



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

E N D L E S S O P P O R T U N I T I E S



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This month:

82 New Homes officially opened in County Wicklow

Eighty-two new homes in three housing estates in Co Wicklow were opened today (Friday).

The houses, in Wicklow Town, Newtownmountkennedy and Kilmacanogue, were officially opened by Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, along with Daragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Simon Harris TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

- Hawkstown Park, Wicklow, consists of eight one-bed, 16 two-bed and 16 three-bed homes, all of which were allocated in the recent weeks
- Mountain View, Newtownmountkennedy, consists of six one bed and 16 two bed homes and will be allocated in the coming weeks
- Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue, has 20 homes and the residents moved in during the COVID pandemic

Grants for Local Waters & Biodiversity

A range of projects across County Wicklow are to benefit from grants to support the protection and enhancement of local waterbodies.

The Community Water Development Fund is providing a total of just over €23,500 for nine community groups around Wicklow.

Projects approved for grant funding in County Wicklow include:

- Hydrogeological assessment of Arklow Town Marsh to preserve the protected aquatic habitat (Arklow Tidy Towns)
- Glencree River Water Quality Project: Improvement and assessment (An Óige Knockree Conservation Group)
- Three separate Ecological Assessments of Cannistown River/Kilcoole Stream, Newcastle River and Swan River, Bray (Keep Kilcoole Tidy/Kilcoole Biodiversity Group, Newcastle Residents Association/ Biodiversity group, and Bray Tidy Towns/Swan River Conservation Group respectively)
- Enniskerry Tidy Towns Cookestown River Invasive Species survey and action plan
- Snapshot Europe 2022 Wildlife Survey across Wicklow Water Habitats (ReWild Wicklow)
- Refurbishment of Observation Hide at BirdWatch Ireland's East Coast Nature Reserve (BirdWatch Ireland) and
- The Park Stream, Shillelagh. Installation of solar powered water fountain (Shillelagh Peoples Property Ltd)



Wicklow Town achieves 7th place out of 40 Towns/Cities in Litter Survey

Wicklow Town has been assessed as the being 'Cleaner than European Norms' in the latest Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) survey.

All approach roads got the top litter grade and it was also noted that there were less vacant/derelict sites along Abbey Street/Main Street, with the outdoor seating and substantial planting seen as a very welcome addition.

Wicklow Gaol and environs received a comment as being "exceptionally well presented and maintained" while the Glen Beach Cliff Walk was also noted as a wonderful addition to the town.

Grade A Ratings were awarded to:

- Approach from Rathnew
- Dunbar Approach
- Glen Beach Cliff Walk/Lime Kiln Bay
- Abbey Street/Main Street
- 'Bring Bank' at car park on way into SuperValu car park
- Murrough Playground/Picnic area & Environs
- R999 Approach over Murrough Bridge
- Lidl
- Wicklow Goal

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Housing

Social Housing Support

	May 2022	May 2021
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4530	4487
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	231	273
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2550	2270
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	21	16
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	31	29

Allocation of Social Housing

	May 2022	May 2021
Wicklow County Council	53	40
Approved Housing Bodies	24	0

Social Housing Stock

	May 2022	May 2021
Tenancies occupied	4,721	4,577
Total weekly rental accrual	308,484.46	300,041.59
Arrears	2,718,975.66	2,774,792.03

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

SCHEMES COMPLETED	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Completed and allocated
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completed and allocated
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated
Whitehall, Baltinglass	34	Completed and allocated
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completed and allocated
Convent Lands	51	Completed and allocated

Urban Villas (FCA Hall), Wicklow Town	8	Completed and allocated
Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue	20	Completed and allocated
Kilmantan Place, Bray	4	Completed and allocated
Carnew Rapid Build	30	Completed and allocated
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completed and allocated
Kilbride Court (Bray)	42	Completed and allocated
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	Completion and being allocated
Schemes on Site	units	CURRENT STATUS
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completion in the process of being allocated
Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build	36	Completion anticipated Q4 2022
Sheehan Court Design & Build	7	Completion anticipated Q3 2022
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completion anticipated Q4 2022
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completion anticipated Q3 2023
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Part 8 complete
Three Trouts Greystones Design & Build	41	Site start anticipated Q3 2022
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Site start anticipated Q3 2022
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Site start anticipated Q3 2022
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Stage 2 approval awaited.
Ballynerrin, Wicklow	10	Approval received from department. – preparing part V111
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Part 8 approved.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Stage 1 approval received, stage 2 pending
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5

Public Private Partnership.

Following a request from the Department of Housing, the following sites have been submitted for consideration for inclusion in future bundles:

- Burnaby, Greystones
- Rehills, Bray.
- Tinahask, Arklow.



Part V

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	20	Scheduled phased Q2-Q4 2022	CALF
Rathnew	6	3 Delivered Q1 2022 , 3 Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Wicklow Town	4	Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Delgany	3	Scheduled Q2 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Scheduled Q3 2022	WCC
Kilcoole	3	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Enniskerry	2	Scheduled Q3 2022	WCC
Delgany	4	Scheduled Q3 2022	WCC
Delgany	1	Scheduled Q3 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	6	Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Bray, Rathnew, Wicklow, Rathdrum, Kilcoole and Enniskerry with delivery ranging from 2022-2024. This includes the 59 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
Arklow	13	10 Delivered Q2 2022,3 Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Rathnew	10	8 Delivered Q2 2022,2 Scheduled Q2 2022	WCC
Bray	188	Scheduled Q2-Q4 2022	CALF
Rathdum	13	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Arklow	42	Scheduled Q2-Q4 2022	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.

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands - A preferred proposal has been identified.

Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

- › Grant funding for private house - €2,299,375 (2022 budget)
- › Grant funding for social house - €1,168,200 (2021 budget) (€111,855.24 spent to date)

Private Houses

Open Applications 115 (some carried over from 2021, approvals not included in this figure)

Approved applications 162 (some carried over from 2021)

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 National Housing Strategy for Disable People 2022 – 2027 will be launched in mid-January 2022

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road - Two 2 bed properties	Detailed design complete – tender documents finalised and advertised closing date 20 th June
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Detailed design complete – tender documents finalised and advertised closing date 20 th June
Carraig Eden - 14 age friendly 1 bed apartments	Part 8 complete commencement of design and build project to begin shortly
Kilcoole Health Centre 4 no 1 bed apartments	Finalising detailed design

Vacant Homes Scheme

There are now 15 CPOs underway on long term vacant houses around the county.

30 South Green, Arklow	Notice to Treat served. House now in possession of the Council and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
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5 Priory Way, Delgany	Notice to Treat served. House now in possession of the Council and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy	House purchased from START Mortgages by agreement. Nearing completion of refurbishment. Already allocated.
5 Ashwood, Roundwood	Confirmed CPO. House now purchased by agreement and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
108 Charnwood, Bray	Oral hearing held by An Bord Pleanála on 17 th August 2021 but no decision yet notified to parties.
10 Liam Mellows Avenue Arklow	CPO Confirmed. Purchase by agreement with Receiver in progress.
33 Connolly Street, Arklow	CPO Confirmed. Purchased by agreement with Receiver. In our possession since 20/5/2022 and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Oral hearing of An Bord Pleanála now due on 21 st June. But still in process of buying the house by agreement with Receiver.
114 Hillside, Greystones	CPO published. Objection lodged. Oral Hearing will follow.
18 Delgany Glen, Greystones	CPO published. Objection lodged. Oral Hearing will follow. However purchase by agreement with Receiver is underway.
2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town	CPO published. No objections lodged. CPO confirmed 12 th April. Confirmation newspaper ad 26 th April.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	CPO now confirmed by Chief Executive. Newspaper notice published in Wicklow Times. Next stage will be Notice to Treat – which can be done any time after 12 th of June.
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	CPO published 1 st week in April. Purchase by agreement with Link Financial in progress.
53 South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 st week in April. Objection from owner. Will result in Oral Hearing.
53A South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 st week in April. Objection from owner. Will result in Oral Hearing.

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

Further reports relating to Co Wicklow on www.vacanthomes.ie were received in March. Most of these did not contain any information that could identify the property in question and the rest are already known to us and are being investigated



Infill Sites

- Blackhills - Two 3 bed semi-detached properties are currently being constructed
- Knockroe – Part V111 approved and a revised stage 2 application has been submitted to the department for 2 x 4 bed roomed fully accessible units

Housing Maintenance - Heating Upgrade Programme

The adopted budget for 2022 is €236,000. Work has started on new Gas heating installations and will then move on to Oil as the same contractor is doing both. Gas & oil boiler maintenance contracts have been renewed and servicing has started. Arising from the procurement process there have been significant increases in the cost of boiler servicing – in the range 12 to 23%. Similar increases will apply to boiler repair and replacement costs.

Rebuilding Ireland Home loans 2022

Received	Approved in principle
22	11

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	May 2022
Applications Received	362	4
Completed	91	2
Declined	249	5
Ongoing	22	22

Addressing Homelessness

	As at 31/05/2022	Year To Date	As at 31/05/2021
No of New Presentations	45	149	25
No. of Repeat Presentations	3	16	5
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	30	89	11
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	17	66	16



No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	0	8	2
No. of Children	47	159	19
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	20	59	6
Family Circumstances	16	46	8
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	2	3	0
Mental Health	0	3	1
Risk of Homelessness	2	13	4
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	3	1
Addiction Issues	1	4	3
DV/DA	2	17	1
Medical Issues	1	3	0
Overcrowding	2	5	2
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	2	15	3
ASB:	0	2	0
Rough Sleeping*	1	1	2
Sofa Surfing*	5	14	2
Staying with Family*	7	24	7
Staying with Friends*	4	12	2

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/05/2022	
Families	21
Adults	36
Children	54
Single individual	1

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/05/2022								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	23	28	26	13	4	4	1	2



Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/05/2021

	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	16	19	13	7	4	2	2	1

Homeless HAP

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, 396 households (293 families & 103 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 30th June 2022. (171 homeless cases, 216 prevention cases to date and 9 direct provision). 118 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

There are 11 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon, with continuing transition by the clients to suitable, alternative accommodation.

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

Dublin Simon have 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 - Refurbishment works and snagging are now complete.

The first 5 families have now been accommodated and assessments are underway to fill the remaining 2 apartments in the hub.

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 opened to clients in October 2020. The facility, operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where there are a number of emergency/cold weather Beds and Supported Temporary Accommodation Beds (STA). There is on site key working support linking in with clients.



The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

The facility providing 35 ensuite bedrooms with associated kitchens and common areas is fully operational. Wicklow County Council have made arrangements to 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 Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients.

Housing First

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

Peter McVerry Trust has been appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid East Region and Wicklow County Council is committed to working with them to achieve the targets identified in the programme. Properties will be provided by both Wicklow County Council and Peter McVerry Trust for the programme.

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 9 clients under Housing First. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation – the main issue facing this programme is the availability of one bed units in suitable locations with easy access to services etc.

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

Ballintreskin – 3 houses	All residents who were on the proposed site have been rehoused. Contractor in the process of being appointed.
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 4 houses	Approval received for funding from Department, – Part V111 approved detailed design underway
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 2 houses	Stage 2 approval received. Part V111 to be commenced.
Ballintreskin,	Detailed design completed for extension – discussions underway with tenant regarding decanting of Bay during works

Fire safety on Halting sites were completed by members of the Housing section in October 2021 and further inspections will be carried out in 2022.

Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

Works completed on 57 properties in West Wicklow and Rathdrum and snagging underway

Additional BERs and suitability inspections being carried out on properties listed as being down for fabric upgrades in 2022. Framework for fabric upgrade works is complete.



71 [properties given approval for energy efficiency fabric upgrade works in 2022 - Works commenced in Parnell Park Rathdrum

Ukrainian Response

- As of 20th June, the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is **779** (although we know that they are over 1200 approx. in the County)

This number is broken down as follows -

- Arklow MD 55 No.
- Baltinglass MD 73 No.
- Bray MD 418 No.
- Greystones MD 95 No.
- Wicklow MD 138 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 22nd June we will have housed 55 number displaced Ukrainian people. Larger buildings and vacant units are also being identified and explored as potential options for medium to long term accommodation. –
- Arklow Rest Centre closed at the end of May.
- The Community Response Forum continues to meet on a fortnightly basis

2. Community

Library

New Aughrim Library

De Blacam & Meagher Architects have presented their proposals re the new Aughrim library. Subject to approval, it will comprise a building of 200 sq mtrs, on the current site. The new entrance will be at street level. There will be a separate first floor mezzanine study area, overlooking the lending area, with glass frontage. It will be submitted for Part 8 approval over June/July. The proposed time line, allowing for construction tender, envisages the building commencing at the end of 2022, and opening in late 2023.



Baltinglass Story Trail

Wicklow's first ever Story Trail was launched as part of Cruinniú na nÓg on Saturday 11th of June. A Story Trail is a fun way to bring books and reading to families while they are out and about in the fresh air. Pages from a picture book are placed along a trail in a community space and children can enjoy them as the walk. The story is *The Lonely Beast* by Chris Judge and is placed in the Community Gardens in Baltinglass.

Bray Library School Literacy Group Visits

Bray Library commenced specialised visits for primary school literacy groups on Monday 13th of June, as part of their Helping Hand offer to schools. Each session is carefully prepared with staff and teachers liaising beforehand to take into account any learning differences, neurodivergence and accessibility requirements of participants while also taking note of what topics, genres and formats the children enjoy. Before the visits, membership cards are arranged, and staff promote our related services including digital supports to teachers, such as TTRS, Lexia and Borrowbox. A relevant selection of books is arranged by staff beforehand, so that the visit can be spent promoting the joy of reading for pleasure. A total of 6 groups from Scoil Uí Cheadaigh took part in this first round of sessions, which will be rolled out to all interested local schools in September.



Cruinniú na Nóg at Wicklow Library Branches

Wicklow's Creative Ireland team organised an exciting and diverse range of shows and workshops for Cruinniú na NÓg 2022, many of these events took place in libraries around the county. Activities included traditional singing workshops, filming and editing workshops, Dinosaur Fun, puppet Shows, cardboard crafts, Meet the Instruments at Arklow Library, Story Telling and more.

Creative Schools Programme Arklow Library

Approximately 150 primary school students in Arklow were involved in creating a collection of short videos on the Avoca River with a visual artist, funded by Wicklow Heritage Office. This project will be launched in Arklow Library with all students in attendance to collectively view the completed videos and to enjoy a little celebratory party - a hearty congratulations to all involved from Wicklow County Council!

Yoga at Arklow Library

On Tuesday 21st June Arklow Library celebrates International Day of Yoga with Well Soul Yoga by offering a free introduction to yoga for adults. This will be followed by a Mother & Baby yoga session on Monday 4th July.



Family Fun Day Arklow Library

Every Saturday Arklow Library kicks off Family Fun Day with a storytime at 11am followed by arts & crafts and free play with our Magformers, jigsaws and colouring activities in the library. On May 28th we celebrated Elmer Day with some themed stories and activities.



KPMG Children's Books Ireland Reading Heroes Award

Arklow Library was delighted that their nominee, local reader extraordinaire Lily O'Brien was shortlisted for the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Reading Heroes Award! Lily adds hugely not only to the life of the Arklow Library but also her school reading community, and library staff were thrilled to see her accomplishments recognised at the ceremony in Merrion Square. In addition to celebrating with Children's Books Ireland and KPMG, Lily had the pleasure of congratulating author C. G. Moore, who took home the coveted KPMG Book of the Year Award for *Gut Feelings*.

SDG Children's Book Club, Greystones Library

Reading Goals is a children's book club, where children read and discuss book related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Reading Goals will meet on Wednesday 22nd June and weather permitted; we will walk to the beach to discuss *Illegal* by Eoin Colfer. Here, we will also set out our Summer events, including a massive art project and a beach survey helped by Jim Callery, Environmental officer with Wicklow County Council.

Pride Celebrations in all libraries

Wicklow County Council Library service celebrated Pride throughout the month of June. Book recommendations and colourful displays featuring books with LGBTQIA interest were evident in all branches and the rainbow flag was flown or displayed in all branches. LGBT+ Bookclubs took place in Arklow and Bray libraries and Rainbow storytime sessions to celebrate diversity took place in many of our libraries. Rosamund Taylor and Mark Ward facilitated a poetry event in Bray library on 23rd of June and Paul Murphy of Bray LGBTQ+ led a workshop entitled "Supporting Your LGBTQ+ Child" for parents.

Community Awards:

As part of its commitment to supporting local community development, Wicklow County Council operates an annual Community Award Scheme. A total of 227 community groups and local organisations received awards in 2022 to assist them in undertaking community projects in their area.



Funding

Pobal have sent notification that funding in the amount of €188,300 will be provided to Wicklow County Council to implement the Healthy Ireland Fund 2022-25. Breakdown of funding is as follows:



		Funds Allocated
LCDC	HIF Social Prescribing 1st Apr - 31st Dec 2022 (CWP €8,800 & BAP €19,500)	€28,300.00
LCDC	Year 1 1st June - 31st December 2022	€40,000.00
LCDC	Year 2 2023	€40,000.00
LCDC	Year 3 2024	€40,000.00
LCDC	Year 4 2025	€40,000.00

CYPSC will be receiving a separate element of funding however the Local Authority and CYPSC will be working together to identify priority outcomes and intended interventions specific to County Wicklow.

Planning has commenced to allow delivery of priority health and wellbeing initiatives for the period 1st June to 31st December 2022 including contact made with all existing partners involved in HIF Round 3.

Recruitment

Applications for Healthy Ireland Coordinator (Grade VI) 3 Year Contract were invited for submission before the closing date of Thursday 2nd June 2022.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Couch to 2K

We are currently on week 4 of our Couch to 2K programme. There are 93 participants taking part. The programme is being delivered through an app called 'Movespring'.

Bike Week 2022

Bike Week took place 14th – 22nd May this year. Our aims for Bike Week were to provide people of all ages and abilities with a variety of cycling events throughout the week. We try to encourage greater participation in cycling, promote the benefits of cycling and enhance the provision of cycling within the community. Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership ran a wide variety of programmes and events during Bike Week.



Maintenance Workshops

Beginner & Advanced Bike Maintenance Workshops took place in The Sports Room Wicklow Town, Cycle Plus Greystones and The Avon Blessington. The workshops were aimed at helping cyclists learn how to manage and fix small repairs on the bikes such as puncture repairs, how to change tubes, take wheels on and off quickly as well as tips on how to keep a bike running smoothly. Spaces were limited to 12 for each workshop. Workshops were fully booked throughout the week targeting 70+ people. Workshops were delivered by head bike mechanics and all participants received a Wicklow Sports &



Recreation Partnership drawstring bag, Wicklow Sport & Recreation Partnership bike week buff, a puncture repair kit and tyre lever.

25K 'Pedal for your Medal'

25K Pedal for your Medal was an ongoing event throughout Bike Week, held countywide. Over 90+ completed the cycle receiving a Bike Week medal and a Wicklow Sport & Recreation Partnership bike week buff.



5Cycle to Zen

Seven morning and evening Cycle to Zen's took place during Bike Week. Three in The Avon Blessington, taking in the specular views of the greenway. Two took place in Bray on the promenade and two Burnaby Park in Greystones where was asked people to cycle to our outdoor yoga class. All Cycle to Zen classes were fully booked with over 70+ people taking part.



Social Cycle

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership in conjunction with The Sports Room Wicklow Town held two Social Cycle's during Bike Week. Both cycles took place Saturday 14th and 21st May. The cycle started at The Sports Room in Wicklow Town, along The Murrough to Killloughter, while taking in the scenic views of Wicklow Town. On completion, refreshments were given by The Firehouse Bakery. 22 people took part in the social cycles.



FATBIKE Adventure Rentals

Wicklow Sport & Recreation Partnership in partnership with FATBIKES Adventure ran three, two hour FATBIKE rentals. These took place Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Bike Week. The three evenings were fully booked with 48 people taking part.



Learn to Cycle Taster Sessions

Wicklow Sport & Recreation Partnership created the opportunity for 12 children to participate in a Learn to Cycle Taster Session in Baltinglass & Tinahely on Saturday 14th May. The parents were delighted with the progress of their children learning the life skill of cycling.

Inclusive Trike to Track



Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership in collaboration with St Catherine's Special School and Rehab Care Bray delivered a Trike to Track session at the track at Shoreline Greystones Sports Park on Monday 16th May. 13 students from St Catherine's and 3 clients from Rehab Care participated in 2 separate sessions delivered by Cycling Ireland tutors.



School Grant Applications

There were 71 grant applications for running bike related activities or events in Schools and clubs throughout County Wicklow during Bike Week. The breakdown included 2 secondary schools, 27 primary schools, 36 preschools and 6 sports clubs. The bike events were simple, diverse and engaging to get people of all ages and abilities on their bikes. These activities incorporated cycle races, bike safety talks with community Gardaí, learn to cycle, bling your bike, cycle to training, cycle to social tennis and bike maintenance workshops.



Upcoming Programmes and Events:



4 Week Activator Poles

Venue: St. Patrick's Missionary Society
Date: Monday, June 13th
Times: 10am, 11am & 12pm

Wicklow
Sports & Recreation Partnership
County Wicklow Sports and Active Child Alliance
SPORT IRELAND



FREE 8 WEEK

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership
ASD TEENS BRAY SAILING CLUB TASTER SESSIONS
FOR TEENAGERS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY OR ON THE AUTISTIC SPECTRUM

3 Taster Session Options - €10 - Limited Places
50% funded by Tusla

Dates & Times
Friday 3rd June 12:30 to 4:30pm
Tuesday 7th June 1:30pm to 5:30pm
Friday 10th June 9:00am to 1:00pm

Location & Equipment
• Bring your own wetsuit, also limited number to borrow
• Wear wet shoes or old runners

Contact Clara, cjenkinson@wicklowcoco.ie
(0404) 20129 to book

BRAY SAILING CLUB **TUSLA** **Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership** **WICKLOW**



Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership
LAKERS - LEARN TO CYCLE 6 WEEK PROGRAMME

Monday 9th May to 20th June
Location: St Patrick's Loreto Primary School
For participants who cannot cycle without stabilisers

Times
3:00pm to 3:45pm

Own Bike & Helmet needed

Contact Hannah in Lakers to book a place

LAKERS

Safeguarding & Inclusion Courses

Safeguarding 1	14 th June 2022	Eventbrite – Fully Booked
Sports Inclusion Disability Awareness (SIDA)	2 nd June 2022	Online with 11 Bray Sailing Club Instructors

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

Aside from delivering on existing programme commitments, the SICAP programme implementers also continue to work extensively supporting the Ukrainian refugees.

