.

Wicklow County Council were delighted to host 17 of the Rose of Tralee contestants, including the Wicklow Rose, Rosin Long, on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Roses enjoyed a full agenda starting at Powerscourt Estate and including a visit to Glendalough, Beyond the Trees at Avondale Forest Park, coffee at Ballyknocken House Cookery School with Award Winning Cookery host Catherine Fulvio, a photo stop at Brittas Bay and a visit to Russborough House were among the highlights of the visit.

Three County Wicklow projects benefited from funding of €310,000 under the Government's Town and Village Renewal Scheme as part of Our Rural Future which focuses on initiatives to bring town centres back to life. The three were Wicklow town, Ballinaclesh and Donard.

Major improvements to Arklow Running Track at Seaview Avenue were undertaken by Arklow Municipal District, the works included upgraded lighting. It is the intention of Arklow Municipal District to carry out further upgrades of the facility as funding streams become available.

Over 100 community groups across County Wicklow shared in €282,686 funding received under a special Government scheme.

This funding was used to support community groups impacted by COVID-19 by providing small grants for community groups affected by the Pandemic and also supported facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centres.

A civic reception was held for Sir John Boorman in recognition of lifetime achievements in the Irish and International film industry.

I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Elected Members and to thank them for their co-operation and assistance to me during the year, particularly the members of the Corporate Policy Group and each of the six Strategic Policy Groups who were instrumental in contributing to the policy and decision making forum affecting the entire Council. I would also like to take the opportunity to record my appreciation to Chief Executive, Brian Gleeson and to the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for the manner in which they assisted me in the performance of my role as Cathaoirleach.

**COUNCILLOR TOMMY ANNESLEY  
CATHAOIRLEACH  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**



It gives me great pleasure as Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council to welcome the publication of the 2022 Annual Report and to highlight a number of achievements over the last 12 months which are further contained within this report.

Wicklow County Council is responsible for providing services to approximately 155,485 citizens, a growth of 9.2% persons as stated in the preliminary 2022 census figures on the CSO website. During 2022 the Council continued to deliver significant efficiencies and innovation, while focusing on its leadership role to drive local, community and economic development, in line with the Corporate Plan 2019-2024, to ensure that Wicklow remains an attractive place to live, work, do business and visit.

Wicklow County Council was crowned Council of the Year in Ireland for 2022.

Council of the Year recognises a local authority which has gone above and beyond for the people of the community and developing continuously a range of innovative projects and initiatives which improve and enhance the social, environmental, cultural and economic aspects of community lives.

In addition to Council of the Year, Wicklow County Council won six other awards across different categories on the night:

Wicklow Sustainable Development Goals Mapping Tools won Gold in Best Environmental or Ecological Project or Initiative.

Carrig Eden Housing Project won Gold in Best Social Housing Project/Initiative

Wicklow Tourism Passport won two awards – Silver in both Best Tourism Initiative and Best Arts/Culture Initiative ( festivals & events)

San Remo Housing Project won Silver in Best Community Health Initiative

Arklow Courthouse & Enterprise Hub won Silver in Best Local Authority Innovation for Attracting Inward Investment.

In September journalist and broadcaster Mr Charlie Bird was conferred with the Freedom of County Wicklow by Wicklow County Council, in recognition of his work and outstanding achievements in the field of broadcasting and journalism and more recently in his campaigning and raising funds for the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association and Pieta House.

Throughout 2022, the Council continued to source funding and progress a number of successful projects and strategies:

€1 million plus RRDF funding for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre

€9 million active travel investment grants provided for approximately 58 projects throughout the County  
TII maintenance and improvement work on national roads of €2,958,526

€5.35 million funding for Blessington, Greystones and Wicklow Greenway projects.

494 social housing units were delivered

2,691 households availed of Housing Assistance Payment.

Adoption of County Development Plan 2022-2028

Confirmed CPO for Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Opening of Bray Central

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

I would especially like to thank the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tommy Annesley for his commitment and co-operation in the delivery of the Council's high level goals in 2022. I would like to commend and thank the entire staff of Wicklow County Council for their continued hard work and contribution to the delivery of high quality service to the public during 2022.

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

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

PARTY NAME AND ADDRESS  
TELEPHONE EMAIL

ARKLOW ELECTORAL AREA



FF Pat Fitzgerald, 32 Oaklands, Arklow, Co. Wicklow  
0402 39563 087 2049013  
[pfitzgerald@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:pfitzgerald@wicklowcoco.ie)



FF Pat Kennedy, Kirikee, Greenane, Rathdrum, Co.  
Wicklow 087 4198022  
[patkennedy1@outlook.com](mailto:patkennedy1@outlook.com)



FF Tommy Annesley, 'Clydebank', Dublin Road,  
Arklow, Co. Wicklow 0402 31705 087 2508205  
[tomannesley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tomannesley@yahoo.co.uk)



FG Sylvester Bourke, Three Oaks House,  
Killiniskyduff, Arklow, Co. Wicklow 0402 24415 087  
2501734 [sylvesterbourke@hotmail.com](mailto:sylvesterbourke@hotmail.com)



IND Miriam Murphy, 4 Avondale Crescent, Arklow,  
Co. Wicklow 0402 33245 086 2410065  
[murphyinmotion@gmail.com](mailto:murphyinmotion@gmail.com)



IND Peir Leonard, Southwinds, South Quay, Arklow,  
Co. Wicklow 087 432 3856  
[pleonard@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:pleonard@wicklowcoco.ie)

BALTINGLASS ELECTORAL AREA



IND Gerry O'Neill, Butterhill Lane, Blessington, Co.  
Wicklow 087 2629129  
[cllr.gerryoneill@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.gerryoneill@gmail.com)



FG Edward Timmins, Grangecon, Dunlavin, Co.  
Wicklow 087 2357914  
[etimmins@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:etimmins@wicklowcoco.ie)



FG Vincent Blake, Coolruss, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow  
0402 38256 087 2322521  
[vblake@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:vblake@wicklowcoco.ie)



FF John Mullen, 6 Pound Lane, Tinahely, Co.  
Wicklow 086 417 7808 [jmullen@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:jmullen@wicklowcoco.ie)



FG Avril Cronin, Station Road, Dunlavin, Co.  
Wicklow 085 122 2729 [acronin@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:acronin@wicklowcoco.ie)



FF Patsy Glennon, Oak Lodge, Hollywood, Co.  
Wicklow 087 190 9133 [pglennon@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:pglennon@wicklowcoco.ie)

BRAY ELECTORAL AREA



SF Dermot O'Brien, 68 Fairy Hill, Killarney Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow 086 0635195  
[dermotobriensf@gmail.com](mailto:dermotobriensf@gmail.com)



IND Joe Behan, 55 Richmond Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow 01 2868125 086 8375602  
[joebehan@outlook.ie](mailto:joebehan@outlook.ie)



FG Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Melford, 7 Ballywaltrim Lane, Bray, Co. Wicklow 086 400 4700  
[aflynnkennedy@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:aflynnkennedy@wicklowcoco.ie)



SF Grace McManus, 27 Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow 083 068 0654  
[gracemcmanussf@gmail.com](mailto:gracemcmanussf@gmail.com)



LAB Anne Ferris, 10 Seapoint Court, Bray, Co. Wicklow 086 236 4780  
[aferris@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:aferris@wicklowcoco.ie)



FG Melanie Corrigan, The Granite Byre, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow 083 364 2439  
[mcorrigan1@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:mcorrigan1@wicklowcoco.ie)



IND Rory O'Connor, St. Anne's. Riverside, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow 083 460 0357  
[roconnor@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:roconnor@wicklowcoco.ie)



GP Ericka Doyle, Sydenham Mews, Bray, Co. Wicklow 087 263 9516 [ericka.doyle@greenparty.ie](mailto:ericka.doyle@greenparty.ie)  
From February 2020

GREYSTONES ELECTORAL AREA



IND Tom Fortune, 'DeLacey', Sea Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow 01 2876135 086 2488195  
[tfortune@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:tfortune@wicklowcoco.ie)



FG Derek Mitchell, 'Kiltoorish', Manor Avenue, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 01 2874115  
[mitchelld@eircom.net](mailto:mitchelld@eircom.net)



FF Gerry Walsh, 33 Burnaby Heights, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 085 8639848  
[gerrywalsh00@gmail.com](mailto:gerrywalsh00@gmail.com)



GP Lourda Scott, 62 Redford Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 087 986 7532 [lscott@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:lscott@wicklowcoco.ie)



IND Mags Crean, 12 Burnaby Lawns, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 087 103 2446 [mcrean@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:mcrean@wicklowcoco.ie)  
Resigned May 2022



IND Stephen Stokes, 43 Charlesland Court, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 089 2156472 [sstokes@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:sstokes@wicklowcoco.ie)  
Co-opted June 2023



SD Jodie Neary, 4 Seagreen Avenue, Blacklion, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 085 227 3996 [jodie.neary@socialdemocrats.is](mailto:jodie.neary@socialdemocrats.is)  
Resigned October 2022



SD Mark Barry, 291 Charlesland Court, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 087 3475461 [mbarry@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:mbarry@wicklowcoco.ie)  
Co-opted December 2022

## WICKLOW ELECTORAL AREA



IND John Snell, 81 Seaview Heights, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow 087 2210222 [jsnell@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:jsnell@wicklowcoco.ie)



FF Gail Dunne, 9 St. Mantans Road, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow 086 8214368 [gdunne@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:gdunne@wicklowcoco.ie)



FG Shay Cullen, 'The Crosses', Ballinahinch, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow 086 7275000 [shaycullen2014@gmail.com](mailto:shaycullen2014@gmail.com)



FG Irene Winters, 23 Wicklow Heights Court, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow 087 2443610 [irenewinters@eircom.net](mailto:irenewinters@eircom.net)



IND Mary Kavanagh, 58 Seafield, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow 087 7823513 [mkavanagh@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:mkavanagh@wicklowcoco.ie)



LAB Paul O'Brien, 13 Glenkeen, Redcross, Co. Wicklow 086 036 6947 [pobrien@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:pobrien@wicklowcoco.ie)

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mr. Brian Gleeson



Chief Executive

Ms. Leonora Earls



Director of Services  
Transportation, Water and Emergency  
Services

Mr. Michael Nicholson



Director of Services  
Community, Cultural and Social  
Development

Mr. Joe Lane



Director of Services  
Housing and Corporate Estate

Ms. Lorraine Gallagher



Director of Services  
Enterprise & Corporate Services

Ms. Breege Kilkenny



Director of Services  
Planning and Environmental Services

Ms. Dorothy Kennedy



Law Agent

Ms. Emer O'Donovan



Head of Information Systems

Ms. Breda McCarthy



A/Head of Finance

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## HOUSING AND CORPORATE ESTATE

### Strategic Policy Committee

#### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. John Snell

### Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Tommy Annesley

Cllr. Paul O'Brien

Cllr. Stephen Stokes

Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy

Cllr. Grace McManus

### Outside Agencies

Trade Unions

Michael Ryan SIPTU

Disadvantaged

Mark Hennessy Dublin Simon

Business/Commercial

Paddy Mordaunt

Community

Mary Ann Parsons

Muireann Dalton

Wicklow Travellers Group

Aoibhinn McCloy

### Director of Services

Joe Lane

### Senior Executive Officer

Theresa O'Brien

### Senior Engineers

Declan Marnane

Helena Fallon

### Housing and Corporate Estate

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

The Housing and Corporate Estate Strategic Policy Committee met on 5 occasions in 2022 and focused on a number of key areas including:

- Housing priorities and work programme for 2022 including future housing supply and management
- Housing Supply/Delivery Programme - Housing Delivery Action Plan
- Maintenance and Management of housing stock
- Annual Housing Needs Assessment
- Cost rental Scheme
- Public Private Partnerships
- Private Rented Inspections
- Traveller Accommodation
- Approved Housing Bodies collaboration
- Mid-East homeless Action Plan 2021 - 2023
- Housing For All
- Affordable Housing Scheme
- Croí Cónaithe
- policy on Disabled Persons Grants
- policy on fabric upgrade

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery



Wicklow County Council continued to deliver under its Housing Delivery Programme. 494 units of social housing were delivered in 2022, with proposed delivery of 314 in 2023.

No. of units	Beds	Type	Story	House Price	Minimum House Purchase Price
6	2 bed	Terrace	2 Storey	€280,000	€222,716
6	2 bed	End Terrace	2 Storey	€290,000	€236,702
16	3 bed	Terrace	2 Storey	€315,000	€252,295
8	3 bed	End Terrace	2 Storey	€330,000	€275,618



The scheme will be launched to the public for applications on 09/01/2023.

Through the scheme, Wicklow County Council takes a percentage equity stake (share of the ownership) in the home equal to the difference between the open market value of the property and the reduced price paid by the purchaser.

Affordable Housing

Greenhill Road Affordable Housing Scheme was approved in 2022 with 36 properties available under the scheme. The Affordable Housing Scheme makes local homes available at a reduced price for first-time buyers, and Fresh Start applicants, whose combined mortgage and deposit will not cover the market price of the newly built home. The breakdown of properties is below.



Vacant Homes Scheme

There are now 17 CPOs underway on long term vacant houses around the county.

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

## Part V

Wicklow County Council liaised closely with Agents and Developers in respect of Part V requirements. Some Part V units are delivered through CALF in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies and some directly to the Council. 120 Part V units were delivered in 2022 through a combination of LA acquisition and CALF.

It is expected that 46 Part V units will be delivered in 2023.

## Turnkey

The Council continued to actively seeking and encouraging the provision of social housing via the mechanism of turnkey development. 264 turnkey units were delivered in 2022. The Council regularly invites applications for further turnkey units and expects to continue to augment supply with further turnkey units coming on stream in 2023

## CALF Leasing

Wicklow County Council continues to facilitate applications from Approved Housing Bodies for delivery of units through the CALF leasing scheme.

## Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)

Wicklow County Council continues to work with Approved Housing Bodies to increase the supply of social housing. A

number of sites have been allocated to AHB's to progress following a selection procedure and progress has been made on designing schemes for these sites.

## Housing Management

The total budget for housing repairs was €€2,058,244.00 for 2022. This was distributed evenly between the Municipal Districts on a pro rata basis based on the number of units in each district.

Central Heating was also provided in a number of houses while servicing and maintenance of central heating systems continued throughout 2022.

When houses become vacant they are upgraded as follows:

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

## Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 1 and 2

Works continued on the Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade programme during 2022 with 71 properties given approval for energy efficiency fabric upgrade works in 2022.

A framework for fabric upgrade works is in place with a view to continuing the programme into 2023.

### Housing Allocations

Wicklow County Council allocates houses in accordance with the Scheme of Letting Priorities adopted by the Members and approved by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Any person in need of housing and unable to obtain it from their own resources may be included on the Council's Housing Waiting List, subject to compliance with eligibility criteria. A Housing Needs Assessment was carried out in 2022 to ascertain an accurate number of persons seeking housing in County Wicklow

A total of 4,501 housing applicants were on the housing list for County Wicklow at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. A total of 464 houses were allocated during 2022 with a further 138 households housed by Approved Housing Bodies throughout the county.

### Other Housing Options

In terms of other housing options, Wicklow County Council continued to promote a broad range of additional housing options to those in need of housing throughout 2022

### Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The total number of RAS properties at 31st December, 2022 was 190.

### Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

A total of 2,691 households had availed of HAP rental support at 31st December, 2022.

### Social Housing Leasing

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

A total of 52 units were leased to Wicklow County Council as of 31st December, 2021.

### Mortgage to Rent

The Mortgage to Rent (MTR) scheme is a scheme to help homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears. It lets homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as social housing tenants. At 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022 there are 48 families availing of the Mortgage to Rent Scheme

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

From 4th January 2022 the new Local Authority Home Loan Scheme came into effect. It replaced the previous Rebuilding Ireland Homeloan Scheme. Pre-existing applications under the previous Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme were still be processed in the normal way.

Applicants can borrow up to 90% of the market value of the property.

The scheme's house price limit is €320,000 for County Wicklow. The income ceiling for a single applicant is €65,000 - an increase on the €50,000 income ceiling under the previous RIHL Scheme. The income ceiling for joint applicants remains at €75,000.

30 Rebuilding Ireland home loans were approved in principle in 2022.

### Housing Grants

Wicklow County Council continued to fund grants under the terms of the Housing Adaption Grants, Housing Aid for Older People Grants and Mobility Aid Grant. In 2022, 281 grants were received /processed with approvals totaling over €2.3m issued in grant funding for private and social houses in 2022

### Tenant Purchase Scheme

During 2022 a further 12 tenants completed purchase under the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

### Estate Development

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

### Estate Management - Tenant Liaison

The Tenant Liaison Officer continued to support Wicklow County Council's Tenants

in combatting Anti-Social Behaviour. A large number of cases involving anti-social behaviour were recorded in 2022. An Inter-Agency approach involving An Garda Síochána, H.S.E. and Tusla has proved to be the best possible outcome in dealing with anti-social issues.

### Housing Rents

At the 31st December 2022 there were arrears amounting to €2,836,127.79 outstanding.

There was a national moratorium on evictions from March 2020 until June 2022 so all legal action was suspended. The Rents Team were unable to issue demand letters to tenants however, actively carried out projects during the Covid 19 pandemic to alleviate high rent arrears. Eg: letters were issued to over 800 tenants who availed of the rent collector facility offering them the option of signing up to Household Budget (rent is deducted at source from a persons social welfare) or Standing Order and statements were issued to all WCC tenants in arrears of >€500 bi-annually during the pandemic.

There are 4802 tenanted units at the same date

### Traveller Accommodation

Wicklow County Council is required to undertake an annual count of Traveller families - the count in 2022 showed 279 Traveller families living in the County.

Under the Traveller Accommodation Programme, 14 allocations were made to Traveller households in 2022.

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

Significant progress was made on the Capital Programme in 2022 as follows:

Ballintesteen - 3 houses - works commenced on site.

Rathdrum: 4 houses Avondale Heights – Approval received for funding from Department, Part V111 approved and detailed design and tender documents are complete. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December stage 3 application response still awaited .

Barndarrig – Due to changes in family circumstances –site selection will need to be reconsidered.

Extension at unit in Ballintesteen – completed in 2022.

The members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) met 5 times in 2022. The LTACC subgroup meets on a more regular basis to discuss individual cases and particular issues that may arise. A review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan was undertaken in 2022 and progress on the plan to date was ahead of targets set in the original plan.

Implementation of the objectives under the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019-2024 continued to ensure the accommodation needs of Travellers living in Co. Wicklow were met. This included planning for the provision of standard

housing, group housing, rural houses and temporary/emergency sites.

## Homelessness

Prevention of homelessness continued to be a key focus and the homeless team provided advice and support to homeless persons or those at risk of homelessness. The homeless team engaged with Landlords and Agents, to sustain and progress tenancies.

Emergency accommodation was provided by the Council, where necessary, following a full assessment of need.

- 413 new cases (families/individuals) presented as homeless during 2022. As at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 15 families were in emergency accommodation with a further 26 families in “own front door” accommodation.

## Homeless HAP

The Homeless HAP Placefinder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords;



- 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, 421 households (308 families & 108 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. (181 homeless cases, 231 prevention cases to date and 9 direct provision). 126 properties were sourced by WCC.

### Partnership Approach – working with Approved Housing Bodies

In order to target specific cohorts of vulnerable people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, and those who need supported accommodation, Wicklow County Council continued to work collaboratively with a number of Approved Housing Bodies to deliver accommodation to individuals with support needs. This housing led approach ensures a sustainable solution to homelessness in individuals who are initially hard to reach and ultimately have tenancy sustainment issues.

The Council operates the management of these properties through either Service Level Agreements, or License Agreements and Leases. These units provide wraparound, supported accommodation for vulnerable individuals using the Housing First model. This housing led approach to combating homelessness is

enshrined in Housing for All Ireland and is a commitment in the Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan for Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.

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

In partnership with the Dublin Simon Community, the Council continued to provide a supported accommodation facility at Kilmantin Hill in Wicklow Town, for people experiencing homelessness. Eleven individuals are accommodated in medium support, transitional units at the facility. A number of move-ons to own door accommodation occurred in 2022 which signifies the success of this model.

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

A key focus of Wicklow County Council in addressing homelessness is to provide a high supported, temporary accommodation unit in Bray/North Wicklow to address the accommodation and support needs of a particular homeless cohort.

San Remo, operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where there are a number of emergency/cold weather Beds and Supported Temporary Accommodation Beds (STA) there is on site keyworking support linking in with clients.

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

Dublin Simon and continues to meet regularly.

## Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Carraig Eden, Greystones

This facility comprising of 35 ensuite bedrooms provides supported temporary accommodation to individuals who have successfully exited addiction and are now working to exit homelessness. .

## Homeless Family Service Facility, Wicklow

Following the advice that Sonas was withdrawing services from Wicklow, the operation of the facility was tendered out to Approved Housing Bodies to operate and manage the facility as a Family Homeless Hub. The successful tenderer was Dublin Simon Community, The family hub opened in mid-2022 and 7 families are being temporarily housed there in 1,2 and 3 bedroomed apartments .

## Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

## Housing First

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

Peter McVerry Trust was appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid-East Region and Wicklow County Council committed to working with them to achieve the targets identified in the programme. Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 12 clients under Housing First, 5 new tenancies were created in 2022. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending the sourcing of suitable accommodation.

## Homelessness and Mental Health

A Mental Health forum was established by Wicklow County Council with representatives from the HSE, Wicklow County Council and HAIL (AHB for Mental Health). Wicklow County Council agreed to co - fund a Tenancy Sustainment Officer to deal with clients at risk of homelessness due to enduring Mental Health and this position was filled in 2020. The initiative continued in 2022 with the tenancy sustainment officer sitting on the Homeless Action Team and also meeting regularly with staff of the housing section and continues to prove beneficial I with a number of clients availing of the service in 2021.

## Health and Safety

Wicklow County Council's Health and Safety Policy has been established to ensure that in so far as is reasonably practicable, everyone who works for or on behalf of Wicklow County Council does so

in the safest and healthiest conditions possible. The Housing Directorate has embedded this Health and Safety Policy as being applicable to all Wicklow County Council operations within the Housing Section. The organisation's policies and procedures for health and safety are constantly reviewed in line with best practices, legislative changes and national initiatives.

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

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

## Ukrainian Response

- As 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation in County Wicklow was 1,418 (although it is known that there are considerably more in the County).
- Wicklow County Council continue to assess all Displaced Ukrainians persons in the County in order to identify their accommodation needs as well linking them in with all the relevant services and supports within the community.
- The Community Reponse Forum set up in response to the emergency continues to meet on a fortnightly basis.

## TRANSPORTATION, WATER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

### Strategic Policy Committee

Membership of the Transportation, Water and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee consists of five County Councillors' along with four members from sectoral interest groups. The Strategic Policy Committee holds regular meetings throughout the year at which both national and local policy are discussed.

### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald

### Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Derek Mitchell  
Cllr. Joe Behan  
Cllr. Irene Winters  
Cllr. Vincent Bake

### Outside Agencies

Trade Unions - Margaret Coughlan

### Environment/Conservation/PPN

Eanna Gallagher

### Agriculture/Farming Community

Vacant

### Development/Construction

Tomás Peare

### Business Commercial

Donal Murray

### Director of Services

Leonora Earls  
Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

### Senior Executive Officer

Helena Dennehy

### Senior Engineer

Michael Flynn  
John Bowes

### Chief Fire Officer

Aidan Dempsey

### Administrative Officers

Allyson Minion  
Kenneth Murphy

### Transportation Objective 1

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

### Health and Safety

The Directorate is committed to ensuring adherence to the principles of Safety, Health and Welfare at work. In this

regard, plans and policies have been and are continuing to be developed and updated to improve our health and safety procedures. Extensive training programmes are provided for staff continually to ensure compliance with construction and safety regulations. Ancillary & Local Safety Statements are reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The implementation of good health and safety practices across Transportation, Water & Emergency Services remains a priority to the health and safety of our employees.

### Road Safety Promotion and Education

The County Wicklow Road Safety Together Committee consists of members of the Gardaí, Fire Service, Road Safety Authority, National Roads Authority and officials of Wicklow County Council. Three meetings were held in 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March, 30<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> October. The District Engineer from the Municipal Districts of Wicklow, Arklow and Baltinglass each attended one of these meetings.

During 2022 the committee continued to work on the County Wicklow Road Safety Plan 2022 -2030 in accordance with the RSA's National Strategy.

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

### Objective 2

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

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

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

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

The Option Selection report was published on the project website [www.n11m11.ie](http://www.n11m11.ie) in 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. However, the scheme was suspended for 2022 pending the provision of funding.

### N11 Interim Bus Priority Scheme

The Bus Priority Interim Scheme seeks to achieve the early delivery of bus priority measures between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview) and in advance of the Junction 4 to Junction 14 scheme.

A non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred option took place in November 2022 that included a two day display in the Glenview Hotel.

Information is available to view on the Bus Priority Interim Scheme project website [www.n11m11bpis.ie](http://www.n11m11bpis.ie). This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

### National Secondary N81

#### N81 “The Four Studies” – Irishtown West, Whitestown Lower, Hangman’s Bend and Tuckmill Lower

Following the completion of Phase 1 feasibility studies, Wicklow County Council will now look to progress the following two projects:

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

The appointment of Technical Advisors and commencement of Phase 2 early in 2023.

Options Selection (Phase 2 of the TII Project Management Guidelines) for these projects is due to commence in early 2023

### N81 Hollywood Cross

A feasibility study is underway to assess options for safety improvements along this section of the N81 at Hollywood Cross. The inclusion of bus stops and traffic management/calming measures are being considered as part of this study.

### Non National Road Maintenance and Improvement

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

#### Surface dressing works

Our surface dressing crew carried out road maintenance works on over 70kms of carriageway last year.

WCC carried out a programme for the treatment of Japanese Knotweed throughout the county.

Work on the retrofitting and repairs of Vehicle Restraint Systems along the N81 concluded in 2022.

### Non National Road Maintenance and Improvement

#### Specific Improvement Projects

Cunningham’s Corner - As part of Specific Road Improvement Funding, realignment of a bend on the R755 Roundwood to Kilmacanogue Road (near Djouce golf



club) was completed in 2022. This project included WCC redesigning a 400m section of this road as there was a high collision rate at this location. Works have increased sightlines for residents along here and have made this section of road safer for all users.



Cunninham's Corner

Savilles Cross, Rathdrum – This project involved the repurposing of the junction at Savilles Cross, Rathdrum to improve safety at the junction and to improve traffic flow in a busy tourist area.



## Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

The Bridge Rehabilitation crew completed the Bridge Rehabilitation Programme for 2022. Most works for 2022 were rebuilding of damaged parapets and installation of rubbing strips. Some of the projects carried out during the year are highlighted below:

### Cranareen Bridge, Rathdangan

This project involved the demolition of the existing bridge as the culverts underneath the old bridge would block regularly which resulted in the road flooding. The bridge crew installed a complete new structure with a clear span under the bridge which addressed the flooding issue.



### Old Enniskerry access bridge into the WWTP

The steel beams supporting the old access bridge had become rusted over the years and badly needed to be replaced. The bridge crew installed new abutments and

bridge deck to give a complete new structure.

### Routine bridge works

Ballyreagh Bridge, Bray – Example of works that the bridge crew regularly complete, vegetation removal and the installation of a concrete floor under the bridge carried out during the instream works period.



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

The Machinery Yard Replacement is in place using OGP frameworks.

The Pure Truck for Environment was ordered from OGP frameworks and delivered in Q3 2022.

Wicklow County Council technical and engineering staff is working with Climate team in relation to installing EV chargers. 17 public chargers have been completed to date at the following locations:

- 7 No. at County Buildings
- 4 No. on Main Street Blessington
- 4 No. at Shoreline Greystones
- 2 No. at Blessington Area Office

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP):

KLS ASD Joint venture are the works contractor for the PLEEP contract. Initial surveys of existing networks to begin in Jan 2023 once all insurances and bonds have been agreed by the PLEEP team.

Ongoing Public Lighting Maintenance continued on the existing infrastructure throughout 2022.

### Speed Limits

The public consultation period for the Speed Limit Review was completed on 25<sup>th</sup> November. 257 submissions were received, relating to c. 325 differing aspects. Meetings with each Municipal District were undertaken in December to discuss the public consultation and finalise details. Reminder was given to each District that the special speed limits must be set in accordance with the “Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland”. Where a limit is set not in accordance with the Guidelines, the DOS of TWES must appeal as per the recently introduced “Speed Limits Appeal Procedure”. This appeal process is also open to members of the public. It is currently intended to present the special speed limit bye-laws at the February Council meeting.

### Objective 3

To facilitate and promote walking and cycling and use of public transport as a means of reducing congestion, promoting healthier lifestyles and providing access to

facilities for those who do not drive or have access to public transport.

## National Transport Authority Funding

Each year, Wicklow County Council receives funding from the National Transport Authority's Sustainable Transport Measures Programme towards a variety of projects. The 2022 allocation of funding allowed Wicklow County Council to progress as well as introduce new projects across the County. Sustainable Transport Measures Programme aims to improve transport options for those choosing alternatives to the private car. Projects which received funding from the National Transport Authority in 2022 included:



## Completed Active Travel Projects

1. Strand Road Cycle Route
2. Saville's Cross Junction
3. Rathnew to Glenealy footpath
4. St. Brigid's Manor Kilbride
5. Kilmalum Junction
6. Red Lane footpath, Blessington
7. Fern Hill to Marian Villas, Arklow
8. Sidmonton Square
9. Powerscourt National School
10. Herbert Road
11. Vale Road footpath
12. Rathluain, Dunlavin

## 9 other projects under construction

1. Dunlavin R-412 footpath improvements
2. Valley Heights, Carnew footpath improvements
3. Deputy's Pass to Glenealy Railway Bridge footpath improvements
4. Arklow North Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme
5. Arklow South Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme
6. Glenart Pedestrian Link
7. Priors Road Footpath
8. R-762 and Bellevue Hill Junction
9. Ashford to New Developments footpath

Part 8 documents were advertised for 3 schemes, with two completed and one currently advertised

Completed - Herbert Road and Vevay Road + Sidmonton Road

Currently Advertised - Killincarrig Village

Section 38 approval was sought for 3 schemes, with all three successfully obtained.

