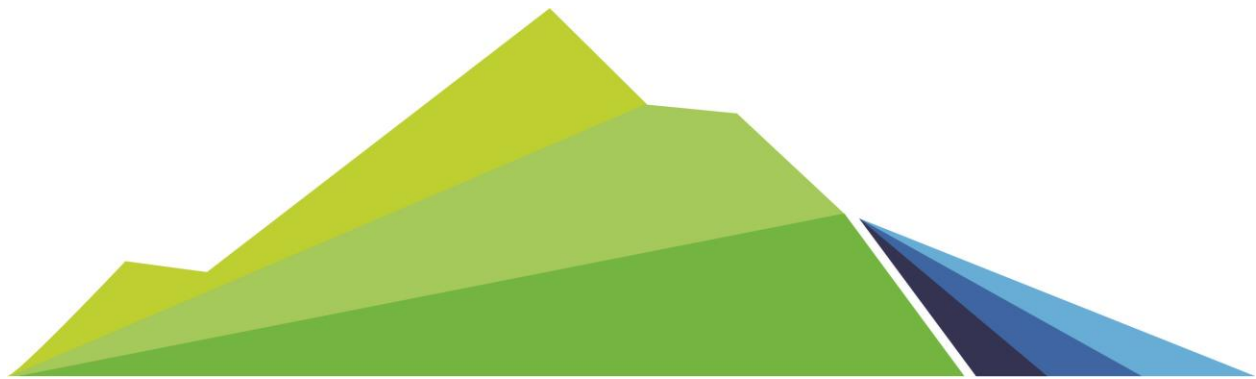


# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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### **This month:**

**WICKLOW SCOOPS FOUR AWARDS AT 'COMMUNITY OSCARS'** - Four community groups from Wicklow were successful at the National Pride of Place awards on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

These annual awards are known as the Oscars for community groups, and they highlight the tremendous work being done by community groups all over the island of Ireland. The presentation ceremony was held in Armagh this year.

The village of Hollywood won Gold in the Population 0-500 category while Avoca Village won Silver in the Population Category 500- 1500. Greystones Tidy Towns also won Silver in the Creative Place Category and Rewild Wicklow took home Gold in the Special Award category.

Sponsored by IPB Insurance, the Pride of Place competition was initiated 21 years ago through a Co-operation Ireland programme to acknowledge the invaluable work undertaken by volunteers and those involved in local community development.

The Pride of Place competition has grown into the largest competition recognising community development achievements on the island of Ireland.

**DISABILITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGY LAUNCHED** - Wicklow's first ever Disability and Inclusion Strategy has been launched.

Wicklow County Council's Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) has been working towards this launch since the committee was established in 2020.

The Strategy outlines the various ways that Wicklow County Council and its partners intend to make the services they provide equitable and accessible to all. It aims to ensure that persons with a disability have an equal opportunity to pursue their ambitions, realise their potential and live fulfilling lives. It also seeks to build on the progress made by Wicklow County Council and many other partner agencies and individuals.

Public consultations took place around the county and online to help inform the drafting of the Strategy. A questionnaire was also posted on Wicklow County Council's website to allow for public contributions.

These consultations identified three Action Areas to address the issues raised throughout the consultation process:

1. Participation, Communication and Rights
2. Community Participation, Accessibility & Universal Design
3. Employment, Housing and Recreation.

Individual actions are aligned to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Person's with Disabilities throughout the document.

Wicklow County Council, in partnership with the Disability Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC), will undertake a leadership role to progress actions in the strategy alongside staff from across every department in the local authority.

## Housing & Community

### 1. Housing

	<b>October 2023</b>	<b>October 2022</b>
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4521	4571
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	155	199
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2521	2610
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	23	22
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	28	30

#### Allocation of Social Housing

	<b>October 2022</b>	<b>October 2023</b>
Wicklow County Council	78	10
Approved Housing Bodies	1	59

#### Social Housing Stock

	<b>October 2023</b>	<b>October 2022</b>
Tenancies occupied	<b>4878</b>	<b>4803</b>
Total weekly rental accrual	<b>323,363.68</b>	<b>315,119.18</b>
Arrears	<b>2,948,536.48</b>	<b>2,745,694.79</b>

#### Relets

	<b>Completed in 2023</b>	<b>In progress</b>	<b>Not started</b>	<b>Not tenanted</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Arklow</b>	16	8	5	0	13
<b>Baltinglass</b>	27	9	6	8	23
<b>Bray</b>	39	13	19	20	52
<b>Greystones</b>	10	6	1	0	7
<b>Wicklow</b>	22	11	30	0	41
	<b>114</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>136</b>

## Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

<b>Schemes Recently Completed</b>	<b>UNITS</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completed and allocated
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completed and allocated
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completed and allocated
Sheehan Court Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed
Greenhills Road (Affordable)	36	Completed
<b>Schemes on Site</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completion anticipated Q1 2024
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2024
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Contractor on site
Merrymeeing Rathnew Phase 2	21	Construction on going
Liam Kavanagh Park Ballynerrin	10	On site completion anticipated Q1 2024
<b>Pipeline Schemes</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	About to commence Section 179a
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Preparing tender documents
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Tenders being analysed
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5
Burnaby, Greystones	75	PPP Bundle 5
Ballinahinch Ashford	25	Section 179a was advertised closing date 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2023
Tinahask, Arklow	75	Design stage.
Sheephouse Arklow	30	Design Stage

### Part V

<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>	<b>Due for Delivery</b>	<b>Method</b>
Bray	2	18 Delivered, 2 Units delivered June 2023	CALF
Rathnew	3	3 Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Delgany	3	Delivered June 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Delivered Q3 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Delivered May 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	6	Scheduled Q4 2023	CALF

Arklow	16	Delivered August 2023	CALF
Blessington	5	Delivery Due Q3 2023	CALF
Bray	1	Delivery due Q1 2024	CALF
Delgany	3	Delivered May 2023	WCC
Greystones	1	Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Rathnew	1	Scheduled Q4 2023	WCC
Bray	4	Delivered 2 2023	WCC
Ashford	4	Scheduled Q4 2023	CALF
Ashford	8	Scheduled Q1 2024	CALF

## Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Greystones, Ashford, Newtownmountkennedy, Blessington, Baltinglass and Wicklow with delivery ranging from 2023-2025. This includes the units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

## Turnkey

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	78	Delivered June 2023	CALF
Rathdum	13	Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Scheduled Q4 2023	CALF
Arklow	32	Delivered Q4 2023	CALF
Blessington	41	Delivery Due Q4 2023	CALF
Bray	17	Delivery Date Q1 2024	CALF
Ashford	51	Delivered Q3 2023	CALF
Ashford	22	Delivered Q4 2023	CALF
Ashford	10	Scheduled Q1 2024	CALF

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.

## Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

The Approved Housing Bodies are actively pursuing a number of potential CALF projects and are liaising closely with the Council on a regular basis. The members will be kept updated.

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

## Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands

### Parnell Road (Central Garage site)

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

### Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas

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

### Infill Sites

- Knockroe – Two 4 bed fully accessible homes in progress - expected completion date Q4 2023
- 5a Rednagh Rd – One 4 bed house – Part 8 to commence shortly

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

› Grant funding for private house - €2,352,438.16 - €1,645,354.43 spent to date

› Grant funding for social house - €818,793.00 - € 691,694.96 spent to date

2023 – 73 open applications (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

2023 - 176 approvals (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

2023 –197 applications paid and closed

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Number of Grants Received/Processed</b>	249	216	266	327	281	383

### Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing and Disability Steering Group has prepared the new draft Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2022-2027. The next meeting of the HDSG is due to take place in September 2023. The Implementation plan for Housing People with a disability was launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and workshops are taking place nationwide facilitated by the housing agency regarding the implementation plan. This workshop will take place at the next HDSG meeting to be held in January 2024.

### Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road – 2 x 2 bed properties	Completed and ready for allocation
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Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Contractor on site - expected completion date November 2023
Carrig Eden - 14 units x 1 bed age friendly units	Part 8 complete – design team is being procured at present
Kilcoole Health Centre - 4 no 1 bed apartments	Contractor on site - expected completion date September 2024

## Vacant Homes Scheme

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

8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy	<b>House allocated and tenant in situ.</b>
5 Ashwood, Roundwood	<b>House allocated and tenant in situ.</b>
33 Connolly Street, Arklow	<b>House allocated and tenant in situ</b>
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	Refurbishment complete.
2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town	Refurbishment complete.
18 Delgany Glen, Greystones	Refurbishment complete.
30 South Green, Arklow	Refurbishment to start shortly.
5 Priory Way, Delgany	Refurbishment to start shortly.
6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Refurbishment to start shortly.
114 Hillside, Greystones	Refurbishment to start shortly.
41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry	Refurbishment to start shortly.
108 Charnwood, Bray	Notice to Enter served July 2023.
10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow	Compensation now agreed.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	Compensation now agreed.
53 South Green, Arklow	Compensation now agreed.
53A South Green, Arklow	Compensation now agreed.
2 Harbour Road ("Merdenville"), Arklow	Compensation now agreed.
36 Wheatfield Bray	CPO published March 2023. Currently engaging with owner with a view to purchase by agreement.
27 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray.	Negotiations under way
1 further CPOs (further house in Bray and Wicklow Town) to be published.	

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

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

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

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

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

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:



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

• Number of Applications	69
Applications in progress/information requested	15
Applications finalised	50
Applications withdrawn	4

### Derelict Properties

The following four derelict properties have been approved for sale:

Property	Progress
Cronehorn	Sale approved by the members a the June meeting held on 12/06/2023 – final stages in progress
Killacloran	Valuation done, application being progressed
Rednagh Rd	Sale approved by the members a the June meeting held on 12/06/2023 – final stages in progress
Borkhill	No interested parties

### Affordable Housing

Greenhill Road Affordable Housing Scheme was launched to the public for applications on 09/01/2023, and closed on 30/01/2023. There was a lot of interest from the public and Wicklow County Council received over 140 applications for the 36 properties. Wicklow County Council are currently ‘sale agreed’ on all the 36 units. – 10 of the sales have now closed.

Wicklow County Council also received approval for future affordable housing schemes in the county in the past month – one development in Rathnew (44) and another in Baltinglass (22),

Baltinglass - Portal closing on 4<sup>th</sup> October for these 22 units

Rathnew - Site to be completed approx. August 2024 – properties will be advertised for sale in early 2024

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

### **Housing Maintenance – Boiler servicing & safety checking campaign**

The focus now is on servicing and safety checking of 1416 Oil and 2269 Gas boilers around the county. Contractors are reporting **access rates as low as 60%** which is surprising given the current “Cost of Living” crisis with high fuel costs. It is in tenants’ interests to ensure that they provide access to contractors to service and safety check boilers. Oil boilers in particular will consume more fuel if soot build

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up is not removed at the annual service. Also important checks and replacement of components such as fuel hoses are carried out on oil boilers which prevents expensive loss of fuel and environmental damage which is extremely expensive to clean up. All new boilers fitted now are condensing boilers which have higher thermal efficiency and use less fuel.

### local Authority Home loans up to October 2023

Received	Approved in principle
55	16

### 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	October 2023
Applications Received	410	4
Completed	101	0
Declined	280	0
Ongoing	15	15

### Homeless figures for October 2023

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/10/2023	Year To Date	As at 31/10/2022
<b>No of New Presentations</b>	29	294	41
<b>No. of Repeat Presentations</b>	2	12	0
<b>No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)</b>	6	115	12
<b>No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)</b>	20	159	28
<b>No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)</b>	3	20	1
<b>No. of Children</b>	9	224	28
<b>NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling</b>	6	86	15
<b>Family Circumstances</b>	15	92	16
<b>Leaving Prison/Hospital Care</b>	1	18	0
<b>Mental Health</b>	6	28	2
<b>Risk of Homelessness</b>	20	70	4

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Arrears/Loss of Income	0	6	1
Addiction Issues	9	32	0
DV/DA	0	18	1
Medical Issues	1	17	0
Overcrowding	4	35	2
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	3	48	4
ASB:	0	6	1
Rough Sleeping*	6	25	0
Sofa Surfing*	1	34	2
Staying with Family*	8	70	6
Staying with Friends*	2	13	0

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/10/23	
Families	9
Adults	23
Children	27
Single individual	23

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/10/2023								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	23	23	27	6	6	1	4	3
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/10/22								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	21	26	19	6	6	3	2	4

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

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

- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 486 households (345 families & 136 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. (204 homeless cases, 270 prevention cases to date and 11 direct provision). 132 properties were sourced by WCC.

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

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

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

There are 10 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon, with continuing transition by the clients to suitable, alternative accommodation at the moment.