Bray Area Partnership are chairing and co-ordinating the Bray and North Wicklow Response Forum which brings together statutory agencies, local community organisations, NGOs and volunteers to provide a collaborative and partnership response to the needs on the ground. The Forum meets fortnightly and has between 20-30 attendees.

Co. Wicklow Partnership have recruited three new part-time Support Workers under the SICAP programme to work closely with the Ukrainian refugees in the Wicklow, Arklow and Baltinglass MD



areas. They are Irish-Ukrainian and are fluent in English, Ukrainian and Russian. CWP also provided assistance under the SICAP programme to kit out the Wicklow Hub Centre.

Public Participation Network (PPN):

A successful funding application was made by Co. Wicklow PPN/WCC/LCDC to DRCD and Pobal to run a pilot project that will facilitate marginalised groups engage with the upcoming Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) planning process. This work will also review Co. Wicklow's PPN Visions for Community Wellbeing. The five consultation workshops will take place in May.

Consultations: PPN Vision for Community Wellbeing/LECP Online Survey; Food Waste Prevention Roadmap; 21 Actions to Tackle Racism Survey; Proposed Amendments to the Co. Development Plan; Impact of Covid 19 on Persons with Disabilities; Unveiling Inequality- A peer support project exploring the experiences of LGBT Travellers and Roma.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Ideas Academy; Communities Integration Fund; European Year of Youth Micro Grants Scheme; International Charity Bazaar-Funding applications; Clár Funding; Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund; Lets Fund it Organisation- providing support to local charities; Ireland Increasing Digital Reach Initiative Fund; Arklow Municipal District Festivals Funding; AXA Parks Fund.

Training sessions were held recently for member groups on the topics of: Funding; Risk Management; Insurance. All sessions well attended.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Launch: The programme launch took place on 3rd June in Ballywaltrim Community Centre. Ministers Feighan officially launched the programme in Bray, and the additional keynote speakers included Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Brian Gleeson CE Wicklow County Council, Aisling Heffernan HSE Health and Wellbeing Head of Service, and Jennifer D'Arcy, Social Inclusion Programmes Coordinator, Bray Area Partnership. In addition there was pre-recorded piece by Minister Stephen Donnelly and a local service user. The launch went very well, and was attended by a wide variety of statutory and community service providers for the Bray area.

Enhancement Fund Update: Designs and budgets are in place to begin the installation of kitchens in both Ballywaltrim Community Centre and the Little Bray Family Resource Development Project. The other projects including the calisthenics equipment, basketball courts and outdoor gym equipment are being put out to tender. The climbing boulder has been extensively researched and is likely to cost more than the original budget, however there is an option to facilitate this additional cost through the Sláintecare Healthy Communities fund.

Co-operation Ireland All-Island Pride of Place Awards

The Awards ceremony for the Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place competition 2021 was held in The Gleneagles INEC Arena, Killarney, Co. Kerry on 16th May 2022. The following groups were nominated under these two categories -



- ❖ Kiltegan under Population under Population Category 1- 300
- ❖ Neighbourhood Network – Time Machine under Community Wellbeing Initiative Category.

Kiltegan Village won a prestigious Pride of Place community award on the night.

For this year's Pride of Place competition, the entries for Wicklow County Council are as follows –

Under category Community Wellbeing - An Tochar GAA and Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership Irish Sign Language Project

Under Category Community Resilience – Wicklow and Arklow Ukrainian Hubs

Under Category Creative Place – An Garda Síochána's Chatting benches

Applications made Under Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2022

Measure Two applications – funding available - €200,000

Name of project - Blessington Greenway linkage to Russborough Parklands and House Trail and Cycle Hub

A sustainability project for the enhancement of the trails within this historic Parklands.

Funding Sought - €178,380. Match funding required - €19,820

Name of project Glenmalur Community Riverside Walk & Recreation Area

Upgrade to existing trail to sustainable surface and an addition of fishing platform, swim access and inclusion of linear wild play structures.

Funding Sought - €119,790 Match funding required - €13,310

Name of project - Coolkenno Equestrian Trail

Construction of an 8.4km equestrian trail and associated access.

Funding Sought - €198,000 - Match funding required - €22,000

Measure Three application – funding available - €500,000

Name of project - Roundwood Recreation Area

Provision of a bike hub, construction of a bridge, signage, waymarking and promotion of Roundwood Recreation Area.

Funding Sought - €495,000. Match funding required - €55,000



Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

1. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Economic)

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

New guidelines have been launched for the preparation of LECPs which will require the Council to consider housing needs when formulating both the economic and community elements of the LECPs. The guidelines are timely as the current LECP finishes in 2022.

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

The new plan will take account of lessons learned and the changing needs of communities, climate action and sustainability among other things. The Economic Development unit is seeking to engage with the business, tourism and wider community to help identify priorities for the County over the lifetime of the plan.

Consultation has begun in consideration of the high level goals to inform the LECP, with a workshop held at the Economic Development and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee.

Retail

Bray Central

Practical Completion Cert (PCC) was issued by the Architects for the Scheme on the 15th of February to Wicklow County Council. In accordance with the development agreement an inspection has taken place between the Council's Monitor, Conor Carty, the District Engineer Liam Bourke and the design team for the developer. Once PCC has been agreed the process of transfer of title will begin. The Legal Team for the developer and the Council's Law Agent are in communication with regard to legals.

Oakmount continue to engage with prospective anchor tenants on the two main units in the centre. It is hoped that agreements to let will be settled in the coming weeks. Oakmount has advised that there are



leases in place on all of the leisure spaces and heads of terms are agreed with several new retail units. Fit out of the restaurants continues and Press Up Group has advertised for staff for these units.

Bray Outdoor Performance Space

The letter of Contract Award for design Consultants issued to the successful tenderer on the 30th March. The successful tenderer is Vincent Hannon Architects. An initial meeting with officials from the Council was held on 21st April.

Meetings have taken place with Strand Road residents, Royal Marine Terrace and Martello Terrace. A site meeting took place on the 9th May with the Design Team, Council officials and representatives from the Mermaid Theatre where the different canopy options were discussed. Initial drawings are expected from the Architect within the next week.

When the final design is agreed drawings will be prepared and presented to the Members prior to commencing the Part 8 process.

Bray Harbour Improvements

The requirement for additional environmental assessments was identified in the draft Feasibility Report. During a meeting with RPS in March, RPS undertook to carry out an EIA Scoping Exercise as an add-on to their current engagement. It was also agreed that they should provide ecological services to undertake a Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening. A fee proposal was submitted for additional public consultation on the scheme and the production of a 3D model for the improved visualization of the scheme. The fee falls within the value of the original tender for which RPS were appointed in 2019 to carry out the feasibility study. RPS has been instructed to proceed with this work. A follow up meeting is proposed to clarify the extent of the terrestrial elements of the scheme to be included in the EIA scoping report which shall be referred to until a design is available and may be subject to a Part 8 planning process.

When scoping reports are completed and agreed, a new tender will be required to procure engineering services for the preparation of detailed designs and EIAR to submit to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval. It is also proposed that the council investigate the feasibility of acquiring a portion of the foreshore by CPO for the marine element of the scheme. This can be decided in parallel by An Bord



Pleanala and may avoid the need for a foreshore licence application for the scheme. At a meeting with BHJDC on the 5th May, stakeholders were updated on the status of the scheme.

Town Teams

Under the Government policy, Town Centres First, the establishment of Town Teams is encouraged and we are likely to see more Town Teams in situ over the coming years.

Most Town Teams in Wicklow have been operating since 2018. It is considered timely to carry out a review of the town teams and with this in mind Wicklow County Council has appointed Mr Allen McAdam of MCA Consulting to conduct the review. It is proposed to present the results of the review at a plenary meeting of all the Town Teams to be held in early 2022.

Masterplans for Town Centres under 10,000 population

Blessington has been awarded funding of €100,000 to develop a Master Plan for the town. This will also allow plans for projects identified as part of the drive to become e-greenway ready to be advanced.

This initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future – the Government’s ambitious five-year strategy designed to reimagine and revitalise rural Ireland. It is also linked to the Government’s ‘Housing for All’ strategy and the forthcoming ‘Town Centre First Policy’ which will be announced in the coming weeks.

Wicklow County Council will now work closely with local community groups, retailers and members of the Town Team in devising and delivering on the objectives of the Masterplan building on the very comprehensive Health Check carried out by Future Analytics.

Arklow Town Team

Arklow Town Team is collaborating with Wicklow County Council to aid Main Street traders by spreading the word that Arklow is ‘Open for Business’. Arklow is currently in a phase of great transformation with large infrastructural schemes underway which will enhance the town for residents and visitors alike. It is important that businesses are supported for the duration of the works.

Arklow Town Team held a second ‘Trip Down Memory Lane’ event in the Arklow Library, where more stories were recorded from past employees of Arklow Pottery and members of the community who had a connection to Arklow Pottery which will be included in our Arklow Pottery Online project. An archive is



also being created of the Arklow Pottery stamps over the years. The Web designer has been briefed and is working on the new website. The content is being written which will include a new Pottery Heritage Trail.

The Arklow Main Street is in bloom as the 125 Flower Baskets have been erected. The baskets have brought colour and vibrancy to our town centre.

The Interactive Tourism Kiosk project is progressing well. The contractors have coordinated with our Visit Arklow website developers, In Good Company, and they are now able to display and enhance the articles from our website. The design process has now started. An EXPLORE ARKLOW section will be created exclusively for the screen with the onus placed on brand new maps of the town, its points of interest, amenities, and selected walks.

Bray Town Team / Bray Town Recovery Team

Terms of reference were issued to the Bray MD Members in 2021. The Cathaoirleach is reviewing these and will be examining the best way forward.

Greystones Town Team

Greystones Train Station project being led by Greystones Town Team and with the support of CIE, Irish Rail, Greystones Tidy Towns and the Whale Theatre is progressing the project with the mural due to start soon.

Wicklow Town Team

The Team Structure is currently being reviewed as some members plan on stepping down as their projects have now been completed. The focus going forward will be to attract younger members from the age group of 25 to 35 onto the Team.

The Heritage Walks are proving very successful and there are now 8 volunteers to lead the walks. These have already been guided on the Trail by John Finlay.



The team are still working hard to advance the Greenway and other projects being considered are a Ballyguile walk and a pilgrim walk from Glendalough to Wicklow Town as well as a pump track on the Murrough.

It was agreed at the April Meeting that the Town Team would attend at least 3 WMD meetings during the year to keep the elected members updated on projects etc. It was also agreed to send all elected members of WMD the minutes of the Town Team meetings.

Blessington Town Team

In conjunction with the Town Teams the following Festivals/Events took place during May; The Blessington area Rose of Tralee fund raiser, Darkness into Light walk, Glimpses of Blessington and District before the lake talk presented by Seamus Matthiu, World premier of 'Blessington' by Adam Walker & Fiachra Garvey in Russborough House, The West Wicklow Festival in Russborough House, Ninette De Valois, Baltyboys House history tour, and Ninette De Valois festival programme in the Tramway Theatre.