1. Sidmonton Square



2. Powerscourt National School
3. Deerpark Cycleway, Bray

## Consultants appointed on 9 other schemes

1. River Dargle Greenway
2. Convent Road Improvement Scheme
3. Dublin Road to Wexford Road, Arklow
4. Blessington to Deer Park
5. Kilmalum Lane, Blessington
6. Marlton Road, Wicklow
7. Rocky Road, Wicklow
8. Safe Routes to Schools programme
9. Greystones Pedestrian and Cycle Improvement Scheme

## Disability Access

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

## Water and Wastewater Water Services

### General

Wicklow County Council, like the other 31 local authorities have operated under a Service Level Agreement with Irish Water. Wicklow County Council's Water Services Section operates with circa 70 full time equivalent staff across areas of drinking water networks, wastewater networks, sewerage treatment plants, water treatment plants and pumping stations.

## Water Framework Agreement

In June 2022, the Framework for the Future Delivery of Water Services was finalized following an engagement process between the Government Departments, Irish Water, the CCMA and the Unions which was facilitated by the WRC. The Framework will enable the delivery of a world class public water system through the formation of a Single Public Utility. The newly formed Master Agreement will replace existing Service Level Agreements (SLAs). It will provide for the transfer, delivery and direct control of all water services to Irish Water. Irish Water will be known by its new name, Uisce Éireann with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

## Annual Service Plan

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

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

### **Learning & Growth (7 measures)**

Objective: To continuously improve and drive transformation and change initiatives.

### **Customer (17 measures)**

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

### Internal Process / Compliance (30 measures)

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

### Financial (15 measures)

Objective: Providing a cost effective service, within budgetary constraints.

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

1. KPIs – 17 measures.
2. Operational Measures – 46 measures.
3. Tracking Measures – 6 measures.

Performance from recent years is as follows:

In 2022, the overall score was 91.2% versus a 2021 score of 89.3% and 93.9% in 2020.

	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Average
ASP 2022	92%	92%	91.7%	89.3%	91.2%
ASP 2021	90.7%	90.8%	89.2%	86.5%	89.3%
ASP 2020	93.9%	96.2%	91.3%	94.4%	93.9%

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

A score of 100% was achieved for timely response to workflow queries;

A score of 100% was achieved for Drinking Water Supply Microbiological Compliance;

A score of 100% for Waste Water Treatment Incident Reporting;

A score of 100% for Waste Water Treatment UWWTD Performance by no. of WWTP's.

(Based on Irish Water ASP Monthly Report Quarter 4 2022).

Our staff are highly trained and competent in their areas of delivery and contribute to overall performance, excellent delivery of quality services to the public.

Overall achievement of 91.2% has been recognised by Uisce Éireann as one of the highest achieving Local Authorities and credit for such high achievement in Wicklow County Council is as a result of the hard work and commitment of Wicklow Water Services Staff.

### Securing water supply in County Wicklow

Uisce Éireann, in partnership with Wicklow County Council, has delivered over 17 kilometers of new water mains and improved the water supply for more than 70,000 people in County Wicklow since 2018, as part of the Leakage Reduction Programme.

Across several Leakage Reduction Programme work streams, the works involved the replacement of old, problematic pipes; new service connections and fixing leaks on customer

property through the First Fix Free scheme.

Collaborating with the Local Authority and its Regional Contractors, these works have significantly improved the water supply in the area.

In 2022 the following schemes in Wicklow have benefited from an improved water supply through the Uisce Éireann Water Network Programme:-

- Palermo, Bray
- Trafalgar Road, Greystones
- Victoria Road, Greystones
- Woodstock Road, NTMK
- Woodstock Road to Newcastle Hospital

Substantial progress was made during 2022 in leakage reduction. Progress was made under various headings including Find & Fix, First Fix, Back Yard Services, Mains Rehabilitations, Lead and Pressure Measures.

Mains Rehabilitation Works were carried out in Bray, Greystones and Wicklow Municipal Districts. Wicklow County Council exceeded leakage reduction targets set by Irish Water for 2022 as per KPI's.

Wicklow County Council Water Services crews attended to 360 leaks under the Find and Fix Scheme, some of which were found and reported by members of the public.

Approximately 150 leaks were repaired under the Reactive Maintenance Scheme.



Repair to 200mm asbestos main, Arklow



Air valve repair on 24" trunk main, Kilpeddar



Repair to a leak on a water main, Bray



Repair to a leak, Mill Road, Greystones

### Pressure Management

High pressure is used in the water network to move water uphill, around bends and directly to taps in our homes and businesses. This pressure can cause problems for ageing pipes, fittings and outlets. It can also cause leakage leading to loss of valuable water and disruption to customers.



Managing pressure in the water network helps reduce surges and maintain even flows. Uisce Éireann, in partnership with Wicklow County Council are constantly managing pressure on the public water network.

Across Wicklow 165 pressure reducing valves have been upgraded with Night time Control and 30 new Pressure reducing valves installed to manage water pressure on the network and 120 critical point loggers to monitor the pressure. Over 100 pressure loggers were fitted to better understand where our underground challenges may be.

- Windgates new water main installed allowing for pressure reduction on the Greystones network
- Pressure Reducing Valves installed across the network in Wicklow
- Critical point loggers installed across the network in Wicklow



PRV Milltown Lane



Pressure Logger, Bray

## Reservoir Cleaning

There is an on-going programme of reservoir cleaning and repair currently been carried out by Uisce Éireann and the water services staff of Wicklow County Council, to ensure the highest quality water is supplied and distributed into the

networks. The following reservoirs have been cleaned in 2022:

- Giltspur Reservoir Bray
- Priestnewtown
- Glending Blessington
- Barnbawn Glenealy
- Glenmacnass Laragh
- Raheen Roundwood
- Tomcork Carnew
- Lamberton Reservoir Arklow
- Mountain Bay Reservoir Arklow
- Tower Reservoir Arklow
- Broomhall Reservoir Wicklow Town
- Mountcarmel Reservoir Wicklow Town
- Redcross Reservoir
- Conary Reservoir
- Ballinaclash Reservoir
- Tinahely Reservoirs

## Drinking Water

There are 23 Water Treatment Plants managed in Wicklow County Council with 40 Water Reservoirs. The Water Services team maintain 410 Kms of networks and 539 Kms of networks across non GDA (Greater Dublin Area) and Wicklow GDA networks respectively. The Water Services team continues to deliver on areas on water compliance, drinking water supply, leak management, water connection development service and water quality control.

## Barndarrig Water Treatment Plant

Works that were started during 2021 to lay a new Water Main between Redcross

Water Treatment Plant and Barndarrig Water Treatment Plant concluded during 2022. The underperforming Water Treatment Plant at Barndarrig has now been decommissioned.

## Vartry Water Treatment Plant

The Construction of the new Vartry Water Treatment Plant was completed during 2021. This plant was commissioned during late 2021 and commissioning works continued into 2022.



Aerial view of the Vartry Water Treatment Plant

## Roundwood Water Treatment Plant

Works that were started during 2021 to lay a new Water Main between the New Vartry Water Treatment Plant and Roundwood Water Treatment Plant concluded during 2022. The Roundwood Water Treatment Plant has now been decommissioned. Roundwood is now part of the Greater Dublin Area Water Network.

## Aughrim Water Treatment Plant

Works commenced during 2022 to lay a new Water Main between the Arklow Water Treatment Plant and Augrim Water Treatment Plant. These works are expected to be completed in 2023.

Aughrim Water Treatment Plant will then be decommissioned.

## Dunlavin Drinking Water Rationalisation Scheme

Uisce Éireann in collaboration with Wicklow County Council are currently at assessment and design stage for rationalisation of Drinking Water Infrastructure network for Dunlavin to eventually join to Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant. In so doing, Dunlavin DMA will join the Blessington DMA as part of the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Water Group Scheme. The proposed scheme should aid future development in the town and area.

## Waste Water

There are 35 waste water treatment plants (not including DBO plants) together with approximately 40 pumping stations and associated sewer networks, which are maintained by the waste water O&M team.

## Waste Water Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Section

The primary function of the Waste Water Section, working under the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Uisce Éireann, is the on-going management, operation and maintenance of existing waste water treatment plants and associated infrastructure, in order to ensure continued production of effluent discharges to the environment to required standards and to keep the waste water collection network running properly.

The Waste Water Section also organises regular compliance sampling, and testing of effluent parameters and reporting of results (to Uisce Éireann/Environmental Protection Agency).

In 2022, there were no ELV parameter exceedances which represents the best compliance performance to date.

In addition, O&M section provides reports to Uisce Éireann as to feasibility in relation to connection applications and pre-connection enquiries (received by Uisce Éireann) and similarly in relation to planning applications.

### Capital Maintenance & Minor Capital Improvement Works

O&M expenditure falls under two main headings or funding sources – i) day to day operational goods and services and ii) Capital Maintenance (CM). Capital Maintenance expenditure essentially provides for the like-for-like replacement of components and equipment, as and when required due to normal wear and tear or breakdown.

From time to time (subject to funding approval & staff availability/workload) more substantial or notable works are proposed by Wicklow County Council (and if approved by Uisce Éireann) are progressed by the Wicklow County Council O&M Section under CM funding.

Under this heading the new Waste Water Treatment Plant at Ballyconnell was brought to fruition and opened in June 2022.



Photo of the official opening of Ballyconnell Waste Water Treatment Plant



Ballyconnell Waste Water Treatment Plant

### Blessington Waste Water Treatment Plant

Substantial Completion has been achieved at the end of quarter four of 2022 on the expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The upgrade will increase the capacity of the plant to a population equivalent of 9000, and should aid and assist future development in the town, while also protecting the strategic drinking water asset that is Poulaphouca Reservoir.

Works included upgrades to Aeration Tanks, installation of 2 new primary sedimentation tanks, a new pump station and associated works including an Odour Control System.

### (Waste Water) Capital Works under IW Capital Investment Programme

[Note Wicklow County Council has no role in the delivery of the following Uisce Éireann projects]

## Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Uisce Éireann continues to make progress in advancing this essential project for the people of Arklow.

Works on the Waste Water Treatment Plant are on going and the tunneled interceptor sewer along the North Quay has been completed while works on the river crossing tunnel and the installation of a new interceptor sewer on the South Quay continues into 2023.

## Blessington Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade:

Construction Works on the upgrade to the Blessington Waste Water Treatment Plant have been substantially completed with installation of telemetry equipment, process proving and commissioning ongoing.

## Avoca Wastewater Treatment Plant

Uisce Éireann received a grant of Planning Permission (with conditions) for proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant in December 2022.



Aerial view of proposed WWTP, Avoca.

## Aughrim Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade: - (Small Town & Village Growth Programme)

This Project is currently with Uisce Éireann Asset Delivery Section and is in the early stages of design etc. No recent status/progress update has been received.

## Tinahely Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade:-

Uisce Éireann Asset Strategy Section are in preliminary stages of assessing requirements, scope and cost estimates for possible plant upgrade for consideration for investment going forward.

## Emergency Management

In a national context Wicklow County Council is part of the Eastern Region for Emergency Planning with the Dublin Local Authorities and Kildare County Council. Wicklow is represented on the Eastern Region Steering Group (ERSG) by Leonora Earls Director of Services and by Aidan Dempsey Chief Fire Officer. The Eastern Region Working Group (ERWG), reports to the ERSG and was until recently chaired by the Chief Fire Officer Aidan Dempsey. It has focused its activities on the response to the pandemic and the reception of Ukrainian refugees in 2022.

A Major Emergency Management Committee is in place in Wicklow County Council and comprises of Senior Personnel from all sections of Wicklow County Council and Municipal Districts. One meeting of the committee took place in 2022 to maintain MEM preparedness.



## Fire Services

Wicklow County Fire Service was involved in 1,476 incidents in 2022 of which 100 were in neighbouring counties. As more serious incidents result in the mobilization of more than one Fire Station, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of 1,740 occasions. Activity during the year increased over previous years (3 year average 1,436 mobilisations). In June, July and August there was a significant annual increase in wildland fires (+63) and malicious fires in urban areas (+20) and corresponding increases in a range of other incident types e.g. vehicle fires, alarm activations, domestic fires and ambulance assists. A general reaction post COVID lock-downs may have contributed to this increased activity. October also had higher than forecast activity levels in domestic fires, Road Traffic Collisions, alarm activations and flooding (+60 mobilisations).

The incident types that have had the greatest contribution to the increase in mobilisations are fire alarm activations (+84), Ambulance Assist calls (+37), Domestic Fires (+26), vehicle fires (+29).

Station Officer Martin Keogh (27 years service) of Blessington and Station Officer Nicholas Lacey (36 years service) of Tinahely retired during 2022. In addition at the national awards ceremony 2 firefighters / officers received 30 year service medals and 8 firefighters / officers received 20 year service medals.

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

Fire Alarm Activations	16%
Road Traffic Collisions	14%
Bins / Rubbish / bonfires	14%
Outdoor / gorse fires	10%
Domestic Fire	9%
Assisting Ambulances	8%
Chimney Fires	3%
Vehicle Fires	2%



Individual Fire Stations all saw increased activity levels compared to 2021. They were mobilised the following number of times in 2022:

Bray	439	(+24)
Greystones	340	(+30)
Wicklow Town	308	(+50)
Rathdrum	154	(+57)
Arklow	155	(+36)
Blessington	83	(+ 9)
Dunlavin	82	(+ 8)
Baltinglass	82	(+33)
Carnew	54	(+ 6)

Tinahely 43 (+ 4)

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

New Fire Station Baltinglass	€1 million
New Fire Station Dunlavin	€1 million
New Fire Engine (Bray)	€450,000
2 x new Water Tankers	€250,000
Upgrade to training centre	€210,000
New jeeps and training vehicle	€100,000
New firefighting equipment	€100,000

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

- Breathing Apparatus
- Hazardous Materials Response
- Emergency Medical First Responder

In addition new entrants to the service from 2021 and 2022 underwent the following induction training:

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

In addition Wicklow Fire Service hosted a one-week EU Civil Protection course in October for 20 students from across Europe. The “Course for Negotiation and Decision Making” was delivered by a Training Consortium which included Germany, Austria, Poland and Luxembourg. The instructors who provided the training possess a wide range of international civil protection experience.

Throughout the pandemic staff in Wicklow County Fire Service were proactive and enthusiastic in their response and support for the community.



A team from Wicklow County Fire Service took part in the “World Rescue Challenge” a competition to test the skills of participants in all aspects of Road Traffic Collisions. The Wicklow team finished in joint 6<sup>th</sup> position from a field of 36 international teams. Seven new Recruit Fire-Fighters joined the service in 2022.

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

Fire Crews in Greystones and Bray continue to fund raise to expand the number of publicly accessible Defibrillators in both Fire Station areas.

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

- Inspections and enforcement under Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003,
- Inspecting Licensed Premises.
- Assessing Fire Safety Certificates (FSCs)
- and Disability Access Certificates (DACs)



under the Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2009. 108 FSC applications and 72 DAC applications were processed in 2022.

## Building Control

The Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2015 set out procedures and controls which require owners, builders, and registered construction professionals to demonstrate that the works or buildings concerned have been designed and constructed in compliance with Building Regulations. With the advent of the Building Control Amendment Regulations (BCAR) in 2014, there is now greater oversight and accountability of the construction of building and works in County Wicklow.

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

with fire safety requirements, structural stability, accessibility and conservation of fuel and energy.

In 2022, there was continued activity to promote a culture of compliance with regulations. 425 Commencement Notices were submitted of which 73% required revision. 236 Certificates of Compliance on Completion were validated by Building Control in 2022 an increase of 105 over the preceding year. In total 1,183 residential units were notified to Building Control and 1,385 were completed. In addition staff undertook further professional development by attending a range of training courses, web content for Building Control was updated on the web site, there was increased digitalisation, improved recording and structure of inspections and enhanced collaboration with other Building Control Authorities through the National Building Control Office.

## Civil Defence



Currently Wicklow Civil Defence has approximately 47 active volunteers based in Greystones and Baltinglass. We rely on volunteers giving freely of their time and expertise to maintain an operational response. Our Training Centre is located on Mill Rd, Greystones and is home to the majority of our equipment and facilitates all of our training courses. We have highly qualified instructors in area of Swift Water

Rescue, First Aid, Missing Person Searching and Manual & People Handling, Flood Support and Boating Operations. Others areas of operation call for having qualified people in areas such as unmanned aerial vehicle's (UAV) and sonar operators.

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

With 2022 delivering uncertain times for Ukraine and the arrival of displaced persons to Ireland, Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Civil Defence were at hand to provide emergency accommodation in the form of a rest centre in Arklow Community Centre. Civil Defence Volunteers worked tirelessly around the clock to ensure that all Ukrainians needs were met. Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Civil Defence are at the forefront on using Drone and UAV Technology within Ireland. Currently Wicklow Civil Defence is using a DJI Matrice 210 Drone which has both 30 x Optical Zoom Camera and Thermal Imaging Camera to assist local Emergency Service Agencies in carrying out their respective role



Also operated within Wicklow is the Sonar E.M.I.L.Y Platform, Sonar E.M.I.L.Y which stands for Emergency Integrated Lifesaving Lanyard is a robotic device used for Rescue/Recovery and is equipped with side sonar technology. This operation is supported by our Boat Unit making the deployment of the Sonar E.M.I.L.Y



Throughout 2022 Wicklow Civil Defence volunteers provide invaluable assistance to the Principle Response Agencies in times of emergency.

Listed below are some of the tasking's performed by Wicklow Civil Defence.

Assisting Kildare Civil Defence with a Missing Person Search in Athy on the river Barrow with Emily and Drone Support.

Supported the Local Authority Environmental Directorate, Waste Management Department with Drone Support for site survey on the Avoca landfill

Assisting Wicklow Gardaí with a missing person search in Kiloughter, Wicklow.



Assisting Wicklow Hospice with first aid cover for charity events

Provide ongoing support to the HSE in Shoreline Leisure with the supply of a backup generator for Vaccine refrigerators.

Provided First Aid cover for the Swift Irish Offshore Rowing championships.

Setup of an emergency rest centre in Arklow community centre, Civil Defence volunteers provide 24hr presence and assistance and the Arklow rest centre managed by Wicklow County Council.



Attended the Tinahely Show on the August bank holiday Monday to display their equipment and engage with the public at this year's show.

First Aid Cover was provided for a local drama group staged a re-enactment pageant for the public outside Coollattin House.

Provided first aid and safety cover for Wicklow County Councils Sport & Recreation Partnership Teams free community event on the Seafront in Bray.



Provided first aid and Safety cover for Schools from around Wicklow town and surrounding areas that came together to raise awareness around mental health for youth by completing 2.5km walk at the Murrough.

Assisting Arklow Gardaí with a missing person search in Arklow, Wicklow.

Assisted the District of Public Health Manager for Wicklow to gain access to patients in remote areas in the Wicklow mountains with 4x4s.

Volunteers attend the Covid 19 medal presentation by the Minister of Defence Mr. Simon Coveney in Croke Park





Radiation exercise. Soil and grass samples were collected from two locations in county Wicklow



Assist Gardaí in the search for a missing person in Blessington, assistance received from Dublin and Kildare Civil Defence

In conjunction with the Department of Defence and the Environment Protection Agency, Civil Defence held their National

## Planning Development and Environment Directorate

### Planning Development & Environment

#### Strategic Policy Committee

#### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Sylvester Bourke (2.5 years)  
Cllr. Edward Timmins (2.5 years)

Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Shay Cullen  
Cllr. Edward Timmins  
Cllr. Patsy Glennon  
Cllr. John Mullen (2022)  
Cllr. Gerry O’Neill

#### Outside Agencies

Development/Construction - Jim Wood  
Agriculture/Farming Community - Michael Byrne  
Environment/Conservation - Tessa Stewart  
Business/Commercial/Chambers - Conor McCarthy

#### Director of Services

Breege Kilkenny

#### Senior Executive Officer

Jackie Carroll

#### Senior Planner

Sorcha Walsh

#### Senior Engineer

Fergal Keogh

The Planning Development and Environment SPC met 4 times in 2022.

#### Functions Include:

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

#### Goal

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



#### Development Management

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

Year	No. of Applications
2012	939
2013	987
2014	1,285
2015	1,361
2016	1,465
2017	1,544

2018	1,156
2019	1,122
2020	1,118
2021	1,370
2022	1,207

Other functions in the Planning and Development section are

- Strategic Housing Developments
- Pre-planning
- Third party submissions
- Compliance
- Appeals
- Collection of development contributions
- Section 5 referrals
- Taking in charge of estates

### Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Wicklow County Council made a new County Development Plan 2022-2028 which came into effect on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022, other than those elements that were the subject of the draft Ministerial Direction. Following public consultation, the Chief Executive's report was issued to the OPR and the Minister in December 2022.

### Local Area Plans

Work commenced on the preparation of three new Local Area Plans for Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole, Wicklow Town & Rathnew and Blessington.

### Residential Zoned Land Tax

The aim of the tax is to activate and bring forward the development of housing on lands which are suitably zoned and serviced, as indicated on maps that are published by the local authority. The maps were published on Wicklow County Council's website on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022, with submissions invited to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. 75 submissions were received.

### ePlanning

Work continued on the roll out of ePlanning in 2022.

### Heritage

#### Wicklow Barn Owl Project

The Wicklow Barn Owl project commenced in 2022, with over 50 confirmed sightings of Barn Owls for County Wicklow recorded by year end. The project was co funded by The Heritage Council.

#### Community Archaeology Service

Funding was awarded from the Heritage Council in 2022 for the appointment of a part time community archaeology service.

#### Community Monuments Fund

Seven projects were successfully completed and drawdowns made by end of 2022.

#### Built Heritage – Architecture

Consultants were appointed to provide conservation management advice for natural, built and cultural heritage at Clermont House and campus.

#### Heritage Other

- Ongoing input to Development management and Forward Planning activities
- Ongoing input to Climate Action team and Climate & Biodiversity Action SPC development of policies
- Co-ordination of Wicklow Heritage Forum meetings (four per year)
- All Ireland Pollinator Plan – point of contact with National Biodiversity Data Centre



## Environment

### Climate and Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Committee

#### Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Rory O'Connor (2.5 years)

Cllr. Lourda Scott (2.5 years)

#### Wicklow County Council

Cllr. Dermot O'Brien

Cllr. Jodie Neary

Cllr Peir Leonard

#### Outside Agencies

Environment and Conservation – East Wicklow - Justin Ivory

Environment and Conservation – West Wicklow - Sharon Jackson

Agriculture/Farming Community - Tom Shortt

Business/ commercial/ chambers - Gary McKensie

An Comhairle Na n'Og - Franny Raven

#### Director of Services

Breege Kilkenny

#### Senior Executive Officer

Jackie Carroll

#### Senior Engineer

Marc Devereux

#### Climate Action Officer

Mary Cahill

The Climate and Biodiversity Action SPC met five times during 2022

Other functions in the section are:

Climate & Biodiversity Action – Adaptation and Mitigation

Environmental Awareness

Sustainable Energy

Waste Management

Harbours

Pollution Control

Veterinary Services

Control of Dogs

Control of Horses

Caravan Parks

Burial Grounds

Casual Trading

Water Safety

#### Goal

“To protect and enhance the natural environment of County Wicklow in accordance with the principles of sustainable and balanced development, in partnership with all sections of the community, having regard to national and EU policies and programmes.

#### Climate Action Plan

Wicklow County Council commenced the Advance Planning Stage of the development of Wicklow's Climate Action plan and KPMG were appointed to carry out a Baseline Emission Inventory and a Climate Change Risk Assessment, both of which will form the basis for the LA Climate Action Plan.

#### Arklow Decarbonisation Project

RPS Consulting Engineers delivered the Baseline Emissions Inventory, the Register of Opportunities and Placemaking and Active Travel Reports and the final Implementation Plan in 2022. The Decarbonisation Zone Implementation Plan will become a chapter of the Climate Action Plan.

New posts were sanctioned for the Climate Action Team and the recruitment process commenced in 2022:

Climate Action Coordinator - Climate Action Officer - Community Climate Action Officer

#### Mid-East Energy Unit

The Mid East Energy Unit was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022, a collaborative partnership between the three local authorities of Wicklow

(lead authority), Meath and Kildare County Councils.



## Environmental awareness

A Food and the Circular Economy conference were delivered in partnership with Wicklow Naturally, Wicklow LEO and Sustainable Tourism Ireland.

Funding to plant 4,700 trees was provided under the Tree Grant. A further 1,000 trees were distributed during National Tree Week.

In Green schools seventeen schools either renewed their Green Flag or received their first Green Flag in 2022.

The National Spring Clean campaign saw 131 groups register to do clean ups in their area.

A new sustainability module for the GAA Future leaders' programme, developed by Wicklow, Kildare, and Meath local authorities in partnership with CARO was launched. It targets engagement of Transition year students and links up with the GAA Green Club programme.

A new dog fouling campaign was launched in partnership with 12 local authorities. The campaign aimed to highlight the impact of dog fouling on all while reminding owners of their responsibility to pick up after their dog.

A Bikes for Africa project was launched at Arklow Recycling Centre with the Rotary Clubs of Wicklow and Bray. The bikes were repaired at Shelton Abbey Open Prison before being shipped to The Gambia. The project was funded under the anti-dumping initiative and helps to develop circular economy activity in our recycling centres.

The Energy Unit will progress and deliver agreed public sector energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects, in partnership the SEAI with the support of CODEMA.

New posts of Regional Energy Manager and Energy Manager were sanctioned.

### **Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC)**

Energy master plans were completed for Newtownmountkennedy, Blessington, Glenmalure, Greystones, Enniskerry, Wicklow and Laragh.

### **Tree Management Policy**

The County Wicklow Tree Management Policy was adopted by Wicklow County Council in 2022.

### **Glyphosate Policy**

The County Wicklow Glyphosate Policy was adopted by Wicklow County Council in 2022

Sixty prizes were awarded to Tidy Towns groups, estates, schools, businesses and other community groups at the Tidy Town Awards.

Second hand school books sales were held in Arklow, Bray and Wicklow recycling centres in association with local scout troops. The sales were popular with a good turnover of books and funds raised for the scouts.

The first National Sustainable Development Goals Week was marked with two talks for staff on Saving Energy at Home and an Apple Pressing demonstration in Clermont Campus with apples from the orchard in the grounds.

An LAPN project to provide training on composting was completed and a case study prepared. The project was extended to provide training for Loreto College in Bray and Newcastle Tidy Towns.

Energy Master Plans were completed in five of the ten Sustainable Energy Communities in 2022. Arklow and Carnew Community Care started work on their EMPs. A study tour was undertaken to Dunleer with volunteers from the SECs to see some of the projects completed there. The Energy Team from Dunleer is now working with some of the SECs on a retrofitting project involving householders.

## Water & Wastewater Quality – Pollution Control & Enforcement

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

## Laboratory Services & Pollution Control

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

and enforcement, as guided by departmental plan and committed resources.

Wicklow County Council continued to participate on the regional management and operational committees and engage with the Environmental Protection Agency, LA Water Programmes Offices, Community Groups and other stakeholders tasked with implementation of the River Basin Management Plan. Public consultation commenced in 2022 on the Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027.



The monitoring of drinking water, river and lakes, and emissions to air and water and investigation of complaints continued during 2022.

## Bathing Waters

There are six designated bathing waters in county Wicklow. The monitoring of these and many other commonly used bathing areas continued in 2022. The bathing water monitoring results are displayed at the beaches and on the beaches.ie website through the bathing water season which runs from 1st June to 15th September each year. The bathing water quality at the six identified bathing waters and eight other bathing areas was predominantly excellent in 2022 although there were periods when the water quality was lower, due to rainfall and infrastructure events, which necessitated the placing of notices to protect the health of

bathers, on some bathing waters during the season.



## Veterinary Services

The Service contract with Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) continued throughout 2022 with ongoing supervision of low throughput abattoirs and meat manufacturing premises (14 in total) A Section 149A agreement with Wexford County Council was signed.

Ante & post-mortem inspections; hygiene inspections & audits; animal welfare; microbiological sampling (food, water & swabs); chemical analysis (sulphites, nitrates, allergens & speciation); veterinary medicine residue analysis all continued throughout 2022.

## Avian Flu

Wicklow County Council supported the relevant authorities (CDCC and DAFM) in relation to the Avian Flu outbreak in 2022.

## Dog Control

The Council continued its Service Level Agreement with the ISPCA for the operation of the pound and implementation of the Control of Dogs legislation under SLA

Dog Pound at Wicklow SPCA site in Ballygannonmore, Rathdrum  
2 Dog Wardens & 1 part-time Kennel Assistant  
Charge for 2022 - €208,192

Statistics 2022	
Surrendered	1
Stray	90
Reclaimed by owner	33
Rehomed	4
Transferred to Animal Welfare Groups	52
PTS	1
Died of natural causes	1
Dog Licenses issued	3,775
On the Spot Fines issued	3
Reports of Aggressive behaviour by dogs	16
Reports of Livestock worrying	7

During 2022 Wicklow County Council continued to participate in the Wicklow Multi-Agency Animal Welfare Forum

## Whitestown Remediation

The Remediation Plan was presented to the Courts and confirmation is awaited.



