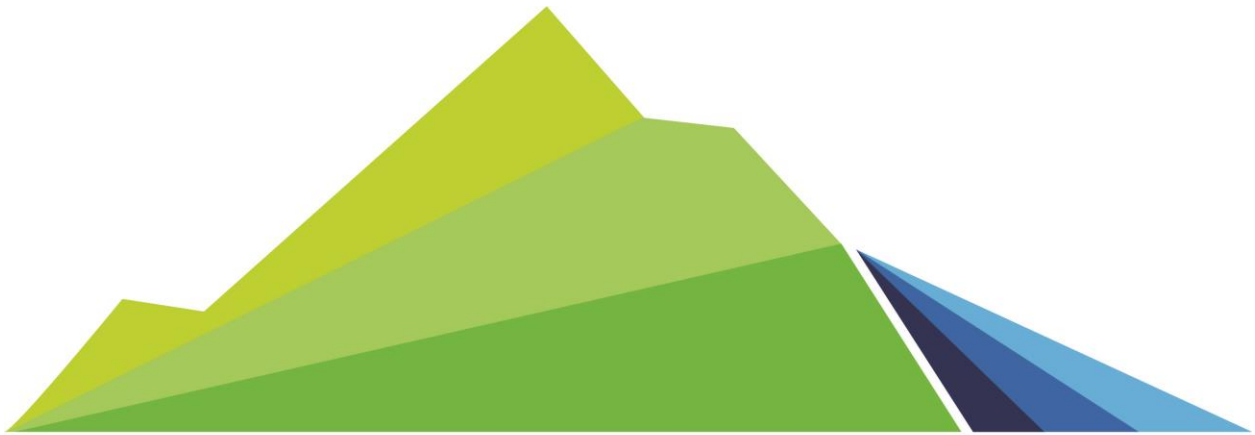


# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin  
Wicklow County Council



W I C K L O W

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

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## **This month:**

### **New Community Creative Activation Fund for Creative Places Baltinglass**

Wicklow County Council has announced an extension of the Creative Places Baltinglass Programme, along with the introduction of a new Community Creative Activation Fund for Baltinglass.

The initial three-year programme began in 2022 and concluded in June 2025, during which the Arts Council invested a total of €375,000. In the second two-year phase, the Arts Council has awarded Wicklow County Council's Arts Office €170,000 of a maximum €180,000 which was available in this new extension of the application process.

The Fund is designed to facilitate continued engagement between communities and artists and projects must involve paid creative personnel. Applications could include proposals for residencies, event series, creative public realm projects and a variety of other initiatives. Grants will range from €3,000 to €5,000 for any single application.

### **OFFICIAL OPENING OF BRAY TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE**

Minister of State with responsibility for International and Road Transport, Logistics, Rail and Ports, Séan Canney officially opened the Bray Transport Interchange on 17<sup>th</sup> September, on behalf of Wicklow County Council in partnership with the National Transport Authority (NTA).

This project has successfully delivered a high-quality transport interchange that facilitates seamless connections between key modes of transportation including walking, cycling, taxis, buses and railway services. The completed scheme has created a safer, more connected and high-quality public realm environment that complements the heritage of the station building while promoting development in the area.

Wicklow County Council's Active Travel Vision aims for every resident in County Wicklow to use active travel options in their daily lives naturally and without hesitation. The Council has provided practical and safe options for residents to do so.

At the Bray Transport Interchange, Wicklow County Council, with funding and support from the Department of Transport through the NTA, has created a high-quality environment and a focal point for commuters and visitors. The improved and safer facilities around Bray Train Station will encourage more people to adopt sustainable methods of transport in their everyday lives.

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

## Social Development

### Housing

	August 2025	August 2024
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	89	104
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1334	1372
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	20
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	19	22

### Allocation of Social Housing

	August 2025	August 2024
Wicklow County Council	8	15
Approved Housing Bodies	10	2

### Social Housing Applications

	August 2025
New applications	49
Awaiting further information/EHO report	84

### Social Housing Stock

	August 2025	August 2024
Tenancies Occupied	5129	4973
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€350,553.08	€333,665.49
Arrears (Including Bray)	€2,898,566.01	€3,236,355.20

### Rent

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

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

## Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 31/07/2025
Arklow	932
Ashford	392
Aughrim	40
Avoca	38
Ballinaclash	8
Ballyconnell	4
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	127
Barndarrig	11
Blessington	265
Bray 1	36
Bray north	475
Bray south	405
Bray town centre	197
Brittas bay	1
Carnew	70
Conary	3
Coolboy	4
Delgany	217
Donard	14
Dunlavin	29
Enniskerry	51
Glenealy	13
Greystones	308
Kilcoole	51
Kilmacanogue	9
Kiltegan	5
Kirikee	2
Knockananna	3
Lacken	1
Laragh	14
Newcastle	9
Newtownmountkennedy	58
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	60
Rathnew	114
Redcross	2
Roundwood	32
Shillelagh	21
Stratford-on-Slaney	3
Thomastown	8
Tinahely	26
Wicklow	231
Wicklow town	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4314</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

## Housing Needs Assessment 2024 (SSHA 2024)

The Summary Social Housing Assessment (SSHA) 2024 is the continuation of the ongoing process of annual assessments of national housing need. It provides vital data to inform the ongoing development of housing policy. The purpose of the process is to identify the current level of national housing need. At county level, it captures the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the county whose social housing need is not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support. The social housing applications were reviewed from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The data on the housing needs for Wicklow was returned to the Department by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024.

The following actions were taken to complete the HNA 2024:

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

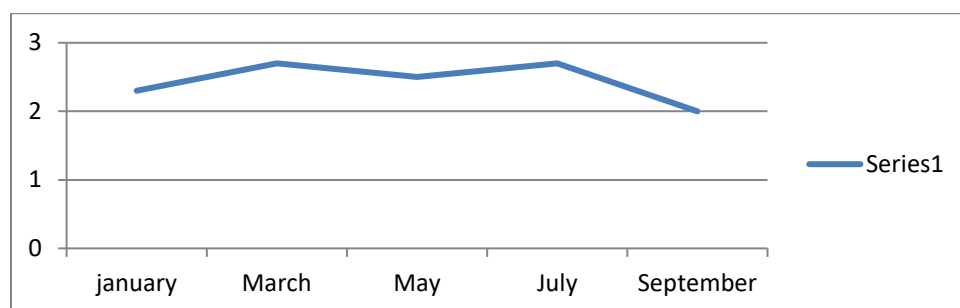
## Re-Lets / Voids

MD	Completed in 2025	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	14 (+7)	8 (+2)	1 (-5)	13 (+3)	22(0)
Baltinglass	11 (+5)	3 (-2)	4 (-5)	7(-5)	12 (-16)
Bray	29 (+6)	9 (+4)	7 (-1)	7(-3)	23(-2)
Greystones	8 (+1)	2 (-7)	0 (0)	5 (-1)	7(-2)
Wicklow	19 (+4)	12(+3)	17 (-5)	9(+1)	38 (0)
<b>2025 Totals</b>	<b>61(+4)</b>	<b>33 (0)</b>	<b>50 (+9)</b>	<b>47(-3)</b>	<b>102 (-19)</b>
<b>2024 Totals</b>	<b>110</b>				
<b>Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)</b>	<b>2.0 (-0.4)</b>	<b>Figures in brackets indicate change on last month</b>			

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

A new local area maintenance framework was setup in 2024. 17 contractors were appointed to cover all five Municipal District areas for works such as housing refurbishments works, repairs and adaption grants.

The Council can only recoup a maximum of €11,000 per house from the Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage, whereas the average cost of relets was €31,000 per house in 2022 and €35,500 per house in 2024.



Vacancy across WCC housing stock % of total stock.

Note: No occupied tenancy data available in June/July/Oct/Nov 2024

## Core Capital Programme

### i. Traveller Accommodation

Scheme	Current Status
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date September 2025
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Three-unit group housing scheme. Part 8 consultation closed 5 <sup>th</sup> September, CE report October.
Vale Road, Arklow	Part 8 completed

### ii. Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

Scheme	Units	Current Status
5A Rednagh Road – Disability house	1	Expected completion Q3 2025
1A Mill Road- Age Friendly	3	Commenced on site

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

## iii. Energy Retrofit Program

As part of our ongoing energy upgrade scheme, housing services are undertaking works across the county. This includes, depending on house surveyed, and not limited to external wall insulation, attic insulation, heat pumps and upgraded windows and doors. These works comply with our policy on energy fabric upgrades which went through the SPC in 2023.

EERP	Numbers carried out as of August 2025
Houses retrofit	67



Energy Retrofit works completed at Seamount Drive Kilcoole 2025.

## Mortgage To Rent

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

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

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

## Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement

The Targeted Inspection programme on private rented accommodation continues. **Housing For All** requires 25% of all private rented properties to be inspected annually. This equates to approximately 1500 properties in County Wicklow every year. Target properties are selected using a Risk Based



# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

approach. The Council is responsible for enforcing the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 (SI 137 of 2019).