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

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

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

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

San Remo is operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where there are a number of emergency/cold weather initiative Beds and Supported Temporary Accommodation Beds (STA). There is on site key working support linking in with clients. CWI (Cold Weather Initiative) beds are now in operation in San Remo and will continue until April 2024.

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

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

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

#### **Other Homeless Supported Accommodation**

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

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

## Housing First

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

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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 19 clients under Housing First and it is hoped that at least one further allocation will take place before the end of 2023. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation – the main issue facing this programme is the availability of one bed units in suitable locations with easy access to services etc.

## Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025

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

## Traveller accommodation

### Capital Programme

<b>Ballintreskin – 3 houses</b>	Contractor on site- expected completion date Nov 2023
<b>Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses</b>	Contractor on site completion date Nov 2024
<b>Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses</b>	Due to change in the family circumstances – new site selection is being investigated

Fire safety annual checks on Halting sites for 2022 has been carried out and the 2023 will commence in September 2023.

## Energy Efficiency

### Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

All 71 properties given approval for energy efficiency fabric upgrade works in 2022 have been completed. Surveying of the houses identified for 2023 Programme is substantially completed and approx 35 have commenced on site.

## Ukrainian Response

- As of 31<sup>st</sup> October, the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 1,715 (although we know that there are considerably more in the County)

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This number is broken down as follows –

- Arklow MD 246 No.
  - Baltinglass MD 369 No.
  - Bray MD 753 No.
  - Greystones MD 198 No.
  - Wicklow MD 149 No.
- 
- WCC are currently assessing 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.
  - WCC are working through a list of pledged properties within the County and matching families accordingly. As of the 15<sup>th</sup> November we will have housed 240 number displaced Ukrainian people into pledged stand-alone Offer a Home properties  
Larger buildings and vacant units are also being identified and explored as potential options for medium to long term accommodation.
  - The Community Response Forum continues to meet on a monthly basis

## 2. Community

### County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

#### County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-27

##### ***Action 1.6 Walkability Audits***

**Aughrim:** Walkability Audit carried out July 2023, co-ordinated by the Age Friendly Ireland Regional Manager Southeast (Alice Corbett) and the County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme Manager (Clodagh Whelan). A diverse group of local community participants, with a mix of abilities and disabilities, included Kunstverein, Aughrim, Tidy Towns and Active Retirement Group representatives.

The audit report has been circulated to relevant stakeholders. The Age Friendly Programme Manager met with Municipal District Administrator and Executive Engineers on 14<sup>th</sup> November to discuss action plan to address some of the recommendations from the walkability audit.

**Avondale House:** Members of the new Older People's Council (OPC) Executive Group participated in a guided tour of Avondale House, to audit the accessibility of the venue and experience for older people. The walkability audit was co-ordinated by the Age Friendly Ireland's Regional Manager South-East and Age Friendly Programme Manager for County Wicklow. Overall feedback on the venue and the experience was very positive. Detailed feedback has been sent to Coillte Operations Team by the Age Friendly Ireland Regional Manager.

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

Healthy Age Friendly Homes (HAFH) Programme – National Programme Manager, Mark Harrington, visited Wicklow County Council, on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023, to meet with Director of Services, to update on the rollout of the national programme in advance of the appointment of the local co-ordinator.

Aoife Mc Grath has been appointed as Regional Programme Manager, South East Region, by Age Friendly Ireland, and the local co-ordinator for County Wicklow is expected to commence early 2024.

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

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

The next meeting of the Older People's Council (OPC) Executive Group is scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Representatives of the OPC also recently participated in:

- the newly formed Social Inclusion Network Group (SING), in County Wicklow.
- National Network of OPCs (NNOPC) meeting to elect new National OPC Chair.
- AFI/HSE National Clinical Programme - Older Persons Reference Group Meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance**

The multi-agency Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance, which is chaired by the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, will meet next on 12<sup>th</sup> December, to review progress on implementation of the County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027. This meeting will be held in West Wicklow.

### **National Age Friendly Achievement and Recognition Awards**

*Beyond the Trees Avondale* has been shortlisted for the National Age Friendly Achievement and Recognition Awards, in the Business Innovation Category. The judges visited Avondale 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The decision of the judging panel is due to be announced at the annual Awards Ceremony on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at Clayton Whites Hotel Wexford and hosted by Age Friendly Ireland.

### **Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee**

The first Disability and Inclusion Strategy for County Wicklow was approved by the Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) and presented to the full Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, by Laura O'Callaghan, Disability Information Officer (Disability Federation of Ireland). The strategy was proposed by Cllr Miriam Murphy, second by Cllr Tommy and adopted unanimously by the full Council. A formal launch event was held in the Arklow Bay Hotel on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

### **CLÁR Funding Scheme**

Rathdrum Cancer Support (€44,034) and Wicklow Irish Community Rapid Response (€50,000) were awarded funding under the CLÁR Funding Scheme (Measure 2: Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders Transport). In total, Minister Humphreys announced over €2 million for 37 Vehicles for Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders throughout the Country.

Successful applications under Measures 1 and 3 of CLÁR 2023 will be announced at a later date.

### **Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023**

Closing date for submissions of Expressions of Interest in the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023 was 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The TVRS23 Projects Assessment and Selection Panel, met in Wicklow County Council, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, to determine which projects will be selected by Wicklow County Council for submission to the Department for Rural and Community Development this year.

All Expressions of Interest were assessed based on the eligibility criteria and priorities contained in the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme Outline. The panel selected 5 projects for development into an application for grant funding. These were submitted to DRCD on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### **Wicklow Arts Office**

#### **Creative Communities Engagement Officer**

Marlena Murphy was recently appointed to the role of Creative Communities Engagement Officer and joined the Wicklow Arts Office team on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Marlena will be responsible for engaging proactively with relevant directorates and personnel, internal and external, and will be a key member of the Culture and Creativity team. She will work to promote and enhance access to, engagement with, and enjoyment of Ireland's culture and creativity. The role is part of the Creative Ireland Programme, which is an all-of-government initiative that aims to mainstream



creativity in the life of the nation so that individuals and communities can realize their full creative potential and promote individual, community, and national well-being.

### **'Way with Words' Returned to Blessington Library**

On 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October, the 'Way with Words' Literature Festival's packed fun filled programme featured a range of events that included readings, workshops and activities for all ages.

With 267 people in attendance across all 8 events, the programme included a performance of 'My delicious Hat' by Paul Timoney; a graphic novel workshop specifically for children and young people by award-winning writer by award-winning Aoife Dooley; writing workshops by Jane Clarke, William Ryan, and Tanya Farrelly, and an evening reading by Eithne Hand, David Butler and Jane Clarke.

The in-conversation with Edel Coffey moderated by local writer Olivia Fitzsimons has been rescheduled to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Wicklow Music Teaching Residency**

The Wicklow Music Teaching Residency is a partnership between the Wicklow County Arts Office and Music Network. County Wicklow residents aged 55 and over are invited to pick up musical instruments they used to play in times gone by and start playing again under the guidance of 'The Rossana Trio'.

This year's participants will receive tuition on uilleann pipes, whistle, flute, violin/fiddle or bodhrán with The Rossana Trio, comprising renowned musicians Mark Redmond (uilleann pipes, whistles, flute), Lynda O'Connor (violin/fiddle) and Robbie Walsh (bodhrán).

The closing date for applications was Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 2pm.

Wicklow Arts Office and Music Network have partnered to deliver the third edition of Music Teaching Residency to Wicklow. 'The Rossana Trio', comprising renowned musicians Mark Redmond (uilleann pipes, whistles, flute), Lynda O'Connor (violin/fiddle) and Robbie Walsh (bodhrán), will be based in the Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew for the duration of the residency.

This residency focuses encourages people aged 55 and over to return to playing an instrument and to share in the joy of group music-making. Participants will receive free tuition from the trio from November 2023 to March 2024.

Following an open call for participants, the Residency received 34 applications for 15 places on the programme. The selected participants include 7 men and 8 women, and they come from across Wicklow County including Arklow, Ballynerrin, Roundwood, Glenealy, Wicklow Town, Kilpedder, Delgany, Bray, Enniskerry and Greystones.

### **Creative Places Baltinglass**

#### **Completion of Baltinglass Mural**

The longest mural in Ireland was completed on 18th October in Baltinglass as part of the Creative Places Baltinglass programme. The mural adorns the 58-metre-long hoarding at Belan Street and Mill Streets and depicts the formerly active railway station in the town.

To inform the project, historical photographs were sourced from the local Historical Society and local agricultural merchant Quinn's of Baltinglass. Sixteen local artists participated in the project, which took over two weeks to be completed. The once dull hoarding has been transformed and is now an attractive and colourful feature in Baltinglass.

## NOVEMBER 2023



### **Capacity Building Session**

15 people attended a free 'Capacity Building' event for artists and creatives based in the Baltinglass area on Friday, 3rd November.

The session provided local artists and creative practitioners with an opportunity to connect and share whilst also gaining an insight into the recently launch Artist One-to-One Coaching scheme.

### **Wicklow Artist Salon**

Over 60 people attended the sold-out Wicklow Artist Salon on Saturday 4th November 2023 in Kilruddery House.

As the final Salon in the 2023 series, five emerging/early career artists discussed their 'Influences' and explored art forms such as experimental circus, dream pop, lens-based art, fiction, and documentary film.

### **Commemoration Programme for Jennie Wyse Power**

Wicklow Arts Office held a two-day programme in Baltinglass on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November to celebrate Irish activist, feminist, politician and businesswoman Jennie Wyse Power's connection to County Wicklow as part of Creative Places Baltinglass and supported through the Decade of Centenaries Programme (2012 - 2023) funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

The programme included the unveiling of two new commissions, a tapestry portrait of Jennie Wyse Power by Visual Artist Sarah Bracken Soper and a commemorative poetry collection by Wicklow Poet Jane Clarke alongside five free creative hands-on workshops for young people and adults.

### **YARN Storytelling Festival 2023**

YARN Storytelling Festival 2023 returned to County Wicklow from 11th - 23rd November 2023. To celebrate its 14th edition, Mermaid Arts Centre devised a unique programme brimming with some of Ireland's finest storytellers alongside international guests such as Monique Burg from France and the 2023 Storyteller in Residence, Philip Byrne.

### **Upcoming**

#### **Rescheduled: In conversation with Edel Coffey**

Join us for an exciting in conversation event at Blessington Library on Saturday 9th December from 4pm with renowned Irish journalist, broadcaster and award-winning writer, Edel Coffey

This in-person event is a fantastic opportunity to learn about Edel's creative practice and her debut novel 'Breaking Point', a number one bestseller in Ireland awarded the 'An Post Irish Book Award' for Crime Fiction Book Of The Year in 2022.

#### **Application window announced for 2024 Arts Act Funding**

Applications are invited for Wicklow Arts Office 2024 Arts Act Funding from Friday 1st December 2023 to Friday 16th February 2024.

Established to support artists, festivals, communities, arts participation and art form development, these funding streams are integral to Wicklow County Council's broader efforts to encourage excellence in the arts and enhance community involvement in artistic endeavours across the county.

Applications can be made under the following three schemes:

- Artist Award
- Artist(s) and Communities Collaboration Award
- Arts Festival Award

Professional artists working in any art form, discipline or genre are eligible to apply.

## **Creative Places Baltinglass**

### **Artist Coaching and Mentoring**

Group photo of local Baltinglass artists painting the mural recently unveiled as part of Creative Places Baltinglass.

Up to five artists will be extended the opportunity to engage in this development programme, which combines coaching and mentoring methods.

The selected artists will participate in group and one-to-one sessions with facilitators Paula Phelan and Katherine Zesserson.

### **Blessington Greenway**

Planning documents were submitted to An Bord Pleanála under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, with a deadline of 4th March 2022.

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023, WCC received a request for further information (RFI) from An Bord Pleanála. The Board had sought a response to this RFI request by the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023. However, due to the significant information sought by ABP, an extension to the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 was granted by ABP.

WCC staff, in conjunction with Aecom, the consultants, are continuing to prepare a full comprehensive response to this RFI to meet this deadline.