## Waste Enforcement Team

The Waste Enforcement Team is dedicated to enforcing Waste Management Legislation within County Wicklow. The Team deals with waste, litter & burning environmental complaints. 1,645 complaints were received during 2022.

## Litter & Waste Management

- 198 Litter Fines were issued for various breaches of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 e.g. littering, illegal signage, dog fouling etc.
- 39 Waste Management Files were opened for various breaches of the Waste Management Act, e.g. illegal dumping, burning of waste, illegal storage of waste etc.
- Court hearings in respect of 34 Litter Fine cases came before the courts in 2022, while 31 Waste Management files were listed for court dates in 2022.
- 43 Warning Letters were issued to individuals who contravened the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 e.g. leaving material at the recycling centres when the centres were closed, incorrect recycling at the Recycling Centre, holding full and/or overflowing skip bags around an individual's property for a long period of time etc.
- 70 Section 14 Direction Notices were issued to individuals who failed to keep their property free from waste.
- 108 Abandoned Vehicle Notices were issued.
- 118 Burning Applications were processed
- 9 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued
- 2 Section 55 Notices were issued.
- 8 Fines were issued under the Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste By-Laws 2018
- Anti-dumping Initiative 2022 – Total funding of €67,545 was secured from the DECC for six projects with expenditure of €71,951 incurred. The projects comprised:

- Three hazardous waste collections held in Rampere, Arklow and Bray.
- Two mattress amnesty collections that were held in Rampere and Bray Civic Amenity Centre.
- A further bike-for-Africa project was undertaken.

Local Authority Waste Enforcement Measures Grant Scheme – Funding - €208,544.00 for expenditure on the engagement of full time dedicated Waste Enforcement Officers.

## PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments)



PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments) is an environmental project established to combat the increase of illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands and was officially launched in September, 2006. The new truck purchase was progressed during 2022.

Amount of illegal dumping collected by the Pure Truck from 2007 – 2022



2022 was the thirteenth year of the Pure Mile, with the largest number of groups and volunteers

involved in the project since it was established in 2009. In the first year the Pure Mile had 6 miles of road, and over the years the project has grown extensively to over 200 communities, groups, scouts, beavers, primary schools, walking groups, cycling groups, running groups, businesses and organisations, who have collectively improved and enhanced over 850 miles of road, mountains, valleys, forestries, woodlands, and upland amenities, with the removal of tonnes of illegal dumping and litter from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. Over 2,000 litter picks and clean-ups were organised in 2022 and additional projects included, natural heritage, built heritage, community, biodiversity, and education.

## Recycling Facilities

For 2022 a total of 2,955 tonnes of materials were recycled through the five recycling centres. This represents a decrease of 13.22% on the previous year

In addition, there are 45 bottle bank locations throughout the County that collect Glass, Drink Cans and Food Cans. During 2022 the total weight of materials collected at these bottle banks amounted to 3,821.97 tonnes.

## Burial Grounds

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

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

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

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

## Columbarium Wall

Columbarium Walls provide a suitable resting place within a cemetery for the placing of cremated remains. The wall is divided into niches with a front panel allowing space for the deceased's name.

A Columbarium Wall was constructed in Springfield Cemetery, Bray in 2022.

## Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

In July 2022, An Bord Pleanála published two orders approving the Planning Application (EIAR) and Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for Arklow Flood Relief Scheme. Wicklow County Council confirmed the CPO and commenced procurement of the detailed design to allow construction proceed.

## Harbours and Ports

Under the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme (BALAMI) 2022 – 2023, funding was granted for the following projects:

Project Name	Project Cost
Refurbishment of Aids to Navigation on the East and North Piers Wicklow Harbour	50,000
Installation of a pontoon at South Quay, Wicklow Harbour	52,000
Development of a heavy duty pontoon at the Inner Harbour, Arklow - * Project to be co-funded by SEE	300,000
Development of welfare & toilet facilities at South Quay, Arklow Harbour	45,000
Storage facilities at South Quay, Arklow Harbour	325,000
Development of welfare & toilet facilities at North Quay, Wicklow Harbour	100,000



Concrete works (void & paving repairs) Wicklow Harbour	150,000
Creation of additional quay space at North Quay Wicklow Harbour	120,000
Development of welfare & toilet facilities at South Quay, Arklow Harbour	100,000

Total						
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### Shipping Movements / Cargo Statistics

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-22	5	4	1	6	4	2
Feb-22	5	6	0	6	5	1
Mar-22	11	8	3	14	10	4
Apr-22	9	9	0	9	7	2
May-22	8	8	0	8	7	1
Jun-22	7	5	2	9	7	2
Jul-22	10	8	2	12	9	3
Aug-22	8	6	2	10	7	3
Sep-22	9	8	1	10	8	2
Oct-22	6	5	1	7	6	1
Nov-22	8	7	1	9	6	3
Dec-22	6	5	1	7	4	3
2022	92	79	14	107	80	27

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

### Strategic Policy Committee Membership

Director of Services: Michael Nicholson

### Elected Members:

Cllr. Vincent Blake (Cathaoirleach)

Cllr. Gail Dunne

Cllr. Anne Ferris

Cllr John Mullen

Cllr. Melanie Corrigan

Cllr. Miriam Murphy

### Outside Agencies:

Business/Commercial

Irene Sweeney: Chamber of Commerce

Public Participation Network

Niamh Wogan : Social Inclusion

Kevin Mann: Community and Voluntary

Mai Quaid: Community and Voluntary

Vacant : Environment

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

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

### The functions of the LCDC

To prepare and adopt the community elements of a 6 year economic and community plan. To implement, or to arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the Plan. To undertake a review of the community elements of the Plan at least once within the 6 year period

To monitor and review on an ongoing basis the implementation of the community elements of

the Plan, including performance against any benchmarks or indicators of performance.

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

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

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

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

### Local Economic and Community Plan

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

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

Places onus on parent bodies of agencies at local level to enable them to respond to plan. The first LECP operated from 2016-2022. A new LECP is being developed from 2023.

### Monitoring the LECP

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

Advisory Committee come from both the LCDC and the Local Authority.

They are:

<b>Cllr. Pat Kennedy</b>	<b>Chair LCDC</b>
<b>Cllr. Tom Fortune</b>	<b>Chair Economic Development &amp; Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)</b>
<b>Michael Nicholson</b>	<b>Chief Officer LCDC</b>
<b>Lorraine Gallagher</b>	<b>Director of Services, Economic Development &amp; Enterprise</b>
<b>Vibeke Delahunt</b>	<b>Local Enterprise Office</b>
<b>Christine Flood</b>	<b>SEO Economic Development &amp; Enterprise</b>
<b>Deirdre Whitfield</b>	<b>Community Cultural &amp; Social Development</b>

There are many shared objectives between the community and the economic elements of the LECP and for the most part community and economic development are interlinked. In recognition of that, and of the fact that the plan is not static but dynamic and adaptable to new developments, the integrated element of the LECP is achieved through continuous dialogue and co-ordination. This is achieved through regular meetings of the Advisory Committee. Through the planning and reporting process at these meetings, information is shared and linkages between actions are drawn leading to co-ordination and integration where possible and where appropriate and on an on-going basis.

### Regional

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

community elements of the Plan. County Wicklow LCDC has anticipated the development of the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy and will review the LCDC to ensure alignment.

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

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

The combined Goals of the LECP are:

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

#### High Level Goals

High Level Goals
Community Capacity and Urban regeneration and Rural Development
Active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making
Targeted and integrated supports for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
Support local communities in innovation, entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise and social innovation
Training, education and lifelong learning based in analysis of employment trends and the skill needs of employers
Infrastructure and measures that are positive and supportive to investment, enterprise, innovation and knowledge creation

Sustain existing enterprise and develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the county, with possibilities for reversing commuting patterns

Capitalise on Wicklow's unique attributes: proximity to the Dublin market; excellent quality of life; human capital; tourism; landscape; marine; agricultural and forestry resources

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

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

#### 3.1.2. Implementation

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

Town & Village Scheme

CLÁR

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Urban Regeneration & Development Fund

Community Enhancement Programme

Community Enhancement Programme

(Community Activities Fund)

Rural Regeneration & Development Fund

Funding Received 2022

Funding Schemes 2022	Funding Received 2022
Town & Village Schemes	€1,085,739
CLAR	€169,200
DCYA Playground Grant	€18,000
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund (ORIS)	€1,191,870
Healthy Ireland Initiatives	€151,445
Sláintecare Healthy Communities	€325,000
Sports Funding	€530,293
Creative Places Baltinglass	€375,000
Community Enhancement Programme	€308,834

<p><b>Goal 2:</b> Promote active citizenship underpinned by good governance and participation</p>	<p>-Develop strong representative fora in the county</p>
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in decision making

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

2022 Highlights:

Strategy	Status
<p><b>Healthy Wicklow Strategy (Integrated action with CYPSC)</b></p>	<p>The Healthy Wicklow Strategy was launched on 4th March 2019. The Healthy Wicklow Plan 2019 – 2021 received €184,000 funding for implementation</p>
<p><b>County Wicklow Food &amp; Beverage Strategy (Integrated action with Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC)</b></p>	<p>The County Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy launched at a food showcase event, the ‘Feast from the East’ in April 2019. The strategy is being implemented by the Committee along with Birnie and Associates Ltd. funded equally between Wicklow County Council and County Wicklow Partnership. Progress underway on the following goals: Development of Wicklow Food Story Development of Wicklow Food and Beverage Branding Creation of a key messaging plan Creation of a food activity calendar Creation of a website Delivery of business networking events Food Poverty and Sustainability</p>



## Goal 4:

**A vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector**

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

### Socio-economic Integration

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

LEADER

The Children and Young People Services Committee

The Joint Policing Committee

The Public Participation Network

The HSE / National Office for Suicide Prevention

### Socio-economic Integration

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

LEADER

### EU Rural Development Programme (LEADER)

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

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

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

### Meetings

6 LAG meetings took place in 2022:

February, April, June, July, October and November

Approximately 5 Evaluation Committee Meetings took place in the period between January and December 2022.

LEADER Programme (this is a new heading)

The LEADER Programme 2014-2020 was extended to the end of March 2021. Local Action Groups were allowed to recommit un-used funding until December 2022.

A Transition Programme came into effect on the 1st April, 2021 until December 2022.

On 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Circular 03-2022 extended the current LEADER programme to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, allowing un-used funding and funding from de-committed projects to be allocated to new project applications, until that date.

On 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 Minister Humphreys announced the new €180 million LEADER programme 2023-2027. Wicklow was allocated €5.3 million. The Minister called for Expressions of Interest, from interested parties, to deliver the new programme.

### Key Dates

15th December 2022 – Final date for interested parties to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI)

to develop a new Local Development Strategy for County Wicklow, to deliver the LEADER 2023-2027 programme. Wicklow LAG submitted an EOI to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). Just one EOI was submitted from Wicklow.

31st August 2023 - Final date for decommitted funds from 2014-2020 Programme to be reallocated - Final date for allocation of Transitional Programme project budget.

26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Wicklow LAG received notification from DRCD that their EOI was deemed eligible and were invited to develop a new Local Development Strategy (LDS) for County Wicklow.

14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Final Date for Wicklow LAG to submit a new Local Development Strategy to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

The LEADER 2023-2027 programme will commence once the Local Development Strategy has been approved by DRCD.

31st December 2023 - Final date for all LEADER projects to be completed under the 2014-2020 LEADER Programme and Transitional Programme.

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



Wicklow County Council is the host of Co. Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg. 20 local schools and youth groups are involved in Comhairle na nÓg and it has a very positive profile across the County as a structure that amplifies the voice of young people.

In 2022, the members of Wicklow Comhairle undertook projects across a number of key areas:

**Drug Awareness:** The members presented findings from their 'Drugs Attitudes' survey to a

conference in Wicklow, along with stakeholders involved in drugs treatment, education and other related provision.

**Mental Health:** The members created targeted content to support youth mental health and delivered events around mental health to local schools.

**Ukrainian Response:** The members maintained positive communication channels with the Local Authority through participation on structures around the Ukrainian response activities.

Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg members continue to undertake projects to enable young people to have a voice on the services, policies, and issues that affect them in their local area.



## Age Friendly Programme

In line with our National commitment to World Health Organization's global Age Friendly Cities and Communities Programme, Wicklow County Council is committed to future proofing County Wicklow for the changing demographics of our aging population and making County Wicklow a great place to live and grow older.

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

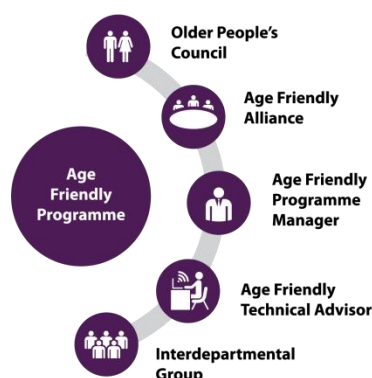
- Have a real say in what happens in our own lives and what happens in the areas in which we live.
- Enjoy good health, good services, and live in a safe environment
- Participate fully in everything that is going on in our communities, cities and counties

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme provides a structure so that Local Authorities can take a lead on changing thinking about ageing

and how services are planned and delivered. Through this model, Local Authorities bring together older people, service providers and businesses in an Alliance that really works and which:

- Enables older people to live active and healthy lives, remaining in their own homes for as long as possible
- Enhances service delivery without increasing expenditure
- Brings about valued improvements in the quality of life for everybody in the community

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



## Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027

The development of the new Age Friendly Strategy 2023- 2027 was a priority for the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance in 2022. The stakeholder and public consultation process was conducted early in the year and the findings were presented to a joint meeting of the Age Friendly Alliance and the Older People's Council on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Following consultations with individual members of the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance and other stakeholders, over 70 actions were identified, defined and categorised under the 8 WHO High Level themes. The lead partner and support partners identified in the Action Plan, which underpins the new strategy, have all

committed to delivering on these actions over the next 5 years. The full text of the strategy document was agreed by the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance, on 7<sup>th</sup> December and subsequently presented to the SPC and full County Council. The strategy document can be downloaded at:

[www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Community/Age-Friendly-Wicklow](http://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Community/Age-Friendly-Wicklow)



## County Wicklow Older People's Council

The CWOPC are a representative body for older people in Wicklow.

The monthly meetings of the OPC Executive recommenced in live format from February 2022 and eight meetings were held in 2022, including a joint meeting with the Age Friendly Alliance held on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Three members of the OPC Executive attend all Alliance meetings to represent the voice of older people in County Wicklow.

The OPC Executive were also actively engaged a project to research older people's use of online tools for financial services.

Older People's Council Seminar and Open Day  
Over 150 older people from across County Wicklow travelled to the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh, on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November for the Older People's Council Seminar and Open Day. This was first such event to be held since pandemic restrictions forced the postponement of the 2020 gathering.

Keynote speakers at the event included Michelle O'Hara, Regional Manager, South Leinster, MABS; Patricia Rickard-Clarke, Sage Advocacy Services & Safeguarding Ireland, Conor Geoghegan, Head of Services (South), ALONE, and Alice Corbett, Regional Manager, Age Friendly Ireland.



In addition to staff from MABS, Sage and ALONE support services, members of the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance also had staff attending the event, to provide information on service and supports for older people, including: An Garda Síochána, Fire Safety Services, Citizens Information Services, County Wicklow Libraries Services, Healthy Ireland, Local Sports Partnership, County Wicklow Partnership, Bray Area Partnership, and also the Public Participation Network.

Beyond The Trees Avondale – National Recognition as Age Friendly Tourist Destination



‘Beyond the Trees Avondale’ received national recognition as the first Age Friendly Tourist Destination in Ireland. Minister Mary Butler TD presented its official Age Friendly Charter, at a launch event on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. It is now recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as an international model of good practice for age friendly development. A case study publication was also launched by Age Friendly Ireland, outlining the work undertaken at Beyond the Trees Avondale, with input from members of the Older People’s Council and Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee.

**Beyond The Trees Avondale**  
Beyond the Trees Avondale opened to the public on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022. A walkability study, scheduled for mid-July, was co-ordinated by Age Friendly Ireland, and included members of the Older People’s Council and the Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee.

**Age Friendly Ireland’s Business Recognition Training**  
Age Friendly Ireland’s Business Recognition Training Online offered a number of open training dates which any business was welcome to attend. The Age Friendly Business Recognition programme will be rolled out to more Wicklow companies in 2023.



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



A number of Age Friendly exercise programmes both virtual and face-to-face were run by Wicklow Local Sports Partnership in 2022 including chair yoga and mobility and stretch programmes.

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

### Disability Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC):

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

Funding was received from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth to support disability services in the County made through the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund. This funding will assist the Council in making Wicklow more inclusive and welcoming for people with all disabilities. An Accessibility Toolkit for community and voluntary groups was developed and launched at an event in the Arklow Bay Hotel on 2nd December, to coincide with International Day for People with a Disability (IDPWD).

A new disability strategy for the county is currently in development. Several public consultation workshops were held in June and the findings from these and further stakeholder consultations will underpin the new strategy.

Another project is also underway, to develop Communications Boards for Playgrounds to make them more accessible.

### Community Awards 2022

The Community Award Grants for 2022 had an overall fund of €120,000 and awards were granted in respect of Community Grant/Merit Awards and Community Social Innovation Awards.

Over 230 Community Groups, Clubs and Voluntary Organisations benefitted under the Wicklow County Council Community Grants Award Scheme in 2022.

### Social Inclusion Unit

Social Inclusion Unit (SIU) continued to support anti-poverty and social inclusion initiatives throughout 2022. Over that period it: Monitored the implementation of the Department of Rural and Community Development's Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) throughout Co. Wicklow.

Represented social inclusion issues on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). Supported ongoing development and operation of the Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN).

Participated on regional and national committees, networks and structures.

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

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



In 2022 the Department made the decision to extend this Programme by two years to end 2024. Disadvantaged groups and social exclusion issues to be prioritised over the next two years in Wicklow include: Refugees/Asylum seekers; Substance Misusers; Older People; Travellers; Mental health (including youth).

In 2022, Bray Area Partnership supported 26 Local Community Groups and 489 disadvantaged individuals, 37% of whom were from designated disadvantaged areas. Co. Wicklow Partnership supported 17 Local Community Groups and 513 disadvantaged individuals, 22% of whom were from designated disadvantaged areas. Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), in conjunction with Wicklow County Council, continued to oversee, monitor and manage the performance of the Programme Implementers in delivering this programme. The LCDC was greatly assisted in this task by the SICAP Sub-group.

**County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)**

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network continued to facilitate public engagement and community participation throughout the county and acted as the conduit through which Wicklow County Council connected with community, social inclusion and environmental groups. Throughout 2022 it participated in a wide variety of public consultations and policy submissions at local, regional and national level.

At end 2022 Wicklow PPN had in place 30 Representatives sitting across 17 Committees/Boards within the county and local authority including Strategic Policy Committees and Joint Policing Committees. (A full list of Committees and Representatives is available on Wicklow PPN website).

**Activity Performance Indicator 2022**

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

A Number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2022 = 404

B Number of organisations that registered for the first time in 2022 = 26

C Number of organisations (registered in 2021) that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN = 73

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



**Healthy Ireland Vision**

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

The four goals of Healthy Ireland are:

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

Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities.

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

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

Healthy Wicklow Programme Round 4 June – December 2022 received an allocation of €68,300 in total broken down as follows:

Income	Amount
Healthy Ireland Fund allocation	€40,000
Social Prescribing	€28,300

Healthy Ireland Fund allocation breakdown:

Action	Initiatives
1: Active Community Pilot Project	Areas of disadvantage in County i.e. Tinahely/Carnew/Shillelagh & Rathnew Targeted approach providing education/training/physical activities to marginalised groups
2: Wicklow Travellers Group	Education/Training Workshops Provision of Physical Activities
3: Social Prescribing Bray Area Partnership	53 individuals supported through a person-centered basis to enhance their physical, mental and social health and wellbeing
4: Social Prescribing County Wicklow Partnership	47 individuals assessed and supported. Programme promoted and developed through South Wicklow



Sláintecare.  
**Healthy  
Communities**

The aim of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme is to achieve long term, sustainable health equity for everyone living in Ireland. The programme focuses on addressing the wider determinants of health that cause health inequalities, and leads on the provision of initiatives intended to improve and protect the long term health and wellbeing outcomes of less advantaged communities.

The programme achieves these aims by:

- Assessing the common and unique needs of focus communities using the place-based approach and a wider determinants of health lens.
- Engaging, collaborating and partnering with a wide variety of stakeholders, including the target communities, community groups and services, and statutory and non-statutory service, at all stages of the programme.
- Developing and delivering long term and sustainable initiatives that specifically target identified wider determinants of health.
- Monitoring and evaluating the success of the programme.

The Sláintecare Healthy Communities area in Wicklow is Bray, and within that are the target populations are areas of disadvantage and vulnerable populations. In 2022, the programme was launched with a budget as follows:

- 1) Enhancement fund: €250,000 to support infrastructural projects that positively impact on the health and wellbeing of those who live within the programme area.
- 2) Seed Fund: €75,000 to support research and fund projects identified within the community that will support health and wellbeing.

Enhancement Fund		
Project	Cost	Status
Ballywaltrim Sports Pavilion Mural	€3075	Complete
Community Kitchen: SPECS Bray Area Partnership, Prince of Wales Terrace, Quinsborough Road	€12,000	Complete
Community Kitchen: Little Bray Family Resource and Development Project	€17,936.14	Complete
Community Kitchen: Ballywaltrim Community Centre	€13,795.99	Complete
Upgrade to Basketball Courts:	€15,913.00	Contract awarded

Giltspur, Ballywaltrim		
Calisthenics: Ballywaltrim Playground	€37,000.00	Procurement complete, contract to be awarded
New goals: Ballywaltrim Playing Fields	€20,000	Goals purchased, installation due in 2023
Climbing boulders: Ballywaltrim Playground	€110,000	Procurement complete, contract to be awarded
Pavilion upgrade: Ballywaltrim Sports Pavilion	€20,000	Imminent

Seed Find 2022		
Project	Cost	Status
Community Health and Wellbeing Hub: Little Bray	€40,000	In development phase
Little Bray Family Resource Centre garden and play space Project	€30,000	In design phase
Community Consultation Committee	€500	Ongoing
Trauma training for early years services	€3000	Ongoing
Programme launch	1428	Complete

## Library Service

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

- Online stock, such as e-books, e-magazines, downloadable audio books, e-newspapers from across the world, e-languages and self-learning courses
- Public computers
- Wi Fi for the public to use their laptops, tablets or devices
- Online catalogue of all 330 libraries in Ireland
- Twice weekly request service delivery and collection of stock from those 330 libraries – directly to each branch

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

## Statistical Returns

The 2021 NOAC Performance Indicator report was published in November 2022. This confirms that out of 30 local authorities, Wicklow County Council Library Service was

- 1st for visits @1.35 per head of population
- 2nd for Issues per head, after Cork City
- 1st for Active Borrowers @ 0.14 per head

Financial cost of Wicklow’s library service was €37.20 per head vs national mean of €36.92, while €1.73 per head was spent on stock vs national mean of €2.04

## Section 7 - Library / Recreation

### L1: Library visits and Issues

Authority	A. Number of library visits per head of population for the local authority area per the 2016 census	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	C. Library active members per head of population in 2021	D. Number of registered members in the library in the year
Carlow County	0.03	77,830	0.06	2,364
Cavan County	0.41	88,912	0.06	4,032
Clare County	0.96	291,652	0.11	10,187
Cork City	1.32	635,085	0.11	17,698
Cork County	1	779,363	0.09	54,699
Donegal County	0.68	212,294	0.05	7,601
Dublin City	1.02	1,306,284	0.09	48,995
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	1.31	639,928	0.13	23,043
Fingal County	0.61	658,775	0.09	32,595
Galway City	0	0	0	0
Galway County	0.7	504,912	0.08	22,508
Kerry County	0.87	441,103	0.1	12,123
Kildare County	0.52	241,715	0.08	17,947
Kilkenny County	0.75	236,267	0.09	6,606
Laois County	1	125,766	0.08	15,368
Leitrim County	0.47	46,642	0.08	2,525
Limerick City and County	0.7	343,248	0.08	11,145
Longford County	1.06	76,727	0.11	3,536
Louth County	0.42	210,135	0.07	6,909
Mayo County	1.09	268,816	0.1	10,620
Meath County	0.61	320,080	0.07	10,929
Monaghan County	0.72	111,912	0.1	4,411
Offaly County	0.76	180,692	0.09	5,320
Roscommon County	0.49	78,872	0.06	2,935
Sligo County	0.71	411,793	0.08	3,585
South Dublin County	1.1	693,748	0.1	21,205
Tipperary County	0.69	287,560	0.08	10,780
Waterford City and County	0.84	277,833	0.09	8,872
Westmeath County	0.8	150,193	0.09	6,154
Wexford County	1.07	463,723	0.11	12,036
Wicklow County	1.35	443,798	0.14	16,618
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10,605,658</b>		<b>413,346</b>

NOTE: Galway County Council collects library statistics on behalf of Galway City Council and these are presented as combined statistics.

Library Visitor statistics for 2022 also show Wicklow leading the way at 82% of the pre-Covid record highs of 2019. This compares with a national average of 60%.

These figures have been achieved due to Wicklow County Council’s continued commitment, particularly to the library capital programme, where the new libraries in Arklow, Wicklow and Rathdrum have substantially increased the overall county wide usage statistics. This, coupled with staff buy in to an attractive outreach programme of library events, has helped our libraries recover strongly from the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021.

### Rathdrum Library

The new Rathdrum library opened to the public on March 1<sup>st</sup>, and has been embraced by the public it serves. At 160 square meters, the new

library is almost 4 times larger than the previous library in Gilbert Row, with a similar rate of increase in library visits, membership and items borrowed. It is open 26.5 hours per week from Tuesday to Saturday, and has 12 individual study spaces + a newspaper / magazine relaxation area. Almost 2,000 items per month have been borrowed, with a similar number of library visits recorded.



### Wicklow Libraries welcome Ukrainian Families

With the arrival of the new Ukrainian community, the library service focussed on how best to extend a warm welcome when they visit the library. Information about the service was translated into Ukrainian and welcome posters in Ukrainian were designed for display in all libraries. The library sourced as many Ukrainian titles as possible given the restrictions and made these available for borrowing. An online subscription to a database of books in languages



other than English was also purchased, making many Ukrainian titles accessible to children and their families.

Many library branches also set up English language conversation groups to support the improvement of English language skills and used this as a springboard for promoting the online language learning resource.

#### Dormant Account Funding 2022

A contribution of almost €24,000 in funding from Dept of Rural & Community Development was approved for the provision of digital supports and social inclusion programming activities in 2022.

This funding was used towards the purchase of C-pens for loan to people in the county who may be struggling with literacy. These are invaluable as an aid to reading and translating text or supporting an individual who may be struggling to understand the content of a form or other text.

The library service also used part of the fund to purchase a subscription to LOTE which is an online database of children's books in languages other than English. The resource offers over 2,500 books in 50+ different languages.

The third support acquired was *Times Tables Rockstars*. This resource offers schools support to enhance the experience of children learning their tables. It has been offered to all primary schools in the county and involves a fun online approach where children learn their tables by joining in various activities and ultimately an online tournament between schools nationally.

The programming element of the fund was used to roll out five different programs as outreach activities to support families. Included was an *Introduction to Minecraft*, a 3-D computer software programme where players can build just about anything. Attendees in the 9-12 year age group developed and learned software design skills preparing them for the future, enhancing their problem solving skills and nurturing play. This activity ran in Ballywaltrim, Blessington and Arklow libraries.

*Finding Our Voice Together* is a programme to create intergenerational social connections

through music and song. This activity brought together three generations in nursing home settings in Baltinglass and Dunlavin and in the active retirement group in Laragh.

*Bray Library Comic Club* took place as a result of DAF also. This club aimed to run a workshop for 18 children over 7 weeks in Bray library. The targeted material was comic books and the targeted group was children who may be struggling with literacy from a local primary school. This project saw children create a comic strip which ultimately was published in a 12 paged zine and made available to show their friends and family. This programme resonated so well with the Next Library Conference, Aarhus, Denmark that it was selected from many contenders for inclusion in the conference in May 2022.



Celebratory Goodies for Comic Clubs, Bray

*Library Service to Shelton Abbey Open Prison* – Wicklow County Council Library service has a longstanding library presence in Shelton Abbey. With funding from Dormant Funds, the library service was in a position to reach out to the families & children visiting their fathers, uncles or loved ones in the open prison. In recognition that these visits can often be fraught with a gap in conversation for both the men and their children, having story times and other events taking place at visiting can improve the experience for all. Finally *Families Reading Together*, the fifth project consisted of a 6 week activity where the



library aimed to support the concept of families reading together. Participating children were in the age 18-24 month age bracket and they along with their parent or caregiver enjoyed being read to by a library staff member over six sessions. These sessions took place in a library setting and in some instances in a more suitable space for the targeted audience. Each week the children received a copy of the picture book being read, the idea being that the adult would re-read the story and build on the enjoyment of reading together.

## “My Little Library Book Bags”

The ‘My Little Library Book Bag’ initiative was collaboration between libraries and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. As part of the initiative, a ‘My Little Library Book Bag’ was available free for every child starting school in 2022 to help them to prepare for this big step.