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out to end of August
Targeted and complaint inspections	236

So far in 2025, the following Notices have been served by Wicklow County Council in relation to breaches of SI 137 of 2019:

Notice Type	Served so far in 2025 (figures in brackets indicate increase on previous month)
Improvement Notice	6 (-3)
Prohibition Notice	0 (0)

Prohibition Notices are published on the Council's website and there are currently 6 such notices (the oldest dates back to 2020). Note that in the case of properties subject of HAP, service of a Prohibition Notice results in the HAP payment being stopped as per Section 41(2) (d) (i) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 and this happens within a maximum of 13 weeks.

## **Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)**

Under CAS, the Department is accepting applications for capital funding for the delivery, through either construction or acquisition, of housing accommodation, to cater for priority groups including:

- elderly.
- homeless persons (including "care leavers" exiting State care on reaching the age of 18).
- people with a disability, with particular emphasis on moving people with disabilities from congregated settings into community-based living.

## **Assessment criteria**

CAS funding operates in partnership with Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies.

Local Authorities assess the specific need for CAS funded housing being cognisant of the actual housing need of the CAS groups identified in the latest Social Housing Assessment, consultations with suitable local inter-agency/co-ordination groups that deal with special needs, such as the housing and disability steering groups, national policies and guidelines, including the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People.

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

To date, August 2025, Wicklow are working in partnership with Ark Housing and Tiglin to deliver on two properties. Wicklow continues to work with Sunbeam House Services and National Association of Housing for Visually Impaired to bring two active projects to completion. WCC has also offered support in principle to Sunbeam to acquire & upgrade a property which is presently home to four Sunbeam service users. The property is currently leased to Sunbeam, and the owner wishes to sell.

Areas of delivery below:

CAS Acquisitions 2025	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Wicklow Town	1	Delivered Q2	CAS
Rathnew	1	Expected Delivery Q3	CAS

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

### Budget Spend

	2025 Budget	Amount Spent as of August 2025
Grant Funding for Private Housing	3,512,851	2,860,639.96
Grant Funding for Social Housing	1,280,884	965,000 (plus 524,000 2024)

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Grants Received/Processed	216	266	327	281	456	769	381

## Local Authority Home Loans up to August 2025

Received	Approved in Principle
34	11

## 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To Date	August 2025
Applications Received	475	3
Completed	123	9
Declined	280	0
Ongoing	15	15

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

## Homeless Services

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/08/2025	Year To Date	As at 31/08/2024
No of New Presentations	9	178	16
No. of Repeat Presentations	2	39	1
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	4	66	4
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	8	179	17
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	3	17	1
No. of Children	61	187	4
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	0	31	6
Family Circumstances	5	60	4
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	0	11	2
Mental Health	3	8	2
Risk of Homelessness	4	137	4
Arrears/Loss of Income	1	1	0
Addiction Issues	2	13	1
DV/DA	0	7	0
Medical Issues	0	4	2
Overcrowding	1	20	1
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	0	4	4
ASB:	1	1	0
Rough Sleeping*	1	15	1
Sofa Surfing*	3	22	0
Staying with Family*	3	33	4
Staying with Friends*	0	23	0

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/08/25	
Families	16
Adults	28
Children	41
Single individual	13

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/08/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	20	28	27	5	8	3	0	8

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/08/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	24	28	27	6	4	2	5	8

## Homeless HAP Place Finder

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- Seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs.
- Establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- Supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
  - To date, 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, 656 households (457 families & 198 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 31st August 2025. (255 homeless cases, 363 prevention cases to date and 38 direct provision). 167 properties were sourced by WCC.

## Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

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

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

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

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

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

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

## **Other Homeless Supported Accommodation**

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

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

## **Housing First**

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

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

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

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

## **Homeless Action Plan 2024 – 2026**

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

## **Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025**

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

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

## Community

### **Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024**

The Community Recognition Fund aims to support the development of facilities and infrastructure that benefit entire communities, in recognition of their contributions toward welcoming new arrivals to cities, towns, and villages across the country in recent years.

In 2024, County Wicklow received funding for seven community projects in the first phase of funding.

A further eleven projects received funding in the final phase of funding in 2025. This includes the two projects below, being the final projects to be approved for funding in July 2025 bringing the total funding to €1,584,550:

Arklow	County Wicklow Partnership	Care & Repair Programme	€50,000
Rathdrum	Rathdrum Development Association	Walkway upgrade in Parnell Memorial Park – Phase 2	€50,000

All seven projects from Phase 1 have now commenced, and €340,000 of the overall funding has been drawn down from the Department of Rural & Community Development to date.



### **County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme**

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

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

#### **Scheduled Events for September/October**

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

#### **Care & Repair Programme**

County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) are in the process of securing funding for this much needed service. The programme is listed as an action the Co. Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2022 – 2027. The Chairperson of the Older Persons' Council (OPC) is in consultation with the CWP. The Age Friendly Homes Coordinator is involved in an advisory capacity. It is anticipated that the programme will be rolled out in Arklow and South Wicklow as soon as this much needed funding is secured.

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

## Total Number Home Visits Conducted (Up to 31st August 2025):

Total Initial Visits	133
Total Additional Visits	101
Total Visits Overall	234
Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit	52

## Older People's Council, Executive Committee - Meetings

The Older Peoples Council Executive Committee has met six times this year. They held their AGM on the 5th of September, in which all members stepped down, as they had served their two-year term. There were 15 nominations put forward and the reformulated OPC Executive Committee group will meet for the first time on the 11th of September. They will elect their Chair and Vice Chair at this point.

The OPC AGM had guests and speakers including.

Cllr. Melanie Corrigan Cathaoirleach Wicklow County Council, Senator Pat Casey, Wicklow Age Friendly Ambassador, Michael Nicholson and Denise O'Shea gave an informative presentation on her work on Wicklow Sports Partnership, including some chair stretches at the end, which we all enjoyed.

### Older People's Council Meetings 2025

Meetings Held	Future Meetings
January 2025	11 <sup>th</sup> September
February 2025	October 2025
April 2025	November 2025
May 2025	
16 <sup>th</sup> July special meeting	
28 <sup>th</sup> August (special meeting)	
6	3

## County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance

The next Alliance meeting will be held in Greystones MD on the 9th of September 2025. This will be the third meeting out of four that has been held. Each stakeholder gave an update on their Strategy.

### AF Alliance Meeting

Meetings Held	Future Meetings
January 2025	September 2025
June 2025	December 2025



# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

## **Age Friendly Ireland Programme Managers**

The Programme Managers met via zoom on the 29th of August 2025 to discuss each Council's Age Friendly Programme.

## **Over 55's Climate course**

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

## **Disability & Inclusion**

### **Disability Inclusion Steering Group**

DISC met on the 21st of the August via teams. They updated on the success of their anti-dog fouling awareness campaign and their follow up phase of the project, which are short films.

### **Sunflower lanyards**

The Sunflower Lanyard Programme aims to easily identify people with hidden disabilities. This Programme was rolled out in Wicklow County Council.

The Triple A Alliance group have been given 7 packs of 10 for an event they were holding over the summer.

All the library branches are looking to restock, and so an order has been placed and will be distributed when delivered.

## **Comhairle na nÓg**

Cllr. Caroline Winstanley is organising the Comhairle na nÓg youth event on 4th November.

Seanad na nÓg - Save the date for Friday 14th November.



Healthy  
**Wicklow**



Sláintecare.  
**Healthy  
Communities**

## **Healthy Ireland - Healthy Wicklow**

### **Active Communities**

An 8-week Yoga Programme commenced in Carnew on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

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In partnership with Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, Mental Health Ireland & the HSE a 10-week Woodlands for Health Programme commenced on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. The first walk took place in Avondale Forest Park Rathdrum.

FitStick Trails are now in place in Coolafancy Community Field, Carnew GAA & Shillelagh GAA. A 3-Week taster to learn the benefits of Activator Poles took place in Coolfancy on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September.

A 6-week Time to Thrive parents after school drop off Programme began in Rathnew AFC on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Food Poverty**

Planning is underway for a Countywide 'Food for Thought' event which will take place in The Brockagh on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September. The three emerging Food Partnerships from Arklow, Bray and West Wicklow will give an insight on their work to date. Food Cloud will also be there on the day to provide a hands-on workshop.

## **Period Poverty**

My Girls Gynae will provide six educational workshops on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of September for the students in Loreto Bray. A 90-minute evening online workshop is also being provided for the parents of the students in Loreto on teen gynae health. My Girls Gynae will also facilitate a workshop for Bray Youthreach on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September.

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

The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht in conjunction with Pobal will launch the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) New Arrivals Research Series and the SICAP 2024 Annual Report in The Little Flower Hall, Bray, on 15<sup>th</sup> September. Both local and national representatives will be in attendance.

The New Arrivals Research Series consists of three research projects which explore the role that SICAP played since 2022 in addressing the barriers to inclusion experienced by Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection, International Protection Applicants/asylum seekers and Refugees.

## **Public Participation Network**

Governance Training for Community Groups: In collaboration with Co. Wicklow Partnership's SICAP team continue to work with Senan Turnbull to support members in good governance and protection measures. Online sessions: 1st October; 5<sup>th</sup> November; 10th December; final session taking place in person in 2026.