### **Community Recognition Fund**

We currently have seven active projects, please see below:

	<b>Project Description</b>
<b>Bray Community Centre</b>	Internal works including electrical upgrade, painting, flooring and heating system improvement works
	External works including windows and doors replacement, safe removal of asbestos, exterior painting,
	Other works will include accessible lift, protected stairway works, insulation upgrade, landscaping and signage
<b>Baltinglass Community Park</b>	Riverside Walking Path
	New Playground

	MUGA Refurbishment
<b>Bray Parish Centre</b>	Internal works including electrical upgrade, painting and fittings
<b>Wicklow Town Placemaking Project</b>	Refurbishment of Assembly Hall (total area 2,000 sq. ft) to include new heating system, Internal painting, insulation, install 3 phases, refurbish kitchen, toilets and meeting room areas. Make universally accessible
	Installation of universally accessible outdoor community gym facility along the Murrough, in order to extend upon and complement the existing community facilities present.
	Improvements to the seafront promenade linking Wicklow Harbour to the existing Murrough community facilities and beyond to the Murrough coastal walk.
<b>Arklow Playing Pitch</b>	Groundworks and surfacing works
	Multi use pitch and fencing
	Landscaping
<b>Rathdrum Community Park</b>	Groundworks, Fencing, Gates
	Landscaping, large planters and benches
<b>Greystones Community Park</b>	Boules/pétanque playing ground
	Landscaping and Community Placemaking

**Pride of Place**

Four Wicklow voluntary groups were all successful at the National Pride of Place Awards on Friday 10th November 2023 at a gala awards night held in the Armagh City Hotel. The four Wicklow award winners are: Hollywood Village, who won the overall award in the Population 0-500 Category, Avoca Village, runners up in the Population 500-1500 Category, Greystones Tidy Towns, runners up in the Creative Place Category and Rewild Wicklow who won a Special Award. These prestigious awards also have a financial prize money contribution towards the voluntary groups which will be welcome to continue with their great community work.

**Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme**

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

The table below is a list of current projects which are being progressed and were funded under the ORIS funding stream:

<b>ORIS Project</b>	<b>Present Position</b>
North Wicklow Trails	New connection almost completed linking the Sugar Loaf to the Vartry Trails

Clogherna Access, Glenmalure	Works to improve surface and increase traffic safety at the Clogherna access to Baravore Bridge, Glenmalure. Works due to start at the end of September.
Avonmore Kayak Project	This project is near completion. An extension until March 2024 has been requested from the Department. Railings are being fitted at Rathdrum bridge and privacy screens are now in place at the Meetings of The Waters in Avoca.
Kilmacanogue Nature Trail	Completed. Enhanced links between Wicklow Uplands and the Sugarloaf Way. New signage to be added.
Wicklow Coastal Blueway	A new boardwalk is installed at Greystones South Beach which will make the beach more accessible to all individuals including those with varying degrees of ability. An upgrade of existing facilities is planned for Brittas Bay along with new information boards in conjunction with the guidance of the Heritage Officer. Arklow - Bicycle stands, privacy screens for changing, planting, information boards and cleaning of graffiti are some of the features of the plan in place for The Cove, Arklow Rock and South Beach Arklow.
Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	The project has been paused briefly to allow for finalising the purchase of third-party land.
Sugarloaf Repair	This project entails the manual pitching of stone at the Sugarloaf to create ascent and decent points, work scheduled to commence soon.
Three Trout Route Project Developments	Now at project design stage following the identification of two crossing points connecting the stream with existing infrastructure.
Ballyboy Equestrian Trail	Completed with new signage to be added.
Miner's Way	Upgrading and resurfacing completed with new signage being added.
Glen Turn Cliff Walk	Completed with new signage being added.
Red Kite Loop Wild Play Area, Avoca	Play structures have been identified and design is currently under way. An extension until March 2024 has been requested from the Department.
Wicklow Uplands	Project completed with the airlifting of surface materials to the sensitive site in the Wicklow Uplands.
Russborough Parklands and House Trail	It is planned to enhance the existing walking trails and install a cycle hub.
Glenmalure Recreation Area	The project will include the upgrading of the existing trail, removal of damaged boardwalk and replacement with a sustainable surface.
Coolkenno Equestrian Trail	The aim of this project is to construct an 8km equestrian trail and associated access points.
Roundwood Recreation Area	This multi-use family facility project will include the provision of a bike hub, natural play area, way-marking and information boards. Part VIII process to commence on 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme	Accessibility improvement works will be tendered shortly for this project.
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**2023 Applications for Measure 2 and 3 - Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme Applications – Submitted on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Local Authority/Local Development Company Name:										
Contact Details (name, email, phone number):										
Scheme Measure	Project Priority given by local authority/local development company	Rationale for prioritisation (less than 50 words)	Community/Partner name(s):	Project Name:	Project Description (less than 30 words):	Total estimated costs including Administration / Professional	Administration costs / Professional fees associated with the proposed project	Amount of Match Funding - 10%	Amount of ORIS funding requested	Project Type: New amenity or repair/upgrade of an existing
2	2	Without this link, the route is significantly shortened and cannot provide a direct link to the National Park forest at Glen of the Downs.	NPWS, Delgany Tidy Towns	Three Trouts Bridge, Delgany	Provision of a bridge across the Three Trout's Stream to lengthen the current route by joining two sections providing an enhanced amenity for local residents and visitors alike.	220,000.00	25,000.00	22,000.00	198,000.00	New amenity
2	1	A direct access point for Lugnaquilla, a link to Glendalough and to the Glen of Imaal – Baravore is a central point of the Wicklow uplands.	Coillte, WUC, Co Wicklow Partnership, Wicklow Gardaí	Baravore Car Park, Glenmalur	Installation of enhanced car parking at Baravore and repair to trial surfaces in the vicinity of the car park.	220,000.00	20,000.00	22,000.00	198,000.00	Amenity upgrade
2	3	This is an upgrade/extension to an existing amenity	Pat Dillon, Tom Hennessy, Coillte	Tinahely New Loop	An additional spur to the much loved Tinahely Looped Walks taking in Coolafunshogue, Curranavish and Ballyshonog, a route totalling 10km on return to Tinahely village.	220,000.00	19,800.00	22,000.00	198,000.00	Amenity upgrade
3	1	It is an area of vital importance for sustainable recreation and this project delivers a viable, wide reaching solution in an appropriate manner.	Coillte, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Co Wicklow Partnership, Dublin Mountains Partnership	Responsible Recreation Media Campaign	Creation of a media campaign promoting responsible outdoor recreation into the main stream, using well loved Irish celebrities and appropriate, popular distribution channels.	480,350.00	50,000.00	48,035.00	432,315.00	New amenity



**Healthy Wicklow**

**Disco Yoga**

Disco Yoga is a unique yoga class inspired by those who simply want fitness to be fun and uplifting but also looking for a new way to unwind and socialise. Due to demand, it will continue every Tuesday up to the 19<sup>th</sup> December in Our Space, Rathnew.

**Ladies Strength & Conditioning Programme**

A targeted ladies only strength & conditioning programme commenced on 9<sup>th</sup> November in St Coen's National School and will continue every Thursday until Christmas. 20 ladies are currently participating in this programme.

**Junior Pickleball**

Junior Pickleball commenced on 10<sup>th</sup> November for 5 weeks for 8–11 year olds. 24 children have signed up for the junior pickleball with an additional hour added due to increasing popularity.



## Sláintecare Healthy Communities

- Calisthenics equipment was due to be installed in Ballywaltrim Playground, Bray, during the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> November.
- On 30<sup>th</sup> November, the Under 12 Mental Health Committee presented their proposal for the Bray Children’s Wellbeing Pilot. The pilot involves provision of play therapy and family case management through the community preschool services and the Bray Traveller Community Development Project. The project is unique in that it is the first time these supports will be available directly through early years services. The presentation event was made to multiple stakeholders including Healthy Ireland, HSE Health and Wellbeing, HSE Social Inclusion, Tusla, CYPSC, and the Bray Drugs Task Force. The aim is to secure support for the project, both through funding and expertise.

## Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

### **I Coach Girls programme**

30 girls aged between 5 and 11 years are attending physical activity session in The Colour Club Arklow for a 10-week programme. The programme is delivered by Head coaches Rachel Tyrrell and Siobhan Jones. ICOACHGIRLS aims to promote and increase physical activity and sport amongst primary school age girls through the creation of “Girls Play Centres” in their local communities across six different pilot programmes in Ireland. The centres will be aimed at girls that have never taken part in organised sport or that have tried and dropped out.



### **Learn to Cycle – Halloween Camp – Greystones**

Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership delivered a 3 day Learn to Cycle camp in Greystones over the Halloween Mid-term break. Collaborating with the HSE Children Disability Network Teams to target children with a disability to take part. This programme is also funded by CYPSC and Healthy Ireland. There were 13 participants in this programme.





**Training & Education**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<b>Safeguarding 1</b>	3 Hours Online	10 <sup>th</sup> October	13 Attendees
<b>Autism in Sport</b>	2.5hr online workshop	8 <sup>th</sup> November	10 Attendees

**County Wicklow Library Service**

**Healthy Ireland at your Library**

Wicklow County Council Library Service continues to host Healthy Ireland Events, to emphasise the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, especially in addressing age-related muscle loss. The significance of eating healthily and staying active is well known but putting it into practice can be a challenge.

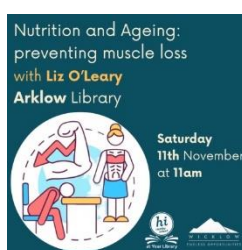
To promote overall well-being, Wicklow County Council Library Service held Yoga sessions at Wicklow Town Library on November 21st and 28th. The focus was on Adult Chair Yoga, led by the wonderful Louise. Tailored specifically for older adults, this session offered a chance to experience the remarkable benefits of chair yoga.

As part of the #HealthyIreland at your library program, the library also featured Liz O'Leary, a registered dietitian, in a talk about 'Eating Well for Menopause.' Liz brings her expertise and a particular interest in how diet can play a supportive role in women's health.

So, whether you're exploring the benefits of chair yoga for physical well-being or gaining insights into maintaining a healthy diet during menopause, these activities are part of our commitment to fostering a healthy community. Wicklow County Council Library Service strives to provide engaging and informative events that empower individuals to make positive lifestyle choices. Join us on this journey towards better health and well-being!



# NOVEMBER 2023



## Arklow Library Events

Exciting activities continue at Arklow Library, providing a welcoming space for families and caregivers of children with additional needs.

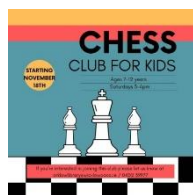
Join the All Kinds of Amazing group on the last Wednesday of each month, starting this Wednesday at 10 am. The library, with its wheelchair and buggy-friendly setup, invites you to bring a cuppa and enjoy a friendly chat. This month the local Samaritan group will provide a special guest speaker.

For the little ones, 'Mini-Movie Time' takes happens every Friday at 4 pm until February 2024. With films suitable for young children and complimentary popcorn, it's a delightful way to spend an afternoon at the library.

The fun doesn't stop there – 'Go Games' unfolds every Tuesday from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Families are welcome to drop by for some family-friendly gaming fun. No needs to book in advance; just show up and enjoy the games!

Calling all young chess enthusiasts! Arklow Library launched its Children's Chess Club every Saturday from 3 to 4 pm, which started on November 18th.

Additionally, the library offers a fantastic Lego Club on the first Saturday of every month from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Geared towards children and their parents or caregivers, this all-inclusive club promises creativity and building fun. Be sure to secure your spot by booking in advance through a call to 0402 39977 or via email at [arklowlibrary@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:arklowlibrary@wicklowcoco.ie).



## NOVEMBER 2023



### Ballywaltrim Library

Exciting activities are in full swing at Ballywaltrim Library, offering a diverse range of opportunities for community engagement.

Every Wednesday during the school term, young minds aged 7 to 17 are invited to participate in CoderDojo – a free, volunteer-led computer club, which started November 22<sup>nd</sup>. From coding to website building and app or game creation, CoderDojo provides a safe, creative, and social space for tech exploration.

Fostering creativity in children, a workshop led by Nicola Sedgwick, artist and author of *You Too Can Draw*, took place on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Kids aged 5 and above explored imaginative ways through drawing, colouring, and words. The workshop includes learning to draw shapes, shading, creating realistic and cartoon characters, and even composing a short, fun poem to illustrate.

The library is held an arts & crafts session to celebrate Diwali on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, at 3 pm. Children aged 5 and above joined in the festivities, engaging in creative activities to mark the Festival of Lights.



### Baltinglass Library Events

Artist and printmaker Susie Fortune from White Doodle Workshops hosted a tote bag and block printing workshops in Baltinglass and on Saturday, November 18.

Attendees explored basic wooden block printing effects to create and design their own printed cotton t-shirts.

Olha, with her weekly crafting initiatives, enhances the artistic offerings in Baltinglass. The upcoming session focuses on crafting exquisite handmade Christmas cards, showcasing the diverse range of activities available to the community.

In addition to these creative pursuits, the community in Baltinglass has other opportunities for social and intellectual engagement. Every Tuesday, an English Language Conversation session provides a relaxed setting for those learning English as a second language to practice and converse. The informal nature of these gatherings encourages everyone to participate, fostering a supportive environment for language development.

Jack Lynch leads YARN storytelling sessions tailored for adults, creating a space for captivating narratives and shared experiences.

# NOVEMBER 2023



Creative Writing Group met on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> of November and will continue to meet the last Saturday of each month until further notice.