Parents were encouraged to bring their child to their local library to join and collect their free bag of picture books. Almost 3,000 of these bags were distributed through Wicklow County Council Library service.



## “One Book, One Community” Dunlavin

Wicklow County Council Library Service was delighted to partner with St. Kevin’s Community College, Jonathan Swift NS and Scoil Niocláis Naofa in Dunlavin for a “One Book, One Community” project in the spring of 2022.

The school community, parents and teachers all read the same title ‘A Place Called Perfect’ by Kilkenny author, Helena Duggan.

The “One Book, One Community” Project came to its conclusion in St Kevin’s Community College, Dunlavin on Friday 1st April 2022. All the pupils from 1st year along with 5th and 6th classes from Scoil Niocláis Naofa and Jonathan Swift NS gathered together with teachers and library staff to welcome author Helena Duggan to Dunlavin for a celebratory finale to a very successful venture.



Pictured are Teachers, Students, Library Staff, and author Helena Duggan at St. Kevin’s Community College, Dunlavin

## Story Trails Installed in Baltinglass and Roundwood

During 2022 Wicklow County Council Library Service, partnering with Wicklow County Arts commenced the development of four outdoor story trails to be located in a forest, community garden, river walk and/or a park. Story trails are designed to bring children’s books to life, placing the pages from children’s books along a trail within a community. Designed for children of all levels to enjoy, this outdoor installation helps build an interest in reading, illustration and storytelling while encouraging healthy outdoor physical fitness.

In June 2022, the first Story Trail in County Wicklow was installed in Baltinglass Community Garden as part of Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of creativity for children and young people. Featuring 16 boards depicting Chris Judge’s ‘The Lonely Beast’ book, each board is numbered and

follows a simple and accessible route through the community garden. A second trail, 'The Snow Beast' has been installed on the Vartry Walk in Roundwood.

Wicklow Arts Office and Wicklow County Council Library Services have committed to two further books from the series; these will be placed initially in Greystones and Rathdrum.



## Warm Winter Welcome Programme



Commencing November 2022, libraries across Wicklow joined forces with the idea of will be putting sending out a warm welcome to members and non-members to come in and enjoy their local library for the coming winter.

There was an increased focus on organising additional activities and events for the winter ahead.

Events and activities included new Book Clubs, Creative Writing, Art History Talks, Chair Yoga, Coffee mornings, Scrabble, Music, Family History Talks, Mindfulness, flower arranging, weaving, drawing, painting, Local Studies presentations and many other opportunities to engage in artistic and creative pursuits.

## Outreach activities

In addition to the projects mentioned above, the following are just some of the programmes that library staff engaged in during 2022.



### Local Studies Department:

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

This Local Studies facility provides ample space to display its collection, secure storage for rare and fragile items and improved access to material.

The following services are available to the public:

- Quiet work spaces equipped with Wi Fi and charging points.
- Access to over 5,000 items in the main collection
- Public PCs providing access to online databases and other digital resources
- Scanning, printing and photocopying facilities
- Use of microfilm and microfiche scanners



#### Local History Talks:

Events were held throughout the course of the year to raise awareness of, and promote Wicklow's rich local history and heritage. To celebrate International Women's Day, historian Joan Kavanagh gave a fascinating talk on Eliza Davis, a Wicklow woman transported to Tasmania for life in 1845 for the crime of infanticide. A new Local History lecture series was introduced in October to coincide with the wider Library Service 'Warm Winter Welcome' initiative. This included a colourful talk by historian Jim Scannell on 'John Hinde and his Co. Wicklow Postcard Views' while historian John Goodman recounted the experiences of men from the Wicklow District during WWI. The year closed with a festive talk with Jim Scannell who, using old newspapers, brought his audience on a nostalgia filled stroll down memory lane to 'Christmas in Wicklow 1947'. Mince pies and teas were provided to add to the festive mood.

#### Pilot Genealogy Advisory Service:

A Pilot Drop-in Genealogy Advisory Service was introduced in October. The event is provided one evening per month for anyone interested in doing family history research. It is a walk-in service where the local studies librarian works together with a local expert genealogist to assist individuals with their research, answer questions and guide them to available resources. This initiative complements the existing County Archives genealogy service, in providing an additional information channel.

To date, this has proven to be an extremely popular service, attracting a broad range of the community.

#### School Visits:

Wicklow Local Studies Library hosted numerous class visits over the year, welcoming primary and secondary school children, as well as, children attending local summer camps. These sessions have been well received by children and staff as children get to view and examine unique historical documents. The children are often fascinated by the format in which information was published and disseminated in the past and they particularly enjoy having 'hands on' experience viewing historic newspapers on microfilm.

#### ARCHIVES & GENEALOGY SERVICE

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

Among the jewels of the collection are the 17th and 18th century Wicklow Borough records - offering a snapshot of Wicklow life in the mid-1600. The County archives also holds the records of the Grand Jury, the precursor of the County Council, as well as the Boards of Guardians of the Poor Law Unions, Boards of Health, rural and district, Town and County Councils as well as private collections.

#### Wicklow Genealogy Service

The County Archives offers a genealogy research service, researching and advising those with Wicklow roots, and promoting the County as a key destination to those on the "roots trail". Our parish records database establishes family lines and their connection with the Wicklow landscape.



Wicklow is a member of [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie). This research site contains over 20 million Irish records from 30 Counties.



Archives & Genealogy Programme 2022/23

### Digitisation projects

Rathdrum Poor Law Union Minute books 1842-1924 are now digitised (funded by Creative Ireland) and will be online in 2023. Proposed project for 2023 is the Wicklow County Council Valuation books collection. Digitised and online to date on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie): Grand Jury Records; Wicklow County Council Minute Books; Arklow UDC Minutes, Bray UDC Minutes, Wicklow UDC Minutes, Wicklow Workhouse Records.

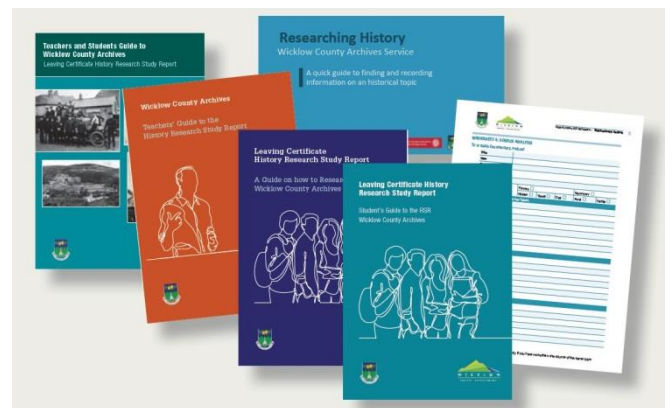
### Conservation Programme

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

### Outreach activities:

**County Wicklow Heritage Website:** Irish Community Archives Network (ICAN) is a network of community archives websites created in partnership with the National Museum of Ireland. The Wicklow site *Our Wicklow Heritage* is a collaboration of the Heritage, Library and Archive services.

### Schools programme



As part of our schools programme, the Archives Service welcomes school groups to visit and explore our collections. We have developed a Schools Resource Pack in line with the senior cycle history coursework: *Wicklow Archives Guide to the Leaving Certificate History Research Study Report* including a suite of digital resources for teachers and students.

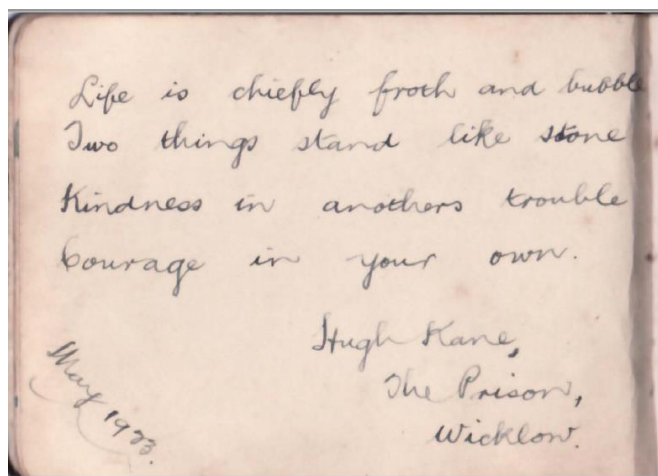
To launch in January 2023, the archivist will present these resources to each Wicklow secondary school in 2023 and arrange visits and presentations to schools around the county. The aim is to introduce the students to Wicklow sources and support their work as part of the history curriculum, particularly in relation to the emphasis on the use of primary source material in history project work.

### Wicklow Decade of Centenaries Programme 2020-2023

**Wicklow Decade of Centenaries: The Historians' Project** a series of commissioned articles by Wicklow historians telling the story of County Wicklow during the years 1914-1923 are now online on *Our Wicklow Heritage* community archives – new civil war articles added in 2022 and will continue in 2023.

### Wicklow and the Civil War: Archives Decade of Centenaries Project

Wicklow Gaol Civil War Prisoners Autograph Book project is being developed in collaboration with Wexford County Archive. A book, exhibition and short film will be produced 2023, telling the story of the Wicklow and Wexford men held in Wicklow Gaol in 1923. The autograph book on which the project is based features the signatures, notes and illustrations of the Wicklow Gaol prisoners in 1923. (Decade of Centenary projects are funded by Wicklow County Council and Creative Ireland).



### Committees/Networks

County Wicklow Heritage Forum – continues to implement the actions of the 2017-22 Wicklow Heritage Plan and new Heritage Plan for 2023

**Local Authority Archivists & Record Managers (LGARM)** – Developing strategic plan in 2022/2023. Engaging with the National Archives subgroup – **National Centre for Research and**

**Remembrance** (NCCR) regarding the Birth and Information Tracing Act.

**Wicklow Creative Ireland Culture team** implementing Wicklow Creative Ireland plan/Decade of Centenaries programme for 2022/23

### Records Management programme

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

### Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations

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

Playgrounds provided by Wicklow County Council throughout County Wicklow:

Arklow: Seaview Avenue, Arklow.

Arklow: St. Peter's Place, Arklow.

Arklow: South Green, Arklow.

Arklow: Heatherside, Vale Road.

Bray: Ballywaltrim, Bray (opened 2020).

Bray: Fassaroe, Bray

Bray: Giltspur Heights, Southern Cross Road, Bray.

Bray: Peoples Park, Dargle Road, Bray

Bray: Sidmonton Park, Bray.

Bray: Seafront, Promenade

Wicklow Town: Ballynerrin.

Wicklow Town: Hill View.



Wicklow Town: The Murrough.  
 Rathnew Children’s Playground and Teen Area with a Skate and BMX Park  
 Baltinglass Recreation Park and Playground  
 Blessington Playground, Business Park, Blessington  
 Carnew Playground  
 Rathdangan Playground  
 Enniskerry Playground, Monastery Grove, Enniskerry  
 Greystones Playground, Mill Road, Greystones  
 Kilmacanogue Playground, Rockfield Park  
 Laragh  
 Newcastle Playground, Wicklow Coast Road, Newcastle  
 Newtownmountkennedy Children’s Playground  
 Newtownmountkennedy (Playground and Scouts Den)  
 Roundwood

### Skate Parks: -

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

### Playgrounds facilitated by Wicklow County

#### Council in partnership: -

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

### County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy

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

This Strategy Action Plan is the outcome of an extensive consultation process managed by County Wicklow Partnership in conjunction with Coillte, Fáilte Ireland, Irish Sports Council (now Sport Ireland), the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wicklow County Council, Wicklow IFA and Wicklow Uplands Council. Out of this consultation process, an overall vision was agreed for Outdoor Recreation in County Wicklow.

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

These objectives are:

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

**To manage with the implementation of the Strategy, a Strategic Development Officer will be appointed in 2023.**

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

**In the 2021 competition, Kiltegan Village won a prestigious Pride of Place community award on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, at a gala ceremony in Killarney, County Kerry.**

The village claimed a special award in the Population 0-300 category, with judges drawing attention to years of hard work by local volunteers. This village has a long history of community activity with its tidy towns committee winning overall in 1973. The setting up of a development committee in 2018 has brought great extra cohesiveness to the village with great new initiatives.



Three projects have been nominated by the Community, Cultural and Social Development Directorate of Wicklow County Council for the “Pride of Place 2022” awards. In the “Community Wellbeing” category the Council has nominated An Tochar GAA and Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership for their collaborative “Irish Sign Language Project.” In the “Community Resilience” category the Wicklow and Arklow Ukrainian Hubs have been nominated. An Garda Síochána’s “Chatting Benches” project has been nominated in the “Creative Place” category.

**This competition acknowledges the fantastic work being done every day by communities in their local areas in the County.**



## Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development and provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure or the necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland. The scheme seeks to support those sporting and recreational pursuits based on use of the resources of the countryside that contribute to healthy active lifestyles and the economic and tourism potential of the area for both local communities and tourist visitors alike.

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

The following funding is available under the scheme -

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

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

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

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

### ORIS - Blueway Project

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

development of the four nodes at Arklow, Wicklow, Kilcoole and Bray for this Blueway.

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

- Improved water access
- Trailheads and trail links
- Marketing and signage

An online public survey was conducted of the county's beaches to assess the uses, strengths, and deficits of the offerings of its beaches.

The project is progressing with a Part VIII process under way for a beach boardwalk on the South Beach in Greystones.

### Blessington eGreenway

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

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

The NIS with the relevant planning documentation will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as the competent authority to make decisions on local authority developments under

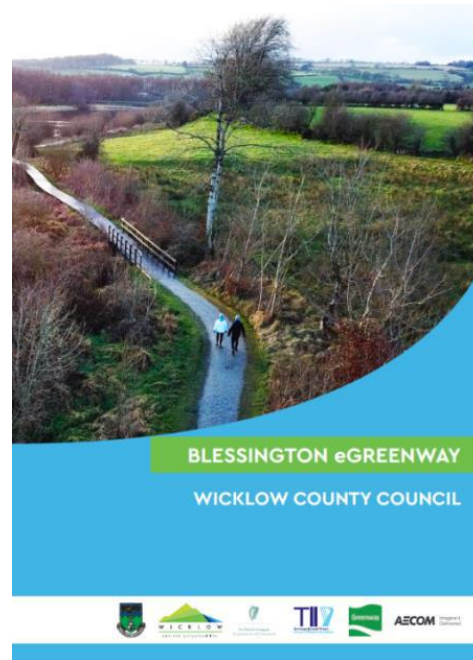
177AE (relating to appropriate assessment (AA)) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

The Planning application was lodged to An Bord Pleanála on 14th January 2022. A total number of 293 submissions were received by the Bord by the deadline of the 4th March 2022.

The submissions raised were based on the following issues –

- No Toilets – 97
- Traffic Lights/Single Lane Traffic on bridges – 239
- Parking – 94
- Traffic – 98
- Lack of Public Consultation – 137
- Trees – 25
- Fencing – 38
- Environment – 70

Wicklow County Council awaits the Bord’s decision on this application. It is envisaged that there will be an Oral Hearing for this project.



An Aerial View of the current trail in Blessington



### Overview

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

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership is advised by a Steering committee that consists of members from the following agencies:

Wicklow County Council, Elected Representatives, County Wicklow Partnership, Children & Young Peoples Services Committee, HSE, Gardaí, KWETB, Wicklow Uplands Council, Healthy Ireland, County Wicklow Network for Older People, NGB Representative, Leisure Providers & the PPN.

The main functions of Wicklow Sports & Recreation include: -

### Information provision

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership is involved in the co-ordination of local sports information, initiating research, compiling a sports directory and database, identifying needs

and resources to form the basis of local planning and establishing a consultative sports forum.

### Education & Training

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

In 2022, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership delivered 29 Safeguarding courses to clubs throughout the county.

### Implementation

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

### Actions undertaken in 2022

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership continued on their Governance journey to maintain compliance with the Sport Ireland Governance code throughout 2022.

### Disability & Inclusion Programmes

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership delivers numerous training and education, and participation programmes for people and children with disabilities throughout the county.



Learn 2 Cycle programmes have been delivered in Community settings and in schools within the ASD units. This programme teaches children aged 6 and over to cycle independently. In 2023, we will identify how to scale up this programme for more areas in the county.

An Tochar GAA Club, Wicklow, Irish Deaf Society, Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership, GAA, The Camogie Association, Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) and Wicklow GAA Health & Wellbeing Committee, on July 1st launched the Gaelic games #signmeup initiative. This initiative creates awareness of the challenges faced by those with hearing difficulties and encourages greater social inclusion by promoting use of Gaelic games related sign language in clubs.



## Mental Health Intervention

Woodlands for Health - Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership continue to support the Woodlands for Health project.

## Community Events

A number of Community events were facilitated through the Sports and Recreation Partnership; Operation Transformation - January 2022 saw Wicklow Sports Partnership host a Virtual Operation Transformation walks in the county.

## HER Outdoors Week

HER Outdoors week took place during August 2022. This is a national initiative focused on Outdoor Recreation and female participation. Wicklow's event had over 300 women taking part

in Outdoor recreation throughout the county from Beach Volleyball in Brittas Bay to Canoeing in Blessington.

## Staffing

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership now has 6 members of staff in place, a Coordinator, Administrator, Strategic Promotions Officer, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer and 2 X Community Sports Development Officer.

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



## Wicklow County Arts Office

County Wicklow has a rich artistic and cultural tradition with a range of vibrant and creative activities taking place in the visual arts, music, theatre, literature, sculpture, socially engaged arts, youth arts, community arts and festivals. Wicklow County Council's Arts Programme is designed to nurture and develop this rich tradition and to ensure that the Arts are made accessible to all in the county.

## Arts Act Grants

The Individual Artist Award Scheme, the Artist and Community Collaboration Award Scheme and the Arts Festival Award Scheme target artistic practice in all disciplines by people and groups that are from or based in County Wicklow. In

2021, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the Individual Artist Award was reviewed and adapted to reflect the possibility of cancellation of events, performances and presentations of work which artists would undertake. This adaptation remained in place for 2022. The Arts Festival and Artist and Community Collaboration Scheme awards proceeded and fortunately were not hindered by cancellations or the need to conduct the programmes digitally or with limited audience participation as was the case in 2021.

## (1) Artist Support Award Scheme

The objective of this Support Scheme is to assist artists develop their practice and to make a significant contribution to the professional life of artists from, or living in, County Wicklow. Seventeen applicants received a total of €31,685 in 2022.

## (2) Arts Festival Award Scheme

Applications were received in respect of high quality programmes by local, national and international artists presented within the applicants' Festivals. The predominant art form presented within the Festivals was music. Other events included dance and storytelling. Five applicants received a total of €25,867 in 2022.

## (3) Artist and Community Collaboration Award Scheme

The objective of this award scheme is to support artists and arts groups/organisations in the realisation of an arts project or programme to support their artistic development. The intention of this award is to fund in total or in part a project or programme to result in realising/showcasing of new work. Applications were accepted for a research and development phase of a new initiative or for the production/ implementation of a new arts project or programme. Seventeen projects were selected for funding in 2022. The

total funding for these awards in 2022 was €31,685.

## Strategic Projects – Awards

The Strategic Project Award is designed to support the development of new work in Wicklow by both residents of County Wicklow and those from outside the county. The Arts Office completed the application process for Strategic Project Awards which supports the collaborative development and delivery of new high quality projects during 2023. The projects selected are:

1. Anna Newell: working with collaborators on the exploration of ideas for the creation of a new show for children/young people with complex needs.
2. Shane Sutton: working with youth groups in two Wicklow communities to create and experiment in virtual reality.
3. Finn Richards: working with collaborators to produce a photography and public realm project charting various connections between a diverse range of people throughout the county
4. West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival: develop the capacity and expand the reach of the festival's annual education and outreach programme in collaboration with the National Concert Hall. Engagement of artists to deliver a bespoke, bilingual family and education programme based on Saint-Saëns's famous Carnival of the Animals orchestral suite.
5. Shane Finan: working with three artists to create new writing and artworks based on the myth, ecology, and more-than-human aspects of the Poulaphouca Reservoir in west Wicklow.
6. Aisling Ennis: working with collaborators to create a solo pedal harp recital inspired by music of the fairies or ceol sí.

7. Maia Nunes: working with collaborators on the creation and presentation of a short performance art film 'Overture Cochlea' to premiere at Mermaid Cinema in the autumn of 2023.

The appointment of artists to this Scheme works one year in advance. The total investment in 2022 for projects delivered in 2023 is €89,955.

### Platform 31

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

The overall aim of Platform 31 was to allow 31 artists the space and time to reflect on how they might test new ideas, research new approaches and make work in a different way, while being connected with and supported by peer practitioners, advisors and mentors. The scheme was specifically not project or output focused. It established a national, peer networking framework for the 31 participating artists, introducing them to a pool of critical thinkers to share their work and learnings, and encouraging a national conversation about creating work in local contexts. As a result of the success of the pilot scheme, the second iteration of the scheme (Platform 31 Round 2) was rolled out in 2022.

Artists throughout the country were invited to apply for consideration in this scheme via a national Open Call. 31 were selected and each received an €8,000 bursary to invest in themselves and their practice, combined with participation in a developmental framework and a national peer network. The scheme was led by the Local Authority Arts offices throughout

Ireland. The programme was broadly successful. Focus groups and statistics gathered revealed that the artists, the agencies and the project management team viewed the initiative as being timely, providing an important collaborative developmental platform for artists in the country and highlighted the work of Local Authority Arts Services. The overall cost of the initiative in 2022 was just over €324,273.

### Public Art

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

Tenders were invited in late 2022 for proposals for the commissioning of a public art work installation for the Knockroe Bends on the N81. Stage 1 of the assessment of applications took place in January 2023, Stage 2 assessments were completed in February 2023 with the successful applicant being selected.

### Creative Places Baltinglass

Following a successful application led by the Arts Office in partnership with local community development organisations in Baltinglass and West Wicklow, the people of Baltinglass will benefit from an investment programme to the amount of €375,000 awarded by the Arts Council to develop and sustain new creative opportunities for all age groups over the next three years.

Creative Places is an opportunity for locations which had not benefitted from sustained arts investment in the past to build local arts programmes which will benefit local people. Each programme will have a coordinator and the approach is inclusive and diverse and rooted in socially engaged practice and community development principles. It builds on existing cultural strengths and is led by community participation and ideas and supported by artists.

To launch Creative Places Baltinglass, Wicklow Arts Office created a special Culture Night programme which took place on Friday, 23rd September. Culture Night is an annual all-island celebration of culture, creativity and the arts. It seeks to actively promote the rich and varied culture treasured and nurtured in people's lives, today and every day, across Ireland.



## Culture Night

Eleven locations across County Wicklow saw activities take place as part of Wicklow Arts Office 2022 Culture Night programme of events. This county wide programme was achievable thanks to the continued support of the Arts Council, Creative Ireland and the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme provided by the Dept. of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Just under 3,000 people attended and events included live music concerts, contemporary dance performances, exhibitions and a wide range of workshops for children.

## Summer Songs – Inland & By The Sea

Under the Local Live Performance Programme Scheme (LLPPS), a series of live music events took place in spring/summer 2022 across County Wicklow. There were live music events held across five locations in the county featuring headline acts along with bands, musicians and singers from, residing in, or with strong connections to County Wicklow. Artists included Hothouse Flowers, Paddy Casey, Florence Road, Wyvern Lingo, Cora Venus Lunny & Yurona and The Penston's to name but a few. There was plenty to choose from and something for everyone with traditional Irish, classical, opera, rock and contemporary gigs.

## Autumn Songs

In September, a series of concert events were held in the Mermaid Theatre, on the Bray seafront and in the grounds of Russborough House. These concerts featured well-known artists including Kila, Tommy Halferty Group, Mobile Music Machine, Catherine Redding, Bangers & Crash Duo as well as a harp day featuring Aisling Ennis/Aindraís de Staic.

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

## Creative Ireland

The Creative Ireland Programme is guided by a vision that every person in Ireland will have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential. It is a five year all-of-Government



initiative that places creativity at the centre of public policy.

For more information

see [www.creativeireland.gov.ie](http://www.creativeireland.gov.ie)

In 2022, the Wicklow Arts Office prepared their five year Creative Ireland Strategies 2023-2027 plan. The Launch of the Creative Ireland local authority Culture and Creativity Strategies 2023-2027 took place in February 2023.

## Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg, the annual celebration of arts and culture for children and young people, returned to Wicklow in 2022.

Children and young people were invited to participate in creative activities across 11 locations in County Wicklow on Saturday, 11th June. A flagship initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme, Creative Youth Plan, Cruinniú na nÓg seeks to enhance creative potential of children and young people.

Over 1,000 children and young people taking part in 2022, the engaging range of activities were purposely selected to give the whole family the opportunity to try something new.

## Trio Táin - The Wicklow Music Teaching Residency

This interactive shared learning project engaged with County Wicklow residents aged 55 and over was presented in collaboration with Music Network and the Arts Office. The programme commenced in 2021 and the success of the pilot programme saw phase 2 being rolled out in 2022 with enthusiastic Wicklow residents taking on the challenge of returning to music. Benefitting from the combined musical backgrounds of the renowned Trio Táin, Ireland's leading flute, viola and harp ensemble. The tuition programme

offers participants an opportunity to experience and learn an array of musical styles and techniques, reigniting their love of playing music. The Residency offers participants group tuition on flute, cello and harp. Tuition is entirely free of charge with instruments provided as needed for the duration of the project.



## Barn Ensemble - The Wicklow Music Teaching Residency

Barn Ensemble established themselves as a small music group after meeting one another during their participation in our The Wicklow Music Teaching Residency and their shared love of making music in 2021.

In 2022, The Music Teaching Residency programme provided participants with a series of one-to-one music lessons followed by a series of larger ensemble performance opportunities, all delivered by a professional performing and teaching musician.

The music residency activities are taking place in-person with online activities being considered should the need arise. The Barn Ensemble music programme is led and managed by musician and renowned harpist Aisling Ennis.





## Creative Wicklow Grants

In 2022, Wicklow County Council's Culture Team launched and invited applications under the Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme. This scheme has been put in place to support Wicklow County Council's role in the delivery of the Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022.

Applications were invited from not-for-profit organizations, local community groups, arts, heritage and cultural groups, venues and societies. Applications by individuals had to be in partnership with a community, cultural or heritage group and 12 were selected.

## Choral Activation

In 2019, Wicklow Arts Office published the Community Choral Activation Plan. Following consultation with 18 choirs across County Wicklow, the actions included the development of a countywide choral network, development of choral music practitioners and singers, and the launch of 'Sing in Wicklow' website.

In 2019, Wicklow Arts Office published the Community Choral Activation Plan. Developed through a consultation process involving 18 choirs of varying ages and genres from across county Wicklow, the actions included the creation of a new and countywide choral network, development of both choral music practitioners and singers, and the launch of a Sing in Wicklow.

Unfortunately, work had to be put on hold due to the pandemic but following an open call for performances by choirs as part of Culture Night 2022 and a focus group with 7 Wicklow choirs, the Arts Office began the process of updating the Sing in Wicklow website in preparation for its launch in the March 2023.

## Mobile Music Machine - Covid Care Concerts

The Covid Care Concert series continued throughout 2022 with renowned musicians and singers performing 35 bespoke concerts in residential care facilities throughout County Wicklow. Each week saw a different group of the finest classical musicians and singers performing and presenting a new programme of music. The line-up of musicians and singers included such names as Simon Morgan - Baritone, Sandra Oman - Soprano, Sabrina Hu - Flute, Gerald Peregrine - Cello and Cathal Breslin - Piano, Mary Coughlan, Niamh Kavanagh and Prof. Luke O'Neill. The engagements were specifically designed with objectives which support mental wellbeing in the community and residential facilities to support positive ageing, mitigate the negative impact of social isolation, and develop and establish new forms of creative engagement for older people that accommodates prevailing public health guidance in the community and for nursing homes/residential care facilities.

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



## Christmas Concerts in Residential Care Homes

In response to the demand and positive feedback received from the residents and staff of the care facilities following the 2022 Covid Care concerts, Wicklow Arts Office invited Mobile Music Machine to present and perform three Christmas festive themed programmes of music in residential care facilities in County Wicklow. The performers included Simon Morgan, Sandra Oman, Lynda O Connor, and Gerald Peregrine.

## St. Catherine's School – Willow Weaving Project

St. Catherine's is the only special school in Co. Wicklow for students with moderate, severe, and profound learning abilities.

The willow weaving project took place in the school grounds where all the students were able to access and participate in the variety of creative approaches and techniques in the creation of meaningful and lasting works of art. For the students, the project provided a fun and engaging challenge and an experience which they will benefit from. The Staff were facilitated in supporting those students needing individual attention so as to maximize learning outcomes. This project aimed to enhance the student experience and allow the staff to independently

deliver similar weaving projects with the students in the future. The activities took place both indoors and outdoors and stimulated the student's physical and mental health. The project provided vital research and development of creative possibilities for inclusive and participatory work with staff and students. The projects researched, undertaken, evaluated, and documented in 2022 will inform and direct the design of various projects for St Catherine's new school.

## Way With Words Literary Festival

Wicklow Arts Office and Library Service partnered to deliver the fourth edition of the Way with Words Literature Festival in November 2022 in the Blessington Library.

Designed for writers and readers, the day long mini festival was funded by Creative Ireland and featured readings, workshops, in-conversations, music and song for all ages with a variety of genres and approaches to writing represented.

## Rathdrum Placemaking and Play Paradigm

Wicklow County Council's Culture Team commenced collaborative work in 2021 in Rathdrum under the EU initiative 'Playful Paradigm.' Led by an all culture team, pilot actions were carried out. The emphasis of the project centres on rethinking towns through play, social inclusion, intergenerational and cultural mediation, healthy lifestyles and 'place making'.