A presentation was made to the Town Team by Kaleidoscope for their upcoming festival at Russborough House, to be held from 24th -26th June 2022. The festival last took place in 2019 and is due to increase in capacity from 15,000 to 25,000. It will take place across eight stages of music, talks, debates, panel discussions, Q&A's, food tastings, comedy and more. Advertising for the festival will target the Irish Diaspora in the UK and USA

The National Tidy Towns Competition will be held in June, July and August 2022, and Blessington will once again be entered. The team are pushing to achieve a bronze medal in 2022. But the key to this success has been the hard work of the Blessington Tidy Towns committee and volunteers; they encourage everyone to work together for a better of Blessington. The tidy towns group work with Wicklow County Council and the community to deliver results for Blessington. In the last 10 years Blessington has moved from bottom of the results to the top 25% in 2021 and the group are sure further success is possible.

There is ongoing engagement from Businesses in Blessington, with staff from Wicklow County Council regarding getting business's Greenway ready.



Streetscapes

Wicklow County Council has been allocated €320,000 in Streetscape funding under the Department of Rural and Community Development Town and Village Streetscape Scheme.

The Streetscape Enhancement Initiative is a key part of the Government's 'Our Rural Future' and is designed to make our rural towns and villages more attractive colourful and vibrant places to live, work and visit.

108 applications were received and approved under this measure with 56 businesses submitting required documents to receive payment. €210,171.56 has been paid out to date.

It is expected that there will be new strategic funding announced in 2022.

Tourism

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

The strategy sets out a number of challenging but achievable priorities along with a series of detailed actions to be implemented over the next 5 years

The Key Priorities are:

1. Develop New Accommodation
2. Develop Key Towns as Visitor Hubs
3. Develop a Masterplan for Glendalough
4. Grow Thematic Experiences
5. Market our County by Developing A Common Narrative

Wicklow Passport Display Units:

The Wicklow Passport remains a key tool to help bring visitors to lesser known areas in Wicklow. We are growing our network of stamping locations with new members in the Greystones and Bray area. Online sales are ongoing, and feedback from participating businesses remains very good.



Wicklow Tourism Map

The Wicklow Tourism map was printed early May, and extensive distribution has been carried out around the County. The production of the map was made possible thanks to the support of the various members advertising on the map. The map is available for collection at Wicklow Town Hall in Wicklow Town.

Wicklow Influencer's Itineraries:

In May, we ran two more itineraries. Firstly, we welcomed Deric Hartigan (TV3 Weather Presenter) to an outdoor activities weekend that included mountain biking, great food and drinks and climbing Lugnaquilla. Deric heavily promoted his trip through extremely popular social media channels. We also created a new blog featuring his itinerary: <https://visitwicklow.ie/mountain-bike-climb-lugnaquilla-great-local-beer-food-two-days-of-outdoor-fun-in-wicklow/>

We then welcomed Siobhán O'Connor from the Irish Mirror for a family weekend in South Wicklow. We packed a lot in over the two days with many activities and visits including Mount Usher Gardens, Avoca Handweavers, Tinahely Farm, the Chocolate Gardens of Ireland, and Rathwood. Siobhan shared her experience on social media, and we are finalising our blog to be shared on the visitwicklow's social media platforms.

Trip Wicklow Rose

Wicklow Tourism helped organised a get together for the 20+ ladies participating at this year's selection of the Wicklow Rose. The event was held at River Valley Holiday Park where the participants enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities including electric kart racing, archery and more. Wicklow County Council is the main sponsor for the Wicklow Rose, and the objective is to maximise exposure through the Rose or Tralee event and various media opportunities. Wicklow will be hosting a group of national and international Roses in August before the main event in Tralee. We are currently working on a route that will showcase Wicklow's stunning landscape.

Accessibility Trip:

Wicklow Tourism is keen to showcase accessible experiences. In partnership with Bray Rehab Care and Bray Area Partnership, we invited Ciaran and Billy to Bray Bowl. Billy and Ciaran are wheelchair users, and they showed us how to use the accessible lanes at Bray Bowl. We created a short video that was



then promoted online. The video enjoyed extensive reach and engagement and can be viewed at <https://fb.watch/dyUziwwGx5/>

It is our ambition to regularly share new accessible experiences and showcase Wicklow from different perspectives in a more inclusive way.

EcoTrail Wicklow:

EcoTrail Wicklow was successful in securing funding from Failte Ireland for the 2022 edition of the race in September. This support is fabulous and guarantees extensive exposure for the event both at home and abroad. We are currently working on a plan to make EcoTrail Wicklow a three day experience and keep participants for a few days in and around Bray and Wicklow. The main objective of EcoTrail from a Wicklow Tourism perspective is to showcase Wicklow as a fantastic outdoors destination. The extra resources offered guarantee that EcoTrail and Wicklow will reach new and untapped markets.

Celtic Routes Meeting

After two years of online meetings, the Celtic Routes team met in person in Waterford. Along with our Welsh partners, we discuss ongoing promotional activities. Extensive marketing is happening in the UK through various media including online promotions, print media features and press trip. Wicklow hosted a press trip in September of 2021, and the article was printed in the May edition of the Country Walking magazine in the UK. See itinerary and article at link <https://visitwicklow.ie/from-rathdrum-to-bray-four-days-walking-the-wicklow-mountains> .

The Celtic Routes project was obviously disrupted through the Covid 19 pandemic, but is now in full swing. The project has been extended into 2023 and will continue to market heavily our various destinations.

Laragh and Glendalough Traffic Management

Weekend traffic management arrangements have been introduced in Laragh to deal with the problems caused by heavy volumes of cars entering the village on Saturday, Sundays and public holidays to visit Glendalough and the surrounding area with effect from 4th June

This pilot scheme involves:



- Provision of a free (weekend / public holiday) bus service to connect the Laragh carpark on the R755 and the Glendalough Visitor Centre.
- Signs to warn drivers when the Upper car park and the Glendalough Visitor Centre car park are full and drivers will be directed to the Laragh car park. This can be accessed by following directional signs provided.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

This is a Fáilte Ireland funded project led by FI with strategic partners NPWS, OPW, Coillte and WCC. The Plan covers visitor attractions and activities available in the area and the first stage of stakeholder engagement has been completed.

The consultant team is now engaging with some of the key landowners to assess the feasibility of developing additional off road trails between Laragh and Glendalough and provision of additional parking. The process has identified a number of issues: congestion at key sites, concerns over security, capacity and quality of car parking and visitor services, issues with local access, and erosion and degradation of the environment.

Visitor Experience Hubs have been identified around the county where there is a particular focus of visitor attractions. Development of these hubs will build capacity, help disperse visitors across the county, encouraging longer stays and greater investment in the area. The team is developing detailed plans for walking, mountain biking, off road family cycling.

Measures have been taken this year to introduce additional temporary parking and to use traffic counters to improve parking management and signage. Toilet facilities have been upgraded.

The consultants have prepared the draft masterplan and this was presented to members of the Laragh/Glendalough Community on the 27th October 2021 and to the members of at the Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council on the 6th December 2021.

Next Steps: Further Consultation, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Economic Appraisal. A number of multi-agency sub-groups have been formed to address Environmental, Financial and Management issues; these are data gathering at present.



Outdoor Dining

All Local Authorities were invited to apply to Fáilte Ireland for funding under Part Two - Local Authority Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme - to develop streets and public spaces to facilitate outdoor dining in urban tourism centres, enabling access to outdoor seating for extended periods throughout the year.

Wicklow County Council applied for and was awarded funding for Outdoor Dining and Weatherproofing for Market Square in Wicklow Town (€119,000) and Abbey Lane in Arklow (€81,000). Works are almost complete on the Wicklow project, the windbreaker flower boxes with MARKET SQUARE etched on them have been installed.

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

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

A call was announced for RRDF category 1 proposals with a closing date for applications on the 29th April 2022.

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Part 1 of the Arklow URDF Project involves the refurbishment of the Courthouse and the development of an Enterprise Space in the former Town Council offices. Part 2 of the project the public realm works are currently underway.



Funding of €7.14m has been announced for the Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration Project from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and this funding has the capacity to unlock the great potential of Bray Harbour and surrounding area.

Following a presentation to the Bray members on the 11th January, RPS recently completed a draft feasibility report covering the marine and terrestrial elements of the Bray Harbour Improvements Scheme. A meeting of the Bray Harbour Joint Development Committee took place on the 24th February at which the preferred options described in the report were presented along with some further matters that have been requested for attention.

It is recognised that space for existing and proposed recreational facility providers around the harbour remains an issue and was discussed at the meeting. RPS will be asked to further examine the regeneration opportunities on the north side of the harbour that may also facilitate the provision of improved recreational infrastructure. RPS has also been requested to address future sea level rise in the terrestrial works proposals and to outline the stakeholder engagements that took place in preparing the report.

The preferred option for the marine works provides for extending south pier northwards and extending a breakwater spur northwards from the north pier to create a smaller outer harbor. Along with another spur on the inside of the south pier this will serve to greatly reduce the wave action from the north easterly winds that are responsible for the wave damage that occurs in the harbor. This will also provide a berth for small passenger ferries and also provide a holding area for boats while waiting on the tide before entering the main harbor. Dredging is also proposed to facilitate mooring but access in and out of the current harbor will be still dependent on the tides.

An estimate of about €8.5m plus VAT has been provided for the preferred option for the marine works. A cost for the terrestrial works was not provided and this has been requested for inclusion in the report. A steering group meeting is planned for the 9th March, at which additions and amendments to the report will be discussed. Additional works, in relation to environmental assessments will also be examined with RPS to determine if they can be progressed within the current contract. The draft feasibility report has found that there are significant potential environmental impacts and that the planning decision will most likely be determined by An Bord Pleanála.

The Bray Sustainable Bridge Project is on hold until An Bord Pleanála make a determination on the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).



The requirement for additional environmental assessments was identified in the draft Feasibility Report. During a meeting with RPS in March, RPS undertook to carry out an EIA Scoping Exercise as an add-on to their current engagement. It was also agreed that they should provide ecological services to undertake a Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening. A fee proposal was submitted and included for additional public consultation on the scheme and the production of a 3D model for the improved visualization of the scheme. The fee falls within the value of the original tender for which RPS were appointed in 2019 to carry out the feasibility study. Accordingly the RPS has been instructed to proceed with this work.

When scoping reports are completed and agreed, a new tender will be required to procure engineering services for the preparation of detailed designs and EIAR to submit to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval. It is also proposed that the council investigate the feasibility of acquiring a portion of the foreshore by CPO for the marine element of the scheme. This can be decided in parallel by An Bord Pleanála and may avoid the need for a foreshore licence application for the scheme. At a meeting with BHJDC on the 5th May, stakeholders were updated on the status of the scheme.

Maritime

The area of offshore renewable energy is rapidly evolving. Due to the number of projects proposed off the coast of Wicklow it is important that the County engages with the process to enable the community of Wicklow to benefit from the opportunities arising while mitigating against any likely impacts that any offshore renewable project will have.

Key milestones have been:

The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme Consultation. Wicklow County Council made a submission strongly supporting the case for the funds created as a result of the offshore renewable energy projects to be managed and distributed locally rather than centrally.

The adoption of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021 aimed at harnessing Ireland's offshore wind potential while protecting our marine environment.