## Blessington Library

The Oldcourt Duo will be in Blessington Library on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of December at 11.00. Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy some traditional music!

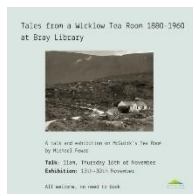
The Poetry Circle met on Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is a regular session and there is no requirement to be a poet, you can bring a poem of your own to read or any poem that appeals to you. This month's theme is Winter so bring along a winter themed poem of your own or by someone else.



## Bray Library

Bray Library hosted the exhibition and talk. "Tales from a Wicklow Tea Room" is the story of a tiny cottage in Glenree in the Wicklow Mountains and the tearoom run there by the McGuirk family, which gained a remarkable reputation between the 1880s and the 1960s. Over this most formative period in Irish history, the cottage became a meeting place for poets, artists, writers, scientists, politicians, lawyers, and indeed, representatives of every aspect of Irish society, including some of early-twentieth-century Ireland's most influential people, where they could relax over a cup of tea. Arthur Griffith, Robert Lloyd Praeger, John Millington Synge, Ellen Duncan, Denis Devlin, Mervyn Wall, Constantia Maxwell, Oliver St John Gogarty, Hugh Lane, William Beckett, and Ella Webb are among the host of visitors. Features: photos, drawings, and signatures". The exhibition took place from the 13th of November - the 30th of November.

A Christmas Wreath workshop with Festina Lente will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 3 pm., this is a fantastic opportunity to make a beautiful sustainable wreath to decorate your home.



## Enniskerry Library Events

Enniskerry Library is buzzing with excitement and a variety of engaging activities in the pipeline for the upcoming weeks and months.

Renowned storyteller Nuala Hayes recently enchanted a large audience with a captivating storytelling session for families. The warmth and magic of her tales resonated with the crowd, creating an unforgettable experience for both young and old.

On Friday, November 24th, Enniskerry Library is hosted a unique Teddy Bear Sleepover. Children were invited to bring their teddy bears, leave them for an overnight adventure in the library, and return home.

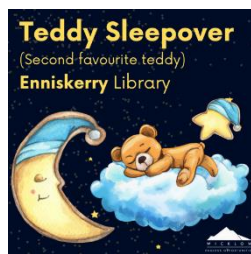
Every Tuesday at 11:30 am, the library hosts a Chess Club for Adults. Whether you're a seasoned player or a beginner, this club welcomes chess enthusiasts of all levels to come together for strategic and social gameplay.

Calling all craft enthusiasts! Every Wednesday, the library hosts a Crochet for Beginners session. Everyone is welcome to join, learn the art of crochet, and connect with fellow crafters in a friendly and supportive environment.

Every Saturday at 10:00 am, the library invites children to enjoy a delightful Storytime session. Immerse young minds in the enchanting world of stories, fostering a love for reading and imagination.

For mystery lovers, the Murder Mystery Bookclub meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 11:00 am. It's an inclusive gathering where participants can discuss thrilling tales of suspense and crime.

Enniskerry Library is not just a place for books; it's a vibrant community hub offering diverse activities for all ages and interests. Come, explore, and be a part of the enriching experiences waiting for you!



## Greystones Library

Storyteller Simone Schuemmelfeder brought the art form of storytelling in the Greystones Library on Tuesday 21st November.

## NOVEMBER 2023



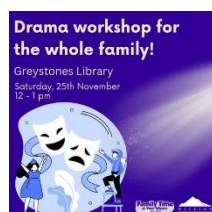
For families looking for a fun and bonding experience, a Drama Workshop was held on 25th of November.

Family Bingo was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Parents, grandparents, and children enjoyed a morning filled with entertainment, laughter, and the anticipation of winning exciting prizes.

Lourda Scott Green and Barbara Greenthread hosted another Christmas Jumper Swap Shop Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Print your own T-shirt/Tote Bag with artist and printmaker Susie Fortune from @WhiteDoodleWorkshops at Greystones Library on Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>. Come along, have some fun and learn some beginner block printing techniques in this creative workshop.

We will explore multiple basic wooden block printing effects and use them to create and design your own printed cotton T-shirt. Each participant will come away with their own T-shirt/Tote and better understand the basic principles of woodblock printing.



### Wicklow Town Library

Wicklow Town Library is gearing up for an array of diverse and engaging events that promise to captivate and connect the community.

#### Junkers 52 Plane Crash Talk on Djouce Mountain – Talk with Bill Nelson

On Saturday, December 2nd, aviation enthusiast Bill Nelson took to the stage to unravel the mysteries of the Junkers 52 plane crash in Djouce Mountains. This talk was a fascinating exploration of history and a unique opportunity to delve into the events surrounding this historical incident.

#### Family Bingo

Family Bingo Night was held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. This event was for all ages, creating an atmosphere of friendly competition and shared enjoyment.

#### Irish Language Conversation Group

On Thursday, December 25th, from 3 to 4 pm, the library becomes a hub of Irish language enthusiasts as the Irish Language Conversation Group convenes. It's a welcoming space for language learners and speakers to come together, fostering a sense of community and shared language exploration.





## **Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):**

Tendering process for the new 2024-2028 contracts continues. A negotiation process with the tenderers has recently concluded and it is envisaged that contracts will be finalised and signed before end December to ensure the new programme commences on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.

Current SICAP contract 2018-2023 continues to be successfully implemented across the county by Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership in supporting those most disadvantaged, namely long-term unemployed, those living in disadvantaged areas, lone parents, people with disabilities, Travellers, those with low educational attainment etc.

## **Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN):**

Consultations: WCC Climate Action Plan, Blessington Town Centre First Plan, South East Fisheries Local Action Group Strategy, Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway, All Ireland Coast watch Survey, Bright Light Blueway Information evening, National Strategy for Migrant Integration, Literacy Friendly Sector Survey.

Training Opportunities: Social Media for Community Groups, Charities Regulator Governance Code, GDPR Achieving & Maintaining, Get Creative with Canva, Introduction to Motivational Interviewing, Dealing with Financial Institutions as a Nonprofit Organisation.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: National Integration Funding, LAWPRO Community Water Development Fund, WCC Tree Grant, Biodiversity Fund, Climate Energy Fund, Life Programme Grants, St. Stephen's Green Trust Traveller Accommodation Small Grants, Trinity School of Education/Leavers Climate Action Project, Supervalu Tidy Towns 2024 Fund.

PPN Membership is currently at 420 groups from across the county.

See [www.countywicklowppn.ie](http://www.countywicklowppn.ie) and Wicklow PPN Facebook page for further information on above and more.

## **Economic Development, Planning, and Infrastructure**

### **1. Economic Development**

#### **Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2029**

The Local Economic and Community Plan Framework (LECP) was approved by the elected members of Wicklow County Council and the first two-year implementation plan is currently being finalised.

#### **Town Regeneration**

##### **Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan**

Blessington is a pathfinder town and is the first to receive funding for a Town Centre First Masterplan. Luc Consultants have been awarded the contract to develop the Masterplan which is expected to be complete by mid-November. The Masterplan will provide Blessington with a clear framework to positively develop the town now and into the future.

On Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> October a public consultation and exhibition took place in Blessington Library. Members from the design team MKO were present to answer any questions from the public along with members of the Town Regeneration Team and Blessington Town Team. The exhibition was open for a week which allowed the public to come and view the exhibition and give their views and ideas.

##### **Blessington Town Team**

A working group made up of members of the Blessington Town team has been established to oversee the implementation of the Town First Policy.

##### **Arklow Town Team**

The Town Team have received additional funding for the Arklow Pottery Website, which has now been extended to include more stories and experiences from pottery staff along with photographs of Arklow pottery pieces. The reprint of the Pottery Trail brochure has now been completed.

The Town Team in collaboration with Arklow Tidy Towns and Arklow Coastcare have produced signage to display around the South Quay and South Beach area to encourage visitors to the water ways to remove at least three pieces of plastic.

An open day event will be held in the New Year to attract new members as well as showcase the work and projects completed by the Team since its inception.

### **Bray Town Team**

A meeting took place recently between Urban Mode and the Town Team Steering Group to further discuss the establishment of a Bray Town Team.

### **Greystones Town Team**

“Christmas in Greystones” begins on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and the “Christmas Plaza Market” will open every weekend up to Christmas.

The Sustainable Greystones team will have representatives attending the National Street Feast 2024 organisers in a seminar in LinkedIn to explain the Greystones template to other communities nationally.

### **Wicklow Town Team**

The Wicklow Murals – South Quay Connectivity Project: All six murals have been painted and public feedback has been fantastic. As part of this project the committee has commissioned Wicklow artist, Emma Jane Rushworth to create a Wicklow Heron sculpture which will be placed at South Quay (beside the Scouts Hall) overlooking the Quays.

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

### **Steering Group for the Progression of URDF and RRDF Projects**

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

**Blessington RRDF:** Blessington has been awarded over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) to be used for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a vacant/derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway.

**Baltinglass RRDF:** The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow have come in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the



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

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

### **URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund**

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

**Bray Harbour Improvements:** Work has commenced on preparing tender documents for the procurement of engineering consultancy services for the purpose of producing detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for the proposed improvement works at Bray Harbour. The tender will be issued when the URDF funding has been confirmed for the next phase of the project.

### **Tourism**

**Social Media Campaign:** McKennaCreative has been engaged to run an extensive social media campaign from mid-October to the end of the year. The campaign started off with the Halloween festivities around Wicklow and has now moved into 'Christmas in Wicklow', highlighting events and activities taking place during the holiday season.

**EcoTrail Wicklow:** Wicklow County Council through EcoTrail Wicklow was invited by Failte Ireland to travel to the Festival des Templiers in the Occitanie region in the South of France. The Templiers Festival is a three day event and is one of the largest trail running events in France, with 13,000 participants. The objective of the trip was to see the involvement of the local and regional tourism boards in such events. The trip will help improve EcoTrail Wicklow's festival atmosphere and develop Wicklow as a Trail Running destination.

### **Abbey Grounds, Wicklow**

Regular meetings continue to take place with the Project Management Team for the Abbey Grounds. A structural engineer and quantity surveyor has been appointed to progress the works on the Coach House/Café. Public lighting design, mechanical and electrical works for the project is advancing also. A detailed archaeological survey of the existing ruins is being carried out.

### **Wicklow County Campus Masterplan**

Wicklow County Council will use the Masterplan to act as a catalyst for economic development in the county and attract investment and further development. Expected delivery of the Masterplan is the end of January 2024.

### **Special Projects**

**Greystones Enterprise Centre:** The purchase of the Enterprise Space in Greystones is expected to be completed by mid-November.

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

**Carnew Remote Working Hub:** A tender has issued for the design of the former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew for the provision of a remote working hub and ancillary facilities.

**Marketing Plan:** It is expected that a consultant will be appointed before the end of 2023 to develop a Marketing Plan for County Wicklow, highlighting the availability of Remote Working Hubs and Broadband Connection Points.

### **Offshore Renewable Energy**

The Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Network continues to meet regularly and engage with the offshore renewable energy companies who are developing proposals off the coast of County Wicklow.

### **Skills Strategy**

The Draft Skills Strategy will be presented to the Skills Taskforce in November and is expected to launch early in 2024.

# NOVEMBER 2023



## **Food and Beverage Strategy**

Work continues on the development of an Action Plan to achieve objectives set out in the Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy.

OctoberFeast, a festival telling the story of Wicklow Naturally members, ran throughout October and proved a big success with well attended events.

The Wicklow Naturally co-ordinator contract has now ended. However, the team have plans in place to continue to promote the Wicklow Naturally brand and its objectives.

## **Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS)**

A Priming Grant of €199,600 was awarded to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG from Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS) for the provision of Design Services for a Food Incubation Development Hub at Wicklow County Campus.

LEO Objectives	
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.</li> <li>- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.</li> <li>- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.</li> <li>- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.</li> <li>- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland</li> <li>- Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral</li> </ul>	

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b>	-35/ €950,895		
- Measure 1	-8/ €12,829.95	- Meet Demand	25/ € 633,627
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters		- Meet Demand	2/ € 2,642
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			

METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	44	60	31
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	84 / 7 programmes	120	73
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	653	1200	715
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	8	20	22

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	498	500	436

# NOVEMBER 2023



Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	426	390	418
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<b>METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>Year to Date 23-24</b>
No. of Secondary Student Participants	900	1100	1028

<b>METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Year to Date 2023</b>
Number of Applications	Programme review	Programme review	Programme review

<b>Trading Online Voucher</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>No of Trading Online Vouchers approved</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Year to Date 2023</b>
Trading Online Vouchers	67 Total value: € 138,464	38 (meet demand)	73

<b>Lean, Green &amp; Digital Start for Micro Projects</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	11	11
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Micro Assessment by a Green Expert	9	17	5
No. of Companies who have undertaken a DigitalStart Assessment by a Digital Expert	4	6	1

<b>Microfinance Ireland</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	15	11	5

## NOVEMBER 2023



### October 2023 Events:

- Over 100 female entrepreneurs joined a celebration of National Women's Enterprise Day on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at Powerscourt House to listen to the inspirational stories of guest speakers Anna Daly, TV presenter and entrepreneur and Elaine Geraghty, CEO of Ardmore Studios.
- The official launch of Clermont Screen Hub took place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October. The Hub was officially opened by Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Minister Simon Coveney, Minister of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment and Minister Simon Harris, Minister of Further Education.