Building on 2021, the Arts Office, in collaboration with Wicklow Sports Partnership, Library Services and Rathdrum Development Association; rolled out a programme of activities and entertainment in Rathdrum in 2022.

Audience attendance and response to all elements of the programme has been hugely positive and reinforces the need to build a

detailed picture of arts and cultural engagement in Rathdrum achieved through its Cultural Engagement Survey conducted in late 2022.

Activities were provided free of charge and were planned to meet the specific needs of children, from young children, to early teens/young adults with abundant opportunities for participation in events including outdoor games, live music and arts/crafts workshops.

A research project will also be carried out to capture data on the town and community the results of which will be used to assist in our placemaking campaign.

### Decade of Centenaries

Building upon The Decade of Centenaries Wicklow Gaol Civil War Project, Wicklow County Council's Culture Team are creating a film to support an upcoming exhibition and book to bring the project to life. Using the findings from the extensive research conducted in collaboration with Wexford Archives, this film will include interviews with family members, archive photos and footage, and animations of the autograph book. In addition, Wicklow Poet Jane Clark was engaged to conduct research into the West Wicklow historical figure Jane Wyse Power. The outcome of this research will be available in mid-2023.

## ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

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

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

Key Strategy Objective 4: Organisation Development and Financial Matters:

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

### Audit Committee

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

Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman  
 Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman  
 Ms. Mary Savage  
 Cllr. Mary Kavanagh (Up to October 2022)  
 Cllr. Gerry Walsh (From October 2022)  
 Cllr. Edward Timmons

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

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

As part of the reporting process, the Audit Committee presented its Annual Report for 2022 to the Wicklow County Council in February 2023. In the report, the Committee welcomed the receipt of reports on the following assignments during the year:

Report to NOAC – Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report  
 ICT Audit

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

SICAP – County Wicklow Partnership – 2021  
 SICAP – Bray Area Partnership -2021  
 Accounts Payable  
 Administration of Burial Grounds

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial Procedures & Audit) Regulations 2014 the Local Government Auditor was invited to



address the Committee. This annual meeting is a constructive opportunity for the Committee to exchange views with the Local Government Auditor on a wide range of issues and for the Local Government Auditor to discuss his statutory audit report on the Council's Annual Financial Statement.

### Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus

Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus was formed to address barriers to women taking part in local politics.

Unfortunately two female councillors resigned during 2022 leaving 11 female Elected Members. The Caucus met on five occasions during 2022.

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

The aim of the Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus is to address these barriers and to strengthen co-operation between women across political and ideological lines and strengthen their capacity to effect change. They hope that through the work of the Caucus they can help build the capacity of women Councillors, through formal and informal mentoring, and to promote women's equality in Local Government in Wicklow.

### Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee held three (hybrid) meetings in 2022. 2022 marked the return of in-person public Joint Policing Committee meetings.

Section 36(2)(c) of the Garda Síochána Act provides that the function of a joint policing committee is, inter alia, to 'arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area.' Two public meetings were held in 2022, the first on the 4<sup>th</sup> May in Newtownmountkennedy, the second on the 10<sup>th</sup> December in Bray. Both had good attendance and engagement from the public.

The inaugural joint policing committee meeting of Wicklow and Wexford Policing Committees was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in Gorey, Co. Wexford. This was the first joint policing committee meeting held nationally and was an opportunity for both committees to:

- Discuss the Wicklow /Wexford joint division model.
- Highlight relevant policing issues for both areas.
- Identify any future co-operation opportunities.
- Receive an update on the cyber threat landscape.

The meeting was a success and it is proposed they become an annual event.

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

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

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



na Tire, The uplands Council and the Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.



Human Resources

The Core function of Wicklow County Council’s Human Resource department is to plan and deliver the organisational workforce requirements in a timely manner to support the deliver of service and our corporate goals. Workforce Management is a critical function carried out by the Human Resources Department, the objective of the Workforce Plan is to enable effective and efficient service delivery with adequate staffing resources within the financial resources available, in 2022, 50 Competitions were administered.

HR support good governance and promote a positive working environment, through the implementation of Council policies and procedures. HR recognise the importance of staff well-being and make provision for flexible work arrangements and deliver statutory and non-statutory leave arrangements which create a positive work environment to improve work life balance, including: The Shorter Working Year Scheme, Maternity Leave Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Paternity Leave, New Parent Leave, Work Sharing, Blended working arrangements, Career Breaks, Carer’s Leave, Exam leave and Travel Pass Schemes together with Force Majeure leave, Bereavement Leave and the Cycle to Work Scheme.



Members Expenses

Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€30,000
Leas- Cathaoirleach Annual Allowance	€6,000
SPC Annual Allowance	€30,000
Annual Representational Allowance	€945,975.80
Councillors Annual Allowance	€224,046.29
Foreign Conferences	€0.00

Freedom of County Wicklow – Mr. Charlie Bird

In September, the Freedom of County Wicklow was conferred on Mr. Charlie Bird in recognition of his work and outstanding achievements in the field of broadcasting and journalism and more recently in his campaigning and raising funds for the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association and Pieta House.



## Health and Safety

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

Training is provided throughout the year on a proactive basis. Training provided includes: Safe Pass, Safety Awareness, City & Guilds Chainsaw, Confined Spaces Entry, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling, Construction Skills Certification Scheme (C.S.C.S.), First Aid, and Safe System of Work Plans amongst others.

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

## GDPR

Wicklow County Council is fully committed to compliance with the requirements of the General

Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) & the Data Protection Act 2018.

The legislation also gives Data Subjects the right to access their personal data on request and have their personal data amended if found to be incorrect.

Wicklow County Council received a total of 10 subject access requests during 2022.

## Freedom of Information

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

The Act established three new statutory rights:

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

Wicklow County Council received a total of 85 requests during 2022. A disclosure log detailing all non-personal freedom of information requests can be viewed on the Council's website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie).

## Register of Electors

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 (No. 30 of 2022) was passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas, and signed into law by the President of Ireland on 25 July 2022.

Under the new act there is no longer a requirement for a Draft/Live or a Supplement register, these have been replaced by a single live

and continuously updating register known as the “Rolling Register”.

As part of the Electoral Reform [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) allows electors to register to vote online or to amend their details by using their unique PPSN, date of birth and eircode. It is hoped this reform will make the Electoral Registration process more accessible, inclusive and responsive.

The franchise staff and Wicklow County Council strive to ensure that every opportunity is provided to all qualified persons to be included in the Register of Electors that facilitates the democratic process at election and voting events.

The number of Electors currently on the Register of Electors for Wicklow at the time of this report is 102,431.

## Training and Development

Wicklow County Council recognises that training and development assists staff and elected members to realise their full potential and can lead to greater organisational performance and job satisfaction and therefore is committed to ensuring that every member of staff has the opportunity and support available to them.

Staff members also regularly attend seminars and conferences directly related to their area of work and expertise.

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

## Ombudsman

Any person who feels that he/she has been unfairly treated or is not satisfied with a decision on a complaint by the local authority may contact the Office of the Ombudsman. By law the Ombudsman can investigate complaints about any of the local authority’s administrative actions or procedures as well as delays or inaction in your dealings with the local authority. The

Ombudsman provides a free, impartial and independent dispute resolution service.

The Ombudsman referred 36 complaints to Wicklow County Council in 2022.

## Enterprise and Economic Development

### Strategic Policy Committee

### Wicklow County Council

#### Chair

Cllr. Tom Fortune (2.5 Years)

Cllr. Gerry Walsh (2.5 Years)

Cllr. Mary Kavanagh

Cllr. Pat Kennedy

Cllr. Avril Cronin

Cllr. Irene Winters

#### Outside Agencies

Mr. Huw O’Toole, Environment/Conservation

Mr. Chris Fox, Agriculture/Farming Community

Mr. Jim Wood, Development Construction

Ms. Ruth Donnelly, Business Commercial

Ms. Muireann Dalton, Trade Union

Mr. Killian McGreal, Business West Wicklow

## Enterprise and Economic Development

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

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

The Council works closely with other development agencies such as the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and maintains and broadens links with potential industrial/commercial developers/promoters to achieve job creation and economic growth. It promotes County Wicklow as a premier film location through Screen Wicklow.

### Development of Enterprise Centres

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

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

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

In addition ABEC partnered with Wicklow County Council to develop the Courthouse as Enterprise Space in the former Town Council offices which is now complete. This was part of the URDF Arklow Historic Town Core project.

Wicklow County Council is engaging with a developer in Greystones to secure enterprise space at a discounted rate. It is hoped that this will qualify for Regional Enterprise Development Funding.

### Sites for Enterprise/Employment uses

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

The Economic Development unit has commenced a marketing drive and is engaging with businesses that have expressed an interest in locating to the Business Park, and the Council will continue to push forward with its plans for the development of the site into the future.

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

Department of Rural and Community Development funding was used to purchase the former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew to be used as a remote working hub and community facility.

Wicklow County Council is in the process of appointing estate agents to market a 4.5 acre site at South Beach Greystones with a view to attracting investment in a hotel and some residential space at the site.

### Disposal of Lands

A resolution was signed in respect of the disposal of 0.54 hectares (1.33 acre) site on Mill Road/South Beach to the HSE for the development of a Primary Health Care Centre. A resolution was also signed for the disposal of 0.4047 hectares (1 acre) or thereabouts of land on School Road, Lugduff, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow to Automatic Plastics Limited.

### Economic Development Unit

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). LECPs detail how Local Authorities will support economic and community development in their areas.

The next Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2029 will set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of County Wicklow, both directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

Wicklow County Council appointed a team of consultants from People and Place to assist with the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029. The timeline for completion of the Plan is the end of 2023. The Economic Development unit has been engaging with the business community and government and local agencies to help identify priorities for the County over the lifetime of the plan.

The Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC have met with the Consultants engaged in the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2029. The SPC has had a number of meetings and a workshop in May, 2022 aimed at feeding in to the LECP.

5 High Level Goals have been identified incorporating Community, Climate Action and Economic Development.

### Networking & Collaboration with Other Agencies

During 2022 the Economic Development Unit met with representatives of Fáilte Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, the IDA, and other agencies engaged in economic development. Formal and informal networking continues with the local businesses, Chambers of Commerce and Town Teams to promote and develop business and develop job opportunities in County Wicklow.

### Food Strategy

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

- To tell the Wicklow Food Story,
- To develop a Food Activity Calendar (Business to Consumer),
- To increase Food Stakeholder Networking (Business to Business),
- To get Local Food to Local Consumers,
- To provide appropriate business supports.

Wicklow County Council appointed James Burke Associates (JBA) to carry out a review of the current Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy 2018-2021 and to develop an Action Plan going forward. The new Plan will be similar to the original Plan but will have more focus on Climate Action and development of a Food Incubation Hub.

Wicklow Naturally Co-ordinators and members took part in a number of events and activities throughout 2022:

- The Taste of Wicklow
- The Tinahely Show – ‘The Best of Wicklow Tent’
- The National Ploughing Championship
- Wicklow Naturally October Feast which encompassed a full calendar of activities with different events every day including food tours, demonstrations, markets and



restaurants hosting Wicklow Naturally dining experiences.

- Gifted at the RDS
- The establishment and launch of Farm to Fork Trails, which offers a self-drive/self-guided option or a scheduled guided tour, facilitated by Wicklow Naturally and taking place at a number of locations throughout the county. Each stop on the trail will be a member of Wicklow Naturally and the trails will be updated as new members join. The launch of the trails was hosted by Wicklow Naturally's ambassador Catherine Fulvio on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 in Ballyknocken House, Glenealy.



## Business Breakfast Briefing

As part of its ongoing commitment to Economic Development, Wicklow County Council hosted the 2022 Breakfast Briefing on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 with representatives attending from the wider business community throughout the county. The theme this year was The Future is Green.

The Chief Executive delivered an update on the various economic developments and future plans in County Wicklow. The keynote speakers were Mr. Ray O'Connor, IDA and Mr. Norman Crowley, Cool Planet. Mr. Alan Shortt, MC put specific questions to the guests for consideration over breakfast and feedback was given.



## Skills Taskforce

Wicklow County Council hosted a 'Screen Skills to Green Skills' event in County Buildings on 24th June, 2022. The aim of the event was to create an opportunity for professionals and stakeholders to help facilitate the development and delivery of

training and education to meet the skills needs of County Wicklow into the future.

The theme for the event was ‘Screen Skills to Green Skills’ and the focus was on film, food, and renewables as key drivers of economic development in the county and was viewed as a the catalyst for active collaboration and co-operation between all participating stakeholders in the skills development and training and development of potential employees for the film, food and renewal energy sectors.

The keynote speaker, Minister of Further and Higher Education, Innovation and Science, Minister Simon Harris TD placed importance of having a masterplan for the development of skills infrastructure to allow the County to harness the employment opportunities being identified and discussed. The Skills Taskforce is now up and running and has members representing the Film, Food and Renewables sectors, as well as the Education Sector, Training and Development sectors, and supported by Wicklow County Council staff.

Consultants are being sought to carry out a skills audit to identify existing skills and competencies and future skills required to support economic development in the County and also to produce a Skills Strategy for the county.



## Tracks and Trails

The Wicklow episode of Tracks & Trails was aired in July and showcased St Kevin’s Way and the Avonmore Way.

## Wicklow Passport

Launched in 2020, The Wicklow Passport remains a key tool to help bring visitors to lesser known areas in Wicklow.



## Wicklow Included in Best of the World 2023 destinations by National Geographic

Wicklow has been included in a ‘Best of the World 2023’ list of destinations by the famous National Geographic magazine. Wicklow is featured as one of the top family destinations alongside San Francisco, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Manchester, Switzerland and Bath. Special mention is given to ‘Beyond the Trees – Avondale,’ its canopy walk, 12 story tower and Ireland’s tallest slide.

## Eco Trail

Eco Trail Wicklow was hosted on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September with over 1200 people registered for the event. People travelled from as



far as Singapore, South Africa, or the West Coast of America. The Journey to Eco Trail Wicklow, a mini documentary hosted by Siobhan O'Connor was completed with three episodes available. The videos are dedicated to attracting people to EcoTrail Wicklow and to showcase Wicklow as a great Outdoor destination.



## Rose of Tralee Tour

Wicklow Tourism helped organise a two day tour around Wicklow for 17 Roses, both national and international. The tour included visits to Powerscourt Estate, Glendalough, Arklow, Ballyknocken House and Cookery School, Beyond the Trees at Avondale and Russborough House with overnight in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

The Wicklow Rose for 2022 was Róisín Long from Arklow.



## Destination Town Funding

Wicklow Town was awarded €500,000 Destination Town Funding for the redevelopment of the Abbey Grounds. The purchase of the Abbey Grounds completed in August 2022. It is intended that the space will be enhanced and redeveloped into the Abbey Gardens and Event Space, through Destination Towns funding provided by Fáilte Ireland.

The redevelopment will include converting the existing Coach House for use as a Café/Retail/Exhibition space and public toilets, installing a natural amphitheatre arrangement to provide for public performance events, a new pedestrian access, pathways for improved accessibility, and public seating.

## Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

In 2020, Fáilte Ireland, in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the Office of Public Works (OPW), the National Monuments Service (NMS), and Wicklow County Council commissioned Consarc Design Group with a multidisciplinary team to deliver a Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan for Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National

Park and Visitor Orientation Recommendations for Co. Wicklow.

The Consultation began on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 and runs until the 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. The Draft Plan is available to view in Libraries and online. There were a number consultations and walk in events held at the Brockagh Centre, Glendalough to discuss the plan with the design team and give feedback. The Plan will be further revised to take account of feedback.

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

### URDF

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

- Arklow Historic Town Core – complete
- Wicklow Library and Fitzwilliam Square – complete
- Bray Public Transport Bridge – ongoing
- Bray Harbour Project - ongoing

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

### RRDF

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

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

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

## Masterplan for Blessington and Baltinglass

Wicklow County Council is in the process of advertising for consultants to develop a Masterplan for Blessington and Baltinglass. This initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future – the Government’s ambitious five-year strategy designed to reimagine and revitalise rural Ireland. It is also linked to the Government’s Housing for All strategy and a key component of the Town Centre First policy.

Wicklow County Council will work closely with local community groups, retailers and members of the Town Team to devise and deliver on the objectives of the Masterplan.

## Town Teams

Town Teams in Wicklow have been operating since 2016. Wicklow County Council appointed Mr Allen McAdam of MCA Consulting to carry out a review of the town teams. The result of the review was presented to the elected members at

their October meeting and a response is being prepared in respect of the points raised.

The review has been presented to the Town Teams and it is proposed to have a plenary session with all Town Teams early in 2023 to tie in with the appointment of the Town Regeneration Officer. In the meantime Wicklow County Council continued to support the Towns Teams in Arklow, Bray, Blessington, Greystones and Wicklow during 2022 to bring their projects to fruition.

### Sir John Boorman – Civic Honour

In November, a civic honour was conferred on Sir John Boorman in recognition of his major contribution to Ireland’s film industry and his commitment to the environment over the 50 years that he resided in County Wicklow.



### Offshore Renewable Energy

The East Coast Offshore Renewable Energy Network was set up in October 2022 with the aim of getting all stakeholders in the offshore renewable energy industry in County Wicklow together to form a strong cluster of people who will be in a position to support this growing sector.

Wicklow is to the forefront of plans for the development of offshore renewable energy off the Irish coast. Of the seven Relevant Projects announced by Government in 2020, three will impact on Wicklow, Dublin Array, Codling and Arklow Bank, leaving Wicklow with the majority of the first round of Relevant Projects. It is estimated that the lifetime spend in delivering 3.5 GW by 2030 is €17.9 billion.

This working group is industry-led, is chaired by an independent third party, Niall Glynn, and represents key stakeholders in the area to build capacity locally in order to maximise the opportunity for the local community and the local economy.

The sector will require supporting infrastructure and a steady supply of highly skilled workers with a wide range of training and educational skills.

With this in mind the East Coast Offshore Renewable Energy Network has been set up to coordinate key stakeholders in partnerships between Government, industry, and education and training providers, to coordinate knowledge and skills in County Wicklow, including the Wicklow County Campus, that will cater for the job opportunities that these sectors will provide.

The Network has formed three sub-groups to focus specifically on Ports, Industry and Supply Chain, and Training and Development.

### County Wicklow Film Commission

### County Wicklow Film Commission

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

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

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



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

As a secondary objective, Screen Wicklow is committed to maximise the tourism spin off of film activity.

In 2022 County Wicklow once again experienced high levels of production activity. Over 600 shooting days were recorded containing a mixture of all types of audio-visual production. The financial benefit from audiovisual productions tends to be higher from feature films than from television.

The County was used by a large number of international and national feature film and television productions. Feature films, high end television productions and numerous commercials that used Wicklow locations include:- Vikings Valhalla, (Various locations including Travelahawk Beach in Wicklow Town) TV Drama 'Bodkin' (many locations including Redcross, Djouce and Wicklow Town), Crime Thriller 'Clean Up Crew' starring Antonio Banderas and Jonathan Rhys Meyers (Wicklow Town and Glenealy), and TV Series 'Harry Wild' starring Jane Seymour and Amy Huberman (Wicklow Gap and Newcastle).

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

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

Establishing the appropriate infrastructure and supports to attract and sustain the film making industry in Wicklow requires a collaborative

approach, facilitated and supported by Wicklow County Council. Such an approach will enable the County to realise the potential value from film making directly plus film tourism, accommodation services and other support services.

## County Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy

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

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

The strategy continues to guide action in the areas of;

The opening of the new Screen Hub for Wicklow in Q2 2023

Attracting foreign direct investment (including marketing and promotion)

Support for the indigenous screen content creation sector.

Developing screen tourism.

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

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

Wicklow County Campus in Rathnew is an exceptional asset to the County and continues to be developed by Wicklow County Council to be a Centre of Excellence in Enterprise, Education and Innovation in County Wicklow and to act as a catalyst for Economic Development in the County. The Clermont Campus is an impressive 55 acre facility. The buildings comprise offices, meeting rooms, a conference and exhibition

venue, lecture rooms, I.T. rooms, a college library. Clermont House accommodates the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow.

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

## Wicklow County Campus and IT Carlow

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

All events and meetings held face to face and online throughout 2022 continued to promote the Campus as a unique and exceptional venue for a range of uses as well as highlighting the Life Long Learning and higher education and training programmes run by the Institute of Technology Carlow. The main objectives of hosting these events are to promote the overall concept of Wicklow County Campus and to bring the Campus to the notice of the general public

## Actions Undertaken in 2022

In 2022 Wicklow County Council undertook a range of projects on the Campus, including:

Restoration of heritage windows aided by a grant from the Built Heritage Investment Scheme

Award of contract for development of a Master Plan to guide future development of the Campus

Award of contract for development of a Conservation Management Plan to guide preservation of the heritage aspects of the Campus

Installation of a new Biofuel Heating System for the campus (to complete in 2023)

Demolition of dangerous prefab buildings and removal of asbestos

Planting of wildflower meadows to improve biodiversity

Purchase of electric vehicles to reduce carbon footprint of the campus.

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

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

## Development of a Content Creation Enterprise Hub

Throughout 2022 the construction of Clermont Screen Hub continued. The Hub will comprise of a new 2-storey building linked to the refurbished courtyard cottages, conference facilities in the former school chapel and administrative offices in a section of former dormitory at second floor level in the school block. The facility will provide approximately 10,000 sq. ft of private and co-working spaces in a dynamic and synergetic environment for creative/media cross-fertilisation. It will offer specialised and customised, sector specific business supports that drive start-ups and economic growth. The launch for the Hub is planned for quarter two 2023.

The Hub construction is financed by Wicklow County Council and is supported under the Department Enterprise, Trade & Employment's Regional Enterprise Development Fund administered by Enterprise Ireland.

The development of this remote working hub is one of main objectives in the Mid-East regional Enterprise Plan.



## Local Enterprise Office

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

## Mission Statement:

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

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

- Creating and raising local enterprise awareness and developing an enterprise culture and community-based enterprise activity;
- Providing a single/first point of contact service to the business community - providing business advice, direction and signposting, business counselling and mentoring;
- Providing support to private sector and community initiatives to secure the establishment and/or expansion of commercially viable micro-enterprise projects;
- Providing comprehensive pre-and post-start-up supports to new and expanding micro-enterprises;
- Influencing the allocation of resources for micro-enterprise from EU, private and public funding sources
- Promoting the general economic development of their areas.

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

## Supports for micro business include:

- Information Provision
- Supports for business networks

including Network for women business owners (NEW)

- One to one Business Advice clinics
- Assignment of mentors to companies
- Financial support to boost sales via Trading Online Vouchers
- Technical Assistance Grants
- Exhibitions & trade shows
- Access to Microfinance Ireland loans
- Student Enterprise Programme
- Business and IT skills training programmes & Seminars
- Leadership and management capability programmes, such as Lean for Micro and the Management Development Programme for Owner / Managers.
- Grant funding for eligible companies

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

- Student Enterprise Awards
- National Enterprise Awards to showcase local business excellence
- Showcase, the international trade fair for the crafts industry in the RDS
- Food Academy, a specialised training programme for food producers run in conjunction with Board Bia.
- A LEO marquee showcasing LEO clients at the National Ploughing Championships
- Local Enterprise Week with training and events for clients at all levels of business growth.
- Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur programme

The LEO Wicklow also has a role to play in the formulation of local economic development plans for the County, aimed at maximising the opportunities for enterprise and capitalising on the features in the County that offer sustainable competitive advantage. A number of the actions contained in the Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan are driven by the LEO.

## Impacts in 2022:

### 2022 Job Creation Figures:

- 131 new jobs created in 2022
- 12% job increase from 2021
- Net employment gain of 64 in 2022
- 159 total small businesses employing 696 people supported by LEO Wicklow

### 2022 Metrics:

- 36 Grant Applications approved valued at € 760,000.
- 67 Trading Online Vouchers approved, valued at € 140,000 .
- Green for Micro: 9 clients approved.
- Digital Start: 4 clients approved.
- 11 companies participated in the Lean for Micro programme.
- 1 portfolio client was transferred to the High Potential Start Up unit in Enterprise Ireland.
- 1 Company was approved an Agile Innovation Grant.
- 44 Owner/Managers participated in the Owner/Manager Development Programmes.
- Kate Dempsey, Aqua license, Arklow: **Winner of National Enterprise Awards 2022.**
- Delivered one to one business advisory meetings to 426 entrepreneurs.
- Assigned a mentor to 76 companies.
- Provided business and business IT skills training to 653 participants across all 67 training workshops, specialised clinics and events and seminars.
- Provided Start Your Own Business training to 85 individuals.
- Assisted 17 businesses to apply for MicroFinance Ireland funding. Five of which were approved.

## Priorities for 2023:

- Assist First Time Exporters (Export Development Programme and mentoring)
- Addressing the Productivity Challenge



- (Lean for Micro support)
- Digital Transformation (Digital Start)
  - Micro Enterprise Green Strategy (Green for Micro)
  - Innovation (Innovation supports and programme)
  - Owner Management Development Programmes
  - Specific supports for the Food, Content Creation and Renewable Energy Sectors
  - Ongoing strategic alignment with EI
  - Support portfolio companies
  - Over 10 employee business supports.
- Focus on assisting enterprises at risk from rising overhead costs and impact of Ukraine war.
  - Maximise the opportunities for entrepreneurs from National programmes and new initiatives at local and regional level.
  - Further develop an excellent and effective First Stop Shop for businesses in County Wicklow.
  - Heighten awareness of the services available to businesses locally and nationally and help develop relationships between businesses and these service providers.
  - Generate awareness of the LEO brand and services.
  - Target supports at client companies in the LEO Wicklow portfolio with a view to maintain employment levels, stimulate further growth and job creation.
  - Provide progression pathways for client companies to access Enterprise Ireland services and supports.
  - Provide a suite of capability building supports while focusing on Innovation, Financial capability, Productivity, Export, and Competitiveness thus adding value and bringing benefits to business and increase productivity.
  - Provide the Lean for Micro and the Green for Micro programme to mitigate impact of climate change.
  - Commence the pilot programme Digitalisation for Micro to assist

portfolio clients with digitalization of their business.

- Support employment creation in the county through investment in eligible businesses.
- Support economic development aimed at job creation in the County.
- Engage with partners at local and national level to design and deliver enterprise creation and support initiatives.

## Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan 2021-2024

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

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

**Strategic Objective 1: Position the Mid-East as the primary location for the development of the agri food hubs**

**Action 1:** The completion of the Boyne Valley Food Hub (Phase 1) and the development of the Digital Innovation Smart Agri Hub (Phase 2)

**Action 2:** The development of the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub

**Action 3:** The development of an incubation food development hub in County Wicklow

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

initiatives that will support the competitiveness of Start Ups, SMEs and microbusiness across the region
<b>Action 2:</b> Commission a regional strategy that will adopt an evidence-based approach to co-working hub and innovation space development and investment for the Mid-East

## ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



### District Members:

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Pat Kennedy (FF)

Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Tommy Annesley (FF)

Council Members

Councillor Sylvester Bourke (FG)

Councillor Miriam Murphy (IND)

Councillor Pat Fitzgerald (FF)

Councillor Peir Leonard (IND)

### Municipal District Staff:

District Manager:

Leonora Earls

District Administrator:

Claire Lawless

District Engineer:

Avril Hill

Executive Engineer:

John Daly

Technician:

Stephen Howes

Assistant Staff Officer

Sinead Boddy

Clerical Officers:

Catherine Murphy

Philippa O Connor

Pauline Myler

Jennifer Bell

### Contact Details:

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

Telephone: 0402 42700

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

Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

Area: 48,380 hectares

Population of District: 26,185

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

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

Following the Government announcement to lift restrictions in relation to COVID 19 in April 2022 the office of Arklow Municipal District re-opened to the members of the public from 9.00am-4.00pm

The regular functions that the District provided included local authority housing maintenance and repair, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, outdoor maintenance and grass

cutting, drain clearing, maintenance of burial grounds, public convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.

All functions were carried out in line with government guidelines.

## District Meetings

The Members of Arklow Municipal District hold their District Meetings in “The McElheron Chamber” on the second Wednesday of each month at 3.30pm, with the exception of August when there is no meeting. . The schedule of meetings is approved at each Annual Meeting.

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

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

## Community Sector

- Number of Press Releases issued 2022 = 19
- Estate Development Grants were awarded to thirteen successful Residents Associations to help in the upkeep of the green areas of the various Wicklow County Council housing estates

throughout the District. A total sum of €7,540 was awarded to them.

- Awarding of Festival Funding to 9 Festival Committees.
- Number of Roundabouts in Sponsorship Agreements = 8

## Arklow Community CCTV

Arklow Community CCTV system is a great benefit to the town. It is a valuable policing tool and creates a safe environment. 28 requests for footage were received in 2022.

## Retail / Business Sector Pay Parking

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

- Free parking between 9.00am and 10.00 am each morning.
- 15 minutes official grace period at any time of the day.
- Arklow Town continues to offer free parking throughout the town on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Paying for parking in Arklow is faster and easier with Parking Tag. The cashless parking solution allows motorists to park by phone in the town and extend their parking without returning to their vehicle.
- Free parking was provided in Council owned carparks in Arklow town during the Christmas period.
- 2 free annual parking permits for businesses whose rates are up to date.

## Town Team Initiatives

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



of projects during 2022. Ten meetings held during 2022. Meetings were held remotely via zoom for the first half of the year and the team met in person from June onwards.