Wicklow PPN approved by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland to be a Sustainable Energy Community with the aim of empowering & supporting member groups to further their sustainability goals.

National Voter Registration Day 2026 – Staff connecting with WCC and working with KWETB to run an awareness campaign for upcoming presidential election.

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

Community Safety Partnership: Discussions with CSP staff to discuss the recruitment of PPN Representatives to the CSP. There are 5 seats for PPN Community & Voluntary Reps, 1 from each MD.

Submissions: Stakeholder consultation on a new Strategy to support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland; WCC Draft Biodiversity Action Plan; Local Democracy Taskforce Stakeholder Engagement Process.

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

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

## Planning, Economic & Rural Development

### Planning

#### LOCAL PLANS

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

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

The Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 was adopted at the full Council meeting of 12 May 2025, this plan came into effect on 23 June 2025. The Minister issued a draft Ministerial Direction with regard to the zoning of 3 sites on the 19 of June 2025. The draft Ministerial Direction went on display, with submissions invited from 03 July 2025 to 16 July 2025. The planning authority prepared a Chief Executive report on the submissions received and it was issued to the Minister, OPR, Regional Assembly and the Members on **07 August 2025**. The Minister will then decide whether to issue the direction or not, or to issue it with amendments.

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

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

#### Blessington Local Area Plan 2025

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

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

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

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

Variation 4 to the County Development Plan which is the draft Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2025 went on display from 09 May 2025 to 20 June 2025 with 88 submissions received. Public information days were held in Kilcoole and Greystones on the 29 May 2025 and 04 June 2025, respectively. The Chief Executive's (CE) Report on the submissions received was issued to the Elected Member in August and following on from this the draft LPF and CE report will be considered at a Council meeting in October 2025.

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

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

## Other local plans

### **Arklow and Environs & Bray Municipal District (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue) Local Planning Frameworks/ Variations**

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

The draft Arklow LPF will be on display in Q3 / Q4 of 2025 and there is no specific date to publish Bray draft LPF.

Arklow – More information can be found here -

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

Bray - More information can be found here -

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

## **WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) 2022-2028**

### **Proposed Variation No 2**

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

Variation No. 2 was made and came into effect on 12 May 2025. The Minister issued a **draft Ministerial Direction** with regard to the zoning of 3 sites. The draft Ministerial Direction went on display, with submissions invited from 03 July 2025 to 16 July 2025. The Chief Executive report on submissions received was issued to the Minister, OPR, Regional Assembly and the Members on **07 August 2025**. The Minister will then decide whether to issue the direction or not, or to issue it with amendments.

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

### **Proposed Variation No 3**

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

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

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

## Proposed Variation No 4

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

## RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX (RZLT)

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

The final RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 were published on 31 January 2025 and can be viewed here:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2025/Liable-Land-View-the-FINAL-RZLT-maps-for-2025>

**Submissions to Final 2025 RZLT Maps.** The final map for 2025 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2025. Owners of such land were invited to make a request to Wicklow County Council **to change the zoning** of this land until **1 April 2025**. If certain conditions are met, a landowner may be exempt from the 2025 liability on foot of such a request. Click [HERE](#) to see more detail. 1 submission was received on the final 2025 maps. WCC has determined not to change the zoning and responded to the landowner by 30 June 2025.

The annual draft RZLT maps for 2026 were published on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2025 and can be viewed here:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Draft-Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2026/Liable-Land-View-the-DRAFT-RZLT-maps-for-2026>

**Submissions to Draft 2026 RZLT Maps.** The draft map for 2026 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2026. Owners of such land – and interested third parties – were invited to make submissions by 01 April 2025 regarding the inclusion of land on this draft map. 7 submissions were received on the draft 2025 maps. WCC assessed each submission and responded to the landowner by 01 July 2025. The landowners had 1 month to appeal WCC's decision to ACP (formerly ABP). There are 3 appeals made to ACP in this regard.

The RZLT process has two parts:

1) **Identification and mapping of the land in scope for the tax.** This is undertaken by **local authorities** through the publication of annual draft and annual final maps as outlined above.

2) **Administration of the tax.** This will be undertaken by the **Revenue Commissioners**. Please click the following link for further information: <https://www.revenue.ie/en/property/rzlt/index.aspx>

The following link provides some **general information on the RZLT process** including a short information video: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/RZLT-General-Information>

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A **frequently asked questions** document has also been prepared and is available to view here:

Residential Zoned Land Tax — FAQ's:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Portals/0/adam/Documents/5Cn831T6AES8TXmR2C3i4A/Link/RZLT%20FAQs%20Your%20Questions%20Answered.pdf>

## VACANT SITE LEVY

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

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

## HERITAGE OFFICE

**County Heritage Plan Programme 2025:** Heritage Council funding allocation confirmed of €37,500 under the County Heritage Plan Fund and €20, 000 under the Community Archaeology Service. Projects underway, Military Road Podcast released/ Michael Dwyer 200 Event planned as part of Heritage Week programme/ Glendalough Heritage Forum Community excavations scheduled for June.

**Minor Placenames Recording Project** underway. Public event hosted in Aughrim on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Event scheduled for Wicklow library on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Community Archaeology Events: Open Day at Mullinacuff Church, Tinahely on 13<sup>th</sup> June; Volunteer excavations in Glendalough scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July with UCD Archaeology.

**Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture):** Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2025- an allocation of €175,635 was confirmed for county Wicklow for 17 projects. Co-ordination of projects in progress. Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2025: One allocation of €170,000 secured for Russborough House under HSF. Co-ordination of all projects is in progress.

**Built Heritage Funds (Archaeology):** Secured funding allocations from National Monuments Service for four Wicklow projects under the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) as follows; Mullinacuff Medieval Church €67,500; Kilmacanogue Old Church €30,000(WCC owned) ; Drumgoff Barracks €130,000; Newcastle Castle €130,000. Funding announced in April, initial tendering etc underway.

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**Historic Town Initiative (HTI) Funding:** An application under HTI submitted in partnership with Greystones Town Team for 'Retracing Greystones' – A Heritage led Regeneration study. A funding allocation of €50,000 secured from The Heritage Council. Tendering process is underway.

**Irish Community Archive** Wicklow Network Meeting scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> April in Blessington. National network meeting held in Claregalway, Co. Galway on 23<sup>rd</sup> May with representatives from eight Wicklow groups, Wicklow Heritage Officer and Archivist in attendance

## Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2025	To 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2025
Received (Valid)	712	738

A total of 97 valid applications were received during August as follows:

Type of Development	31 <sup>st</sup> August, 2025
Individual Houses	16 (14 Rural)
Housing Developments*	07
Agricultural Structures	03
Commercial	07
Other Developments**	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>

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

## Large Housing Developments:

PRR25/223, Broomhall Developments Ltd, 57 no. dwellings, lands at Broomhall, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.

PRR25/60623, Brookhampton Limited, 99 no. dwellings and mixed use, Bullford, site is located to the west of Main Street, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow



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Decisions issued in respect of 71 applications in August 2025

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	00
Other Developments	70
Other Developments Requiring EIA	01
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>

Decisions issued between January to August, in comparison to the same period for 2025:

	31/08/2024	31/08/2025
Total Number of decisions issued	620	618
Total Number of decisions to grant	524	504
% Grant Rate	84%	82%
No of applications withdrawn		11 (6 refer to rural house)

## Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

### Strategic Housing Development

ABP-313442-22 – Lands at the former **Heiton Buckley** site on Castle Street, Bray, (139 Units) Members Meeting 10/05/2022, CE report forwarded 22/06/2022 – Oral Hearing to be held on 18/9/2025 (limited agenda).

### Strategic Infrastructure Development

An Bord Pleanala has received a planning application for permission by Sure Partners Limited for offshore wind energy development – Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 located **off the coasts of Co. Wicklow and Co. Wexford** under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended – ABP-319864-24 refers.

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An Bord Pleanála has received a planning application for a strategic infrastructure development in respect of proposed material recovery/recycling facility and inert landfill **Ballinclare & Carrigmore near Kilbride, Co. Wicklow** – ABP-321255-24 refers – due to be decided by 14/5/25

## Substitute Consent

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

## E-Planning Project

The eplanning has now been in place for just over two years, going live on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

For the month of August 2025, a total of 96 planning applications were received of which 23.96% were hard copy applications and 76.04% were received online.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to August 2025 a total of 728 applications were received of which 24.45% were hard copy applications and 75.55% were received online.

Due to the complexities of larger applications that include NIS and EIAR's, it has been necessary to request two hard copies for larger multi-unit developments.