One of the elements of the MAP is the creation of a new maritime consent process (MAP)

Under the special transition provisions in the MAP Act, the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications will have the responsibility for assessing and granting MACs for a first phase (Phase One) of offshore projects, which satisfy the definition of "relevant maritime usage" under the Act (the Relevant Projects).



The relevant projects of interest to Wicklow include the Codling Wind Park and the Dublin Array. A consultation process on the Offshore Renewable Energy Maritime Area Consent (MAC) Assessment for Phase One has taken place.

The purpose of the consultation is to:

- Set out the proposed approach to MAC assessment for Relevant Projects
- Provide important information on various aspects of the new MAC regime for Relevant Projects
- Invite feedback from interested stakeholders on the proposed approach to the assessment of Phase One MAC applications

Following completion of the consultation process, the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications has announced the opening of the application process for Marine Area Consents to relevant projects, it should be noted that the Arklow Bank Wind Farm, which is Ireland's first offshore wind farm, is at an advanced stage of planning and has been operating under an earlier consent regime. SSE has recently announced its intention to apply for a larger more ambitious project under the new MAC scheme.

An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission to SSE Renewables to develop the onshore grid infrastructure necessary to connect the 800MW Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park. This decision is a critical milestone in the development of Arklow Bank Wind Park and the location of its Operations and Maintenance base in Arklow.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Funding of €175,000 has been secured via the LEADER Food Programme for a Food and Beverage Co-ordinator role for Wicklow Naturally CLG and for the supply of event costs for the period 2021 - 2023 in support of Wicklow Naturally's Promotional Activities Plan. Wicklow Naturally will contribute 5% from subscriptions and it is proposed that Wicklow County Council will contribute €35,000 over the two year life of the project.

Wicklow Naturally, supported by Wicklow County Council was successful in securing funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in respect of the development of Food Trails as part of Wicklow's tourism offering. Wicklow Naturally will be working with Wicklow Tourism to develop this product. A number of trails have been identified, with photography, videography and a pilot tour to take place in June.



Wicklow Naturally continues to increase its network of members in 2022 to add to the array of County Wicklow produce. Wicklow Naturally members will be represented at a range of events throughout the year including Taste of Wicklow, the Tinahely show, Ploughing Championships, OctoberFeast and Gifted; all aimed at raising the profile of Wicklow produce.



2. Local Enterprise Office

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

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 33/ €641,745 - 4 / €6,594	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	-22/ € 404,782 -8/ € 12,286
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
	2021	2022	2022
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	77	64	29
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	105	75	72
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	994	900	301
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	10	5

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022



Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	849	750	156
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor and Brexit 1-1	530	500	172

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2020/2021	2022/2023	Year to Date 21-22
No. of Secondary Student Participants	953	1000	864

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Number of Applications	Programme review	Programme review	Programme review

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Trading Online Vouchers	135 Total value: € 279,127.40	50 Depending on budget and demand	33

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	8	11	11

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	7	10	4



JUNE 2022 Activities

- Fortnightly newsletter continues to be circulated to the LEO client database outlining supports, training courses, events and other relevant information.
- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- LEO Wicklow client, Kate Dempsey of Aqualicense Ltd. won the Overall Winner Award at the National Enterprise Awards 2022, held at the Mansion House on Thursday 2nd June.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Autumn/Winter business skills training programme is now being prepared. Courses will be open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow.

Business Skills Training Courses recently held:-

- 7th June: Digital Marketing Clinics

WCC Economic Development Team and LEO Wicklow are organising a skills event called 'From Screen Skills to Green Skills: Meeting the needs of our key sectors into the future' on Friday 24th June at Wicklow County Council. Keynote speaker will be Minister Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education followed by industry speakers and representatives from the relevant education and training providers.



2. Planning and Development

County Development Plan Review

Following consideration of the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Chief Executive's Report in respect of submissions received, the Members of Wicklow County Council, resolved in accordance with Sections 12(6) and 12(7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), that the Draft Development Plan be amended. The proposed amendments constitute material alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Submissions or observations regarding the Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Plan were invited and 76 submissions were received by the closing date of Wednesday 25th May 2022.

A report on the submissions is being prepared for further presentation to the Members for their consideration.

Wicklow Heritage & Biodiversity Office

County Heritage Plan (CHP) allocations from The Heritage Council - The following projects and activities are underway in 2022 - Wicklow Barn Owl Survey; Wicklow Swift Champion Project; Heritage Communications; Glendalough Community Archaeology project and a County Wicklow Community Archaeology initiative.

Wicklow Barn Owl project is underway, survey work has commenced, social media Facebook page created, over 100 reports of sightings (including historic) and expressions of interest in hosting a nest box received. Barn Owl Nest boxes (internal and external) erected by NPWS in 12 + locations to date including the grounds of Clermont House.

Swift project underway - promoted via social media, dedicated point of contact, nest boxes provided to tidy towns groups and schools.

Allocation received through CHP for appointment of a part time community archaeologist. Request for quotations (RFQ) issued for the provision of **Community Archaeology Services** for Wicklow County Council to work with Heritage Office to support landowners and council in their role as custodians of archaeological heritage.

Community Monument Fund (CMF) 2022- Seven CMF projects currently underway, overseen by Heritage Officer, allocations as follows: Arklow Castle repairs, €84,621; Mullinacuffe Historic Church ruins repairs €14,954; Castlekevin, Roundwood conservation plan €18,682; Baltinglass Hills – Lidar Survey €29,362; West Wicklow Medieval church and graveyards –geophysical survey and access improvements €30,000; Castlekevin podcast production €7,748; Abbey Lane, Arklow – research & interpretation €7,072..



Local Biodiversity Action Plan Fund: Funding allocations of €48,000 confirmed to Heritage Office under the LBAPF for a continuation and expansion of the Brittas Bay Conservation Project and the initiation of a county hedgerow survey.

Heritage Communications: Ongoing distribution of 'managed for wildlife' and other pollinator resources among public and local authority staff. 20+ events held in County Wicklow for National Biodiversity Week 15th-22nd May. Meeting of Wicklow ICAN groups hosted on 9th May in Wicklow Library.

Protected Structures Grants: Projects under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage underway. BHIS includes 11 projects under a county allocation of €96,000. HSF includes 3 projects; €25,000 towards Russborough Weir Wall repairs; €40,000 for St Matthews Church, Newtownmountkennedy, and €10,000 to vernacular house at Greenan More. All projects, reporting and recoupment to be overseen by heritage officer on behalf of planning section.

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31st May 2022
Received (Valid)	505

A total of 113 valid applications were received during May as follows:

Type of Development	31 st May, 2022 Number Received
Individual Houses	27 (20 refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	06
Agricultural Structures	00
Commercial	03
Other Developments**	77
Total	113

* Large housing development

22/483, Cairn Homes, 57 Units, Blessington Demesne

22/574, Dungrey Ltd, 21 Units, Blessington

22/484, Papaver Ltd, 27 Units, Newtownmountkennedy



22/504, Cedarbrick Development Ltd, 74 Units, Ballyguile More, Wicklow

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

Decisions issued in respect of 89 applications in May:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	05
Individual Houses	17 (14 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	65
Other Developments Requiring EIA	02
Total	89

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

ABP-305558-21, Kilgarron Hill, Parknasilloge, Enniskerry (219 Units), Members meeting 1/3/2022, CE report to be forwarded to ABP by 31/3/2022

ABP-312020-21, Lands at Bray Head House (179 Units) Members meeting 7/12, CE report forwarded 26/1/22, Granted 23/3.

ABP-313208-22 – lands at Season Park, Newtown (179 Units) Members Meeting 25/4, CE forwarded to ABP 30/5

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

ABP-313314-22 – Lands at Fassaroe and Monastery, Bray (650 Units) Members Meeting 10/5, CE report forwarded to ABP 07/06



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

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 – **Order made by ABP 26/5/2022**

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

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. To be determined by 02/12/2022

E-Planning Project

The commencement of the roll out of the ePlanning system is scheduled in Wicklow for Q4 2022.

The project will include the following elements:

- Standardised naming/structure of all documentation in Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála.
- Web Portal through which all electronic planning applications and all correspondence regarding same would pass.
- All submissions can be made on-line for both planning application and part VIII applications.
- Fees will be paid online by means of card payment or EFT.
- Part VIII applications for all Local Authorities would be submitted and stored centrally.
- Referrals to all prescribed bodies and the receipt of their submissions would be electronic.
- Electronic transfer of planning files to An Bord Pleanála following an appeal.



The e-Planning system will provide a better service to the public. It will allow agents to build their applications before submission, and will reduce the printing, copying and scanning of documentation. It will also facilitate electronic interaction between Local Authorities, An Bord Pleanála and prescribed bodies.

Planning Enforcement

New Files	8
Advisory Letters	26
Warning Letters	2
Enforcement Notices	0
Legal Files	01
Closed	15

Vacant Sites

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
Arklow	7
Baltinglass	1
Bray	4
Greystones	3
Wicklow	8

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

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

1 sites on appeal to Valuation Tribunal

€23,100 paid in levies in April

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	3 No sites on Register
Wicklow	1
Baltinglass	1
Bray	1



Short-Term Letting

	To 31/5/2022
Applications for Registration received to date	141
Warning Letters issued	26
Enforcement Notices issued	7
UD files opened	33
Under Investigation	52
Legal Proceedings instigated	1

3. Environmental Services

Waste Management

Litter/Waste Enforcement

No. of Complaints Created	157
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	160
No of Litter Fines Issued	26
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	8
No. of Warning Letters Issued	3
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	14
No. of Burning Applications Granted	11
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	10
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	38
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	2
No. of cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	0
Income - Litter	€2,250.00
Income- Waste Management	€3,160.00

Two recent court cases involving drivers discarding cigarette butts from their vehicles, resulted in fines of €150 and costs of €450 in one case and a payment of €300 in the second case.

Whitestown Remediation Project

Wicklow County Council has employed Fehily Timoney & Company to advise on the remediation of the site at Whitestown, in accordance with the judgments of Mr. Justice Humphreys



The first draft remediation plan was lodged with Brownfield restoration Ireland Limited (BRIL) on 27th November 2020. Following submissions from a number of parties a revised remediation plan, which incorporated requests contained in the submissions, was circulated on the 28th April 2022.

The revised draft remediation plan also contains a Natura Impact Statement as requested by the NPWS in their submission.

Recycling Centres

Contract documents have been issued to a civil Engineering consultancy to commence work on the design of a new roof and refurbishment of Bray Recycling Centre.

Climate Action

Climate Action Plan 2021 – Securing Our Future

The Climate Action Plan, which was launched on 4th November 2021, is an ambitious plan to put Ireland on a more sustainable path, cutting emissions and creating a cleaner, greener economy and society

The Climate Action Plan follows the Climate Act 2021, which commits Ireland to a legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050, and a reduction of 51% by 2030. These targets are a key pillar of the Programme for Government.

The plan sets out 475 separate actions to halve Ireland's greenhouse emissions by 2030, including extensive offshore wind power, retrofitting 500,000 homes and putting a million electric vehicles on the roads.

The public sector will lead by example and halve emissions by 2030. Green Teams will be established in every public sector body. No new fossil fuel heating systems will be installed in public buildings after 2023, except in very limited exceptional circumstances. All new fleet purchases will be electric from 2023, where such vehicles are available.