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

- The Flower Basket Scheme continued in 2022. A total number of 125 baskets were purchased. Local businesses and Arklow MD kindly sponsored the flower baskets this year. The scheme enhances and improves the image of the Main Street.
- The Arklow Town Team International Women's Day 5/10km virtual challenge event took place from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Proceeds raised went to Brays Women's Refuge and an Arklow Town Team Tourism project.

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

### Visit Arklow

The 'Visit Arklow' tourism brand was developed and launched in the summer months. A Marketing Consultant was hired to maintain and update the website. This project was funded by LEADER with support from Arklow Municipal District. The Visit Arklow website has highlighted all that The Arklow District has to offer.

### Digital Screen

A digital screen has been installed on the newly refurbished Parade Ground – the screen will provide key information about the town and upcoming events for visitors and residents alike keeping communities informed.

### The Arklow Pottery Online project & Heritage Week event



### Community Garden Biodiversity project

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

### Harbour to Headwaters Project

Progress on the Harbour to Headwater Project was also made, which will map the Avoca River Catchment from Glenmalure to Arklow and install educational panels of aqua life of the river and the wildlife on the riverbank with a view to linking to an educational website. This project will be a great base for the starting of future projects to promote our wonderful waterways. The project launch has been scheduled for early 2023.

### The Goods Store Project

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

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



### Kynocks Park Painted Playground Project

A sum of €3,000 was secured from the Community Enhancement Programme to contribute to the painted playground project at Kynock's Park. The project includes a Painted Playground and Colourful Court and will really uplift and transform the space. A set of basketball hoops has been added to the court during 2022.

### Playgrounds

Arklow Municipal District was awarded €15,162 following a successful application submitted to The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) under the Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation.

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

Other works carried out include the installation of a Viking Ship play unit in Seaview Avenue Playground and a fence installed at St. Peter's Plc Playground.

### Pride Pedestrian Crossing

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



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

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



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

## Arklow Running Track

Arklow Running Track will be enhanced with extra lighting following receipt of grant of €43,704 awarded under the Sports Capital Equipment Programme. It is the intention of Arklow Municipal District to carry out additional upgrades of the facility when further funding streams become available.

## Events

- Arklow MD welcomes the Indian Ambassador - The Ambassador met with the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council and Arklow Municipal District and Council officials.
- Ceremony of Remembrance was held on the 20th March for those who lost their lives during the pandemic.
- Arklow Open for Business initiative is launched in May 2022.
- Presentation made to the Wicklow Rose by Members of Arklow MD in August 2022
- Arklow MD welcomed students from Wurzburg, Germany at a reception in September 2022 to celebrate the links between the communities.

- Twinning Reception for Town Twinning Delegations from Aberystwyth and Chateadun in December 2022
- Family Fun Day to launch the refurbished Arklow Parade Ground December 2022.
- Facilitated the Arklow Christmas Festival

## Twining

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

Arklow Town is twinned with two towns:

- Châteaudun
- Aberystwyth, Wales

Arklow Municipal District continues to support the Twining Committees.

## Tidy Towns Committees

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

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

## Town Reopening Committee

The Town reopening committee continued to meet in 2022.

The following actions were implemented in Arklow.

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

## Infrastructure Projects within Arklow Municipal District

Works have been completed on the Parade Ground Public Realm Project in Arklow Town.

Improvement works at Saville's Cross in Rathdrum have been completed along with the resurfacing of Brewery Lane.

Irish Water are continuing with works on the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Works undertaken in 2022 using central government funding in Arklow Municipal District included the following: There was approximately 11.8 km of road improvement works carried out in 2022:

### Restoration Improvement

Road Number	Road
L-2191-30	Ballyduff Road
L-6167-0	Oghill Upper-Knockanree Lower
L-7213-0	Tomnaskela - Killaveny
L-2140-35	Greenan Beg - Aughrim
L-2144-0	Meetings to Ballinaclash
L-2172-0, R-754-0	Redcross
R-754-0	Barndarrig

### Restoration Maintenance

There was approximately 22km of road surfacing

works carried out in 2022 -

L-5665-0	Ballinabarny South - Coolanear
L-5165-0	Ballykean - Ballinabarny South
L-5164-0	Ballykean (Renrose) - Ballygillar
L-5660	Ballyvaltron - Ballynapark
L-2137-0	Aughrim-Ballyteige
L-2128-30	Ballyboy-Aughavannagh
L-61741	Ballinaskea-Kilpatrick
L-6174	Cranagh-Ballinvally Upper
L-6192-0	Barnacleagh East - Thomastown
L-6155-0	Tigroney West - Ballymurtagh
L-6204	Killaveny
L-6168-0	Knockanode - Crone More
R754	Redcross to Barndarrig

Road Number	Road
L-6126-0 Kirakee Village	Installation of 200m of Safety Barrier
R754 Barndarrig Village	Reconstruction of speed ramp near Barndarrig
R753 Ballinaclash & Rathdrum	Installation of 50m of Safety Barrier
R747 Woodenbridge to Aughrim	Installation of 600m of Safety Barrier

### Former National Roads:

R-772 Wexford Road Resurfacing Works from Emoclew Road Roundabout to Knockmore

### Local Improvement Schemes:

Ballycooleen, Avoca
Ballyarthur, Avoca
Carrycole, Arklow

### Community Involvement Schemes:

Road Number	Road
L-6170	Kilmacoo, Avoca
L-97534	Threewells, Aughrim
L-97537	Nursery Way, Aughrim



## Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience:

Road Number	Road
R-750 Coast Road	Installation of new drainage and change in road levels to prevent areas of spot flooding

## Drainage Grant:

Road Number	Road
R-772	Wexford Road –New Gullies
L-6195-20	Repair of Drainage
L-2196-0	Repair of collapsed drain Ballycoog
R772	New drainage on R-772 near Servier

## Other Infrastructure Projects within AMD

Part 8 planning secured for demolition of existing cottage library building and building a new public library in Aughrim.

Part 8 planning secured for the development of a pontoon and associated services and infrastructure at Arklow Harbour.

Part 8 planning has been secured to construct 4 no. Group Housing Units (1 no. 4 bed unit, 1 no. 3 bed unit, 2 no. 2 bed units) in Rathdrum -

- Works have been completed on the Parade Ground Public Realm Project.
- The Avonmore Link Bridge Project was completed.
- Improvement works at Ballinaclesh Junction completed.
- Irish Water commenced works on the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

## BALTINGLASS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### District Members

#### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor John Mullen (FF)

#### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Edward Timmins (FG)

#### Members:

Councillor Gerry O'Neill (IND)

Councillor Avril Cronin (FG)

Councillor Vincent Blake (FG)

Councillor Patsy Glennon (FF)

### Municipal District Staff

#### District Manager:

Breege Kilkenny

#### District Engineer:

Patrick Byrne

#### Tinahely Area Engineer:

Dermot Graham

#### District Administrator:

Liam Cullen

#### Technician:

Denis Jones

#### Assistant Staff Officers:

Geraldine Jordan (Tinahely Area Office)

Aideen Russell (Blessington Area Office)

### Clerical Officers:

Ann Marie Butler (Tinahely Area Office)

Denise Smith (Blessington Area Office)

Margaret Doyle (Blessington Area Office)

### District Offices:

#### Blessington Area Office:

**Address:** Civic Offices,  
Blessington  
Business Park,  
Blessington, Co.  
Wicklow W91 RTV0.

**Telephone No:** 045 - 891222

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

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

#### Tinahely Area Office:

**Address:** Council Offices,  
Coolruss,  
Tinahely,  
Co. Wicklow  
Y14 AY19.

**Telephone No:** 0402 - 38174

**E-mail:** [baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:baltinglassmd@wicklowcoco.ie);

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

### District Meetings

Monthly Meetings are held at 10.30 a.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (third Monday if the fourth Monday is a public holiday) at 10.30 a.m. – no meeting in August. Meetings are usually held in Civic Offices in Blessington. The schedule of meetings is approved at each Annual Meeting.

### General

Baltinglass Municipal District includes the towns of Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew and the villages of Coolboy, Dunlavin, Donard, Knockananna, Tinahely, Manor Kilbride and Shillelagh. The population of the Municipal

District is 25,267 (18%). Baltinglass Municipal District covers 45% (352 square miles) of the area of Wicklow and 40% (943 km) of the county's roads.

Baltinglass Municipal District has two Area Offices in Blessington and Tinahely – Public Counters are open to the Public from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Motor Tax Office is open in Blessington Civic Offices on Tuesdays from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. and provides a valuable service to the local area.

### Strategic Policy Committees:

- Community Cultural and Social Development – Councillor Vincent Blake.
- Transportation Water and Environmental Services – Councillor Vincent Blake.
- Planning Development and Environment – Councillor Gerry O'Neill and Councillor Edward Timmins, Councillor Patsy Glennon.
- Economic Development and Enterprise Support – Councillor Avril Cronin.
- Wicklow County Council Access and Inclusion Committee – Councillor John Mullen.

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

Wicklow County Council was allocated additional funding by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards the development of the Blessington Greenway. Baltinglass Municipal District is looking forward to working with the different sections of Wicklow County Council to bring this exciting project to fruition.

Members of staff continued to work with Tidy Towns groups in the District. The efforts of the many volunteers whose hard work and dedication was reflected in the success of local villages and

towns in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) and the Wicklow County Council Tidy Towns, Estates and Environmental Awards.

Estate Development Grants were awarded to nineteen successful Residents Associations to help in the upkeep of the green areas of the various Wicklow County Council housing estates throughout the District.

The Elected Members of Baltinglass Municipal District provided Discretionary Funding to various projects:

### Footpath Works:

#### L-43642 Lackan School Road

Provision of new footpath from junction of existing footpath to junction of private lane.

#### R-412 Dunlavin

Provision of new footpath to link existing footpath to Soccer club grounds

#### L8336 Rathluain Dunlavin

Provision of new footpath to link estate to existing footpath

#### Shillelagh Road, Tinahely

Provision of a new footpath to create a continuous pedestrian linkage to the Town Centre from the Residential Shillelagh Road area

#### Kelly's Hill, Tinahely

Reconstruction/renewal of defective footpath at Kelly's Hill, Tinahely

### Drainage Improvement Works:

Drainage works at R758	Valleymount
Drainage works at L8314	Randlestown
Drainage works at L7263	Back Bawns Lane, Knockananna

Drainage works at R725 Eastern Main Street, Carnew

## N81 Works

### N81 Minor Works Projects

WCC have looked for TII approval / funding for a number of minor drainage and surfacing works on the N81 in 2022. Works at Mullycagh Hollywood and Tinode Blessington have been approved for funding. Drainage works have been tendered and contact awarded. Works were completed at Mullycagh Hollywood and Tinode Blessington in October 2022. Line marking was completed at junctions on the N81 in the past two weeks.

### N81 2022 Safety Works

WCC has received TII funding for a Safety Fencing Retrofit Programme in 2022. This will involve replacement of existing timber Post and Rail fencing along a section of the N81 with timber post and tension mesh stud fencing. WCC have identified areas North of Lamb junction for design approval. Works were completed in late October 2022.

### N81 Cleaning of Pipelines and Gullies

The annual cleaning of pipelines and gullies using a Vac tanker unit was completed on a section of N81 North of Blessington to South Dublin County Border in September 2022.

### N81 2022 Pavement Capital Works N81 Tuckmill to Saundergrove

TII have carried out testing and design analysis on a section of N81 from North of Baltinglass to Castleruddery Lower. Analysis of results indicated that a section of N81 needs to be resurfaced North of Tuckmill Cross and this be part of a Pavement Capital Works Scheme in 2022. TII are currently developing tender documents for this project. This project will be tendered in early 2023.

## N81 Tuckmill Lower, Hangman's Bend, Whitestown Lower and Irishtown West - Feasibility Report

TII are currently carrying out a study on a section of N81 from North of Baltinglass to Annalecky Junction on N81. TII have allocated funding in 2022 to access feasibility of any future projects and progress a possible design works.

## Baltinglass Roads Programme 2022

### Restoration Improvement Works (RI)

The new 3 year road programme for RI Works is in place for years 2022 – 2024 inclusive. The annual Wicklow County Council allocation from the department for RI Works has been received and the final allocation for the Baltinglass Municipal District is €2,439,900.00. The Baltinglass Municipal District allocation will be divided equally between the Blessington Area and Tinahely Area (i.e. €1,219,950.00 for Blessington Area and €1,219,950.00 for Tinahely Area). Extra funding was secured for two roads within the District. The roads are located at L7132 Knocknagilky Knockananna and L-8403 Lugatryna Dunlavin.

### Blessington Area Restoration improvement Schemes

Road Number	Scheme Location	Schedule
L8312	Freynestown	Completed
L8338	Lemonstown	Completed
L8814	Merginstown Glen	Completed
L8314	Randlestown	Completed
L8361	Ballysize	Completed
L83521	Garryknock	Completed
L43721	Threecastles	Completed
R758	Valleymount Village	Completed



L-8403	Lugatryna Dunlavin	Completed
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## Tinahely Area Restoration Improvement Schemes

Road Number	Scheme Location	Schedule
L7223	Umrygar Road	Completed
L7246	Mullinacuff Road	Completed
L3134	Main Street Knockananna	Ongoing
L7263	Back Bawns Lane South	Completed
L7263	Back Bawns Lane North	Completed
L7234	Parkbridge	Completed
L7132	Knocknagilky Knockananna	Completed

## Restoration Maintenance Works (RM) – Surface Dressing

The annual Wicklow County Council allocation from the department for RM works has been received and the final allocation for the Baltinglass Municipal District is €591,926.00. All projects have been completed in both areas.

### Blessington Area RM (Surface Dressing) Schemes

Road Number	Scheme Location	Schedule
R756	Wicklow Gap Road	Completed
L8361	Humphrystown Road	Completed
L4365	Ballyknockan Road	Completed
L4308	Milltown Road	Completed

L8287	Lowtown Road	Completed
L8336	Blackhill Road	Completed
L4321	Castleruddery to Knockanarrigan	Completed
L8313	Toberbeg	Completed
L8329	Donard Upper	Completed

## Tinahely Area RM (Surface Dressing) Schemes

Road Number	Scheme Location	Schedule
R748	Hillbrook to Kilcavan Lower	Completed 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
L7252	Kilquiggan to Coolkenna	Completed 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
L7752	Harris's Hill, Kilquiggan	Completed 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
L32602	Ballymaconey Lane, Rathdangan	Completed 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
L7770	Newtown Lane, Talbotstown	Completed 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2022

## Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)

Three schemes were completed under the Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) in the Baltinglass MD in 2022 these are as follows:

L72441 (Newtown Lane), Newtown, Tinahely  
 L72467/L72468 (Gahan's Lane), Knockantomcoyle, Tinahely  
 L72465 (Binion's Lane), Knockantomcoyle, Tinahely

## Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)

Four schemes were completed under the Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) in the Baltinglass MD in 2022 these are as follows:

Aghowle Lane, Coolkenna  
Manger Lane, Stratford  
Knockeen Lane, Ballyconnell,  
Coolross, Parkbridge

## Blessington Inner Relief Road

The Inner Relief road is a partially completed distributor road, which is designed to provide a town centre 'by-pass' from a new roundabout adjacent to the existing entrance to Roadstone on the north side of the town, to a point on the N81 south of the town centre. The objective in the current Blessington Local Area Plan is to facilitate the completion of the inner relief road.

To date, this road is complete between the Naas Road and the Blessington Industrial Estate junction (opposite the Maxol petrol station) and between the N81 south of the town and the Kilmalum Road and was delivered as part of a number of private developments that were granted permission by Wicklow County Council.

The section of road to be constructed lies between the roundabout on the R410 Naas Road and Roundabout on the L8364 Kilmalum Road. The proposed route alignment would bring the road through a corridor already provided for when planning was granted by Kildare County Council for Blessington Manor, It should be noted that this portion of land is now in the ownership of Wicklow County Council. The remainder of the route is located on Greenfield sites.

It should be noted that the majority of this section of road lies within the functional area of Kildare County Council and Wicklow County Council have entered into an agreement pursuant to Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act, 2001 providing for the execution of such works.

## Blessington Greenway

Wicklow County Council has obtained Part 8 planning permission to construct a Greenway around the lakes of Blessington. The scope of works for the project was changed during the process of route identification. These project changes triggered the need to review the environmental reports undertaken to date, which has led to the project requiring a NIS and a planning submission to ABP. The new planning documents have been lodged and we are awaiting a decision from ABP.

## Funding Secured for Baltinglass Municipal District

### RRDF

Blessington has been awarded just over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). This will be used for a major regeneration of Blessington Town Centre and related projects.

The funding was announced by Government as part of a €21.5m programme of support for 27 landmark regeneration projects in rural communities across the country.

It will be utilised for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway.

This strategic funding along with the planned completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road and the funding for the Blessington Lakes eGreenway will help achieve Wicklow County Council's long-term vision for Blessington and enhance the Blessington as a place to visit.

**Carnew** - To do design, cost and planning for the refurbishment of the old Bank of Ireland building (BAM purchase) to become a remote working hub. €49,999.50

**Kiltegan Community Centre** - Engage architect / engineer to assess property being leased to Community Group by Council, review design, prepare plans, planning permission and tender for construction phase, to turn into multi-purpose use. €49,999.50 – Blessington

**Blessington Community Centre** - To kit-out a vacant building in the town centre in order to create a community and youth space ensuring functionality for a wide range of uses including a small tech space. €36,000

**Blessington Greenway/Russborough Parklands and House Trail**  
Enhancement of the trails within Russborough Parklands. €178,380

**Coolkenno Equestrian Trail** - Construction of equestrian trail and associated access. €198,000

MD budgets for 2023, 10k extra on Economic Development, 3k extra on twinning and 3k extra on Festival/Christmas lights

## Other Projects:

### Christmas Lights

Contributory funding for Christmas Lights was provided to a number of community groups around the Baltinglass Municipal District. The aim of the scheme is to support the excellent work being done around the Municipal by community groups.

### Festival Funding

Contributory funding for festivals held within the District was provided to various community groups around the Baltinglass Municipal District. The aim of the funding is to support groups holding social and cultural events within their local communities.

## Blessington Town Team

Baltinglass Municipal District works closely with Blessington Town Team to make Blessington a better place to work, shop, socialise and live in. The Town Team has six key working groups as follows;

- Tidy Towns and Public Realm
- Planning and Infrastructure
- Business
- Tourism
- Culture and Heritage
- Projects

In 2019 Future Analytics were commissioned to undertake a Blessington Town Health Check Phase 2 to inform future community and socio-economic planning and development in the town. This Health Check has now been signed off on by Blessington Town Team and the focus is on implementation of the recommendations contained in the report.

Baltinglass Municipal District is a member of the Blessington Access Group and is working with all members on the implementation of the Blessington Street Route Accessibility Audit which was completed by Universal Access.

## Blessington CCTV

Wicklow County Council has successfully completed the implementation of a community-based CCTV system for Blessington town. The new system will be fully operational from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. Funding for the project has been provided for by Wicklow County Council with an additional funding grant of €40,000 coming from the Department of Justice and Equality. The project was initiated through Blessington Town Team and Blessington and District Forum and has been progressed and managed by Baltinglass Municipal District. The new system will operate in partnership with the local Gardaí and will be used to assist in the general policing of the area. The CCTV system will also act as a deterrent for anti-social behaviour and public order offences. The system will assist the Gardaí in the identification of offenders and assist as evidence in prosecutions.

This project will keep our citizens safe and serve not only the needs of An Garda Síochána but also enhance the citizen safety experience from a Wicklow Local Authority perspective. The CCTV programme is part of a programme of development which will see Blessington town become a centre of recreation as well as a safe place to live, work and shop in.

## Events

Baltinglass Municipal District was delighted to support the West Wicklow Festival which held a number of concerts online this year due to the pandemic and brought a wide range of world class artists to an online audience across Wicklow.

Baltinglass Municipal District continued its support for the Coollattin Canadian Connection which continues to develop the relationship between Wicklow and Canada.

Baltinglass Municipal District was delighted to support the “half way to St Patrick’s festival. The festival took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Baltinglass Municipal District supported the process of the twinning of Blessington with Castel Maggiore, Italy.

Baltinglass Municipal District supported the Blessington and O’Neill County twinning in their efforts to strengthen the links between both towns.

Baltinglass Municipal District supported many local social and cultural and fundraising events including Blessington Open Door care, Blessington History Society and Carnew First Responders group.

## ACTIVE TRAVEL MEASURES

**Provision of cycle facilities and footpath improvement works from Blessington Main Street to Deerpark Roundabout.**

This project is currently at Phase 2 - Concept and Options. Consultants are developing options for provision of cycle facilities and footpath improvement works.

### **KILMALUM Road/Naas Road Junction Improvement**

This scheme involved the Re alignment of L8364 to allow for provision of uncontrolled crossing at junction and provision of controlled crossing point on R410 Naas Road. The project was completed in 2022.

### **Safety works in Kilbride at St. Brigid’s Primary School, Manor Kilbride**

Extra funding has been secured for safety works in Kilbride at St. Brigid’s Primary School, Manor Kilbride, including footpaths and appropriate set down area. This project started in late 2021 and was completed in early 2022.

### **Old Ballymore Road Blessington**

Consultants are currently developing a draft Project Appraisal Report and draft Preliminary Design Report to explore the possibility of provision of cycle facilities and footpath improvement works along Old Ballymore Road, Blessington.

## RURAL SPECIFIC ACTIVE TRAVEL MEASURES

Due to the focusing of NTA Active Travel Allocations to more urban areas a case was made by Baltinglass MD Councillors for the provision of an Active Travel Programme targeting rural areas of the county. A number of schemes proposed commenced in 2022 and will continue into 2023 including the following

Rathdangan Road, Talbotstown  
 Carnew Road, Shillelagh  
 Long Hill Tinahely  
 Valley Heights, Carnew



**CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTION WORKS**

Three Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works projects were approved for the Baltinglass MD for 2022 as detailed below. These projects were completed in 2022.

<b>Road</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
<b>R725</b>	<b>Cronelea, Shillelagh (Tinahely)</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>L8762</b>	<b>Cornan, Donard (Blessington)</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>R748</b>	<b>Coolroe, Coolboy (Tinahely)</b>	<b>Completed</b>

## BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### District Members

#### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy (FG) (until June 2022)

Councillor Erika Doyle (GP) (from June 2022)

#### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Erika Doyle (GP) (until June 2022)

Councillor Melanie Corrigan (FG) (from June 2022)

#### Members:

Councillor Joe Behan (IND)

Councillor Melanie Corrigan (FG)

Councillor Erika Doyle (GP) (From Feb 2020)

Councillor Anne Ferris (LAB)

Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy (FG)

Councillor Grace McManus (SF)

Councillor Dermot O'Brien (SF)

Councillor Rory O'Connor (IND)

#### Municipal District Staff:

Director of Services:

Lorraine Gallagher

District Administrator:

Linda Healy

District Engineer:

Liam Bourke

Executive Engineer:

Stephen Fox

Executive Engineer:

Conor Carty

Technician:

Dominic Gillian

Contact Details:

Address: Civic Offices  
Main Street  
Bray  
Co Wicklow

Telephone No: 01 2744900

E-mail: [braymd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:braymd@wicklowcoco.ie)

Population: 32600

Bray Municipal District covers 180km of roads in County Wicklow.

The offices of the Municipal District are situated on Bray Main Street, Civic Centre.

The offices are open 9am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm Monday to Friday (excl bank holidays). The cash desk counter is open Mon – Fri 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 4pm and the motor tax counter is open Tues – Thurs 10.30am – 2pm.

### District Meetings

The members of Bray Municipal District hold their district meetings on the first Tuesday of each month (unless there is a Bank Holiday and then it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday) at 6.30pm with the exception of August when there is no meeting. The schedule of meetings is approved at each Annual Meeting.

### Roads Programme

Road Location	Proposed Works
<i>Restoration Improvement</i>	
Herbert Road, Bray (Western End)	Completed with footpath installation in November. Due to late season SMA surfacing substituted for HRA
Herbert Road, Bray (Eastern End Inlay)	Completed SMA surface.

Herbert Road, Bray (Eastern End Patchwork)	Completed patchwork repairs
Avondale Park, Bray	Completed SMA surface in April.
Woodbrook Lawn, Bray	Completed SMA surface in April
Sidmonton Road (1-8) Bray	Completed SMA surface in November
Greenpark Road, Bray	Completed patchwork repairs and SMA surface.
James Everett Park	Completed SMA surface in April.
Killegar Lane (stables)	Completed localised road reconstruction in June.
Killegar Lane (Dublin boundary)	Completed localised road reconstruction in June.
Kilgarron Hill from R117	Completed local repairs and SMA surface in May.
Quinsborough Road	Completed local road reconstruction & HRA surface in November. Failed area has to be repaired at night-time in new year.
Bray IDA Business Park	Completed surface in October. Addition to the programme.
<i>Restoration Maintenance</i>	
Killegar Road	Completed surface dressing
Kilgarron Hill, Enniskerry	Completed surface dressing
Old Long Hill	Completed surface dressing

## Footpaths

Following tendering in April, a contractor was pointed to carry out a schedule of concrete footpath repairs. To date, approximately 80% of the planned footpath works for 2022 has been

completed. Own labour charged to road maintenance and remaining discretionary budget will continue into the new year for footpath repairs in Kilmacanogue. Recording of additional defects is on-going and priorities may be amended. However, no funding is available to extend the amount of repairs beyond that planned for 2022.

## Drainage Works

Essential drainage repairs and improvements are on-going.

Location	Works
R-755-273 Calary Upper	Completed drainage improvements at realigned road section
R-761-0 Dublin Road, Bray	Completed replacement of damaged culvert across the junction
R-760-34 Killough Lower	Completed new drainage and repaired flood damage
L-5008-0 Killegar Road	Completed drainage repairs

Drainage improvements at Ballybawn and at Herbert Road near Ashton Wood were also completed in 2022.

## Active Travel Implementation Projects

Project	Update
Sidmonton Square	Works are substantially complete. Temporary reinstatement following works by Irish Water have to be permanently repaired and minor ponding at the level crossing point has to be addressed.
Herbert Road Ashton Wood to Pedestrian Bridge	Works are substantially complete except for switch on of lighting and soft landscaping, including infill

	tree planting. A contractor is being sought to replace a damaged public lighting pole and the installation of a new vehicle restraint barrier on the hair-pin bend is planned.
Enniskerry Pedestrian Improvement Scheme	A conservation engineer as agreed to assess works around Clock Tower which is a protected structure and a price is awaited. Tender is to issue shortly for periphery footpath works
Powerscourt National School, Cookstown Road	Works are near completion, including the raised table for the level crossing. Improved road markings and lighting are still required
Deerpark Cycleway	Section 38 notice has been published and no objections or submissions received by due date. Tender documents to be prepared shortly
Vevay Rd/Sidmonton Rd Junction Improvement	Specification and tender documents are being prepared for a traffic signal installation with pedestrian phases.

- Amenity and Public Realm – extend amenity area, improve street lighting, paving, cycle provision and access to recreational facilities.
- Promenade board walk linking the beach promenade with the harbour.

RPS Consultants were engaged to carry out a feasibility study and have prepared concept drawings of proposals.

A public consultation/information day took place at the Town Hall on the 6<sup>th</sup> December, which was followed by a presentation by RPS on the feasibility study to the elected members.

Information boards with visual images remained on public display at the Civic offices for the rest of the week. The submissions following the public engagements will be assembled and included with the tender documents for the appointment of consultants for the detailed design, planning and construction stage of the project.

### Seafront Toilets

The public gent's toilets refurbishment at the back of Sealife was completed and opened in July. A contractor has been appointed for the refurbishment of the ladies toilets at the Aquarium building. Works are expected to commence in the New Year.

### Bray Harbour Improvements

Wicklow County Council has been successful in securing Urban Regeneration Development Funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to carry out improvement works to Bray Harbour.

These works will include:

- Review potential for harbour wall extension, dredging of the waterbody for improved berthing and protection of boats from storms.

### Strand Road Plaza

The Strand Road Plaza in Bray was officially opened on 30<sup>th</sup> March by the Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy. The completion of this high-quality public plaza has greatly enhanced the public space on Bray's famous seafront.

The scheme includes:

- Widened pedestrian areas using new paving materials.



- A shared space linking to the existing cycle route on both sides of the scheme.
- New seating, trees, planters, public lighting.
- The road carriageway has been raised and reduced in width, to control vehicle speeds and shorten crossing distances for pedestrians.

Funding was provided by the National Transport Authority to facilitate this project.



## Bog Meadow Car Park

Works were completed at the Bog Meadow car park in Enniskerry with the official opening in June. The completion of this project is the first phase of the Enniskerry Accessibility Improvement Scheme.

The works carried out included:-

- Provision of a bus turn around and bus terminus with bus shelter.
- Associated footpaths, kerbing, surfacing and landscaping.
- Marking out of 52 parking spaces were (including 2 disabled access spaces)
- Creation of a new bus entrance on Monastery Road.
- Installation of public lighting in the car park.
- Raised speed table with a courtesy pedestrian crossing on Monastery Road.

The National Transport Authority provided funding for this project.



## Bray Central

The transfer of Title from Wicklow County Council to Navybrook took place on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Following the transfer two restaurants and the car park with 250 spaces opened. The developer continued throughout 2022 to engage with prospective anchor tenants on the two main units in the centre. By year end a number of leases were in place on the leisure spaces and heads of terms agreed for several new retail units.



## Bogmeadow Playground Enniskerry

Capital funding has been approved from the Council's Development Contribution Scheme for developing a playground at Bogmeadow. Detailed design and preparation of specifications for tender are progressing for Phase one that deals with the site preparation, retaining walls and alterations to infrastructure.