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

- A number of one off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Change of use to and retention of a number of properties throughout the county
- Demolition and conversions to several properties
- Permission for subdivisions of existing sites, a new dwelling, new entrance onto public road in Tinahely
- Construction of 99 no. residential units and 2 no. commercial / community units (for Class 1- Shop, Class 2- Office / Professional Services, or Class 10- Community Use or Restaurant / Café use) in Kilcoole

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- Development of 4 new 5 bedrooms d - 4 No. new 5-bedrooms detached dwellings located in Delgany
- Proposed wastewater treatment plant & percolation area in Delgany
- Installation of ESB Networks' compact modular MV EGIP substation to facilitate the connection of the consented Templeraíne East Solar Farm in Arklow
- 1440sqm storage building and alterations / improvements to the existing site entrance in Talbotstown Upper,

## Planning Enforcement

New Files	8
Advisory Letters	27
Warning Letters	9
Enforcement Notices	0
Legal Files	0
Closed	10

## Vacant Sites

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

01 site on appeal to ABP - Section 18 (Demand Levy)

## Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

## TOWN REGENERATION

### 1.1 Town Centre First Masterplans

#### 1.1.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington, as a Pathfinder Town, is leading the way in the development of a Town Centre First Masterplan. This masterplan offers a clear and strategic framework for the positive and sustainable development of the town, both in the short term and in the future. Currently, the implementation of the Town Centre First (TCF) plan is in the planning stage, focusing on revitalising key areas in the town.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) funding has been allocated specifically to redesign Main Street and Market Square, two central areas that will play a significant role in the town's regeneration. The goal is to bring these projects to a shovel-ready stage, which means they will be fully prepared for the next phase, where they can be submitted for Category 1 RRDF funding to secure further financial support for construction and development. This initiative is a significant step toward enhancing the town's infrastructure, economic vitality, and overall community appeal.

#### 1.1.2 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre First Masterplan

Newtownmountkennedy was one of 26 towns selected nationally under Phase 2 of the Town Centre First Plan initiative. The town received €30,000 in funding to support the development of its own Town Centre First Plan, aimed at guiding the revitalisation and sustainable development of the town centre, transforming it into a vibrant and thriving hub for the community. The funding was provided under the Town Centre First Measure 2 Suite of Supports. The plan was originally required to be completed, and all associated claims submitted to the Department by 5th September 2025; however, an extension to 14th November 2025 was granted.

Following the establishment of the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team in November 2024, the Town Regeneration Officer (TRO), in collaboration with the Town Team, drafted and issued a tender document for the development of the Town Centre First (TCF) Plan. The contract was awarded to ACT (Accelerating Change Together), and the process of compiling the TCF Plan is currently underway. Of the three planned public consultation workshops, the first took place in June 2025, the second is scheduled for August 2025, and the third and final workshop will be held in September 2025.

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## **1.2 Town Centre First – Suite of Supports.**

### **1.2.1 Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1**

Baltinglass, Rathdrum, and Kilcoole were each approved for €10,000 in funding under the Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1. This funding was intended to establish or further develop town teams in areas where they were either not yet established or in the early stages of development. These teams played a crucial role in driving the revitalisation and sustainable development of the town centres.

Queen's University Belfast was awarded the contract to carry out the Health Checks, and all three public consultations were completed in April and May 2025. The Health Check reports have now been finalised and will be reviewed with the respective Town Teams to explore funding opportunities aimed at addressing the identified areas of weakness.

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

Two applications have been approved for funding under *Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Supports*;

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

This project will develop plans to transform the Market Square into a high-quality public space. It involves commissioning professional services to carry out a pre-development study of the site. This will serve as a de-risking exercise in preparation for the construction phase, should the project secure further funding in the future.

*Update:* The appointed consultants have commenced work on the project. The first of three community engagement workshops was held in August 2025, with the remaining sessions scheduled for September and October.

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

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

*Update:* The appointed consultants have commenced work on the project. The first of three community engagement workshops was held in August 2025, with the remaining sessions scheduled for September and October.

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The capital funding agreement was returned to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Originally, under the Town Centre First – Measure 3 initiative, both projects were required to be completed and all associated claims submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. However, an extension has since been granted, revising the deadline to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

## 1.3 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow County Council has been awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The selected projects are as follows:

- a) **Kirikee, Glenmalure** - Renovation works are planned for the Community Centre, including upgrades to the roof, windows, ceilings, and walls. The consultant originally appointed by the community group to oversee the project was removed due to lack of engagement. A new tender for replacement project consultants was issued in early April, with a new consultant appointed in May 2025. Coordination meetings between the community group and the newly appointed team are ongoing, and the tender for construction works was issued to the market in August 2025.
- b) **Lacken** - The old schoolhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community centre featuring a café, community shop, and a small heritage section. As the building is listed in the Record of Protected Structures (2022–2028), a conservation architect has been appointed. Coordination meetings between the community group and consultants are ongoing, and the tender for the conservation/construction works was issued in August 2025.
- c) **Wicklow Town – Murrough BMX Pump Track** - This project involves the development of a best-in-class, asphalt-covered pump track suitable for all ages and abilities. Works commenced in the final week of June and are currently on programme for completion in October 2025.

All three projects must be completed, with all associated claims submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development, by 31st October 2025.

## 1.4 Town Teams

The process of forming new Town Teams in Rathdrum and Baltinglass was completed in June 2025. Following this, the newly established teams have held their first meetings over the summer months marking an important milestone in each town's efforts to revitalise and develop their town centre as part of the Town Centre First initiative.

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The formation of the Rathdrum and Baltinglass Town Teams brings the total number of Town Teams in County Wicklow to seven—joining Arklow, Blessington, Greystones, Newtownmountkennedy, and Wicklow.

The Town Regeneration Team is also in the process of establishing a Town Team in Kilcoole, with teams in Carnew and Newcastle to follow.

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

### **1.5.1 Blessington RRDF**

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

### **1.5.2 Baltinglass RRDF**

The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow came in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the necessary technical plans are complete in order for the works to commence. Works on the Public Park and playground are almost completed. Application for further funding on this project was made to the Department on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. However, the submission was not successful. The Town Regeneration Team have met with the consultants regarding the public realm works and a finalised a first phase of the works, which will hopefully go out to tender early in Q3 2025.

### **1.5.3 Newtownmountkennedy RRDF**

The project is at a standstill over contested issues regarding the design of the public realm. Following the necessary revisions, it is hoped that agreement will be reached with the plans signed off and submitted for Category 1 funding. A revised design will also form part of the Town Centre First Plan referenced previously.

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

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

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An additional property has been identified in Arklow and approval has been received from the department to start the process of acquiring this property.

## **1.5.5 Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004**

A revised business case has been sent to DHL&H in December 2024. A tender brief is currently being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for the proposed works. A WCC project team are meeting monthly to track progress of the project.

## **1.6 Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) 2025**

The HTI is a joint initiative between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Heritage Council. Wicklow County Council has been awarded €50,000 in funding to support the procurement of consultants to develop a heritage-led regeneration plan for Greystones.

The appointment of consultants is now completed and the project is underway.

## **TOURISM**

### **1. WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT**

After the viral success in July, focus in August was put on increasing the average performance for posts. Reach and engagement is up on average across the various social media channels thanks to the tailoring of the content to suit each platform. Focus went into adding value to the audience by providing information in advance of events like the Bray Air Display which proved highly relevant. The audience among the platforms has reached more than 58,500 with Instagram reaching the milestone at 18.5k followers.

This September, GoodAsGood has organised a promotional collaboration event with the car maker BYD and two strong influencers to take on a two day tour of Wicklow promoting the Wicklow Passport.

### **2. WICKLOW PASSPORT**

The Wicklow Passport has been shortlisted in the annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. The Excellence in Local Government Awards, sponsored by the Department of



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Housing, Local Government and Heritage are held to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work being carried out by Local Authorities all over Ireland.

## **3. WICKLOW GAOL**

A procurement process is currently underway for a new operator for Wicklow Gaol. Some repair work will be carried out on the Gaol in line with the draft Conservation Management Plan which is expected to be finalised in the coming weeks.

## **4. ECOTRAIL WICKLOW**

From the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, Wicklow is to welcome some 1800 participants to the 67<sup>th</sup> edition of EcoTrail Wicklow. This is the most successful EcoTrail to date, and the largest trail running event in Ireland. The event starts with the now traditional Trail Running Gathering on Thursday evening. Friday, registrations open along with the exhibition area. Saturday is race day with participants leaving from Bray Seafront to take on the various races.

## **5. WICKLOW NATURALLY**

In August, Wicklow welcomed the annual Food Writers Guild for a three-day tour of the County. The Guild includes well known food writers and journalists from Irelands leading media including Irish Times, Irish Independent, Business Post, Irish Examiner, Farmers Journal, as well as many representatives from online media platforms. The tour was organised to showcase some of Wicklow's top food experiences and included Killruddery House, Powerscourt Distillery, Brook Lodge & Macreddin Village, The Strawberry Tree, Coolattin Cheddar, Castleruddery Organic Farm, Little Acorn Café, Ridgeway Wagyu, Tulfarris Hotel, Glendalough Distillery, Ballyknocken Cookery School, O'Hanlon's Herbs, Wicklow Way Wines, Wicklow Wolf Brewery. A Vision for Venison event was co-hosted with Wicklow County Council Climate Action including presentations and a venison themed dinner.