### November 2023 Activities

- Export Development Programme commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> November with 8 Wicklow based participants. This is a 2-month programme of 6 workshops and a number of one to one mentor sessions which will culminate in each participant having a Export Strategy for their business to start their internationalisation journey.
- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out several times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Business Advice Clinics continue to run 3 days per week to provide advice to those individuals hoping to start a business and to assist existing businesses grow and develop.

### Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Autumn/Winter Business and IT Skills training programme is ongoing. A wide range of core business skills training courses are on offer from September through to December. Courses are open for bookings through our online portal on [www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow](http://www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow).

Upcoming courses include:

- Cashflow Management 22/11/2023
- Effective Marketing for SMEs 28/11/2023
- One-to-One AI for Marketers (ChatGPT) Clinics 05/12/2023

## 2. Planning & Development

### Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

**Healthy Placemaking, Climate Action** and **Economic Opportunity** are the three overarching cross-cutting themes that inform and shape all aspects of the plan. The plan also includes the Core Strategy and the Settlement Strategy for the County. The plan also includes the **Town Plans** for the following settlements: - Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, Ashford, Aughrim, Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely, Avoca, Donard, Newcastle, Roundwood, Shillelagh and Laragh-Glendalough. The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 as altered is available to view here -

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

### Variation No. 1 to the CDP (Rathdrum Town Plan)

Variation No. 1 to the County Development Plan was adopted and came into effect on 06 November 2023. The variation is in relation to Rathdrum Town Plan and is to rezone 0.81ha of land at Ballygannon, Rathdrum, from 'RN – New Residential' to 'OS2 – Passive Open Space' and amend the written text of the Rathdrum Town Plan to reflect the changes consequent from the rezoning.

The proposed variation went on public display for a period of 4 weeks until 03 October 2023, with 9 Submissions received. A Chief Executive's report was prepared on the submissions received. This report was issued to the Elected Members for their consideration. All relevant documents are available online to view.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Variation-to-the-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

### Local Area Plans

Work is ongoing on the preparation on three new LAPs for '**Wicklow Town & Rathnew**', '**Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole**' and '**Blessington**'.

Pre-draft consultation closed for the new Wicklow Town & Rathnew Local Area Plan. Submissions were invited up to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and are currently being assessed. All valid submissions will be reviewed and considered and a draft plan prepared. Once the draft plan is prepared it will go out on public consultation for 6 weeks with submissions invited.

The team are at the data gathering and surveying stage and are in the process of preparing the online consultation web portal for the pre-draft consultations for Greystones – Delgany and Kilcoole as well as Blessington. It is intended to start pre-draft plan public consultation for Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole and Blessington in Q4 2023.

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the three LAPs and they have commenced their preliminary work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

The current LAP's for these three settlements, as well as the Arklow LAP and Bray MD LAP are available to view here <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans>

### RZLT – Residential Zoned Land Tax

By Circular letter NRUP 02/2023 the Minister has advised that the first liability date for the tax is proposed to be deferred from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025. The deferral is only to delay the liability for the tax, and final maps will still be required to be published on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 and updated in 2024 and 2025.

The intention of the proposed deferral as announced in Budget 2024 is to allow a further opportunity for landowners to engage with the mapping process in 2024 and to make representations regarding rezoning after publication of the draft map on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

This proposed deferral will provide time for the adoption of local area plans and the removal of rezoned land prior to publication of a final map on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

### **Vacant Site Levy**

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

More information can be found online at the following link <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax>

### **Heritage & Biodiversity Office**

#### **National Biodiversity Action Plan Funded projects**

**Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project:** €34,170 funding received. Project underway (conservation grazing and ecological monitoring). Community engagement programme running August- October. Butterfly identification workshop held 17<sup>th</sup> August, Dynamic Dune workshop on 16<sup>th</sup> September, Bird Migration field trip 30<sup>th</sup> September. Invasive species control scheduled October to December.

**County Wicklow Hedgerow survey** €20,000 funding received. Deborah D'Arcy ecology engaged. Final report due Q4.

**Woodland Monitoring** project (bats) €7,000; Project underway with Bat Conservation Ireland and NPWS staff. Final report due Q4.

**Wicklow Pond Restoration** project €20,000; Surveys at Clermont House & Mill Lane, Killincarrig.

**County Heritage Plan (CHP):** Funding allocation of €57,000 confirmed from The Heritage Council for the following actions in 2023:

- **Glendalough Community Excavation** and outreach: Community (Volunteer) excavation and programme of community engagement complete.
- **Wicklow Barn Owl Project:** Survey work largely complete
- **Seasonal nature workshops;** Programme of monthly, free, family friendly events at East Coast Nature. Next 'Hide & Seek' family events held Sat 16<sup>th</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> October

**Our Wicklow Heritage communications:** Wicklow Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) public open event held for Tinahely on 7<sup>th</sup> September whereby expressions of interest sought from Wicklow groups to join the network



**Community Archaeologist Part Time post.** De Faoite Archaeology engaged for 2023. Ongoing liaison with community groups from March to December. GIS database created to document Early Medieval Church Sites and Historic graves and headstones. Public talks held in Tinahely on 10<sup>th</sup> September and in Rathdangan on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Conservation Management of Council owned lands (Climate Action):** Conservation Management prescriptions and recommendations drafted in consultation with local stakeholders to increase the climate resilience of Council owned land at Bray Head and address recreational and other pressures. Presented at the Bray MD meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and officially adopted by members.

**Archaeology:** Community Monuments Fund- CMF 2023 is co-ordinated on behalf of Wicklow County Council by the Heritage Office. Applications received from private landowners, community groups, public authorities and other custodians of archaeological heritage. Five projects were approved for a total budget of €108,174 as follows; Drumgoff Barracks €5,000; Kilpipe Church and Graveyard €30,523; Newcastle Castle €29,982; West Wicklow Historic Graveyards €30,000; Derralossary Church and graveyard interpretation €12,669. All projects underway. Recoupments due 17<sup>th</sup> November.

**Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture):** The allocation for Wicklow under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) is €101,000 with 2 approved projects under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF)- Crusher House, Barravore (stream1) €35,000 and Cronroe Gardeners cottage (vernacular) €10,000.

## Development Management

### Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023	To 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	% difference
Received (Valid)	1193	1155	3.019%

A total of 115 valid applications were received during October as follows:

Type of Development	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023 Number Received
Individual Houses	20 (17 refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	07
Agricultural Structures	08
Commercial	05
Other Developments**	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>

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

## NOVEMBER 2023



### *Housing Developments*

PRR23/716, Dryslin Limited, 10 dwellings, Ballinacor East, Barndarrig, Co. Wicklow.

PRR23/60305, 13 dwellings, Westwings, Church Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

### **Large Scale Residential Development**

PRR23/756, Certain Assests of Dawnhill and Windhill Limited, 86 dwellings, Lands at Kilbride, Arklow Co. Wicklow

PRR23/60348, Ciaran and Simon Doyle, 46 Units, Sea Road, Lott Lane, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow

Decisions issued in respect of applications in October 2023

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	01
Individual Houses	02 (01 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	74
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>

Decisions issued to date January to October 2023

	<b>31/10/2023</b>
Total Number of decisions issued	850
Total Number of decisions to grant	714
% Grant Rate	84%

### **Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala**

#### **Strategic Housing Development**

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

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

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

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

### **Strategic Infrastructure Development**

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

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

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for proposed development primarily comprising of the provision of a new 110 KV substation with Gas Insulator Switchgear (GIS) technology and two 110kV underground transmission cables (connecting to existing 220kV overhead lines to the northwest of the proposed substation) along with associated and ancillary works at Bogland, Kish, Cooladangan, Ballintombay, Ballyroonaun and Ballynattin, Co. Wicklow – ABP to determine application without an oral hearing.

### **Substitute Consent**

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

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

## E-Planning Project.

The ePlanning system went live on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 with applications being submitted online almost immediately. Since going live **49.18%** of applications have been received online (789 received in total: 388 through eplanning and 401 hard copy). The month of September showed for the first time, online applications exceeding hard copy applications 53.03% to 46.97% and October increased to 55.73% applications received through the eplanning system.

## Planning Enforcement

New Files	7
Advisory Letters	35
Warning Letters	8
Enforcement Notices	2
Legal Files	0
Closed	14

## Short Term Letting – 01/10/23 – 31/10/23

Applications received for Registration in October 2023	2
Complaints received in October 2023	0
Warning Letters issued in October 2023	2
Enforcement Notices issued in October 2023	0
Legal proceedings in October 2023	0
Files under investigation as of 31/10/2023	55

## Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	1

## Vacant Sites

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

01 sites on appeal to ABP – Section 9 (Notice of Entry)

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

### 3. Environment

#### Litter/Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created	122
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	137
No of Litter Fines Issued	5
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	3
No. of Warning Letters Issued	4
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	12
No. of Burning Applications Granted	19
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	14
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	2
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	17
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	2
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	4
Income – Litter	€450.00
Income- Waste Management	€14,867.00

#### Climate Action

##### Climate Action Plan.

The draft Climate Action Plan was presented to full Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

##### Timeline for CAP

- Public Consultation commenced 3<sup>rd</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> November
- Drop In clinics
- Present to Climate & Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Group December
- Present to Corporate Policy Group January 2024
- Present to full Council for adoption January 2024

**Arklow Energy Awareness Day** An Energy Awareness Day was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September where Arklow SEC launched their Energy Master Plan.

### **Update on posts for the Climate Action Team**

Recruitment is underway for the following positions:

- Biodiversity Officer (applications closed)
- Environment Awareness Officer (advertised)

### **Mid-East Energy Unit**

The Mid-East Energy Unit Steering Group meeting took place in September in Clermont Campus followed by site visit of energy improvements and biomass heating system.

- A meeting was held with SEAI and CODEMA to discuss pilot project for swimming pool energy upgrades, separate meetings held with leisure centre operators in Kildare and Wicklow
- Ongoing energy review and collaboration with Wicklow, Kildare and Meath Energy Officers. Monitoring and Reporting review now completed for Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.
- Fortnightly meetings held with Energy Officers (Meath, Kildare & Wicklow), technical working group meetings also ongoing.
- ISO 50001 training ongoing for the 3 local authorities
- Participation in the final day of 3 day Manage Energy masterclasses for energy project financing. Presented Wicklow's Solar Car Park to 10 other European regions. .

### **Wicklow County Council Energy**

- SEAI ISO 50001 - Wicklow County Council has signed up to the SEAI ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme, a year-long programme which will allow the Council to apply for ISO 50001 accreditation and hosted the last meeting of the SEAI ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme. The Energy Team completed day 8 & 9 in Sligo and is preparing for the final day 10 in December, working with appointed ISO mentor on action plan. Currently tendering for 3 year certification process.
- The Energy Office is currently working with its energy partners CODEMA to develop a pipeline of projects to reach our 2030 targets. Targeting large energy users across the council's building stock.
- Meeting held with Coral Leisure & Shoreline Leisure, presentation made on energy and carbon targets to 2030/2050 and challenge of decarbonising the swimming pools. Currently preparing feasibility studies on leisure centre upgrades.
- Tender issued for the Decarbonising project for Bray Fire Station, tender process currently ongoing.
- Updating Energy Elephant to include all energy users

### **Environmental Awareness**

An adaption of the "Freshwater Detective" training (developed as part of the East Wicklow Rivers Trust's Small Streams Characterisation Programme) will be held in Ballyraine café in Arklow on 6<sup>th</sup> November and will be attended by students from Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir. This training is facilitated by the Environmental Awareness Office and the Community Water officer from LAWPRO.

The last of the scheduled bicycle repair and maintenance workshops organised by the Environmental Awareness office and delivered by an instructor from the Bray Wheelers cycling club will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, bringing the total number of workshops completed to seven. More workshops may be scheduled depending on demand, as they have proved to be popular.

Tidy Towns awards have judged, and awards are being finalised during the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> November. Awards are allocated in multiple categories.

The 2GoCup scheme, funded as part of the Green Hubs initiative, has now been replicated in Blessington (four outlets) and is currently being rolled out in Dunlavin. It is hoped that this will continue to gain traction in communities throughout the county.

A final promotional push is underway to bring more schools into the 2023 Relove Fashion competition.

Annual tree grant applications are being processed and are currently with the relevant MDs for a review of planting locations.