## Pride Flags raised on Bray Seafront

Bray Municipal District joined in the national pride initiative on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June by raising the Pride Flag. The event was held at Bray Seafront and attended by Municipal District members, officials and representatives of the LGBTQ+ community.

Four Pride Flags were raised by the Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy and Cofounder of the Wicklow Pride Festival, Mr. Dave Thomas.



## Outdoor Chess Tables

Two chess tables were installed in Sidmonton Park in July. These were funded through a grant provided by CCSD.

The initiative is designed to encourage more outdoor activities. The chess tables are specifically designed and are accessible to all.



## County Parking Office

Paid parking is in operation in Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow Towns. Apcoa Parking Ireland Ltd were awarded the contract for the provision of Managed Car Parking Services for Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow Town and this contract has been fully operational since June 2019. Bray Municipal District is responsible for the back office administration for parking

countywide.

## Reception for Mimi Megannety

Cathaoirleach Erika Doyle and the elected members of Bray Municipal District hosted a Cathaoirleach's reception on 12<sup>th</sup> December in honour of Mimi Megannety, former Chair of Bray Tidy Towns. The reception marked her commitment and leadership over 10 years being involved with Bray Tidy Towns.

During this time under Mimi's stewardship Bray Tidy Towns has gone from strength to strength. Not only have they continually scored well in the National Tidy Towns Competitions and the County Council Awards, but they have become a champion for the environment and for addressing climate change on a local level with initiatives such as the paper straw distribution, the conscious cup campaign, clothing swap shops, the refill campaign and various biodiversity initiatives.

- Würzburg, Germany
- Dublin California
- Bègles, France

## Events

Bray Municipal District continues to support events such as the Bray Air Display, St Patrick's Festival and Christmas in Bray.



## Twinning

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

Bray is twinned with:

**GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT****District Members**

<b>Cathaoirleach:</b> Walsh (FF)	Councillor Gerry
<b>Leas-Cathaoirleach:</b> Neary (up to Oct. 2022)	Councillor Jodie
	No replacement elected in 2022
<b>Members:</b> Barry SD (co-opted Dec. 2022)	Councillor Mark
	Councillor Tom
Fortune (IND)	
Mitchell (FG)	Councillor Derek
Scott (GP)	Councillor Lourda
Stokes (IND)	Councillor Stephen

**District Staff:**

<b>Director of Services:</b>	Michael Nicholson
<b>District Engineer:</b>	Ruairi O' Hanlon
<b>Executive Engineer</b>	William Halligan
<b>District Administrator:</b> (from July 2022)	Tawnia Kearns
<b>Technician:</b>	Sarah Kate Foley
<b>Assistant Staff Officer:</b>	Orla Greene
<b>Clerical Officers:</b>	Kay Coughlan Lily Davis Andrea Egan Catherine Murphy

**Contact Details:**

<b>Address:</b>	<b>Civic Offices, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 TX86</b>
<b>Telephone No:</b>	<b>01 – 2876694</b>
<b>Fax No:</b>	<b>01 – 2877173</b>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie">greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie</a>
<b>Population:</b>	<b>26,323</b>



Greystones Municipal District includes the villages of Delgany, Kilcoole, Newcastle and Killadreenan. Greystones Municipal District covers 6.5% of roads in Co. Wicklow (64,840 KM). The number of social house within the district is 616.

Council Meetings are held at the Civic Office, on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, except during the month of August when there is no meeting.

The monthly meetings of the Municipal District provided lively debate throughout 2022, on a variety of issues and received presentations from Greystones South Beach Action Area Plan, Greystones Cancer Support, Speed Limit Review, Sea Stacks Offshore Wind Project, Codling Wind Park, as well as from a number of Wicklow County Council departments.

The work of the district is wide and varied and includes the following:

Social housing maintenance requests  
Road maintenance requests  
Road, footpath and cycle lane improvement schemes  
Maintenance of outdoor recreational areas such as parks and playgrounds

Some completed projects during the year funded by the Department of Transport:

## National Transport Authority Active Travel Projects

### Kilpedder to Willow Grove Footpath Scheme

Provision of a new urban concrete footpath including public lighting. Project commenced 21/10/2022. Footpath completed, public light to be installed.

### Bellevue Hill Footpath

Works were completed at Bellevue Hill to provide a footpath and infrastructure put in place for public lighting. (Extra funding to install public lighting has been approved by the NTA).

### Priory Rd Footpath

Works to provide a public footpath along the length of Priory Rd from Eden Gate to Delgany Village were commenced in 2022. Expected completion in spring 2023.

## Department of Transport Schemes

### Restoration Improvement

- Windgates Road
- Templecarrig Lower Road
- Glen Road
- Lott Lane
- Marine Terrace
- Hazelwood Crescent
- Ennis Lane

### Restoration Maintenance

- Kilquade Road
- Ballyronan Road
- Sea Road, Newcastle

### Road Safety Improvement Works

Improvement of the junction of the L-1028 Windgates Rd/Templecarrig Road with the L-5028 Templecarrig Lower Road. Improved vehicle passing space and sightlines.

### Climate Adaption Measures:

The Cove, Greystones – coastal retaining structure to prevent the public road from falling into the sea.

### Drainage Works

Road Drainage systems were installed on the Cliff Road and Rathdown Road in Greystones. These



systems will aid removal of storm water runoff from the road making the roads safer during periods of heavy rain and also extend the lifespan of road surfacing by the removal of the water which weakens roads.

## Outdoor Recreation Improvement Scheme:

### Kilcoole Mass Path

Re-instatement and repairs to stream bank to rear of the Convent Garden Wall, providing continued off road pedestrian link between Kilcoole and Kilquade. The scheme widened the available space for walkers along by the stream without encroaching any further into the stream. Works were carried out in partnership with Inland Fisheries Ireland.

## Other works within the district include the following:

- Realignment works along R761 Kilcoole Road between Glenbrook Park and Archers Wood
- Charlesland Dual Carriageway roundabout name signs erected
- Two chess tables installed in the Burnaby Park
- 35 redundant poles and signs removed from the R762 along Church Rd and Mill Rd, Greystones.
- All 80km/hr speed limit signs were replaced with new Rural Speed Limit Sign.
- Every housing estate entrance provided with the new 30km/hr 'Slow Zone' sign.
- New cyclist minimum passing distance signs erected where applicable.

## Greystones Municipal District Supported Projects

- Greystones Tidy Towns won a gold medal award in 2022.

- South Beach Greystones retained its Blue Flag status in 2022 as a result of compliance with a set of stringent criteria from bathing water quality to environmental management and education, as well as safety and services.
- The Elected Members of Greystones Municipal District agreed to provide funding contributions towards the following from their discretionary budgets:
  - Christmas Lights contributions were made to Kilcoole and Greystones.
  - Contributions were also made to Tidy Towns groups in Greystones, Delgany, Newcastle & Kilcoole.
  - A Sustainable Gardening Course was also funded from discretionary funds and held in Burnaby Park and the Greystones Library in November 2022.
  - Greystones MD celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning with Holyhead, Wales with a delegation from Holyhead hosted in November 2022. A welcome reception and presentation was made to the Mayor of Holyhead and a concert featuring the Holyhead Male Voice Choir and the Magee Brothers was also held in the Whale Theatre. The Holyhead party also supported the switching on of the lights festivities in Greystones the same weekend, with Santa in his sleigh, elves and a snowman, with large numbers in attendance along the parade route.
- Greystones Municipal District continued to support the retail and business sector by facilitating free parking on the four Saturdays in the run up to Christmas.
- Greystones Municipal District/Wicklow Times People of Year Awards ceremony

returned after an absence of a few years due to the pandemic. The awards ceremony was attended by recipients of the awards and their supporters on the night at Greystones Golf Club. These awards celebrate the positive contribution of people in the district, recognised under several categories including the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship, sport and volunteering.

## WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Paul O'Brien (LAB)

### Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Irene Winters (FG)



### Members:

Councillor Shay Cullen (FG)

Councillor John Snell (IND)

Councillor Gail Dunne (FF)

Councillor Mary Kavanagh (IND)

### Municipal District Staff:

#### A/District Manager

Breda McCarthy

#### District Engineer

Kevin Scanlon

#### District Administrator

Joan Sinnott

#### Executive Engineer

Alan Martin

#### Executive Technician

Aidan Doyle

#### Assistant Staff Officer

Jason Smith

#### Clerical Officers

Sinead Turner

Jessica Doyle

Irene Kinsella

### Contact Details:

Address: Wicklow Municipal District  
Town Hall  
Market Square  
Wicklow Town  
Co. Wicklow A67 YO18

Telephone: 0404-20173

Email: [wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

Wicklow Municipal District covers an area of 43,240 hectares which includes the County Town of Wicklow, Rathnew, Ashford, Roundwood, Glenealy, Laragh, Glendalough and Newtownmountkennedy.

The offices of the Wicklow Municipal District are situated in the Town Hall, Market Square, Wicklow Town and are open to the public from 9.00a.m. to 1.00p.m. and 2.00p.m. to 5.00p.m.



The regular functions that the District provides include local authority house maintenance, road maintenance and improvement, street cleaning, maintenance of parks and open spaces, operation & maintenance of Brittas Bay North & South Beaches and car parks, drain clearing, maintenance of burial grounds, school warden service, public convenience maintenance and maintenance of playgrounds.

In addition to the general maintenance works in the district, the Wicklow Municipal District has responsibility for 423 kilometers of road and the repair and maintenance of 1142 local authority houses in the district. 1049 housing repairs were completed in the year.

The population of Wicklow Town census 2021 was 10,584 and the overall population of the Municipal District is 28,219.

## District Meetings

The Members of Wicklow Municipal District hold their meetings on the fourth Monday of each month (third Monday if the fourth Monday is a public holiday) at 3:00 p.m. with the exception of August when there is no meeting held.

Wicklow Municipal District Members are represented on the following Strategic Policy Committees:

- Planning & Environment – Councillor Shay Cullen
- Transport Water & Emergency Services – Councillor Irene Winters
- Housing & Corporate Estate – Councillor John Snell & Councillor Paul O’Brien
- Community Cultural & Social Development – Councillor Gail Dunne
- Economic Development & Enterprise Support Councillor Irene Winters & Councillor Mary Kavanagh.

Wicklow Municipal District Members are also represented on the following:

- Corporate Policy Group – Cllr John Snell, Cllr Gail Dunne & Cllr Shay Cullen
- Joint Policing committee – Cllr Irene Winters, Cllr Paul O’Brien & Cllr Shay Cullen

## Roads and Infrastructure Projects

In addition to general maintenance works in the district the following road improvement and surface dressing projects were completed during the year.

### Overlay

- Turlough Hill
- Laragh to Glendalough
- Annamoe
- Cloghoge, Military Rd
- Ballyronan Rd, Kilpeddar
- Ballyhenry, Ashford
- Ballykeppogue
- Convent Rd, Wicklow Town

### Surface Dressing

- Ballinteskin
- Ballykeppogue
- Coolawinna, Rathnew
- Ballyduff Upper



Ballinashinnagh  
Carrigower  
Shraghmore  
Diamond Hill, Roundwood  
Clogher, Military Rd  
Kilmurray, Newtown  
Glenmacnass, Military Rd

## Drainage Projects:

Slaughter Hill, Newtown  
Colley Row, Wicklow Town  
Ashtown, Roundwood  
Dunganstown  
Ballyguilemore

## Climate Adaptation & Resilience

Wicklow Gap, edge strengthening

## Safety Improvement Works

Barnbawn, drainage and road widening  
Laragh, footpath and crossing

## Community Improvement Scheme

Dunganstown Church, laneway and car park  
surfacing

## NTA Active Travel

Ashford to Ballinahinch, footpath

## Footpath Works:



Mount Usher



Annamoe

## Other Projects funded from the Members 2021 Discretionary Budget:

Garden Village footpaths  
Footpath Ashtown Lane  
Sycamore Drive Footpaths  
Seaview Heights footpath repairs

## Promotion of Interests of Local Community

The Murrough Dog Park was officially opened in May by Cllr Gail Dunne.



## Tidy Towns

Wicklow Municipal District Members support the 7 Tidy Towns Committees in their district each year by contributing €11,000 from their discretionary fund.



## Round Ireland Yacht Race

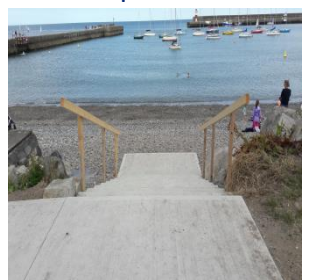
The 2022 Round Ireland Yacht race was sponsored by SSE Renewables and supported by Wicklow Municipal District. This biennial race is renowned for being one of the most challenging offshore races in the global calendar. Over 50 yachts take part and the race is monitored by satellite. After the race start, the boats sail south from Wicklow, leaving Ireland and all its islands to starboard. While the race brings a colourful spectacle to Wicklow Harbour it also brings a significant boost to the local economy.



## Chess Tables



## New steps to beach



## Extended slipway to beach



## Retail/Business

### Christmas Lights

The Wicklow Municipal District provided the annual contribution of €20,000 towards Wicklow Town Christmas Lights. 2022 also saw the WMD Members contribute a further €13,000 from their Discretionary Fund to Roundwood, Ashford, Laragh, Glenealy, Annamoe and Newtownmountkennedy.

## Trial One Way System for Wicklow Town

The trial one way system remains in place since 2021 and additional signage, planters and road markings have now been installed.

## Twinning

After an absence of 2 years due to Covid the Eichenzell Brass Band returned to take part in the 2022 St Patrick's Day parade. A large number of members of the Twinning Committee also attended and the new Mayor Johannes Rothmund also paid his first visit to Wicklow.

Unfortunately members from Montigny were unable to attend. However strong ties and links are ongoing.

## Parking

Free parking is available in Wicklow Town between the hours of 9.00am and 10.00am and thereafter there is a 15 minutes courtesy period to allow the customer to purchase a parking ticket. The District helps to support the commercial and retail sector by providing 2 hours free parking on a Saturday and free all day on Sundays.

## Town Team

Mission Statement: Make Wicklow Town a better place to live, work and play.

The 2022 achievements of the Wicklow Town Team included the following:

### Tourism Group

Weekly guided walking tours are now provided in Wicklow Town on the completed Heritage Trail. As well as it being an attraction for tourists and residents alike it is also proving a history of Wicklow to the local Primary and Post Primary Schools in the town.

Other walking routes are being explored by the team including the Wicklow Camino Trail and Ballyguile to Dunbur Scenic waling route.

Combined marketing opportunities are being explored with the tourism and hospitality businesses in the Town to promote the town as a tourist destination.

### Public Realm

The Part 8 Application to reconnect Wicklow Town Centre to the South Quay through its network of laneways has been progressed and approved.

The possibility of providing a bike track for the Murrough, a Youth Theatre for Wicklow Town as well as a Bus Corridor is also being explored.

### Greenway

A grant of €350,000 is now available to complete the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) which will help to progress this project.

## General

### Abbey Gardens

Through Destination Town funding received from Fáilte Ireland Wicklow County Council has engaged a multidisciplinary team to prepare high quality design proposals for the Abbey Grounds incorporating the public open space surrounding the extant Friary ruins and the redevelopment of the former Coach House. The aim of the project is to enhance this key open space in order to maximize its function as a public amenity and heritage asset.

The friary is a Recorded Monument afforded statutory protection under the National Monuments Acts and it is also listed as a Recorded Protected Structure WTC-RPS24 in the County Development Plan 2021-2027.





## Christmas Markets

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Christmas Markets were held on the Riverwalk and Leitrim Place from November to December.

## Energy Efficiency works Town Hall



Prior to commencement of works an Archaeological Impact Assessment Report has now been prepared taking into consideration the potential impact of any proposed landscaping, temporary works, building etc.

Based upon the results of a geophysical survey and design proposal, test trenching was carried out to identify the depth and nature of the archaeology which will be impacted upon by the proposed development. Test trenching has enabled an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy to be applied.

## Filming

Wicklow has been chosen as a popular location for filming in 2022 namely:

- Antidote
- The Vanishing Triangle
- The Clean Up Crew
- Bodkin
- Sisters
- Der Irland Krimi (German film)
- Vikings Valhalla
- The Catch
- The Last Girl
- Spotty



Filming Vikings Valhalla Travelahawk Beach



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## **INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

continue to facilitate this framework during 2023.

### **IT Helpdesk**

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team. In 2022 the IT helpdesk dealt with a total of 8,795 issues submitted to the online ticketing system.

### **GIS & Systems Analysis**

- The GIS section prepared and published maps identifying land within the scope of Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT). The first draft maps were published by Wicklow on the 1st of November 2022. An app was designed so that planners could easily access data out on site and therefore input any information collected directly to the cloud. The RZLT map viewer is also available to the public to assist in the submission making process.
- In 2022 The County Development Plan (2022 - 2028) was completed and adopted by the council members. Specific spatial analysis was required, and a large volume of maps were published. This data was then represented digitally on Ireland's Open Data Portal.

### **Blended Working**

- The IT section facilitated the roll out of the new Blended Working framework, which gives all council staff the right to apply for remote or blended working arrangements. The IT section will

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022

## Financial Statement

The Income and Expenditure Statement summarises all revenue related receipts and expenditure. It shows the surplus/deficit for the year.

## Income And Expenditure Account Statement For The Year Ended 31st December 2022

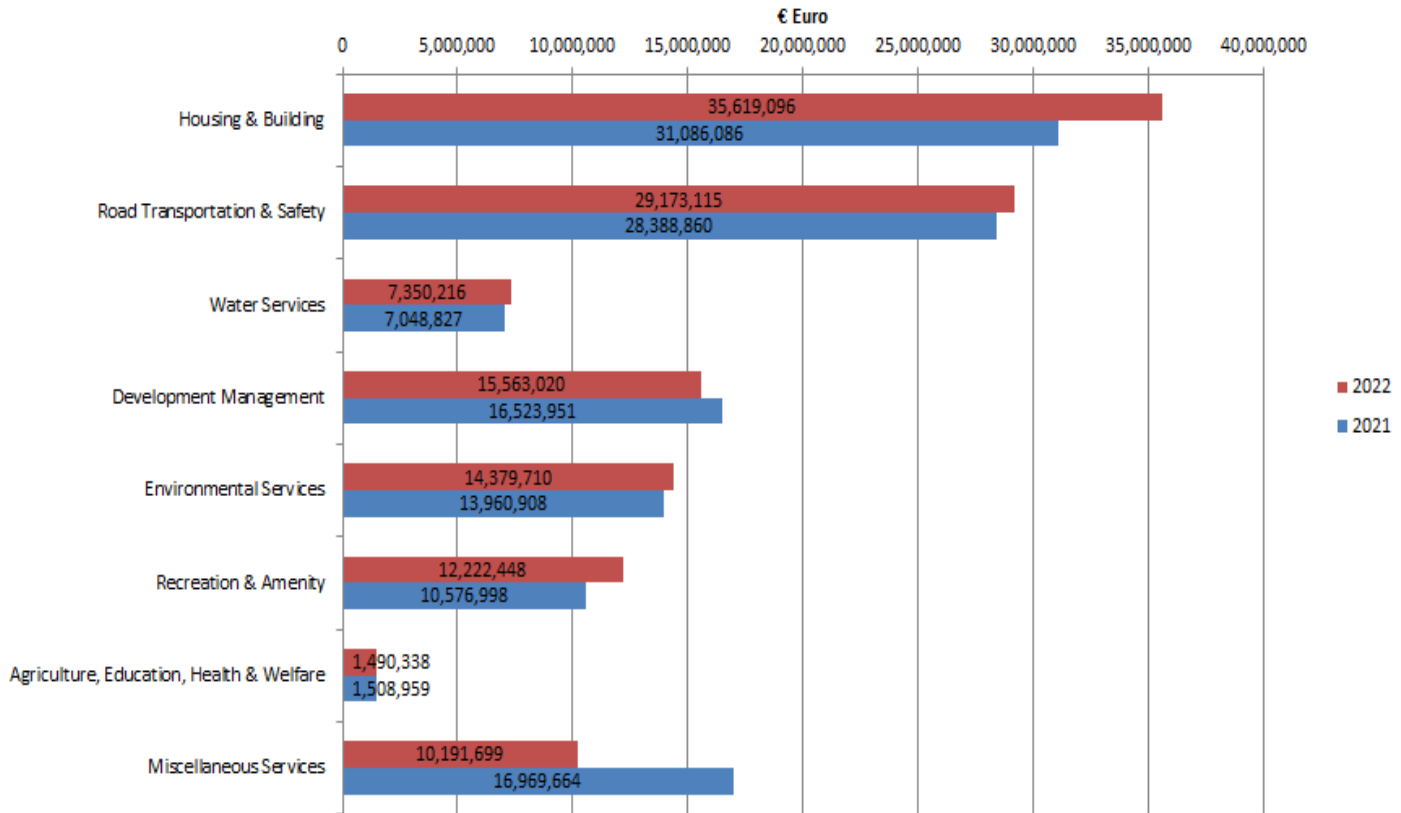
Expenditure By Programme Group	Gross Expenditure 2022	Income 2022	Net Expenditure 2022	Net Expenditure 2021
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	35,619,096	36,908,181	(1,289,084)	(488,409)
Road Transportation & Safety	29,173,115	18,547,708	10,625,407	10,946,904
Water Services	7,350,216	6,754,381	595,835	471,223
Development Management	15,563,020	8,161,691	7,401,330	6,407,761
Environmental Services	14,379,710	2,404,214	11,975,496	11,722,129
Recreation & Amenity	12,222,448	2,179,440	10,043,008	8,885,349
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,490,338	836,233	654,106	640,643
Miscellaneous Services	10,191,699	11,815,602	(1,623,903)	(1,268,426)
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>125,989,643</b>	<b>87,607,449</b>		
<b>Net Cost Of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund</b>			<b>38,382,194</b>	<b>37,317,173</b>
<b>Rates</b>			<b>31,522,691</b>	<b>31,177,500</b>
<b>Local Property Tax</b>			<b>13,068,906</b>	<b>12,006,898</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year before Transfers</b>			<b>6,209,403</b>	<b>5,867,225</b>
<b>Transfers From/(To) Reserves</b>			<b>(5,860,162)</b>	<b>(5,509,031)</b>
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>349,241</b>	<b>358,194</b>
<b>General Reserve @ 1st January</b>			<b>(1,288,070)</b>	<b>(1,646,263)</b>

General Reserve @ 31st December	(938,828 )	(1,288,070 )
	2022	2021
	€	€
Housing & Building	(17,814,239 )	(13,706,643 )
Road Transportation & Safety	37,383,838	35,706,853
Water Services	13,023,496	10,436,363
Development Incentives & Control	26,681,391	25,225,373
Environmental Protection	(276,031 )	(743,438 )
Recreation & Amenity	2,034,378	(446,620 )
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,040,366	1,443,763
Miscellaneous	10,515,300	18,825,824
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,588,498</b>	<b>76,741,475</b>
<b>Balance Sheet For The Year Ended 31st December 2022</b>		
	2022	2021
	€	€
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	1,249,148,275	1,213,352,906
Infrastructural	1,549,866,341	1,551,134,834
Community	18,943,387	19,006,515
Non-Operational	220,010	220,010
	<b>2,818,178,013</b>	<b>2,783,714,266</b>
Work In Progress And Preliminary Expenses	57,600,031	90,822,598
Long Term Debtors	99,349,381	64,741,746
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock	-	9,166
Trade Debtors And Prepayments	37,389,523	36,365,196
Bank Investments	79,933,272	86,327,265
Cash at Bank	14,578,025	2,182,058
Cash in Transit	400	400
	<b>131,901,220</b>	<b>124,884,084</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		

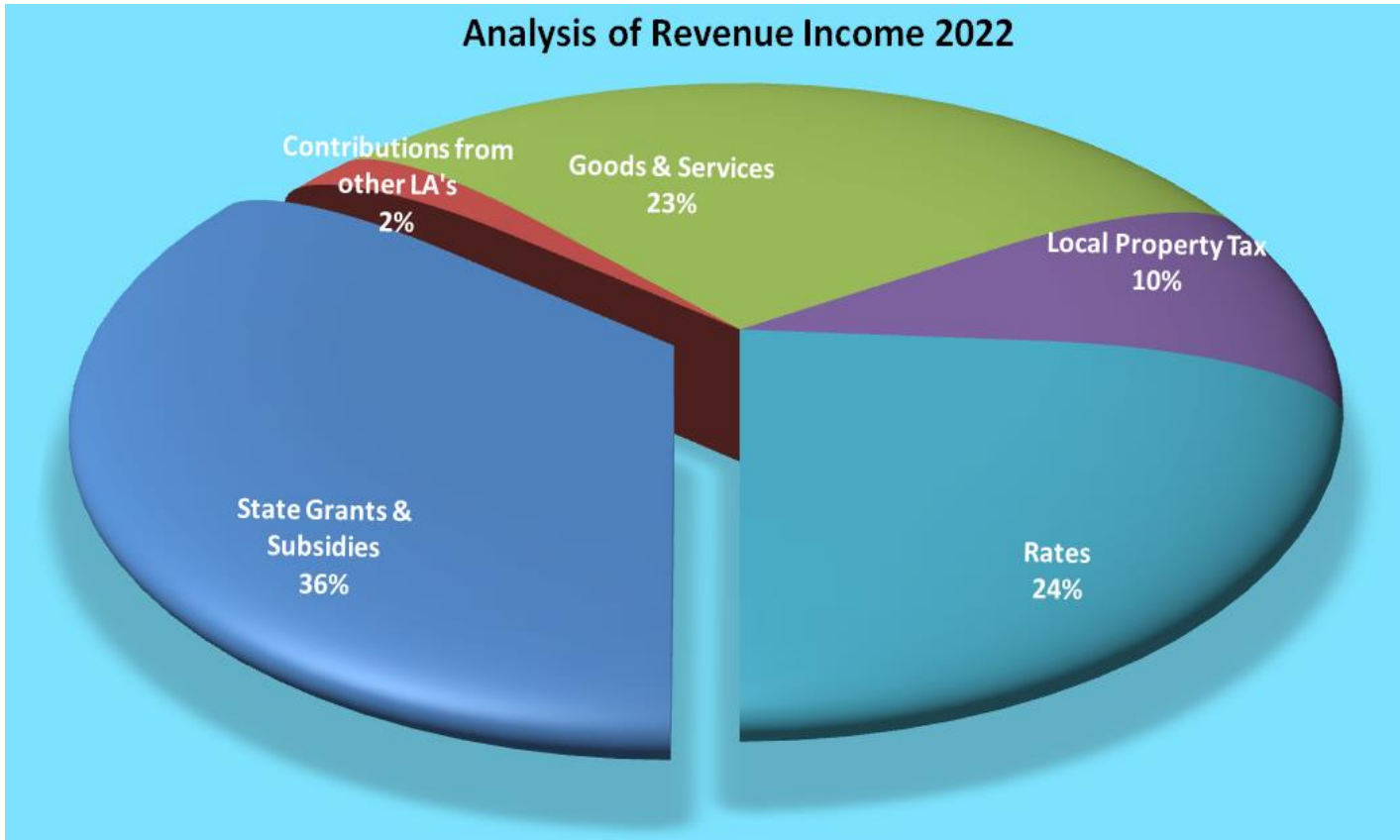
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	43,856,073	36,273,963
Finance Leases	-	-
	-	-
	<b>43,856,073</b>	<b>36,273,963</b>
<b>Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	<b>88,045,147</b>	<b>88,610,122</b>
<b>Creditors ( Amounts greater than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	58,388,564	68,110,838
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable Deposits	21,856,374	19,817,828
Other	63,742,929	29,615,062
	<b>143,987,867</b>	<b>117,543,728</b>
<b>Net Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>2,919,184,705</b>	<b>2,910,345,004</b>
<b>Represented By</b>		
Capitalisation	2,818,178,013	2,783,714,266
Income WIP	63,806,774	79,046,477
General Revenue Reserve	<b>(938,828 )</b>	<b>(1,288,070 )</b>
Other Specific Reserves		
Other Balances	38,138,746	48,872,331
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>2,919,184,705</b>	<b>2,910,345,004</b>