A new National Retrofit Plan will drive demand and make retrofitting more affordable whilst there are increased targets for district heating and the public sector, and strengthening building standards for all buildings.

Just transition principles are embedded in the plan, including the principles that people need to be equipped with the skills to benefit from changes and that costs need to be shared. A Just Transition Commission will be established.

All increases in carbon tax receipts are earmarked for targeted social protection measures, an expansion of retrofitting, particularly for social and low-income homes, and agri-environmental projects.

Wicklow County Council will commence the Advance Planning Stage of the development of the plan in Q2. This will include a review of the Climate Adaptation Strategy adopted in September 2019 and a Countywide Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI).



Wicklow Climate Action

The Tree Management Policy was adopted by the Council on 10th January 2022. Work is ongoing to implement the protocols in the policy. This includes the development of an app to capture all information about existing trees on council owned land. The Climate Action budget will cover the cost of a tree survey in one town in each MD in 2022. The MDs will need to provide the budget for this survey work and any resulting recommendations in the future.

A draft Glyphosate Policy is on the agenda of the June Plenary Meeting. Work is ongoing to bring an awareness to staff, community groups and the public on the environmental impacts of applying glyphosate. As with the Tree Policy, an App is being developed to record and map usage throughout the County by WCC Staff. Helen Purcell has raised the use of these apps by WCC staff with SIPTU.

Arklow Decarbonisation Project: RPS Consulting Engineers has delivered the Baseline Emissions Inventory, the Register of Opportunities and Placemaking and Active Travel Reports. We await the delivery of the Implementation Plan. CARO have been reporting on progress of the Arklow DZ Project to DECC as they are treating it as an unofficial pilot for the Country.

A National EV Strategy was launched by the Department of Transport in March. This strategy places an onus on the Public Sector to increase EV penetration in the public sector fleet, to coordinate the delivery of infrastructure across all levels of government and to facilitate the development of a comprehensive mixed-type EV charge point network serving the needs of all citizens. The Climate Action Officer is coordinating an input from a number of departments to develop a strategy for the Council on the rollout of EV Chargers in the public domain and TWES are working on transitioning fleet to EVs.

The Green Team, a cross departmental team with 16 members, is working on a policy to rollout the use of recycled paper throughout the organisation. Alternative green cleaning products are being trialled. The members of the Green Team will be tasked with forwarding projects, services etc. that meet the theme of Climate Action for circulating via social media on the 1st July #yourcouncilday

A tender for a consultant to develop a Conservation Management Plan for Bray Head and Wicklow Head closed on Friday 27th May 2022 – no responses were received. Negotiated procedures with a suitable consultant have commenced.

Environmental Awareness

Wicklow County Council is one of three local authorities involved in an EPA funded pilot on separate collection of textiles which will test different approaches for improving the collection of textiles. The project was launched in May with two collections held, one in St Mary's College and one at the recycling centre. The textiles are being graded to see what quality of clothing is donated and how much potential there is for reuse of the material.



A new sustainability module for the GAA Future leaders programme developed by Wicklow, Kildare, and Meath local authorities with CARO was launched at Croke Park.

Seventeen schools were awarded a Green Flag in May.

The Relove Fashion competition for secondary schools for the next school year was launched to allow schools to plan for it in curriculum development.

A composter and two worm composting systems were installed to test composting options for food waste in the staff canteen and provide a demonstration of composting to staff. All systems are now being used to take food waste from the canteen and offices.

An LAPN project will link to the Bikes for Africa project and involve delivery of workshops on bicycle repair in the three larger recycling centres and a video animation to promote extending the life of bicycles through good maintenance. Workshops will target both adult and youth participation.

An LAPN project to provide training on composting has now been completed and a case study is being prepared. The project was extended to provide training for Loreto College in Bray and Newcastle Tidy Towns will receive training in the coming months.

The annual National Spring Clean Campaign has finished with 118 groups registering to undertake a clean up event.

Wicklow County Council is working with eight other local authorities to develop a series of short videos on dog fouling for use on social media. The videos are currently in production.

Sustainable Energy Committees

Greystones/Delgany and Wicklow Town SECs both completed their energy master plans.

Work continues on the Energy Map Plans, EMPs for Enniskerry, High Park and Blessington.

Newtownmountkennedy, Glenmalure and Laragh have also completed Energy Master Plans.

Consultants have now started work on the Arklow SEC energy master plan.

Glenmalure, Laragh and Wicklow Town are planning Energy Awareness Days for June.

Control of Dogs



Dog Licences

294 licences were purchased for dogs in the month of May 2022, of which 139, or 47%, were purchased online. Reminders during May, for renewals late May/early June totalled 260.

Beaches

Bathing Water Season

Wicklow County Council commenced its Beach Lifeguard Service on June 1st. The service provides fully qualified beach Lifeguards at seven locations along the Wicklow Coast Line namely, Bray North & South, Greystones South, Wicklow Harbour, Brittas Bay North & South and Arklow South Beach. Each of these locations will be patrolled from 11am to 7pm daily until the end of August, with weekend cover provided on our Blue Flag Beaches in Greystones and both Brittas Bay beaches.

Water Safety - Stay Safe this Summer

Wicklow County Council strongly advise the public to use Lifeguard Patrolled beaches. The lifeguards focus is on the avoidance of incidents by providing advice and intervening when hazards are identified. Additionally, they provide first aid for those using the beach and they are in contact with the Irish Coast Guard should they be required.

In general, never swim alone, make sure you can be seen – wear bright swim cap etc, never swim following alcohol intake and warm up fast upon getting out of the water. Your body can continue to cool for up to 30 minutes following a swim – get dressed quickly with many layers and have a warm non-alcoholic drink.

Blue Flag

Wicklow County Council retained its Blue Flags for Greystones South, Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South beaches, awarded by An Taisce in recognition of the excellent water quality and facilities available at these bathing areas.

The An Taisce Blue Flags programme demands consistently excellent water quality over a four-year period.

Two other bathing locations in Co. Wicklow have achieved excellent status. This brings the number of bathing locations in Co. Wicklow with the status Excellent to five:

- Brittas Bay South
- Brittas Bay North
- Arklow South
- Clogga
- Greystones South

Caravan Parks

There are a total of 28 caravan parks currently operating in County Wicklow. 21 parks have renewed their licences and the remainder are in the process of applying for their licence. This licence is issued under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1948.

Public Participation: Identification of Bathing Waters



Local authorities must identify official bathing areas in their area every year so that they can be monitored for safety, water quality and their level of use. There are six bathing waters identified under the Bathing Water Regulations 2008. These are Bray South Promenade, Greystones South Beach, Silver Strand Beach, Brittas Bay North Beach, Brittas Bay South Beach and Clogga Beach.

The Council also monitors nine other waters used in the County namely; South of Bray Harbour, The Cove Greystones, Kilcoole Beach, The Murrough Wicklow, Wicklow Harbour Bathing Area, Wicklow Harbour Lifeboat/Sailing Club Area, Arklow South Beach and The Cove Arklow.

Wicklow County Council is asking people who swim at beaches, lakes and rivers to tell them if they think they should maintain existing designated bathing waters designations or give a new official bathing area designation to areas that are commonly used for swimming, but not identified at the moment. Closing date for submissions has been extended to 30th June 2022.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Online-Consultation-Hub/Public-Participation-Identification-of-Bathing-Waters>

Harbours and Ports

Activity at Wicklow Port - Shipping Movements

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-22	5	4	2	6	4	2
Feb-22	5	6	0	6	5	1
Mar-22	11	8	3	14	10	4
Apr-2022	9	9	0	9	7	2
May 2022	8	8	0	8	7	1

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 5 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 3 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 9 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 35 Rivers monitored involving 88 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations



- 7 Catchment activity/engagements/consultations on water quality matters.

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 2 Vehicle Refinisher Installation were certified.

Petrol Vapour Regulations

- 1 Petrol filling station was certified.
- 1 Petrol filling station was inspected

Drinking Water Regulations – Non-exempted Private Supplies

- 12 Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored and compliant with tested parameters
- 8 Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored and 7 had minor non-compliances with pH parameters and 1 had detected the presence of coliforms.
- 8 Merit Action letters were issued.
- 1 Boil Water Lifted issued after remedial action and verification sampling Notice and remedial action letter was issued.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Preparation of Inspection Plan
- 11 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems carried out and 9 found compliant.
- 2 Advisory notices issued requiring remedial action for the non-compliant domestic waste water treatment systems.

Bathing Water Regulations

Pre-season sampling of identified bathing commenced on May 23rd. Bathing Water Quality for 9 bathing waters monitored on that date was excellent.

Included Identified bathing waters- Bray South Promenade, Greystones South, Brittas Bay North and South, Silver strand and Clogga.

Included other bathing waters- Arklow South, Arklow Cove and Greystones Cove Beaches.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

- 40 River/Lake samples taken and analysed upstream and downstream of discharges of public wastewater treatment plants

Planning & Development

- 7 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerned agricultural, commercial and forestry development.

Well Grants



• Number of New Applications	18
• Number of New Wells Granted	6
• Number of New Pumps Granted	15
• Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.)Granted	19
• Number of Inspections in advance/after works	37

Arklow & Avoca Flood Relief Schemes

The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was signed by the Chief Executive and nominated member on the 25th of May 2021 and the Environmental Impact Statement and application to An Bord Pleanala was submitted to An Bord Pleanala on the 31st of May 2021

An Oral Hearing took place on the 19th and 20th of January 2022. This Oral Hearing only related to the CPO.

Wicklow County Council has been working with the Law Department and the OPW in reviewing the submissions in order to prepare for the Oral Hearing.

There were 21 submissions on the Planning Application and 9 submissions to the CPO, all of these submissions were addressed, either by way of written response or at the Oral Hearing.

A decision is awaited from An Bord Pleanala.



5. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Public lighting

For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults to same period in the previous three years.

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **277 1.83%** Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attend)	2	4	2	3	1	12
Cable Fault (Attend)	2	1			1	4
ESB Required (Attended)	6	3	5	8	10	32
Knock Down (Attended)				1	1	2
Materials required	1	1				2
No Supply	1	1	2	5		9
On Hold			11		4	15
Submitted	11	46	36	35	28	156
TMR	4	3	13	5	6	31
Grand Total	27	59	76	60	55	277
Percentage Not Working	0.91%	2.46%	2.28%	2.16%	1.50%	1.83%

	3rd May 2022	9th May 2022	16th May 2022	23rd May 2022	30th May 2022	20th June 2022
Access Issues (Attend)	15	18	17	18	14	12
Cable Fault (Attend)	4	3	3	3	3	4
ESB Requ (Attended)	20	20	20	24	26	32
Knock Down (Attended)	2	2	2	3	2	2
Materials required	2	2	2	2	2	2
No Supply	14	14	14	12	9	9
On Hold	18	20	25	21	16	15
Submitted	194	173	160	176	165	156
TMR	30	30	33	38	37	31
Total	299	282	276	297	288	277
Percentage not working	1.98%	1.86%	1.82%	1.96%	1.90%	1.83%



Transportation Statistics (General)

	Total 2020	Total 2021	Total 2022	April 2022	May 2022
Solicitors Queries	842	923	328	59	83
Road closure applications	23	53	30	7	7
Road Opening licences	1279	1575	611	142	91
Abnormal Load applications	33	54	20	2	4

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website www.n11m11.ie on 14 December 2021. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in 2021. Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation was due to commence in Q1 2022. The scheme is currently suspended as no funding has been provided to continue during 2022.