The composting for school's programme has been launched for this academic year, with 12 schools already signed up, and potentially more to be added.

The Environmental Awareness Team is lining up school talks and renewal visits for the Green Schools Programme.

### **Pollution Control**

#### **Pollution Response & Investigation**

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

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

- 1 Verification inspection to confirm compliance with Advisory notice was carried out.

#### **Licensed discharges to Waters**

- 0 licence application for discharge to water was assessed and discharge licence was issued.
- 5 Licenced discharges to waters were monitored and deemed non-compliant and requested in writing to take corrective action.

#### **Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring**

- 31 River samples taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.

#### **Good Agricultural Practice Inspections**

- 9 Inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.
- 1 Inspection of farm carried out on foot of pollution complaint.

**Private Water Supplies**

- 31 Private water supplies monitored deemed compliant with drinking water limits
- 1 Private water supplies deemed non-compliant and requested in writing to address microbiological/chemical non-compliances.
- 0 Boil water/Do not consume restrictions placed on private water supplies
- 4 Boil water /Do not consume restrictions lifted from private water supplies after remedial actions and compliant verification testing were undertaken.

**Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme**

- 9 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 28 Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.

**Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations**

- 1 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.
- **Well Grants**
- 8 New Water Grant applications received
- 1 New Well granted
- 6 New Pumps granted
- 10 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 11 inspections in advance/completion of works

**Petrol Vapour Recovery Regulations**

- 0 Stage II Petrol Vapour Recovery pump installation issued with certificate of testing.
- 1 Stage I Petrol Vapour Recovery underground tank applications assessed.
- 0 Stage II Petrol Vapour Recovery pump installation was inspected.
- 0 Stage I Petrol Vapour Recovery underground tank were inspected.

**Deco Paint Solvent Regulations**

- 3 Vehicle refinisher installations inspected.
- 1 Vehicle refinisher installations issued with letter.
- 1 Dry Cleaner installations issued with certificate of compliance.

**Planning & Development**

- 7 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural, commercial and forestry development.
- 1 compliance checks on conditions relating to existing permissions

**Harbours and Ports**

**Harbour Projects**

<b>Arklow Harbour</b>	<b>Grant Available</b>	<b>Project Update</b>
Inner Harbour Arklow pontoon	€286,355	Installation commenced 8th November



South Quay Arklow Storage facilities	€391,025	Work is ongoing on site. Approx build time 3 months.
Arklow Harbour welfare facilities	€100,000.00	Unit to be installed in mid November
<b>Wicklow Harbour</b>		
Wicklow Harbour Navigation aids	€50,000	This project is completed. The lighthouse will also be repainted in the coming months.
South Quay Wicklow Harbour pontoon	€52,000	Installation is complete
North Quay, Wicklow - additional quay space	€120,000.00	Works are underway to be completed mid December
Wicklow Harbour - concrete works	€150,000	Works completed on surface of Packet Pier. Concrete pumped into West (new) Pier to repair damage under water level. Project Completed.
Wicklow - welfare facilities	€100,000	The unit has been delivered. Currently being commissioned. Some site works remaining to be completed.

**Wicklow Lighthouse – Wicklow Harbour Navigation Aids Project**

The copper dome, an iconic structure, was reinstated on top of the lighthouse recently, following a major restoration job by Arklow Marine Services on behalf of Wicklow County Council.

The original copper dome dating back to 1884 disappeared in a winter storm in 1976. It was retrieved by local fishermen and divers and was stored in a boatyard on the seafront up until it closed in the eighties.

This heritage restoration project was welcomed and received great publicity, both locally and nationally.

**Harbour Movements**

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-23	7	4	3	10	7	3
Feb-23	9	6	3	12	7	5
Mar-23	7	5	2	9	6	3
Apr-23	7	6	1	8	6	2

## NOVEMBER 2023



May-23	7	5	2	9	6	3
Jun-23	5	4	1	6	4	2
Jul-23	8	4	4	11	7	4
Aug-23	8	7	1	9	8	4
Sep-23	8	4	4	12	8	4
Oct 23	9	7	2	11	7	4
2023 Total	75	52	23	97	66	34

### Dogs

During the month of October 2023, 352 dog licences were renewed, 335 general and 17 lifetime. 332 reminders were sent out for licences due to expiry circa November 2023.

A campaign to ensure all dogs are licenced will be commencing in the coming weeks, with Dog Wardens carrying out inspections in areas in north of the county.

### Horses

No horses were seized during the month of October, and no horses are currently being held on behalf of Wicklow County Council.

### Blue Flag/Green Coast Awards

Preparation meetings have taken place in respect of applying for Blue Flag/Green Coast awards for 2024. Closing date for submission of applications is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

## Projects Office

### Whitestown Remediation Project

The draft remediation plan has been presented to the court and has been approved in part. Preparation of the tender documents is on hold pending Court hearing.

### Avoca Mines Remediation Project

The Council is working in Partnership with DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project

### Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Planning Application and CPO approved by ABP and currently awaiting approval from OPW to move to the next stage of the project and appoint Byrne, Looby Partners Ltd. to carry out the detailed design and tender stage of the project. Tender has been published for an archaeological underwater survey.

### Coastal Protection

Wicklow County Council continues to reduce and manage the risk of flooding in developed areas by cooperating with other agencies in implementing government policy in respect of the management of Coastal and Fluvial Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion Risk

It is a priority of Wicklow County Council to work in conjunction with Irish Rail on the East Coast Coastal Erosion Study (ECRIPP East Coast Railway Infrastructure Protection Project) and seek funding from OPW as appropriate

Wicklow County Council has tendered for consultants to carry out a Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study for Brittas Bay and Ennereilly Beaches with a closing date of 01<sup>st</sup> Dec. Applications for funding is also being progressed for the following:

- Brittas Bay and Ennereilly Beaches (Funding submitted to OPW)
- Arklow North Beach (Communicating with OPW re-funding)
- Wicklow (The Murrough) with Irish Rail as a lead.
- Brittas Bay Dune Management Coastal Zone Management Plan

## Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

### 1. Transportation

#### Transportation

##### Public Lighting Maintenance

The tender for the maintenance of public lighting in Co. Wicklow has been issued, and the tenders are currently being assessed. A new PL maintenance contract will be in place by the end of November.

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **323 – 2.11%** of total stock of 15,334. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we are currently drawing up a program with the ESB to repair these faults. For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults over the previous weeks.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	7	3	9	2	1	22
Cable Fault (Attended)	2	1	2		4	9
ESB Interface Required	5	3	13	9	4	34
ESB Required (Attended)	10	13	12	15	12	62
Knock Down (Attended)						0
Materials Required		4	4		1	9
No Supply		1	1	1		3
On Hold	8	4	8	2	7	29
Submitted	31	20	50	19	26	146
TMR		1				1
Tree Cutting Required	1	4	1		2	8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>323</b>
<b>Percentage Not Working</b>	<b>2.10%</b>	<b>2.23%</b>	<b>2.96%</b>	<b>1.71%</b>	<b>1.55%</b>	<b>2.11%</b>

<b>Date</b>	<b>23/10/2023</b>	<b>06/11/2023</b>	<b>13/11/2023</b>
Access Issues (Attended)	17	21	22
Cable Fault (Attended)	7	7	9
ESB Interface Required	35	36	34
ESB Required (Attended)	62	61	62
Knock Down (Attended)	0	0	0
Materials Required	8	9	9
No Supply	3	3	3
On Hold	24	29	29
Submitted	130	142	146
Traffic Management Required	2	1	1
Tree Cutting Required	8	8	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>323</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE NOT WORKING</b>	<b>1.94%</b>	<b>2.07%</b>	<b>2.11%</b>

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

The survey element of the above project commenced on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November in Arklow MD. This is the initial phase of the project, and the fitting of lanterns will follow on in due course.

**Speed Limits**

The speed limit signage is currently being erected by each Municipal District throughout the County. The tender for the periodic speed limit signs at school was won by PWS Signs Ltd. and have commenced their work, with the signs due to be erected by Christmas.

**Parking Income**

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	<b>885,026</b>
Greystones Municipal District	<b>255,767</b>
Wicklow Municipal District	<b>351,848</b>
Arklow Municipal District	<b>194,163</b>
Parking Permits	<b>79,620</b>
Parking Fines	<b>421,166</b>
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	<b>2,187,590</b>

## Transportation Statistics

	Total 2021	Total 2022	Total 2023	September 2023	October 2023
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	923	838	872	96	91
<b>Road closure applications</b>	53	78	36	4	3
<b>Road Opening licences</b>	1575	1414	1747	119	68
<b>Abnormal Load applications</b>	54	60	44	3	6

### M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website [www.n11m11.ie](http://www.n11m11.ie) on 14 December 2021. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in 2021. Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation was due to commence in Q1 2022. The scheme is currently suspended as no funding was provided to continue during 2022 or 2023. The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet with the public and any interested parties.

### M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

A non-statutory public display on the emerging preferred options for sections A and C took place in November 2022. Following further analysis, an emerging preferred option for the provision of bus priority measures between Junction 6 (Fassaroe) and Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) have now been identified. A Public Display event was held in the Glenview Hotel on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The display presented the overall preferred option for the BPIS between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview). The public display documents are available to view on the project website [www.n11m11bpis.ie](http://www.n11m11bpis.ie). The deadline for receipt of Submissions on the emerging preferred option has closed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023. The Project Team are now considering the submissions received.

### N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment for the 7 no residential properties to the east of the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The options review and design commenced in March 2023 following confirmation of funding from TII. Site investigation works were completed on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023. This information is necessary to inform the final design option selected and is currently under review by the Design Team.

### N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

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

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

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

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

The Phase 2 Options Selection work is currently progressing under TII's Project Management Guidelines.

### N81 Pavement Capital Works

Resurfacing works of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove is expected to be carried out in 2023.

### N81 Rural Traffic Calming & Bus Stop at Hollywood

The Feasibility and Options report is being finalised for submission to TII for approval and funding to proceed to the design stage.

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

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

TII have indicated that they do not support the proposed additional access to the N81. As a result, the option for a parking facility accessed from the N81 has been discounted from the current scheme. A way forward is to consider suitable parking locations that can be accessed from the regional/local road network.

### **N11 Pavement Resurfacing Works**

N11 surfacing works between junctions 7 and 16 will be carried out by the N11 maintenance contractor over the period from May to September 2023. Surfacing works have been between Junction 5 and Junction 7 on the M11 southbound and northbound were completed during September and October 2023. These works were carried out at night to minimise traffic disruption.

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

Proposals for bus based Park & Ride facilities are being progressed adjacent to the N11/M11 at Junctions 6, 11 and 16. A part 8 for the Park and Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe commenced on Wednesday 23rd August 2023 with plans and documents on public display until Wednesday 20th September 2023. Submissions or observations were accepted on or before 12 noon on Wednesday 4th October 2023. The Chief Executives report was presented to the full council meeting of Wicklow Co. Co. on the 6th November 2023 where it was passed following a vote by the councillors.

### **Arklow Public Realm**

The Parade Ground Public Realm works have reached a significant milestone, with substantial completion and successful snagging. Currently, the project is in the 12-month defects period, during which any necessary remedial works are addressed. The contractor has approached the conciliator to discuss the appointment and agree on a mutually acceptable timeline for the resolution of any remaining issues. David O'Leary MKM Dispute Resolution appointed as conciliator. Conciliation meeting took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October, final settlement agreement confirmed. Meeting with URDF, DoHLGH regarding drawdown of additional funding.

### **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

A successful non statutory public consultation event was held on the emerging preferred route in September and October where more than 100 submissions were received. We are currently in the process of reviewing submission received as part of the public consultation process and are in the final stages of Phase 2 Options Selection, which will determine the preferred route for the Greenway before moving on to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation.

### **Baltinglass Town Centre Plan**

The consultants are actively engaged in preparing documents for the delivery of a revised tender package for the town centre works, focusing on a reduced scope. Simultaneously, they are conducting a value engineering exercise specifically targeted at this aspect of the project. The objective is to bring the scheme within the budget limits currently in place. Reduced scope town centre works presented at Baltinglass Municipal District meeting. Final tender package issued by Arup. The direct labour crew have met regarding the undergrounding of utilities to de-risk project. Setting out of services by direct labour crew has been carried out. Meeting took place with ESB, Eir, and Enerveo to check provisions for utilities Arup to make design changes to advance undergrounding.

### **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

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

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

The Notice to Treat was issued on all landowners in October 2023. Consultants are making steady progress in the detailed design phase and are currently focused on preparing the tender documents for the construction phase which are anticipated to be issued in December of 2023.

#### **Wicklow Greystones Greenway**

Wicklow County Council has recently engaged consultants Atkins for the project and their work is already in progress, focusing on data gathering. Additionally, the consultants are actively organizing detailed environmental surveys, which will play a vital role in shaping the route options and conducting constraint studies.