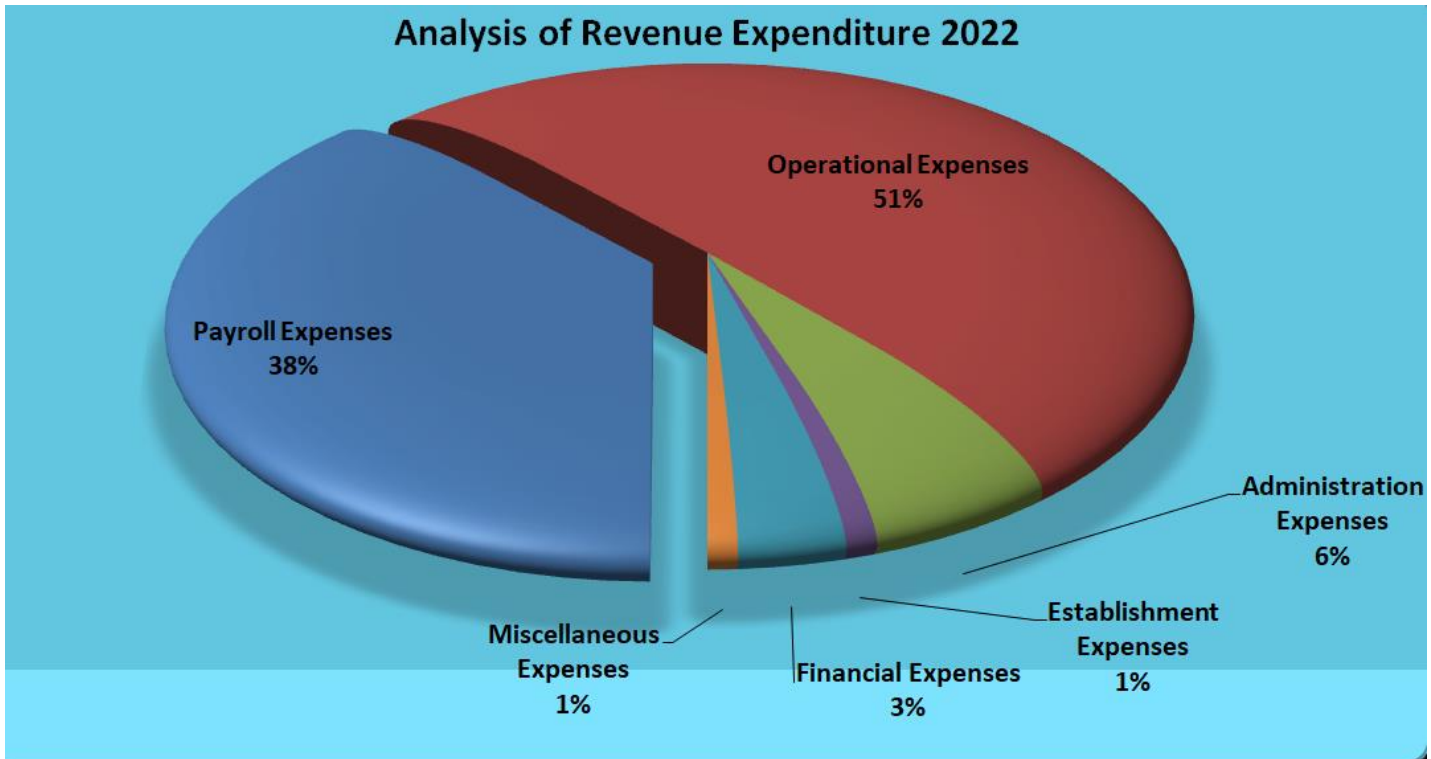
Revenue Account 2022 V 2021 / Comparisons at a Glance



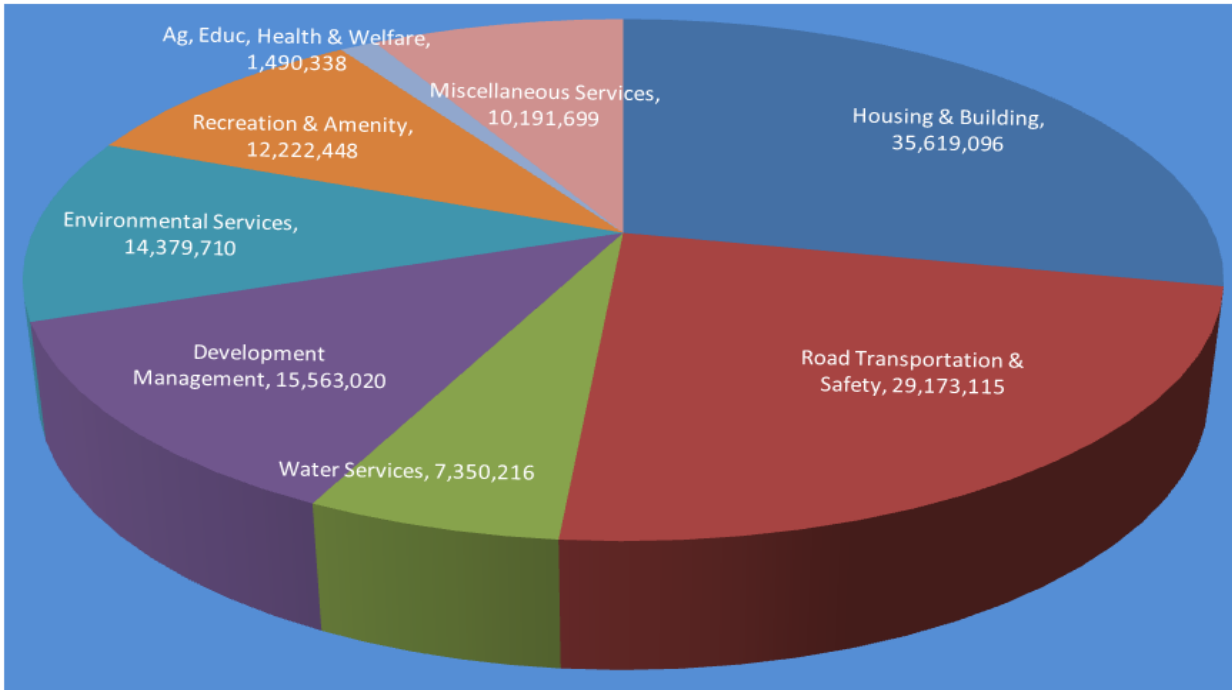
Revenue Income	2022
<b>Analysis of Revenue Income</b>	<b>€</b>
State Grants & Subsidies	47,272,285
Contributions from other LA's	2,702,104
Goods & Services	37,633,060
Local Property Tax	13,068,906
Rates	31,522,691
<b>Total Revenue Income</b>	<b>132,199,047</b>



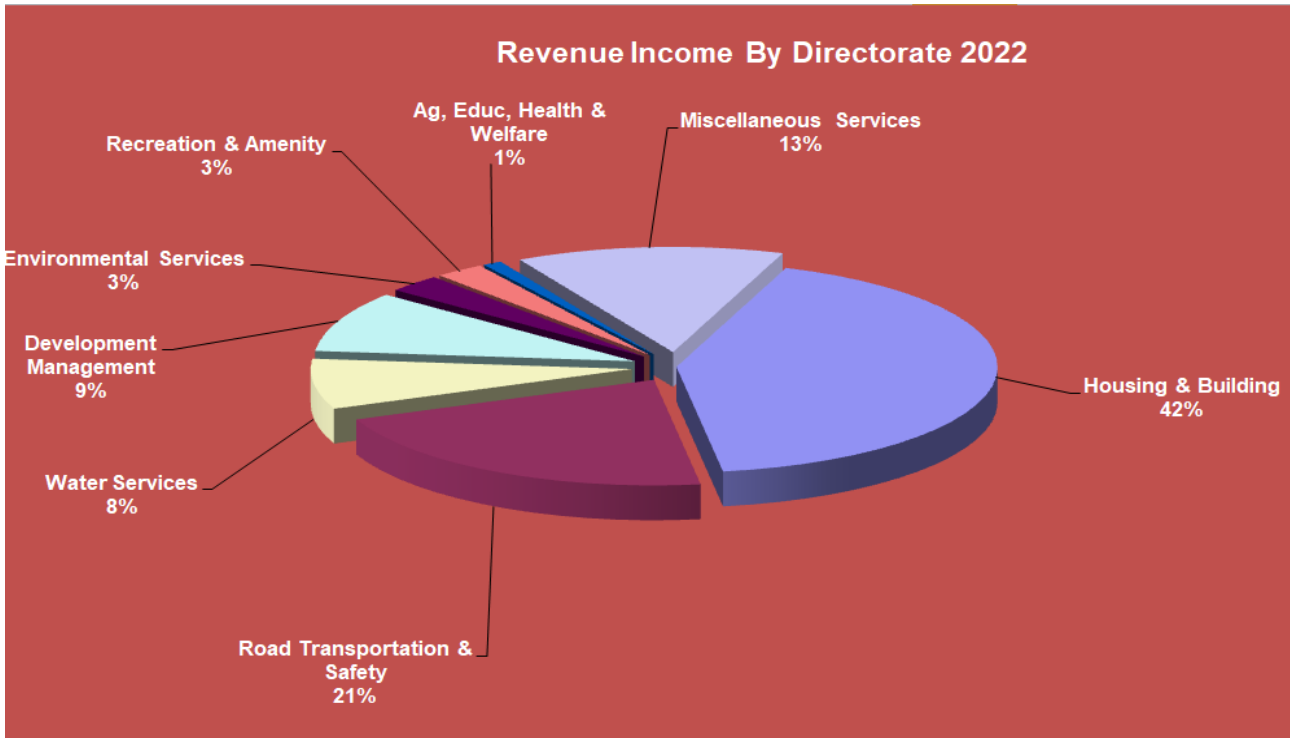
Revenue Expenditure	2022
<b>Analysis of Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>€</b>
Payroll Expenses	47,937,919
Operational Expenses	63,573,068
Administration Expenses	7,706,317
Establishment Expenses	1,265,072
Financial Expenses	4,306,531
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,200,735
<b>Total Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>125,989,642</b>

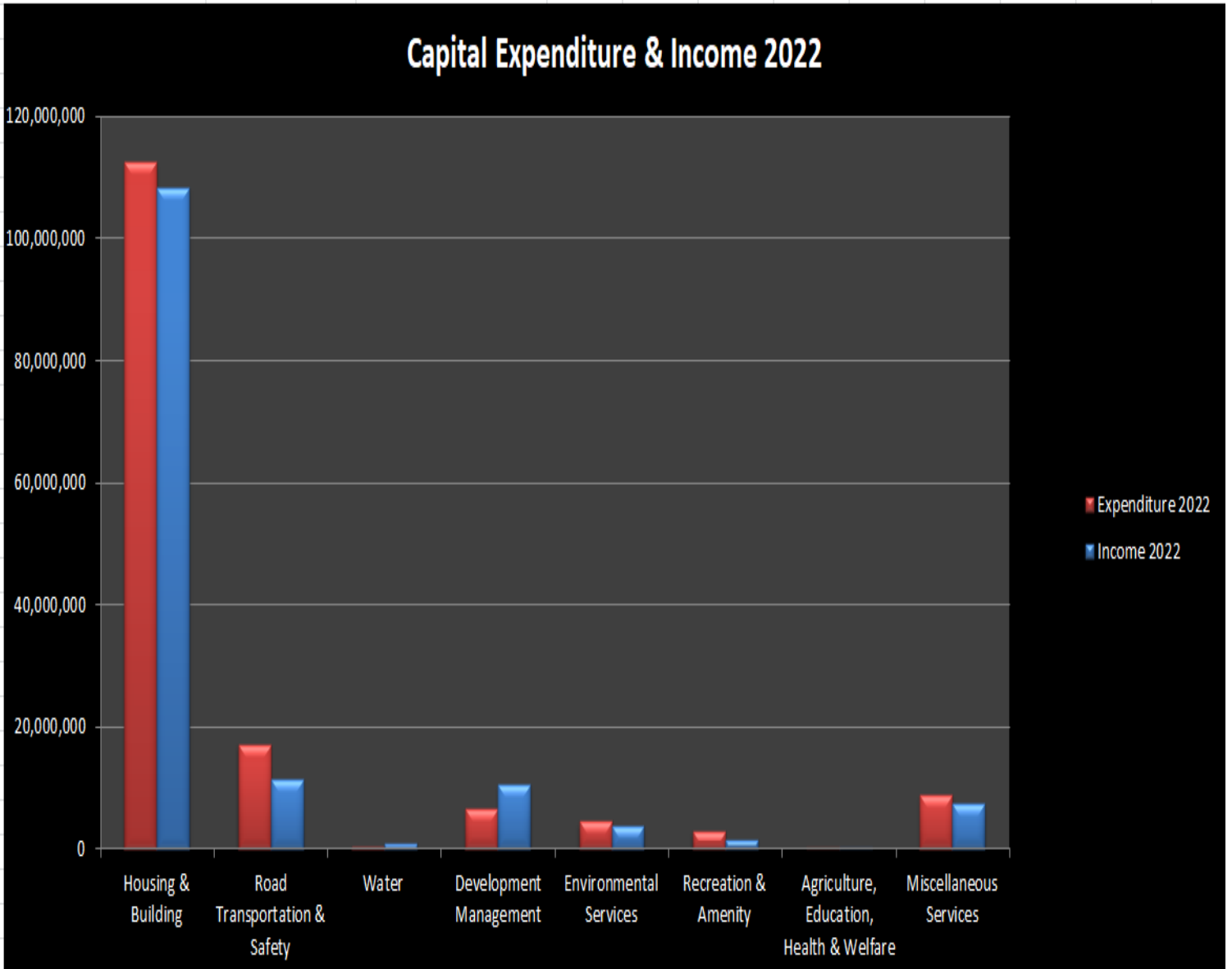


### Revenue Expenditure by Directorate 2022



### Revenue Income By Directorate 2022







## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS JANUARY – DECEMBER 2022

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1/1/2022	4922	
	B. Number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2022 (whether constructed or acquired)	141	1 purchased, 5 CPO's, 15 Part V purchases, 10 Turnkey & 110 Constructed
	C. Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2022	15	
	D. Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2022	0	
	E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31/12/2022	5048	
	F. Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a D/HLGH approved scheme at 31/12/2022	0	
	A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2022	3.23 %	
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2022	163	136 relets vacant, 11 decanting vacant, 16 vacant purchases
	A. Expenditure during 2022 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022, divided by the no. of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31/12/2022,	€1491.55	

	i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure		
	Expenditure on maintenance of local authority stock compiled from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€7529330.17	
<b>Housing: H3 &amp; H5 Approved</b>	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2022 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2022	36.36 wk	
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2022, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2022	€37289.02	
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2022 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	103	
	The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	3745 wk	
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€3840768.87	
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at the end of June 2022		

	<b>B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2022</b>		
	<b>C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2022 not compliant with the Standards Regulations</b>		
	<b>D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2022 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)</b>		
	<b>E. The number of inspections (including reinspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2022</b>		
<b>Housing: H6 Approved</b>	<b>A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term (i.e. 6 months or more within the previous year) homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2022</b>	<b>55.77 %</b>	
	<b>The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2022 as recorded on the PASS system</b>	<b>52</b>	
	<b>The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2022, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>Roads: R1 &amp; R2 Approved</b>	<b>A. (a) The percentage of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2022</b>	<b>99.00 %</b>	
	<b>A. (b) The percentage of Local Primary road</b>	<b>98.00 %</b>	

kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2022		
A. (c) The percentage of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2022	98.00 %	
A. (d) The percentage of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2022	94.00 %	
B. (a.1) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2022	1.20 %	
B. (a.2) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2022	14.24 %	
B. (a.3) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2022	51.32 %	
B. (a.4) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2022	32.82 %	
B. (b.1) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2022	1.68 %	
B. (b.2) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2022	18.61 %	
B. (b.3) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2022	46.76 %	
B. (b.4) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2022	32.86 %	
B. (c.1) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2022	7.29 %	

B. (c.2) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2022	28.98 %	
B. (c.3) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2022	38.36 %	
B. (c.4) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2022	24.83 %	
B. (d.1) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2022	5.82 %	
B. (d.2) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2022	18.30 %	
B. (d.3) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2022	48.62 %	
B. (d.4) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2022	22.36 %	
A.1 Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2022	9.5 km	
A.2 The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2022	€1968509.00	
A.3 The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m <sup>2</sup> )	€29.69	
B.1 Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2022	25.7 km	
B.2 The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2022	€719704.00	
B.3 The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m <sup>2</sup> )	€4.87	
C.1 Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2022	43.4 km	



	<b>C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2022</b>	<b>€5252531.00</b>	
	<b>C.3 The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m2)</b>	<b>€24.44</b>	
	<b>D.1 Kilometres of local road resealed during 2022</b>	<b>56.4 km</b>	
	<b>D.2 The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2022</b>	<b>€1357241.00</b>	
	<b>D.3 The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m2)</b>	<b>€4.65</b>	
<b>Motor Tax: R3 Approved</b>	<b>A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2022</b>	<b>87.78 %</b>	<b>0.02% difference between DoT and WCC figures</b>
<b>Water: W1 &amp; W2 Approved</b>	<b>Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements</b>		
	<b>The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered</b>	<b>99.14 %</b>	
	<b>The number of registered schemes monitored in 2022</b>	<b>115</b>	
	<b>Total number of registered schemes in 2022</b>	<b>116</b>	
<b>Waste: E1 Approved</b>	<b>A. The number of households which availed of a 3-bin service offered by a licensed operator at 31/12/2022</b>	<b>29503</b>	
	<b>B. The percentage of households within the local</b>	<b>84.33 %</b>	

	authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)		
<b>Environmental Pollution: E2</b> Approved	A. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2022	1645	
	A. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022	1804	
	A. Total number of pollution cases on hands at 31/12/2022	543	
	The opening number of pollution cases carried forward from the year end 2021	702	
<b>Litter Pollution: E3</b> Approved	A1. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2022 was unpolluted or litter free		
	A2. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2022 was slightly polluted		
	A3. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2022 was moderately polluted		
	A4. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2022 was significantly polluted		
	A5. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2022 was grossly polluted		

<b>Green Flag Status: E4</b> Approved	A. The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2022	29.52 %	
	Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2022	1	
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2022	16	
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2021 and therefore do not require renewal until 2023	14	
<b>Energy Efficiency: E5</b> Approved	A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2022 relative to baseline year (2009)		
<b>Public Lighting: E6</b> Approved	A. Total annual consumption of the public lighting system	5182.77 MWh	
	B. Average wattage of each public light	78.05 W	
	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	53.73 %	
	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	8174	
	Number of non-LED lights in the public lighting system	7038	
	<b>Climate Change: E7</b> Approved	1 a) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Coordinator?	Yes
1 b) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Officer?		No	

	<b>2. Does the local authority have a climate action team?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
<b>Planning: P1 Approved</b>	<b>A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority</b>	<b>20.29 %</b>	
	<b>Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 by a builder or developer on the local authority</b>	<b>1183</b>	
	<b>Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2022 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2022 undertaken by the local authority</b>	<b>240</b>	
<b>Planning: P2 &amp; P3 Approved</b>	<b>A. Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2022</b>	<b>54</b>	
	<b>B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority</b>	<b>75.93 %</b>	
	<b>Number of determinations confirming the local authority's decision (either with or without variation)</b>	<b>41</b>	
	<b>A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 that were investigated</b>	<b>115</b>	

	<b>B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2022</b>	<b>146</b>	
	<b>C. Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development</b>	<b>18.49 %</b>	
	<b>D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations</b>	<b>6.85 %</b>	
	<b>E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings</b>	<b>74.66 %</b>	
	<b>F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2022</b>	<b>519</b>	
	<b>Number of cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development</b>	<b>27</b>	
	<b>Number of cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations</b>	<b>10</b>	
	<b>Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings</b>	<b>109</b>	
<b>Planning: P4 &amp; P5 Approved</b>	<b>A. The 2022 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census</b>	<b>€27.68</b>	
	<b>AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for</b>	<b>€4303482</b>	



	<b>2022</b>		
	<b>A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt</b>	<b>3.08 %</b>	
	<b>B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant</b>	<b>77.69 %</b>	
	<b>The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were not withdrawn by the applicant</b>	<b>130</b>	
	<b>The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application</b>	<b>4</b>	
	<b>The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period</b>	<b>101</b>	
<b>Fire Service: F1 Approved</b>	<b>A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2022 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports</b>	<b>€39.76</b>	
	<b>AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention</b>	<b>€6182126</b>	

	for 2022		
<b>Fire Service: F2 &amp; F3 Approved</b>	<b>A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire</b>		<b>N/a no full time fire service</b>
	<b>B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire</b>	<b>5.23 min</b>	
	<b>C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents</b>		<b>N/a no full time fire service</b>
	<b>D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents</b>	<b>5.44 min</b>	
	<b>A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes</b>	<b>40.49 %</b>	
	<b>B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes</b>	<b>49.68 %</b>	
	<b>C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes</b>	<b>9.83 %</b>	
	<b>D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes</b>	<b>33.42 %</b>	
	<b>E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes</b>	<b>59.18 %</b>	
	<b>F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the</b>	<b>7.40 %</b>	

	scene is after 20 minutes		
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022	773	
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	313	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	384	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	76	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022	365	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	122	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	216	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	27	
Library Service: L1 Approved	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area per the 2022 Census	3.12	
	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	572820	
	C. Library active members per head of population		

<b>Library Service: L2</b> Approved	D. Number of registered library members in the year	30958	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022	484788	
	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2022 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€35.40	
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2022 to 31/12/2022	€1.55	
	A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2022	€5503483	
B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	€240400		
<b>Youth and Community: Y1 &amp; Y2</b> Approved	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	80.0 %	
	Total number of second level schools in the local authority area at 31/12/2022	25	
	Number of second level schools in the local authority area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2022	20	
	A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2022 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	18.07	

<p>Corporate: C1, C2, C4 &amp; C5 Approved</p>	Total number of organisations included in the County Register (maintained in accordance with section 128 of the Local Government Act 2001) for the local authority area as at 31/12/2022	404	
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2022	26	
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	73	
	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2022	655.82	
	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2022	3.24 %	
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2022	0.34 %	
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2022	5061.5 day	
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2022	525 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2022	13 day	
Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2022	243.5 day		
If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a	47 staff between 1 and 3 months sick leave 11 staff		



	text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	over 3 months sick leave	
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022, divided by the WTE no.	€3713.33	
	Total ICT expenditure in 2022	€2435276.66	
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	1.93	
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 before transfers to or from reserves	125989643	
Corporate: C3 Approved	A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2022	5.27	
	B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2022 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	0.49	
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	819917	
	The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2022, were following the local authority on any social media sites	75689	
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	28	
	Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect	The cookie policy was updated at the start of October 2022	

**Finance: M1 to M4**  
 Approved

<b>A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income &amp; Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS</b>	<b>€-2357748</b>
<b>B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income &amp; Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS</b>	<b>€-2052474</b>
<b>C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income &amp; Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS</b>	<b>€-1646264</b>
<b>D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2021 in the Revenue Account from the Income &amp; Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS</b>	<b>€-1288068</b>
<b>E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2022 in the Revenue Account from the Income &amp; Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS</b>	<b>€-938828</b>
<b>F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2022 as a percentage of Total Income in 2022 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS</b>	<b>-0.71 %</b>
<b>G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2022</b>	<b>€810.30</b>
<b>H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2022 excluding significant out of county / shared service expenditure</b>	
<b>The 2022 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS</b>	<b>€132199046</b>
<b>The 2022 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS</b>	<b>€125989643</b>
<b>The 2022 Revenue expenditure excluding county /</b>	

shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services		
A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	85.0 %	
A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	90.0 %	
A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	76.0 %	
B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	87.0 %	
B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	88.0 %	
B. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	80.0 %	
C. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	70.0 %	
C. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	85.0 %	
C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	80.0 %	
D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	83.0 %	
D. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	85.0 %	
D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	83.0 %	
E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the	88 %	

	<b>AFS for 2022</b>		
	<b>E. (b) Collection level of Rent &amp; Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022</b>	<b>84 %</b>	
	<b>E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022</b>	<b>84 %</b>	
	<b>A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2022</b>	<b>€5.50</b>	
	<b>IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2022</b>	<b>89</b>	
	<b>IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2022</b>	<b>65</b>	
	<b>IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2022</b>	<b>€854585.23</b>	
	<b>Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2022</b>		<b>N/a - included in above</b>
	<b>Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2022</b>	<b>0</b>	
	<b>Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2022</b>	<b>0</b>	
	<b>Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2022</b>	<b>€0</b>	
	<b>A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account</b>	<b>16.69 %</b>	
	<b>B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure</b>	<b>38.05 %</b>	
	<b>Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget</b>	<b>€21029688</b>	
	<b>Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2022 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)</b>	<b>€47937919</b>	
<b>Economic Development: J1 to J5 Approved</b>	<b>A. The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 per 100,000 of population</b>	<b>41.1615</b>	
	<b>The number of jobs created with assistance from the</b>	<b>64.0</b>	

<b>Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022</b>		
<b>A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2022 per 100,000 of population</b>		<b>43.0910</b>
<b>B. The number of trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2022 per 100,000 of population</b>		<b>16.7219</b>
<b>The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2022</b>		<b>67</b>
<b>The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2022</b>		<b>26</b>
<b>A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 per 100,000 of population</b>		<b>273.9814</b>
<b>The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022</b>		<b>426</b>
<b>A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
<b>B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
<b>The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2022 per head of population</b>		<b>€100.53</b>
<b>The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2022</b>		<b>€15630928.36</b>



## Conferences attended by Wicklow County Council Members in 2022

Date	Organising Body	Location	Theme	Councillors in attendance	Amount Claimed (T&S)	Conference/Training Fee	Total Cost
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Celtic Conferences	Cork	Social Media Use	Cllr. Tommy Annesley	€529.43	€100	€629.43
				Cllr. Paul O'Brien	€580.19	€100	€680.19
				Cllr. Anne Ferris	€582.45	€100	€682.45
17 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	AILG	Westmeath	Module 1	Cllr. Vincent Blake	€242.31	€70	€312.31
				Cllr. Shay Cullen	€192.11	€70	€262.11
				Cllr. Patsy Glennon	€329.59	€70	€399.58
23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	AILG	Donegal	Annual Conference	Cllr. Gail Dunne	€532.61	€155	€687.61
				Cllr. Paul O'Brien	€505.24	€155	€660.24
11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	LAMA	Kilkenny	Spring Conference	Cllr. Vincent Blake	€59.79		€ 59.79
				Cllr. Shay Cullen	€229.46		€229.46
				Cllr. Gail Dunne	€241.39		€241.39
				Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	€202.80		€202.80
				Cllr. Gerry Walsh	€389.26		€389.26
				Cllr. Anne Ferris	€382.57		€382.57
				Cllr. Paul O'Brien	€207.37		€207.37
27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Suck Valley	Roscommon	Suck Valley Way	Cllr. Shay Cullen	€280.81		€280.81
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	AILG	Clare	Module2	Cllr. Vincent Blake	€314.07		€314.37
14 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	AILG	Monaghan	Module 2	Cllr. Gail Dunne	€301.80		€301.80
				Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	€193.57		€193.57
				Cllr. Pat Kennedy	€209.12		€209.12
				Cllr. Paul O'Brien	€426.47		€426.47
16 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	AILG	Westmeath	Module 3	Cllr. Vincent Blake	€250.29		€250.29
				Cllr. Gail Dunne	€339.74		€339.74
				Cllr. Derek Mitchell	€184.20		€184.20
				Cllr. Edward Timmins	€106.60		€106.60
				Cllr. Gerry Walsh	€251.64		€251.64

				Cllr. Paul O'Brien	€384.68		€384.68
				Cllr. John Mullen	€119.58		€119.58
18 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	AILG	Kilkenny	Module 3	Cllr. Patsy Grennan	€125.54		€125.54
23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2022	AILG	Donegal	Module 4	Cllr. Tommy Annesley	€487.33		€487.33
28 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	AILG	Tipperary	Module 4	Cllr. Vincent Blake	€226.37		€226.37
14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2022	AILG	Meath	Autumn Seminar	Cllr. Gerry Walsh	€361.80	€155	€516.80
				Cllr. Patsy Glennon	€362.28	€155	€517.28
16 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	La Touche Legacy	Greystones		Cllr. E. Timmins	€100.53	€140	€240.53
27 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	AILG	Sligo	Module 5	Cllr. Vincent Blake	€545.32	€70	€615.32
				Cllr. Patsy Glennon	€368.35	€70	€438.35
28 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2022	Celtic Conferences	Cork	Solar energy Tech.	Cllr. Gail Dunne	€977.44	€100	€1,077.44
9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2022	LAMA	Monaghan	Autumn Conference	Cllr. Vincent Blake	€515.39	€160	€675.39
				Cllr. Shay Cullen	€340.37	€160	€500.37
				Cllr. Gail Dunne	€516.83	€160	€676.83
				Cllr. Derek Mitchell	€305.13	€160	€463.13
				Cllr. Patsy Glennon	€327.93	€160	€487.93
				Cllr. Paul O'Brien	€472.18	€160	€632.18
				Cllr. Anne Ferris	€464.91	€160	€624.91

**Wicklow County Council Members appointed to Committees and other bodies 2022**

Committee/ Other Body	Name	Amount Paid 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2022
Eastern and Midlands Regional Authority	Cllr. Gerry Walsh	
	Cllr. Avril Cronin	
Regional Health Forum (Dublin – Mid Leinster)	Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy	Nil
	Cllr. Gerry O’Neill	
	Cllr. Patsy Glennon	
	Cllr. Joe Behan	
Local Authority Members Association	Cllr. Vincent Blake	
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Cllr. Gail Dunne	
	Cllr. Joe Behan	
	Cllr. Shay Cullen	
Bray Area Partnership	Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy	Nil
	Cllr. Grace McManus	Nil
	Cllr. Lourda Scott	
Board of Wicklow Enterprise Park CLG	Cllr. Gail Dunne	
	Cllr. Mary Kavanagh	Nil
Board of Mermaid, County Wicklow Arts Centre	Cllr. Anne Ferris	Nil
	Cllr. Melanie Corrigan	

	Cllr. Erika Doyle	
Arklow Business Enterprise Park (ABEC) CLG	Cathaoirleach of Arklow MD Ex Officio	
Wicklow Enterprise Park	Cllr. Mary Kavanagh	Nil
	Cllr. Gail Dunne	
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Ltd.	Cllr. Gerry O'Neill	
Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board	Cllr. Patsy Glennon	
	Cllr. Tom Fortune	
	Cllr. Paul O'Brien	€44.00
	Cllr. Lourda Scott	
	Cllr. Anne Ferris	Nil
	Cllr. Edward Timmins	Nil
East Coast Regional Drugs Task Force	Cllr. Peir Leonard	Nil
	Cllr. John Snell	