The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet virtually with the public and any interested parties.

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

The BPIS web site is now available on www.n11m11bpis.ie. This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment of the 7 no residential properties that are adjacent to the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The draft report concluded that the change in junction layout does not change the noise levels at nearby properties when compared to the previous layout. However when road traffic speeds are increased to 100kph along the N11, noise levels were elevated at the nearest noise sensitive locations by up to 4.5 dB Lden. This would cause a potentially significant impact to the receptors along the N11. Following on from this report, feasible noise mitigation measures are now being investigated.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The tenders for the Per Cent Art Feature will be published by the Arts Officer shortly.

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

Following completion of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Phase 1 feasibility studies (N81 Four Studies – Feasibility Report), Wicklow County Council will now look to progress the following two projects:

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

Wicklow County Council will commence procurement for Technical Advisors to undertake TII Project Management Guideline Phases 2 to 4 (inclusive) for the above projects, with the aim to procure an advisor and commence Phase 2 in 2022.

N81 Pavement Capital Works

Resurfacing works of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove will be tendered for in 2022. Ground Investigation was carried out in May with pavement design to follow.

N81 Capital Maintenance

Resurfacing work at Monaspick and Annalecky was completed in May.

Applications for funding for drainage works at Mullycagh and Tinode have been approved and works are to commence in Quarter 2.

N81 Invasive Species Removal

Tenders have been invited for the removal of invasive species identified along the N81.



Active Travel

The Active Travel Team has relocated to the Arklow Municipal District Offices. They can be contacted on ActiveTravel@wicklowcoco.ie

Tenders have been sought for Consultants to manage the following projects:

- Greystones Seafront to Kilcoole
- Sea Road, Kilcoole

Consultants have been appointed to manage the following projects:

- Dublin Road to Wexford Road, Arklow
- Arklow Main Street to Train Station
- Lower Main Street, Tinnahask Road & Dock Road to South Quay, Arklow

2022 Project Status

Completed
St. Brigid's School, Manor Kilbride (Safe Routes to School)
Red Lane Footpath
Construction
Rathnew to Glenealy Footpath
Fernhill to Marian Villas Link
Priory Road Footpath
Cycle Parking Provisions in Wicklow
Kilmalum Road / Naas Road Junction Improvements
Detailed Design and Tender
Bray Dart Interchange
Putland Road
Delgany Village to Mill Road
Design Stage
Arklow – Woodenbridge – Shillelagh
Port Access Road to Wicklow Train Station
Killarney Road Cycle Route
Vevay Road Cycle Route
Kilmacanogue to Bray Retail Park (Southern Cross Road)
Safe to Schools Programme
Concept and Options
Bray Bridge Footbridge and tie ins
Swan River Greenway
Bus Priority in Little Bray
Arklow Transport Study
Greystones Transport Study
Southern Cross Road VRU Improvements
Bray Main Street Bus Priority and Decongestion
Convent Avenue to Vevay Crescent Permeability Scheme
River Dargle Cycleway
Rocky Road
Dublin Road to Wexford Road
Rathdown Road



Arklow Main Street to Train Station
Blessington Main Street to Deerpark
Wicklow Main Street to Marlton Road
Greystones Seafront to Kilcoole
Lower Main Street, Tinahask Road and Dock Road to South Quay
Old Ballymore Road
Bridge Street to Wicklow Port(Including the Murrough)
Sea Road to Train Station, Kilcoole
R772 Ashford
Scope and Purpose
Bray Public Transport Bridge Connection Phase 2
Scalp Improvement Scheme
Ashford to new Developments (Urban) Footpath
Vevay Road / Sidmonton Road Junction Improvements
Convent Road One Way
Kilcoole Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements
Ballyguilemore Footpath
Kilmalum Road / Naas Road Junction Improvements
Bray Harbour North to Woodbrook / Shanganagh
Enniskerry Pedestrian Improvement Scheme
Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Improvements
Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme
Sidmonton Square
Bellevue Hill Footpath
Powerscourt National School, Cookstown Road
Schools at Blacklion Manor
Deerpark Cycleway
Herbert Road Ashton Wood to Pedestrian Bridge
Glenart Pedestrian Link
R761 Kilcoole Road Footpath

Further details on all projects can be viewed on <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Roads-Transport/Roads-Infrastructural-Projects/Active-Travel>

Arklow Public Realm

St. Mary's Road re-opened to two way traffic. Meetings have been held with traders and the Chamber of commerce in relation to the ongoing works.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

Meeting has been held in relation to timeline updates, surveying carried out to aid the design team.

Baltinglass Town Centre Plan

Tender period has been extended to 3rd June 2022 and it is hoped to appoint contractor in Quarter 3

Blessington Inner Relief Road

Wicklow County Council invited interested parties, residents of the local area and members of the public, to participate in a Non-Statutory Public Consultation for the scheme in order to provide their feedback on the identified



Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. The consultation period has now ended and responses to submissions are to be prepared.

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

Notice issued confirming CPO, consultants are proceeding with detailed design and tender preparation.

Redford Junction – Part VIII submissions for the Redford Park Junction improvement scheme closed on the 10th June 2022. This is to upgrade the existing signal-controlled Redford Park Junction consisting of improvements for pedestrians and cyclist with the upgrade of footpaths and the inclusion of protected cycle track facilities, as well as an improvement through the upgrade of two existing bus stops in the immediate vicinity of the junction.

Cunningham's Corner - As part of Specific Road Improvement Funding, realignment of a bend is required on the R755 Roundwood to Killmacanogue Road (near Djouce golf club) where there have been a number of incidents over the years.

Drainage works substantially complete on off-line section. Landscaping and planting have been completed with fencing to follow on at end of May. Tender complete for overlay and surfacing works, with contractor to start on site by end of May. Final drainage works to be commenced when traffic has moved to new section of road.

Sally's Bridge - Construction commenced at Sally's Bridge to widen the existing junction to improve sight lines and turning movements in late August 2021. Fencing to be completed by end of May 2022.

Surface Dressing

Surface Dressing season to start first week in June 2022, depending on weather.

Speed Limit Review

A county wide review of speed limits has commenced. Elected members, the Garda and a range of stakeholders are being contacted in advance of the preparation of a draft review document. Submissions have been received by a number of stakeholders. A schedule of proposed changes is currently being drawn up and will require mapping before presentation to Municipal Districts. Following this presentation and any changes further proposed by individual MDs, the proposed draft speed limits will go on public display.

Fire Services

Operational Fire Statistics May 2022

	Total stations	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Call sign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	2			1	1						
Fire Domestic	6	1	2	2	1						



Fire Caravan	2				1						1
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	24	4	5	3	3	3	1	2	1	1	1
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	4			1	1		1	1			
Hazardous Materials Incident	2	1	1								
Fire Industrial / Commercial	10	2	2	3	3						
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	2	1	1								
One Station Mobilised											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	25	6	6	4	3	1	2	3			
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	15	5		3	1		3	2	1		
Fire Chimney	2					2					
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	12	2		4		4	1		1		
Fire Vehicle	4	1		1			1	1			
Flooding	1		1								
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1			1							
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	10	1	2			3			3		1
Garda Assist	2					1				1	
Electrical Incident	3	1		1		1					
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	1		1								
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	1			1							
Lock In / Lock Out	2		1	1							
False Alarm – Good Intent	5		1	2	2						
Malicious False Alarm	0										
Mobilised into other County	5			1		1	2	1			
Times Stations mobilised	141	25	23	29	16	16	11	10	6	2	3

There were **115 incidents** attended during the month of May 2022. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **141 occasions** including 5 incidents in other counties.

Operational activity for the month of May **increased by 28% on the preceding month** (April 2022 – 111 mobilisations). This is accounted for by the following: mobilisations to domestic fires increased from 12 to 22, gorse fires increased from 7 to 14, ambulance assists increased from 7 to 22, there was an increase in small malicious fires close to urban areas, up from 15 to 22.

Operational activity for the month of May 2022 **was up 41% on the equivalent month in 2021** (May 2021 – 100 mobilisations). When compared year on year increases occurred in alarm activations (up from 13 to 25), gorse fires (up from 10 to 15), vehicle fires (up from 1 to 8 mobilisations) plus small increases in a range of other incident types.

Sample Incidents (May 2022)

02/05/2022	Crews from Arklow and Wicklow Town attended a multiple vehicle RTC on the Vale Road following a collision with a deer.
04/05/2022	Crews from Greystones and Bray attended an RTC at Delgany involving 4 vehicles and multiple casualties.
05/05/2022	Bray and Greystones crews attended a Hazardous Materials incident that required the attendance of the Defence Forces Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team to remove potentially volatile chemicals.
08/05/2022	Dunlavin and Baltinglass crews attended single vehicle RTC with casualty in Donard.
10/05/2022	Crews from Bray and Blessington attended a spreading forest fire at Curtlestown. They were assisted by Coillte staff who arranged the attendance of a private helicopter to assist in fighting the fire.



- 14/05/2022 Crews from Wicklow Town and Rathdrum attended a fire in a derelict factory at the Murrough. The crews were re-alerted to the site on 2 subsequent occasions due to re-ignitions
- 26/05/2022 Crews from Carnew and Tinahely attended a 2 car RTC in Coolboy.

Incidents in County Kildare (3-incidents):

- 01/05/2022 Blessington crew supported crews from Naas at a single vehicle RTC close to Eadestown involving a car in a ditch with casualties trapped.
- 09/05/2022 Blessington crew supported crews from Naas at a single vehicle RTC close to Eadestown involving an overturned car with a single casualty.
- 16/05/2022 Dunlavin crew supported by a crew from Athy attended a single vehicle RTC in Ballytore involving a single vehicle with a trapped casualty.

Incidents in County Wexford (2-incidents):

- 22/05/2022 The Hydraulic Platform from Wicklow Town was requested to attend an industrial fire in Castlebridge involving a furniture warehouse.
- 28/05/2022 Arklow fire crew attended a grass fire in Gorey.

Fire Prevention Statistics May 2022

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	16		5		6
Regularisation Certificates			2	3	1
Disability Access Certificates	11		3		3

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Response Issued	Not raising an objection
District				2	
Explosive Act				3	

Commencement Notices for May 2022:

- Commencement Notices Submitted: 41
- 9 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
 - 22 Opt Out Declarations
 - 5 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
 - 5 Seven day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 53 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 78 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 32 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 19 are Compliance Documentation (28%)
 - 16 are Opt Out (50%)
 - 3 Without Compliance Documentation (9%)
 - 4 Seven Day Notice (13%)
- 35 Valid Commencement Notices



- 106 new build residential Units

Certificates of Completion processed in May 2022

- 21 New No. of CCC submitted
- 8 Required Revised Information
- 21 No. Validated
- 1 No. Invalid
- 168 new residential units validated

Submission Statistics

21 No. Validated CCCs related to;

6 No CCCs submitted in April 2022

15 No CCCs submitted in May 2022

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Building Control continues to experienced high construction activity in May 2022. 106 new residential units in were notified to Local Authority for Commencement and 168 newly completed residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in May.