In April, a productive meeting took place with Irish Rail concerning the East Coast Rail Infrastructure Protection Project. During this meeting, an agreement was reached to facilitate the sharing of environmental data, fostering collaboration between the involved parties.

Meeting with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) took place in June. The meeting provided an opportunity to engage with the NPWS and discuss important aspects related to the project.

Atkins and Irish Rail consultants Jacobs are in communication regarding environmental surveys with a further joint meeting taking place in late August. Constraints Report has been finalised. Landownership maps are being completed. Stage 1 Route Corridor Assessment is being progressed. Draft public consultation material is being developed.

Independent agronomist appointed for the scheme.

#### **Blessington eGreenway**

Under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, we have formally submitted our planning documents to An Bord Pleanála. Given the need to conduct comprehensive additional surveys and generate a substantial volume of supporting material, An Bord Pleanála has agreed to extend the submission deadline to January 2024. We are diligently working on preparing our response to meet this revised deadline.

### **Active Travel Updates – October 2023**

#### **Completed Projects**

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

Provision of new footpath on Priory Road, Delgany linking the new Archers Wood and Eden Gate developments to Delgany village.

#### **Projects under Construction**

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

The construction of cycle and pedestrian facilities on the R-772 Dublin Road. The scheme involves construction of a footpath and segregated cycle facilities on the R-772 between the M11 Junction 11. The works are substantially completed with road resurfacing and cycle track surfacing works to be completed in November. There is a requirement for a utility Contractor to install cable ducting in the carriageway to facilitate a network of proposed solar farms in the area. WCC are unable to complete the remaining surfacing works until the cable ducting has been installed. The cable ducting works are scheduled to be completed by November 17th, and WCC have scheduled to commence the road resurfacing works after this. It is anticipated that all works on Arklow North will be completed by the end of November.

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

Provision of 2.8km of segregated cycle track along the R-772 Wexford Road, Arklow between Knockmore Roundabout and M11 Junction 21. The scheme will also construct 1.4km approx. of pedestrian footpath. Works continue to progress, with drainage and utility works on northbound carriage to be completed. Accommodation works have been completed on the southbound carriageway. Preparations will begin for slip form kerbing on the northbound carriageway.



### **Bellevue Junction Improvement works in Delgany (Greystones MD)**

Upgrading of the junction of the R-762 and Bellevue Hill. The project will improve pedestrian accessibility and safety and enhance village centre aesthetics by widening and landscaping the paved pedestrian areas, upgrading public transport facilities, undergrounding services, and upgrading public lighting. Surfacing to be completed.

### **Kilcoole Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements (Greystones MD)**

Provision of 500m of new footpath and 500m of cycle track along the R-761. Works are being progressed by the NTA deliverables team. Project nearing completion, with cycle track surfacing works to be completed.

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Front of school implementation works are substantially completed. Waiting on ESB power disconnection for signage. High friction surfacing has been completed.

### **Safe Routes to Schools: St. Johns Senior National School, Arklow (Arklow MD)**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Front of school implementation works are substantially completed. High friction surfacing works are contractor and weather dependent at this time of year.

### **Safe Routes to Schools: SS Michael and Peter Junior School (Arklow MD)**

Proposals to improve road safety and make the areas adjacent to the schools safer, so that children can be encouraged and facilitated to walk and cycle to the schools safely. Construction works are substantially completed. High friction surfacing works are contractor and weather dependent at this time of year.

## **Project Updates**

### **Bray Dart Interchange (Bray MD)**

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. Contract to be signed with Contractor. Legal agreements to be signed.

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

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle facilities along Marlton Road, Rocky Road, R-750 and Station Road to provide strategic routes to Wicklow Train Station. Baseline Assessment and Rapid Build Options Report to be prepared by DBFL and issued to NTA.

### **Greystones Active Travel - Pathfinder Project (Greystones MD)**

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to Greystones Train Station. The spine route extends from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Centre. The project will include improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Detail design of roundabout issued to NTA for approval to construction. Consultants to continue work on preliminary design of spine route.

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

Provision of improved pedestrian facilities and public realm improvements. Signed CE Part 8 report issued to Elected Members, to be discussed at the next District Meeting.

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

Provision of new pedestrian facilities and road safety improvements along the Ballyguilemore Road between Carrig View and the entrance to the proposed new St. Patricks GAA Pitch. The scheme includes for new footpaths and road widening works. Part 8 CE Report has been completed and issued to WMD elected members. Will be included on the agenda for the November WMD meeting. Ongoing consultation with landowners.

### **Convent Road (Greystones MD)**

Design and implementation of safety and accessibility improvements on Convent Road. Work to commence on preliminary design. Meeting held with Elected Members and design consultants to discuss options assessment report, further meeting to be held with Delgany Community Council following their objection to the conclusion of the report.

## Other News

The Active Travel team, along with Greystones Cathaoirleach Mark Barry and Cllrs. Derek Mitchell and Lourda Scott, were delighted to welcome Maaïke van Koldam, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Greystones on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, along with members visiting from the Dutch Cycling Embassy and colleagues from the National Transport Authority to present details of our Active Travel policies and to showcase both past, present and future Active Travel schemes within the district.



## **Bridge Rehab works**

The Bridge crew has completed repair and maintenance works at 13 bridges and another 2 have commenced in recent days.

The 2024 Works Plan has been sent to DTTAS for approval.

## **Machinery Yard**

Works continue on the maintenance of council vehicles, plant and machinery. Winter maintenance machines are currently out in the districts as the season started last month.

A consultant has been appointed to compile the licence application for Dangerous Substances (oil, fuel, etc.). All the relevant paperwork is currently being prepared.

## **Invasive Species (Japanese Knotweed)**

The contract to treat 110 sites on regional and local roads throughout the county is complete. The successful Contractor carried out the works and recording sites at the end of September. The list for next year has commenced with recording of queries from the public.

## **Winter Maintenance**

The season started on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October. 1 call out to date. Machinery Yard is finalising maintenance on some gritters. Winter Service Plan has been finalised and distributed to neighbouring authorities and agencies.

Salt supplies are currently being topped up from the national centres.

## DTTAS Funding Applications for 2024

Six applications for 2024 have been made in the past month.

- Community Involvement Schemes
- Bridges, Safety Improvement Works
- Former National Roads
- Speed Limit/Cycling Signs
- Climate Change measures

The deadline for payments and claims is due on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Work is ongoing with all staff to ensure payments are completed.

## Fire Service

### November 2023

#### Operational Fire Statistics October 2023

There were **147 incidents** attended during the month of October 2023. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **169 occasions** including **12** mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of October 2023 **increased by 43% (51 mobilisations) on the preceding month** (September 2023: 118 mobilisations). Most of this increase can be accounted for by the increase in bonfires and similar outdoor fires set maliciously in the run up to Halloween (monthly increase +35 incidents). There was also an increase in automatic fire alarm activations +7 (up from 21 to 28 in the month).

57% of incidents in Bray were bonfires, which represented 25% of all incidents across the county for the month.

Operational activity for the month of October 2023 **was down 11% (20 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2022** (October 2022: 189 mobilisations). There was a decrease in domestic fires (-12 mobilisations), a decrease in gorse fires (-7 mobilisations).

#### **Sample Incidents (October 2023)**

- 04/10/2023 Dunlavin and Baltinglass crews attended a single car RTC in Dunlavin with one casualty trapped in the vehicle.
- 05/10/2023 Tinahely and Carnew crews were alerted to a single vehicle RTC, car had overturned in a field on the R747 with an adult and infant trapped.
- 05/10/2023 Wicklow Town and Rathdrum crews attended a domestic house fire in Wicklow Town. The fire was contained to the kitchen.
- 17/10/2023 Greystones and Wicklow Town crews attended a fatal house fire in an isolated cottage on the Luggala estate near Lough Tay.
- 21/10/2023 Baltinglass and Dunlavin crews attended a 2 vehicle RTC at Redwells. Casualty with potentially serious injuries.
- 28/10/2023 Rathdrum, Dunlavin and Blessington crews attended an RTC in Glendalough. A campervan and car left the road and overturned. Two casualties trapped.

#### Incidents in County Kildare (7-incidents total) e.g.

- 16/10/2023 Dunlavin crew supported a crew from Athy at a domestic house fire in Crookstown.

## NOVEMBER 2023



- 23/10/2023 Blessington crew supported crews from Naas at an RTC at Punchestown Cross Roads.
- 28/10/2023 Baltinglass crew supported by crews from Carlow Town responded to a vehicle on fire in a shed in Broadstown.
- 29/10/2023 Blessington crew supported a crew from Newbridge at a domestic fire at Mountain View, Naas.

### Incidents in County Wexford (5-incidents total):

- 18/10/2023 Arklow crew attended a flooding incident at Scarnagh Lower, Coolgreaney.
- 21/10/2023 Arklow crew supported Gorey crew at a suspected house fire in Barnland.

### Fire Prevention Statistics October 2023

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	8	0	1	0	7
Revised FSCs	2	1	0	0	1
FSC 7-Day Notice	7	0	2	0	13
Regularisation FSCs	20	0	1	1	1
DACs	4	0	3	0	13
Revised DACs	1	0	2	0	1
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0	0	0

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 34 planning files during the month of October 2023.

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

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	9	3	1	11	8
Circuit	2				
Dangerous Substances Act	1	0	0	1	
Explosive Act	4			4	

### **Building Control Statistics October 2023**

#### **Commencement Notices for October 2023:**

Commencement Notices Submitted: 45

- 11 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 17 Opt Out Declarations
- 7 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 10 Seven Day Notice

## Submission Statistics

- 37 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 66 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 30 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
  - 10 are Compliance Documentation (33%)
  - 11 are Opt Out (37%)
  - 0 Without Compliance Documentation (0%)
  - 9 Seven Day Notice (30%)
- 32 Valid Commencement Notices
- 124 new build residential Units and additional 80 Apartments
- 10 Non Res new builds
- Invalidated CNs for October = 0

## Certificates of Completion processed in October 2023

- 29 New No. of CCC submitted
- 17 Required Revised Information
- 21 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 148 new Residential units
- 2 Non Res. Builds

## Submission Statistics

21 No. Validated CCCs related to;  
15 No. CCCs submitted in October 2023  
21 No. CCCs submitted in September 2023

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

124 new residential houses and 80 apartments were notified to LA for Commencement & 148 newly completed residential units plus 2 non-residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in September. BER certificates for all newly completed units were requested & submitted to Building Control as per S.I. No. 243/2012 - European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012.

5 No. 7 Day Commencement Notices for material change of use of existing commercial warehouses to be converted into Refugee Accommodation in Arklow were submitted in October. The proposed development is to provide accommodation for approximately 400 Refugees. The 5 Commencement Notices have not yet been validated and extensive Revised Information has been requested

Building Control continued with site inspections in October to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 4 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests were high in October for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 66% of Commencement Notice submissions & 58% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion

submissions required revised information. It should be further noted that some Opt Out Submissions are requiring 2 to 3 Revised information requests which results in submissions being assessed 2 to 3 times to ensure compliance prior to commencement.

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

In October, BC staff also attended an EPA CPD Day on National Radon Forum in Cork.

### **Civil Defence**

#### **Wicklow Hospice - Dip In the Nip**

Provided first aid and safety cover for Wicklow Hospice, Dip in the Nip charity fundraiser event on Greystones South Beach.

#### **Wicklow Youth - Positive Steps Wellness Walk**

Positive Steps Walk; students participating in the initiative will be invited to take part in a 5k "Positive Steps" walk to highlight the importance of Youth Mental Health. In line with the H.S.E's "little things" national campaign. Provided first aid & safety.

#### **Splash & Dash Adventure Race - Russborough House**

This all-terrain adventure race that covers a run, cycle and kayak over 3 different courses along the Blessington Greenway and surrounding area. Attendance profile, Competitive athletic participants. Civil Defence provided medical and safety cover.

#### **Walking Football Blitz - Age & Opportunity**

Walking Football Blitz scheduled in Shoreline Leisure in Bray. The event is open to older adults (aged 55+). Civil Defence provided first aid cover.

#### **Boo! For Barretstown**

Family Halloween walk around the grounds of Russborough House in Blessington, Co. Wicklow. Fancy dress kids and adults, attendance to the event in excess of 1000. Civil Defence Volunteers provided Medical Response and Safety Cover for the event.