## **6. GLENDALOUGH AND WICKLOW MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND MANAGEMENT MASTERPLAN (VEMMP)**

Work continues on the implementation of recommendations contained in the 7 – 10 year VEMMP. The Local Advisory Group and the Working Group of the Glendalough Partnership continue to meet regularly to support the implementation of actions contained in the VEMMP. Recent actions include:

- Fáilte Ireland has engaged a Project Manager, KSN, and a consultant, Design ID, to work on key initiatives for the VEMMP. KSN will provide project management for Phase 1 of the VEMMP, while

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Design ID will design an All-Ability Trail connecting Laragh to the Monastic City and Upper Lake. Work on the trail is contingent on the progress of the Conservation Management Plan and both firms will consult with local stakeholders and community groups.

- 7L Architects have been appointed as the lead consultant for the development of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP), and a support team is currently being put in place comprising a range of disciplines such as landscape architect, stone conservation expertise and ecological professionals. OPW and National Monuments Services have worked together on the CMP to ensure a collaborative approach is taken and that the heritage of the area is preserved and protected.
- Wicklow County Council continues with the traffic management arrangements each weekend until the end of September, supported by a social media campaign. WCC have also worked with Laragh Tidy Towns to prepare an application to the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. This proposal is for the appointment of a consultant to develop an Improvement & Enhancement Plan for Laragh, aiming to re-establish the village's unique identity, boosting its appeal as a destination and fostering pride among residents, tourists, and visitors. Crucially, the plan will safeguard Laragh's future by offering recommendations to mitigate the impacts of increased traffic and footfall, while preserving its cherished amenities.
- NPWS are progressing with improvements to the Spinc trail (continuing improvements made previously) and Poulanass Waterfall route, following severe storm damage.

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## Economic Development

### 1. ABBEY GROUNDS, WICKLOW

Work on the Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns project at the Abbey Grounds continues to advance, with completion anticipated later this year.

### 2. SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Avondale Business Park:** Progress is being made on the expressions of interest received in respect of sites at Avondale.

**The GRID:** Enquiries for the GRID's remaining spaces continue to be received. A procurement process is underway for the management and operation of The GRID.

**Sites on Mill Road, Greystones:** Discussions with the legal team are ongoing as works continue with site's registration with the Property Registration Authority.

**Carnew Remote Working Hub:** The outcome of the TVRS Main Stream funding application is awaited. Contracts have been signed and it is expected that Phase (2) 'Detailed Design' works will commence in the coming weeks.

### 3. OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

The East Coast ORE Network maintains its regular schedule of meetings to foster engagement and networking among offshore renewable energy companies and to conduct annual planning. A meeting will be held in September. An ORE Networking event will be held at the Arklow Bay Hotel in November.

### 4. SKILLS STRATEGY

The Skills Taskforce continues to meet regularly to work on coordinating the implementation of the actions outlined in the Skills Strategy.

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## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.</li> <li>- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.</li> <li>- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.</li> <li>- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.</li> <li>- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland</li> <li>- Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral</li> </ul>			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME)	22 €671,740 7 €12,500	42 TAME Is discontinued. New support: Market Explorer Grant	11 €211,771.00
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
	2024	2025	2025
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	54	105	19 – AOMDP 15 – Strategic Retail Master Class = 34
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	145	105	80
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1223	840	458
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	24	20	16
METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	443	400	443

# Chief Executive's Report – September 2025

Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	578	345	327
<b>METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>	<b>2024/2025</b>	<b>Year to Date 2024-25</b>
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1358	1100	1135

<b>METRICS: Client Transfers to Enterprise Ireland</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>No of transfers</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Year to Date 2025</b>
Number of transfers	6	5	6

<b>Lean, Green &amp; Digital Start for Micro Projects</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	17	15	11
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	20	18	13
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	7	15	30
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	N/A	6	3
Energy Efficiency Grant	3	18	4
<b>Microfinance Ireland</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	12	13	13
<b>New Exporters</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	3	0

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## **August 2025 Activities:**

Various events taking place:

- LEO Wicklow are looking forward to having Aartha Organics representing Wicklow on Ireland AM and at the National Ploughing Championships

## **September 2025 Activities:**

Various events taking place:

- September 10<sup>th</sup>, Owner Manager Development Programme. 22 participants ready to begin this 15-week Programme in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy. 30 hours of group training plus 4 1-1 sessions with the trainer, Blaise Brosnan.
- September 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>: LEO Wicklow will be proudly represented at the National Ploughing Championships by Aartha Organics Limited, ensuring Wicklow-based businesses continue to have a strong presence at key national events.
- September 17<sup>th</sup>, Export Development Programme commencing in Clermont House, 6 in person training modules, over a 12 week period with 1-1 market research, 1-1 export mentoring, and 1 x export potential customer facing meeting confirmed for each attendee.
- September 18<sup>th</sup>, Green for Business Lunch and Learn, West Wicklow. Businesses invited to come and listen to how taking part in the Green for Business programme can help their companies reduce overhead costs and be more sustainable. One to one business mentoring also available on the day. Taking place in municipal district of Blessington and lunch in Tulfarris.

## **Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme**

The tender for training providers for the next three years has been completed and 15 separate Lots have been awarded. The autumn/winter programme has been published on the LEO website.

## **Training which took place in August:**

- Expression of Interest for Export Development Program
- Let's Talk – Green for Business / Energy Efficiency Grant

## **Upcoming Training – September**

- Start Your Own Business
- Digital Marketing Clinics
- A.I. For SME's
- A Laypersons Guide to Income Tax

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

### HARBOURS AND PORTS

#### **1) CCTV and Access Control**

The tender competition for these works has concluded and a contractor has been appointed to install CCTV and access control systems at Wicklow and Arklow Harbours. Funding is from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme 2025 (LAMIS). Works to commence in September.

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

Additional funding has been approved under the LAMIS scheme to carry out underwater concrete repairs to fill voids in the East Pier at Wicklow Harbour. A contractor has been appointed, and works are due to commence in September.

#### **3) Storage Units at Arklow Harbour**

Fourteen new fisherman's storage units have been completed at Arklow Harbour. Allocation of these units is 80% complete. These units will allow licensed fishing vessels to store equipment quayside, facilitating the removal of the shipping containers currently used for storage.

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

Works ongoing. Due for completion by November.

#### **5) Mara Applications**

Marine Area Consent (MAC) and Marine Usage Licence (MUL) applications are underway for our planned dredging operations and dumping at sea site respectively.

#### **6) Accessibility to Wicklow Harbour Swimming Areas**

A comprehensive plan to improve accessibility to our swimming area is in development. This will include additional steps and wheelchair accessible ramp. Project in design development stage.

#### **7) Marine area strategy**

Consultant has been appointed to advance harbour development "scoping report" into a marine area strategy. This will involve stakeholder engagement and the drafting of development options for both Arklow and Wicklow Harbours.

### **Wicklow Harbour Statistics**

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-25	3	3	0	3	2	1
Feb-25	7	7	0	7	5	2
Mar-25	9	9	0	9	6	3
Apr-25	7	7	0	7	2	5
May-25	5	5	0	5	3	2
Jun-25	9	9	0	9	4	5
Jul-25	5	5	0	5	3	2
Aug 25	4	4	0	4	3	1

GENERAL CARGO DATA JAN - JULY 2025	
General Cargo/Container	49
Gross Tonnage	112,814

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

SIZE OF VESSELS BREAKDOWN JAN – AUGUST 2025			
Tonnes		Number of Vessels	Gross Tonnage
Lower Limit	Upper Limit		
1,000	1,999	13	15,310
2,000	2,999	28	81,041
3,000	3,999	5	16,463
			112,814

2025			
CATEGORY	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL
FORESTRY PRODUCTS	50,848	10,151	60,999
METALS		21,648	21,648
	50,848	31,799	82,647

## PROJECTS OFFICE

**Whitestown Remediation Project:** The draft remediation plan has been presented to the court and has been approved in part. The Tender process to secure outlets for the excavated material from the site and also for the main contractor is ongoing.

**Avoca Mines Remediation Project:** The Council is working in Partnership with DCEE to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project. Currently, this work primarily involves making the mines sites safe, by replacing fencing and making safe access to locations that require sampling and monitoring.

### **Arklow Flood Relief Scheme:**

Planning Application and CPO were approved by An Bord Pleanála in July 2022. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender documents for the project. The detailed design which includes elements such as flood wall & embankment design, hydrology and hydraulic modelling, archaeological Investigations, utility diversions, environmental inputs, bridge remediation specifications is ongoing and should be complete in Q3/Q4 of 2025. At present it is unknown when a main contract will be tendered due a number of advance works which need to be completed.

Current works on site include Archaeological Investigations in the river this will inform a process to manage archaeology throughout the dredging works such as the removing old shipwrecks from the riverbed. These works and processes will be agreed with National Monument Services (NMS) & National Museum Ireland (NMI).

## CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS



# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## 1. Climate Action Week

This year's Climate Action Week aligns with Ireland's fourth SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Week taking place from 20 – 28th September. The week will see over 25 events across the County, some of which are listed below:

Date	Time	Location:	Name
15th September	tbc	Greystones Charlesland	Weed Management Demo Day
Thursday 18th September	12:30pm	Tulfarris Hotel & Golf Resort, Blessington Lakes, Tulfarris, Blessington, Co. Wicklow, W91 EE95	Green for Business Lunch & Learn.
Thursday 18th September	2-5pm	Arklow Arts Centre	IKC3 - Climate Innovation Programme Arklow: Arklow as County Wicklow's decarbonisation zone can respond to the challenges of delivering climate action
Friday 19th September	09 - 10:30 AM	The Grid, Charlesland A63 T9K1	Business Breakfast Meeting Partnership with East Wicklow Business Network
20th Sept	10 - 1pm	Baltinglass Library	Clothes Swaps
20th Sept	9-5pm	Assembly Hall	County Wicklow Tidy Towns Education Event
20th Sept	11-14:00	Newcastle	Community Garden Event
Sept 22 - 26th	11pm Opening 9-18:00 most days	The Murrough Car Park, Wicklow	Mount Lucas Truck Opening Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Student Training Wicklow Educate Together, Thursday and Friday Technical Staff Training
23rd Sept	18:30	Greystones Library	SDG Presentation Event
24th Sept	11-1pm	Baltinglass Tearman Gardens & Scoil Chonglais - Closed Event	Composting workshops with Craig Benton
25th Sept	07:30	Donard Community Hall	CCAF information & networking event in Donard
27th Sept	11-3pm	Greystones Golf Club	Greystones Climate Action Forum
27th Sept	2-4pm	Enniskerry TT	Composting workshops with Craig Benton

## 2. Coastal Erosion:

Brittas Bay and Ennereilly Study: The appointed consultants, Malachy Walsh and Partners should have Interim Reports completed in September. An additional Topographic and Bathymetric survey has been completed where further funding was approved from the OPW.

An interim report prepared by RPS consultants has been completed and issued to the OPW for comment. A Wave Overtopping analyses to characterise this problem along the coastline of Arklow has also been commissioned. This was requested due to Wave Overtopping Flooding in January 2025.

ECRIPP Project: Presented to relevant technical staff on the 19th of August and to the Members at an Ordinary meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> September. Expected to advance to public consultation in September. Greystones North Beach (Funding submitted to OPW, Entire area may be covered by ECRIPP). Communication with OPW ongoing. WCC issued a scope for Jacobs to price and then possibly enter a MOU with Irish Rail. Issued agreed CEMS specification to Jacobs for pricing.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## 3. Community Climate Action Programme

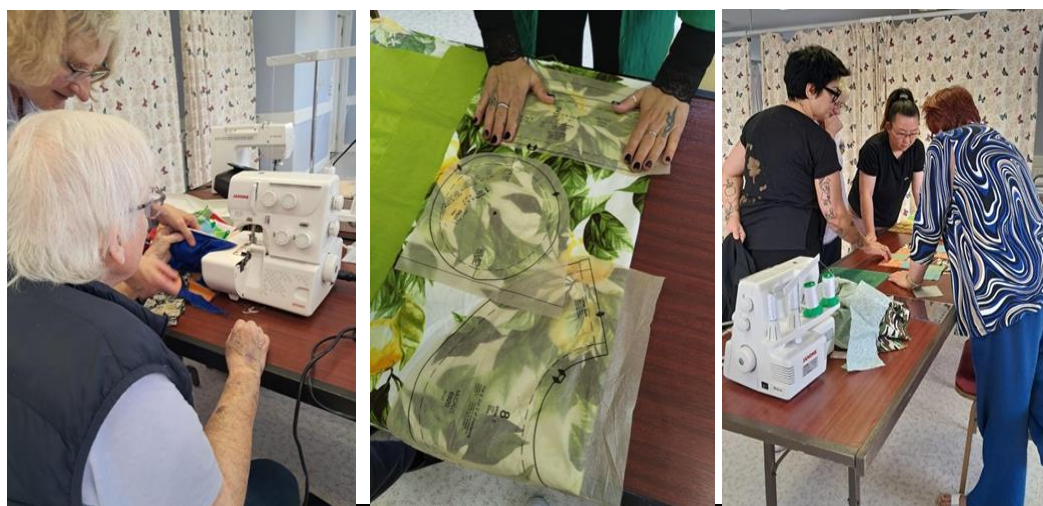
### Community Climate Action Programme (Phase 1):

#### Strand 1: Building Low Carbon Sustainable Communities

€646,000 was allocated to 20 Projects in County Wicklow under the Community Climate Action Programme. This allocation supports a variety of community organisations covering themes such as energy, waste, biodiversity, recycling and active travel. A total of 19 projects are progressing through various stages.

#### CCAP projects completed or due for a drawdown under the CCAP funding stream.

GROUP	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PROGRESS
Wicklow Town Team / SEC	Solar PV array Community fridge Bicycle racks	28,224.91	Completed
Carnew Community Care CLG	Upcycling workshop materials	4,020.00	Complete
	Community garden and accessible beds	2,635.00	Complete
	Pipe insulation	3,000.00	Complete
Kiltegan GAA	Solar PV installation Waste sorting bins Bicycle stands Water refill stations Gear swap trolley Reusable coffee cups	35,109.34	Completed



*Carnew Community Care CLG upcycling and sewing workshops.*

Phase 2 - It is expected that Phase 2 of the CCAP should be open in October 2025. Details will be available as soon as Wicklow County Council is updated from DCEE. Phase 2 is expected to be rolled out under the same framework as Phase 1 with similar amounts available to each local authority.

Several information sessions will be carried out by the Community Climate Action Officer in the coming weeks for interested groups to attend. GAA Green Clubs were invited to attend a session in Aughrim to learn about grant funding. More sessions will be rolled out in libraries and through other events such as West Wicklow Environment Network information evening on 25th September in Donard Community Hall at 7.30pm.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Spongeworks EU horizon programme:

Wicklow County Council in partnership with the Wicklow Uplands Council, the East Wicklow Rivers Trust and LAWPRO have been selected to participate in an EU horizon programme called SpongeWorks. Each participating region will work on strategy to develop and scale sponge measures – Nature based Solutions that help retain water, reduce flood or drought risk and restore ecosystems.

Wicklow's project explores restoring the upper Aughrim River's capacity to slow water flow. SpongeWorks is a leading Horizon Europe initiative in nature-based climate adaption, bringing together 28 partners and 23 knowledge institutions. The project is developing practical, scalable solutions for sponge measures implementation which address critical questions about effectiveness, financing, governance and stakeholder engagement.

The EU Horizon Spongeworks project has now commenced. The first task is to complete an implementation plan with actions and deliverables which must be approved by the programme. Wicklow County Council can now draw down the first 25% of the projects €93,300 budget.

## Community Climate Innovation Programme with IKC3 team:

The IKC3 Community Climate Innovation Training course with Trinity College and Munster Technical University for Arklow Decarbonisation Zone has now been designed and is being rolled out from the 1st of September. Two webinars have been delivered to date. Each month over three months there will be three webinars and one in-person session. 28 people have signed up for the course.

## Wicklow's Vision for Venison:

The Climate Team worked with Wicklow Naturally to put Venison on the menu for a recent three-day tour of County Wicklow by the Food Writers Guild. The Tulfarris Golf Club hosted the group for a venison focused evening to showcase the potential for venison on menus and highlight the issues around deer management in County Wicklow. The event was very well received by the writers who found the speakers at the event highly informative. The consensus among the guild was that Venison has the potential to be a great signature dish for Wicklow that could be used to attract visitors to the county while also helping to manage a sustainable deer population for the county.

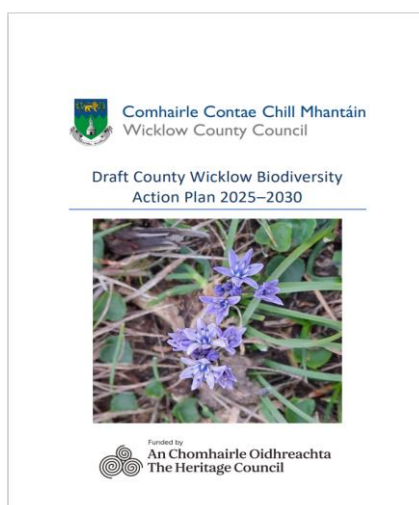
## **4. Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030**

The development of the Biodiversity Action Plan is supported by the Biodiversity Forum. 50 number draft actions have been presented in a workshop to the SPC. The draft plan was out for public consultation from the 14th of July until the 14th of August. A SEA Screening is underway, and the CE Report is under preparation. It is estimated the report will be brought before the members in November 2025.

Steps remaining to be taken include:

- Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening
- Review submissions and prepare draft CE Report
- Final amendments and plan approval
- Translation of the plan
- Illustration and design
- Meeting BWG to finalise BAP
- Launch BAP.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



## 5. Environment Awareness:

### Clothes Swap Event

- The first of a series of clothes swap events in Wicklow's Decarbonisation zone took place on August 30th. Over 50 items of clothing were swapped. The event took place in the new Arklow Arts Centre which was recently opened. These swap events are part of a wider textile initiative that aims to raise awareness of textile waste, work with community groups on developing more sustainable practices such as swapping and upcycling used textiles. These initiatives are aligned and help us implement the Climate Action Plan and notably the National Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.