Building Control continued with site inspection in May to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 1 No. Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests remain high in Wicklow building Control, 78% of submissions required revised information in May. 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.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	383,283
Greystones Municipal District	102,104
Wicklow Municipal District	142,217
Arklow Municipal District	94,506
Parking Permits	29,315
Parking Fines	133,974
Wicklow County Council	885,398

Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. HR and Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in May 2022:

- Assistant Architect
- Environmental Awareness Officer
- Assistant Engineer
- Assistant Planner
- Clerk of Works

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022
Managerial/Administrative	297	304	305	303
Professional/Technical	118	121	122	117
Outdoor	264	261	262	273
Temporary/Seasonal	71 (increase relates to lifeguards)	49 (reduction relates to lifeguards)	49	44
Non DOHPLG	8	8	8	6
Total	758	743	746	743

Access to Information

F.O.I. Requests

May 2022: 4	May 2021: 6
Jan – May 2022: 35	Jan – May 2021: 31



Ombudsman Requests

May 2022: 4	May 2021: 4
Jan – May 2022: 13	Jan – May 2021: 8

Press Releases

May 2022 - 18

Register of Electors

The Franchise Section continue to work as part of the team assisting the LGMA in developing an updated version of the current register database system, after a brief break in testing we have recently been given a new test environment using the Department of Social Protection PPSN API.

This test plan contains 52 test items that we are working through and logging any issues with the system back to the LGMA.

We continue to attend hybrid meetings with the Electoral Registration Project Team from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage with regards to the Electoral Reform Bill/ Modernisation of the electoral registration process.

The Bill has passed report and final stages in the Dáil and now moves to second stage which allows for a debate in the Seanad on the general principles of the legislation.

Customer Service Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2022 - May			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	9054	Motor Taxation	1670
No. of Emails	1145	Revenue	1842
No. of Elected Members Emails	127	Social Housing Applications	60
CRM Cases	227		



2. I.C.T.

Blended Working

The IT Department continue to plan and support the additional business needs required by implementation of Blended Working:

- Blended model for return-to-work arrangements
- Remote Working Requirements for staff of Wicklow County Council
- Government Networks
- Phone Systems
- Call Conferencing
- Communications and awareness

IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 33 tickets a day in May, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is underway.
- The upgrade of PC's in libraries and general offices completed this month.

Implementation of ePlanning

- Systems and Project Plan in Place to rollout ePlanning

GIS & Systems Analysis

- The Online Consultation Portal of the revised County Development Plan has ended.
- Preparation of the draft Greystones/Delgany - Kilcoole LAP is on-going.
- Additional upgrades to Environment Enforcement's incident reporting have been integrated.
- The development of a new Tourism Mapping System has started in conjunction with the Tourism Office.
- Initial consultation with the Heritage Office has commenced with the view of implementing a Heritage GIS system.

Business Systems/Applications Development

- Arklow Municipal District's Road's Section is collaborating with the inhouse Applications Development Team, to design and develop a new generation of "Smart" mobile data collection applications.

Customer Service Delivery

- Support for the Customer Service Innovation Hub is ongoing. The Customer Service project requires a high level of IT collaboration with both hardware and software elements integrated into the Hub.
- Work continues with the business process mapping and DPIA's are being carried out for each process as it arises.
- Avaya IP Office Phone System has been modified to integrate the Avaya Contact Centre Select Hardware Appliance and software. This has led to greater integration with call reporting systems and has improved customer service delivery.

eServices

Wicklow.ie – pageviews from June 1st, 2021, to May 31st, 2022, were 1,240,168 This is a decrease in unique pageviews of 17% compared the same period the previous year.

- Social media accounts – followers to date



- o Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 11,107 followers. This is an increase of 36 followers or .3% on the previous month.
 - o Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 7703 followers. This is an increase of 21 followers or .3% on the previous month.
 - o Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 2843 followers. This is an increase of 35 followers or 1.25% on the previous month.
- The Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie continues to feature in enhanced consultation campaigns. These have included–
 - o Redford Junction Part 8
 - o County Wicklow Disability, Inclusion and Access Strategy
 - o Draft Customer Action Plan
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month.
 - o #KeepWell
 - o #OutdoorsForEveryone



3. Financial

Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MAY 2022							
	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	12,999,017	34,438,754	38%	(14,959,341)	(39,943,965)	37%	(1,960,325)
Road Transport & Safety	6,404,437	22,204,016	29%	(2,932,164)	(15,347,052)	19%	3,472,274
Water Services	2,234,513	5,394,788	41%	(2,856,777)	(6,561,262)	44%	(622,264)
Development Management	4,391,713	12,355,595	36%	(2,253,806)	(6,872,547)	33%	2,137,907
Environmental Services	4,519,390	12,130,078	37%	(597,577)	(2,083,134)	29%	3,921,813
Recreation and Amenity	3,537,887	8,498,513	42%	(438,286)	(1,148,299)	38%	3,099,602
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	574,161	1,566,840	37%	(201,544)	(809,228)	25%	372,617
Miscellaneous Services	5,058,098	10,846,102	47%	(4,498,712)	(9,033,954)	50%	559,385
Central Management Charges	8,131,425	20,213,475	40%	(436,694)	(1,000,000)	44%	7,694,731
Local Government Fund				(5,445,378)	(13,068,907)	42%	(5,445,378)
Pension Levy				0	0		0
Commercial Rates				(13,304,089)	(31,929,814)	42%	(13,304,089)
	47,850,640	127,648,161	37%	(47,924,367)	(127,798,162)	38%	(73,727)

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 May 2022 to 31st May 2022.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MAY 2022					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2022	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/05/2022
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	13,706,643	26,581,756	(17,092,088)	(182,000)	23,014,311
Road Transport & Safety	(35,706,853)	3,747,006	(151,869)	(125,000)	(32,236,717)
Water Services	(10,436,363)	138,325	(382,461)	(17,500)	(10,697,999)
Development Management	(25,225,375)	817,517	(2,676,048)	(250,000)	(27,333,907)
Environmental Services	743,438	1,680,621	(1,310,800)	(155,625)	957,633
Recreation and Amenity	446,620	1,150,040	(179,206)	(60,392)	1,357,061
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,443,763)	33,995	0	(98,750)	(1,508,518)
Miscellaneous Services	(18,825,824)	2,934,570	(6,233,340)	588,319	(21,536,275)
	(76,741,477)	37,083,829	(28,025,813)	(300,949)	(67,984,409)



Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

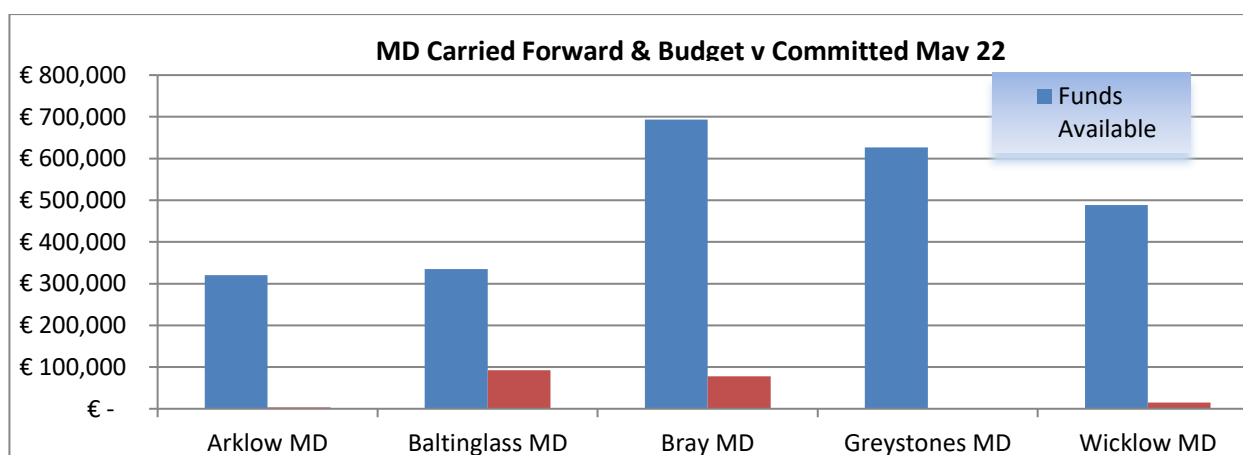
SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST MAY 2022										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2022	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/05/2022	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	6,342,375	31,917,481	0	0	(1,171,316)	37,088,540	(14,480,403)	22,608,137	2,720,831	42%
Rents & Annuities	2,837,526	7,201,687	0	(17,674)	0	10,021,538	(6,845,024)	3,176,514	0	68%
Housing Loans	446,170	770,619	0	0	0	1,216,789	(956,137)	260,652	0	79%

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 2022

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on July 27th 2021 to raise the LPT basic rate by 6% resulted in an additional €1,043,460 in the Revenue Budget for 2022. This money was ring-fenced for Discretionary Funding in the Municipal Districts. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2022 is set out below:

Municipal District	C/F from 2021	Adopted Budget 2022	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	63,471	256,649	320,120	3,665	316,455
Baltinglass MD	113,456	221,649	335,105	92,407	242,698
Bray MD	262,229	431,254	693,483	77,810	615,673
Greystones MD	393,074	233,649	626,723	523	626,200
Wicklow MD	246,816	241,649	488,465	14,887	473,578
Total	1,079,046	1,384,850	2,463,896	189,294	2,274,602





Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024

The Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024 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 March 21st 2022. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL	Dev Charges ¹	Loan	Grant Aid ²	Other ³	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	107,820,000	104,427,500	107,603,750	319,851,250	-	26,000,000	288,594,000	5,257,250	319,851,250
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	24,647,487	29,100,107	16,356,902	70,104,496	14,713,521	7,795,000	42,632,508	4,963,467	70,104,496
WATER SERVICES	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	-	-	300,000	-	300,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	6,550,000	10,178,000	5,962,000	22,690,000	2,897,800	2,000,000	9,627,200	8,165,000	22,690,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	2,920,000	10,850,000	28,550,000	42,320,000	-	-	32,060,000	10,260,000	42,320,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	11,281,823	22,079,000	12,091,000	45,451,823	9,525,870	-	35,025,953	900,000	45,451,823
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	5,150,000	16,900,000	30,682,946	52,732,946	4,585,368	-	41,647,210	6,500,368	52,732,946
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	200,000	200,000	200,000	600,000	-	-	-	600,000	600,000
OVERALL TOTAL	158,669,310	193,834,607	201,546,598	554,050,515	31,722,559	35,795,000	449,886,871	36,646,085	554,050,515



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	€3,500,000	€2,000,000
Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns	Abbey Grounds Wicklow Town	€620,000	€120,000
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
ORIS 2018	Avonmore Way Link Bridge	€490,000	€98,000
ORIS 2018	Vartry Reservoir Walks & Car Park	€197,131	€39,426
ORIS 2018	St. Kevin's Way	€200,000	€40,000
ORIS 2018	The Spinc	€200,000	€50,400
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	€310,700	€38,140
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	€554,820	€55,482
Sports Capital Programme	Charlesland All Weather Pitch Refurbishment -	€59,271	€5,927
LSSIS	Wicklow Swimming Pool	€1,646,052	€493,816
LSSIS	Charlesland Running Track	€411,674	€123,502
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



Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
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)	Ballinaclesh	€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
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	€50,000	€5,000
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
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
	Sub-Total	€59,067,435	€11,267,801