#### **Missing Person Search, Mullinavat, Kilkenny**

Our Sonar operators and operational support crews assisted Kilkenny Civil Defence in a Missing Person Search in Mullinavat. RIP

#### **Cardiac First Response Advanced Course**

4 Volunteers attended

## Organisational Development & Financial Matters

### 1. HR & Corporate Services

The following interviews were held in October 2023:

- Temporary Executive Solicitor
- Assistant Staff Officer
- Integration Support Co-Ordinator
- Integration Support Worker

#### **Employee Numbers**

<b>Employee Numbers</b>	<b>Q4 2022</b>	<b>Q1 2023</b>	<b>Q2 2023</b>	<b>Q3 2023</b>
Managerial/Administrative	301	304	316	318
Professional/Technical	126	131	134	143
Outdoor	262	260	260	263
Temporary/Seasonal	37	35	68 *	64
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>793</b>

*\* Increase due to lifeguards (lifeguards retained for 1<sup>st</sup> week of Q3)*

#### **Freedom of Information Requests**

October 2023: 7	October 2022: 8
January - October 2023: 92	January - October 2022: 67

#### **Ombudsman Requests**

October 2023: 3	October 2022: 2
January – October 2023: 26	January – October 2022: 34

#### **Press Releases**

October 2023 - 11



**Register of Electors**

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

We are continuing with our weekly social media campaign. We also forwarded static images to TD's, Councillors and Senators to share on their social media platforms. Letters, forms and posters have issued to all transition, fifth and sixth year heads to encourage voter registration from 18 year olds and pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds. We have also liaised with all sports clubs in the county and requested that they put our media images on notice boards within the club facilities.

Wicklow County Council is the first local authority in Ireland to roll out the new software release of the new iReg database, having been involved in its development and testing and it is providing greater assistance in processing applications. This includes a quicker turnaround time and if there are queries regarding any aspect of the application we can contact the applicant much quicker to resolve any issues. This new system also provides for easier processing of applicants from other counties by automatically notifying the other local authority that the applicant has moved to Wicklow and to remove them from their database.

The Boundary Commission Report was issued at the end of August 2023 and we await the legalisation in relation to these changes.

**Customer Service Innovation Hub**

<b>Customer Service Innovation Hub</b>			
<b>2023 – October</b>			
<b>Communication</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Public Counters</b>	<b>Transactions</b>
No. of Phone Calls received to 0404 20100	10564	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1412
No. of Customer Service Emails received	1504	Revenue Transactions	1562
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	372	Housing Counter Visits	384



## 2. I.C.T.

### Operations

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 50 tickets a day this month, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- Deployment of devices is continuing, upgrading of hardware stock and new starts.
- Ongoing streamlining of relevant business processes.

### GIS & Systems Analysis

- **Local Area Plans** – Work has been completed on a consolidated LAP Geodatabase with a common data schema.
- **Greystones LAP Consultation Hub** – Consultation Hub is currently in draft form and ready to be published.
- The **RZLT** final dataset for submissions (2023) was submitted to the Department.
- Rollout of new ArcGIS Online and **ArcGIS Pro licences** to relevant staff.
- The **Proposed Variation No.1** (the Rathdrum Town Plan land use map) of the CDP 2022-2028 was prepared and adopted.

### Infrastructure

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

### Applications

- New parking fines system work nearly complete and ready for user acceptance testing.
- Keyhouse – Law's case management system updated to new cloud version.

### 3. Finance

#### Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st OCTOBER 2023							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	35,141,163	42,194,421	83%	(38,771,886)	(46,575,078)	83%	(3,630,723)
Road Transport & Safety	16,311,997	24,371,150	67%	(9,953,754)	(16,722,878)	60%	6,358,243
Water Services	4,186,131	5,649,853	74%	(4,941,996)	(6,606,528)	75%	(755,865)
Development Management	12,869,539	14,288,049	90%	(8,249,422)	(8,574,520)	96%	4,620,117
Environmental Services	10,925,197	13,559,916	81%	(1,295,248)	(2,628,049)	49%	9,629,949
Recreation and Amenity	7,341,840	8,984,450	82%	(759,364)	(1,085,428)	70%	6,582,476
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,474,370	2,106,287	70%	(614,227)	(1,049,228)	59%	860,143
Miscellaneous Services	7,598,088	9,728,355	78%	(10,930,940)	(13,260,436)	82%	(3,332,852)
Central Management Charges	17,976,315	21,746,281	83%	(851,259)	(1,050,000)	81%	17,125,056
Local Government Fund				(11,517,976)	(13,821,571)	83%	(11,517,976)
Commercial Rates				(26,067,475)	(31,405,046)	83%	(26,067,475)
	<b>113,824,639</b>	<b>142,628,762</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>(113,953,546)</b>	<b>(142,778,762)</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>(128,907)</b>

#### Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st October 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

#### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST OCTOBER 2023					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2023	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/10/2023
	€	€	€	€	€
	Housing and Building	17,814,239	76,889,570	(64,452,860)	(538,920)
Road Transport & Safety	(37,383,838)	8,913,901	(3,712,671)	(441,360)	(32,623,968)
Water Services	(13,023,496)	199,176	1,531,468	(157,640)	(11,450,492)
Development Management	(26,681,391)	529,516	(13,586,420)	(400,076)	(40,138,372)
Environmental Services	276,031	4,216,919	(2,771,477)	(551,250)	1,170,223
Recreation and Amenity	(2,034,378)	2,338,331	(491,256)	(322,587)	(509,890)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,040,366)	650,502	(251)	(294,424)	(1,684,538)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,515,300)	(2,933,807)	(854,266)	(420,509)	(14,723,882)
	<b>(73,588,498)</b>	<b>90,804,109</b>	<b>(84,337,732)</b>	<b>(3,126,766)</b>	<b>(70,248,887)</b>

**Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections**

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2023										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2023	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/10/2023	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
<b>Rates</b>	4,598,635	31,429,924	(32,122)	(526,200)	(41,897)	35,428,339	(26,963,766)	8,464,573	368,793	77%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	3,281,584	14,457,749	0	(31,918)	0	17,707,416	(14,368,376)	3,339,040	0	81%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	440,112	1,994,109	0	0	0	2,434,222	(2,160,144)	274,078	0	89%

**NB** Rates accrual represents full year accruals while rents and loans are accruals year to date. The rates collection, rent collection and housing loan collection percentages are below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

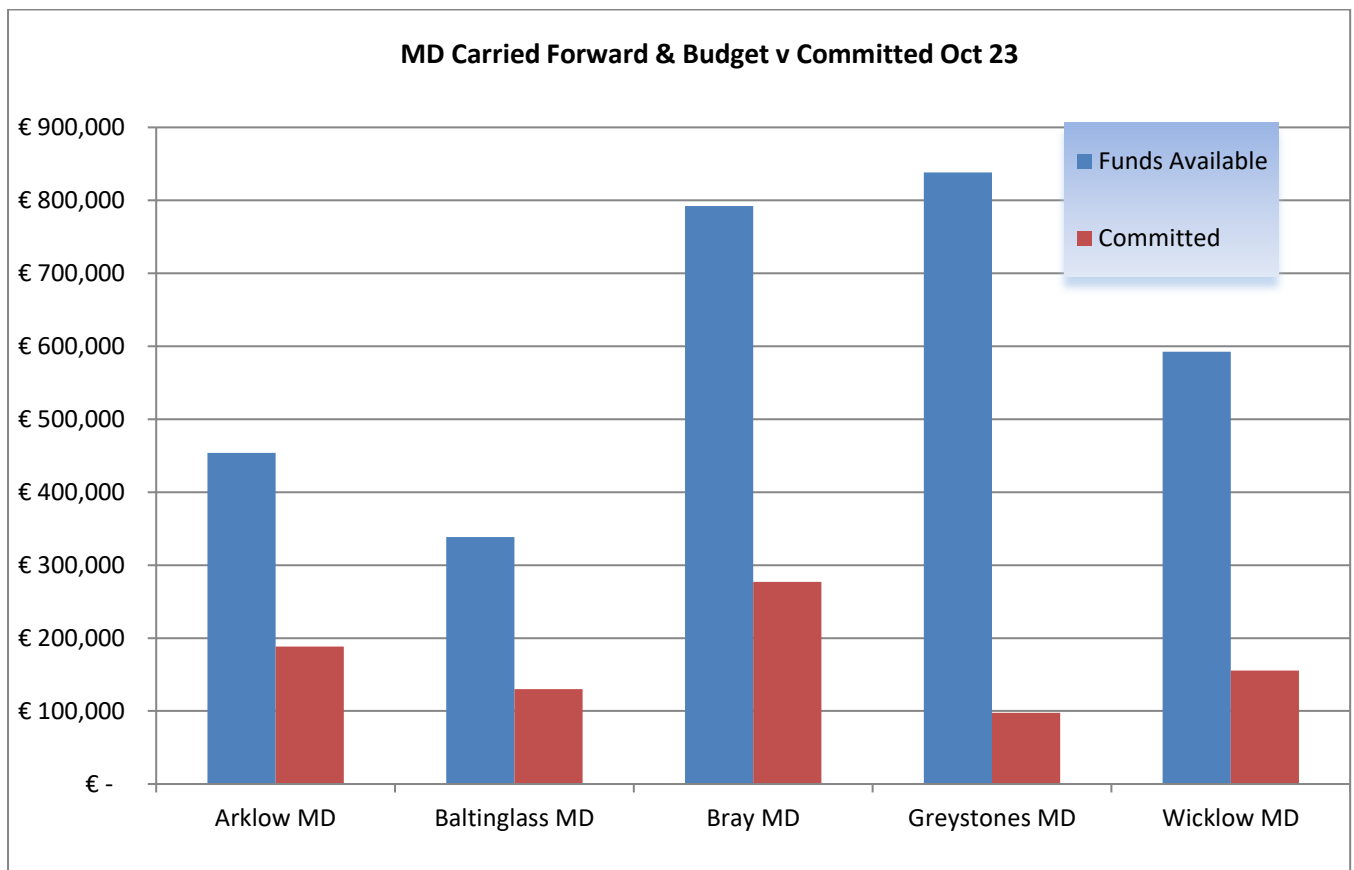
**General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2023**

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% resulted in an additional €1,110,384 in the Revenue Budget for 2023. This money was ring-fenced for Discretionary Funding in the Municipal Districts. The total Municipal District’s General Municipal Allocation funding for 2023 is set out below:

Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	34,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	10,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	66,500
Christmas Festival	20,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	80,000
Festivals / Other	5,000	10,000	32,000	10,000	5,000	62,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Discretionary Funding	208,197	208,197	353,278	208,197	208,197	1,186,066
<b>Total</b>	<b>269,197</b>	<b>246,197</b>	<b>426,778</b>	<b>246,197</b>	<b>250,197</b>	<b>1,438,566</b>

Municipal District carried forward allocation and budget '23 and expenditure for 2023 is as follows:

Municipal District	C/F from 2022	Adopted Budget 2023	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	184,779	269,197	453,976	188,410	265,566
Baltinglass MD	92,215	246,197	338,412	130,150	208,262
Bray MD	365,206	426,778	791,984	277,071	514,913
Greystones MD	592,012	246,197	838,209	97,711	740,498
Wicklow MD	342,471	250,197	592,668	155,617	437,051
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,576,683</b>	<b>1,438,566</b>	<b>3,015,249</b>	<b>848,959</b>	<b>2,166,290</b>



**Capital Investment Programme 2023-2025**

The Capital Investment Programme 2023-2025 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL	Dev Charges <sup>1</sup>	Loan	Grant Aid <sup>2</sup>	Other <sup>3</sup>	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	131,973,000	111,600,000	110,500,000	<b>354,073,000</b>	-	30,000,000	317,055,000	7,018,000	<b>354,073,000</b>
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	22,234,170	50,280,424	55,097,634	<b>127,612,228</b>	28,687,388	7,000,000	83,774,840	8,150,000	<b>127,612,228</b>
WATER SERVICES	100,000	100,000	100,000	<b>300,000</b>	-	-	300,000	-	<b>300,000</b>
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	13,400,000	2,650,000	2,935,000	<b>18,985,000</b>	1,400,000	-	11,870,000	5,715,000	<b>18,985,000</b>
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	5,630,000	18,200,000	29,350,000	<b>53,180,000</b>	-	-	42,630,000	10,550,000	<b>53,180,000</b>
RECREATION AND AMENITY	9,420,327	10,297,355	13,975,000	<b>33,692,682</b>	13,370,536	-	19,522,146	800,000	<b>33,692,682</b>
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	3,375,000	12,772,000	18,300,000	<b>34,447,000</b>	1,781,250	-	29,229,650	3,436,100	<b>34,447,000</b>
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	800,000	400,000	400,000	<b>1,600,000</b>	-	-	-	1,600,000	<b>1,600,000</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>186,932,497</b>	<b>206,299,779</b>	<b>230,657,634</b>	<b>623,889,910</b>	<b>45,239,174</b>	<b>37,000,000</b>	<b>504,381,636</b>	<b>37,269,100</b>	<b>623,889,910</b>

Capital Funded Projects

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

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