### Tree Planting Grant

- Wicklow's popular annual tree planting grant is open. This grant supports community and school groups and allows the planting of native and pollinator friendly trees, hedgerows and fruit trees. The grant also aligns well with Wicklow's Climate Action Plan, Wicklow's Tree Strategy and draft Biodiversity Action Plan
- Up until August 31st, 2025
- ReFarm project continuing, 14 farmers signed up and field work (pond creation underway)
  - Citizen science programme commenced, 5 workshops planned for August /September
  - National Heritage week 18<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1 owl workshop completed, 1 owl talk completed
  - 3 citizen science workshops completed, Arklow, Baltinglass and Blessington Libraries.

## LITTER/WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Litter/Waste Statistics up to end of August 2025

LITTER/WASTE ENFORCEMENT		
No. of Complaints Created	164	
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	111	
No of Litter Fines Issued	1	
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	2	
No. of Warning Letters Issued	6	
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	18	
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	2	

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No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	12	
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	2	
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	16	
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	0	No Court Sitings held during the month of August
No of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	0	No Court Sitings held during the month of August
Income - Litter	€450.00	
Income- Waste Management	€100.00	

## **DOG LICENCES**

- August 2025 – 448 no. dog licences were purchased. This is an increase of 5% on the same period in August 2024. Dog wardens continue to do weekly visits to beaches, housing estates and local towns and villages. In August 2025, 4 fines were issued due to dogs roaming freely in a housing estate.

## **HORSES**

- August 2025 – 3 no. horses were seized in Baltinglass following a request by An Garda Síochána, due to them being abandoned in a public park.

## **LIFEGUARDS**

- The lifeguard season finished on the 31st of August for the beaches at Bray Seafront, Wicklow Harbour and The Cove, Arklow. Lifeguards on Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Greystones South Beach continue to work for the 1st two weekends in September and will finish on Sunday 14th September. This is in line with the Blue Flag beach regulations; The Blue Flag season finishes on 15th September 2025.

## **POLLUTION CONTROL**

### **1. Pollution Response & Investigation**

- 7 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 4 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 4 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 3 Noise pollution complaints closed.
- 14 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 3 Air pollution complaints closed.

### **2. Ambient Air Monitoring**

- 0 Inspection of Ambient Air Monitoring Station

### **3. Private Water Supplies**

- 1 Regulated Private Water Supplies scheduled in Drinking Water Monitoring Plan.
- 10 Private Water Supplies were monitored.
- 9 Private Water Supplies with available results were compliant.
- 1 Private Water Supplies with available results were non-compliant.
- 1 Private Water Supplies were requested to take remedial actions.
- 0 Boil water restrictions placed on water supplies.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

- 2 Boil water restrictions lifted from a water supply.
- 0 Do not consume restrictions placed on water supplies.
- 0 Do not consume lifted from a water supply.

## 4. Bathing Water

- 34 Bathing Waters were monitored and had excellent quality. Bray South, Greystones Cove, Greystones South, Silver Strand (2 Excellent/1 Good), Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga. South of Bray Harbour, Kilcoole. The Murrough Wicklow, Wicklow Harbour, Wicklow Travelahawk, Arklow South, The Cove Arklow.
- Public consultation on the identification (designation) of existing and new bathing waters in County Wicklow and length of the bathing season is now opened until September via [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

## 5. Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

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

## 6. Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 0 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.
- 2 Catchment assessments were carried out to determine risk and impacts on rivers.
- 8 Investigative River samples taken.
- 1 misconnection inspection carried out.

## 7. Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared.
- 1 Engagement activities undertaken.
- 1 Inspection of domestic wastewater treatment systems was carried out to confirm compliance with an advisory notice.
- 0 Inspection of domestic wastewater treatment systems was carried out to confirm compliance with an advisory notice.
- 2 Inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems related to grant application in High Status Catchments were carried out.

## 8. Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

- 6 Inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.
- 0 Inspection of a farm carried out on foot of pollution complaint.
- 0 Sewage sludge nutrient management plan applications to land reviewed.

## 9. Well Grants

- 5 New Water Grant application received
- 1 New Well granted
- 7 New Pumps granted
- 7 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 25 inspections in advance/completion of work

## 10. Petrol Vapour Recovery

- 0 Installation inspected
- 0 Installation issued with Certificate of Testing
- 0 Stage 1b applications assessed
- 1 Stage 1b Installations (petrol vapours recovery during tanker delivery) Inspections.

## 11. Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 2 Inspections of Vehicle Refinisher installations carried out.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

- 2 Certificates of compliance issued to Vehicle Refinisher installations.
- 0 Letters issued to Vehicle Refinisher Installations.
- 0 Certificate of compliance issued to Dry Cleaner installation.
- 1 Dry cleaner installation inspected.
- 0 Paint retailer inspections for compliant products.

## 12. Smokeless Coal Regulations

- 0 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.

## 13. Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

- 5 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.
- 2 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed non-compliant and corrective action requested.
- 2 unlicensed wastewater discharges to waters were inspected.

## 14. Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

## 15. Planning & Development

- 6 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
- 2 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
- 0 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.
- 0 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning quarry development.
- 0 environmental report on compliance with planning permission conditions was completed.

## CEMETERIES

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

## Published Death Notices Data

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	2025
<b>Total</b>	158	114	118	92	90	94	107	96	869
<b>WCC</b>	59	47	44	41	37	35	46	35	344
<b>Cremation</b>	49	45	37	26	26	28	26	30	267
<b>Other</b>	50	22	37	25	27	31	35	31	258

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Percentage Breakdown YTD (Year to Date)

2025	
%	
869	Total Published Death Notices
39	Traditional Interment in Local Authority Burial Grounds
31	Cremation/Other non-traditional interments
30	Other Burial Grounds
100	

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) supports the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the necessary repair, enhancement, or promotion of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure in countryside areas across Ireland.

The table below is a list of current projects funded under ORIS being completed during 2025:

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion
OR320WW01	<i>Wicklow Coast Project</i>	Project infrastructure completed at Greystones, Wicklow Harbour, Brittas Bay and Arklow with project signage installed. Project completed.	31/05/2025
OR221WW02	<i>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</i>	Established Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk Task Force. Updates due from Task Force.	Extension granted by DRCD.
OR221WW01	<i>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</i>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Project works to be reviewed to meet budget.	In progress. Extension granted.
OR321WW01	<i>The Sugar Loaf Repair</i>	Interpretative signage installed and a newly constructed baby Sugarloaf at the start of the walk to showcase the upgrade trail works. New fencing installed at the entrance and gates moved. Car park upgrade works completed. Project completed.	31/05/2025
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW03	<i>Coolkenno Equestrian Trail</i>	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners pending their planning permission process, which is not resolved yet.	In progress
ORIS 2022 M3 OR322WW01	<i>Roundwood Recreation Area</i>	BMX pump track bike area works commencing in September. Running routes planned. Storm damage recovery due completion by Uisce Eireann in central area.	31/05/2025

### ORIS 2023 - Project Development Measure (PDM), Measure 1 and Measure 2

The total funding awarded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to 2023 ORIS Measures 1, 2 and Project Development Measure projects in Wicklow amounts to **€858,780**.



# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion
ORPDM23WW01 CC781	Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan	Recreation Plan for the area is now completed. Project completed.	30/06/25
ORPDM23WW02 CC782	Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan	Feasibility project to provide a work plan to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. Tender awarded and plan drafting commenced.	Extension granted to 31/12/25
OR123WW01- CC791	Hollywood Natural Play Area	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Play area specification ready and tender due to award contractors.	31/10/25
OR123WW02 - CC792	Wicklow Way (Glencree River) Re- surface	200m of new trail construction and 800m of surface dressing. Project completed.	31/07/2025
OR123WW03 - CC793	Knockree Bridge	Knockree bridge replacement at the Glencree brook on the Wicklow Way, between Ballyreagh and Onagh Bridge. Project completed.	31/07/2025
OR123WW04 - CC794	Knockamunnion- Stranahely Bridges	Replacement of 2 bridges and additional drainage works between them over a track of some 200m. Project completed.	31/07/2025
OR123WW05 - CC795	Three Wells and Cushbawn Link	8m of surfacing on Three Wells crossing and 270m of surfacing on the looped upper trail. Project completed.	31/05/2025
OR123WW06 - CC796	Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way	Signage replacement along an 18km route. Discussions ongoing with WUC and Roundwood community group. Project planning meetings ongoing.	31/10/2025
OR223WW01 – CC903	Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure	Contract awarded for car park upgrade works due to commence in September.	30/06/2026
OR223WW02 – CC904	Three Trouts Bridge, Delgany	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the route. Greystones MD Engineer to manage this project and submit updates.	30/06/2026
OR223WW03 – CC905	Tinahely New Loop Trail	Additional spur to loop walks on a 10km route to Tinahely village. Design and landowner agreement in progress. Tinahely walking group in discussions with landowner regarding access to trail crossing land. Alternative routes being identified.	30/06/2026

## **ORIS 2024 - Project Development Measure (PDM), Measure 1, Measure 2 and Measure 3**

Applications for DRCD's 2024 ORIS funding round were submitted during March 2025. Wicklow Co Co applied for 2 Project Development Measures, 6 x Measure 1, 3 x Measure 2, 1x Measure 3 projects with a total funding application of **€1,355,740** for the 2024 ORIS funding round.

Five projects with total funding of €207,300 have been approved for Wicklow County Council to implement around the County, one Project Development Measure and four Measure 1 projects:

Measure	Project Name	ORIS Funding
PDM	Disability and Outdoor Recreation	€47,700
1	Brockagh Forest Science and Discovery Area	€40,000
1	Wicklow Harbour Sea-Trac	€40,000
1	Vartry Anglers Disabled Access	€40,000
1	Wild Swimming Infrastructure	€39,600

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

In addition, three further Measure 1 projects have been approved for County Wicklow Partnership in the sum of €99,450. Further announcements in respect of Measures 2 and 3 of the Scheme will be made in the coming months.

## **WICKLOW OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE (WORC)**

WORC is comprised of members from Coillte, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wicklow County Council, County Wicklow Partnership, Wicklow Local Sports and Recreation Partnership and Wicklow Uplands Council and is an information sharing forum of parties most involved in planning, development and management of recreation in Wicklow.

## **OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY (2025-2029)**

The draft Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2025-2029 has now been reviewed by the County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee. This will inform the development and management of outdoor recreation in the County.

OR322WW01 – Roundwood Recreation Area – Natural Play equipment:



ORIS 2023 – Measure 1 Project - OR123WW04 - Knockamunnion-Stranahely Bridges



## **Wicklow County Council Library Service**

Library Branch Highlights – September 2025

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Arklow Library:

Programme for September: focus on health, crafts community supports.

Exhibitions & Arts:

- Throughout September- an exhibition of oil paintings by *Fergal Flanagan* and *Noirin Dodd*,
- From Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> - weekly Knitting and Crocheting sessions

Health & Wellbeing:

- Weekly event - HSE Pulmonary Rehab and Diabetes Clinics run weekly
- Evening event - Yoga sessions (booking required).

Clubs & Groups:

- The library supports a wide range of groups including Irish Language Learning, Parent Support, and Wicklow Partially Sighted, as well as three book clubs, a Writing Workshop, and a Young Adult Cosplay Club.

Young People:

- Weekly Chess Club, Baby Rhyme Time, Storytime, and Comhrá & Ceol return, complemented by dedicated Young Adult Book and Writing Clubs.

## Ballywaltrim Library:

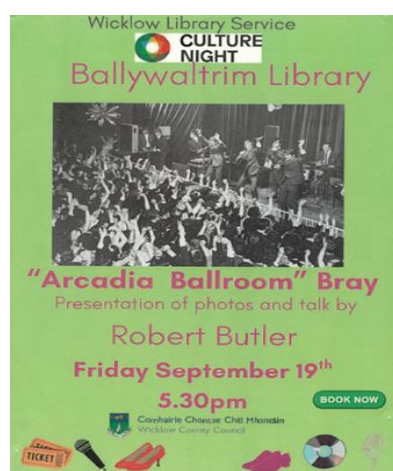
Ballywaltrim Library continues to support a wide range of community activities throughout September for all ages.

Adults:

- Weekly Scrabble Club, Age Action IT computer classes for older people, and Age Action Seniors Computer Courses.
- Fortnightly knitting and quilting groups.
- Monthly daytime and evening book clubs.
- Tovertafel table available for adults with additional needs.

Children:

- 14 classes from two local primary schools visit each week.
- Coderdojo coding class for children weekly.
- Twice weekly Tummy Time for babies, weekly STEM Free Play, and Storytime sessions continue.
- Local Sunbeam and St. John of God services continue to visit and use the library weekly with their service users.



## Baltinglass Library:

Baltinglass Library offers a creative and community-focussed programme for September.

Film & Writing:

- Enda's Film Club screens film every Friday morning.
- Creative Writing Group meets Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>.

Language Support:

- Weekly Conversational English Group relaunches on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>.

Community Events:

- Clothes Swap on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

- Film Club screening of 'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind' on Tuesday 30th.

## **Blessington Library:**

Blessington Library provides an inclusive programme supporting learning and connection.

### Special Events:

- Reuben the Magician and Rachel Drew perform in two open community shows.

### Library Services:

- The 10-Day Loan scheme continues to receive positive feedback.

### Conversation Groups:

- Spanish and Italian language conversation meetups continue.

### Support Groups:

- The Parent group for families of neurodivergent children resumes after the summer break.

### Book Clubs:

- All Book clubs remain active with new members joining recently.

### Young People:

- A new Dungeons & Dragons club has launched for teenagers.



## **Bray Library:**

Bray Library presents a wide variety of cultural and educational events this September.

### Reading & Film:

- Crime and Literary Fiction Book Clubs meet monthly.
- Festina Lente Film Club and Kids Film Club continue to encourage discussion and engagement.

### Children:

- Toddler Storytime on Mondays and Afterschool Storytime on Tuesdays remain regular features.

### Wellbeing:

- Age-friendly resistance training programme begins 26th September.

## **Enniskerry Library:**

Enniskerry Library continues to support a creative and community-focused programme this September.

### Reading & Clubs:

- Three active Book Clubs are meeting this month, and the Secondary (Junior Cycle) Seasonal Book Club—formed out of the Summer 6th Class and 1st/2nd Year groups will meet around Halloween, Christmas, Easter, and other key times.

### Children & Families:

- The Lego Club is taking a short break for September after running all summer.
- Summer Stars activities continue through the first weekend of September, with a prize draw for local shop vouchers to follow.

### Community Notes:

- Adult Chess Club has resumed its usual format after a popular intergenerational summer version.

## **Rathdrum Library:**

Rathdrum Library offers a varied and engaging schedule of events this September.



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## Book Club:

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Monthly book club meeting

## Storytime:

- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>, Friday 6<sup>th</sup>, and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> (with a Sustainable Development Goals theme).

## Tinahely Library:

Tinahely Library offers a strong community and family-centred programme this month.

## Storytime:

- Every Wednesday morning -Baby & Toddler Storytime sessions

## Book Clubs:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September -Adult Book Clubs

## Family Events:

- 13<sup>th</sup> September - Magic Show with Quentin Reynolds

## Exhibitions:

- Lego display by local student Luka Rice (TBC).

## Library Open Day:

- Lego Club launch.

## Greystones Library:

Greystones Library continues its dedication to learning and wellbeing through a varied September programme.

## Mindfulness & Wellbeing:

- Begins 16<sup>th</sup> Sept - Three-part Mindfulness workshop with Rosemary Lynch. Workplace wellbeing series with psychologist Farzana Maudarbaccus.

## Author Visit:

- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept - Book launch and reading by Eilish Fisher.

## Celebrations:

- Summer Stars awards ceremony featured in Bray People newspaper.

## Ongoing Activities:

- Book clubs, Storytimes, and conversation groups continue throughout the month.



Participants of the summer reading adventure pictured with librarians Denise Fortune, David Forde and Greystones Cathaoirleach Cllr Lourda Scott at the Summer Stars Reading Awards in Greystones Library. Photo: Michael Kelly

## Wicklow Library

Wicklow Library welcomes the return of school groups this September, offering a full and diverse programme for all ages.

## School Engagement:

- Tailored visits for returning schoolchildren are now underway, helping to reconnect students with the library.

## Clubs & Groups:

- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> - The Young Adult Writing Group and Cosplay Group both return on.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

- All book clubs have resumed. The Irish Conversation Group is starting back, and Chess Club for children takes place every Tuesday evening.

## Events & Activities:

- 11th September - Comhrá agus Ceol returns on.
- Every Monday morning - Baby Rhyme Time runs.
- Evening Yoga returns for a 4-week series, one night per week (booking may be required).

## National Public Library Day:

- Free coffee, tea, or hot cocoa from Nick's Coffee for new library card signups and current members with a valid card. Visitors can also explore our services including My Open Library and enjoy tours of the Local Studies Library. A screen will be set up to demonstrate access to our online resources.

## Exhibitions:

- September features an exhibition of oil paintings by Fergal Flanagan and Noirin Dodd.

## Health & Support:

- HSE Pulmonary Rehab Classes run twice weekly for six weeks.
- Wicklow Partially Sighted Group continues to meet regularly.
- Black Castle Public Consultations by Studio Idir are being hosted in the library.

## Culture Night 2025.

Culture Night 2025 will take place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September. As part of Culture Night 2025, our libraries will be hosting a range of exciting events to celebrate and showcase the vibrant cultural scene in County Wicklow. From engaging workshops and interactive exhibits to special performances, each library will offer unique experiences for visitors of all ages. Wicklow Libraries will celebrate Culture Night with an exciting line-up of creative and community-focused events across multiple branches including:

- **Arklow Library:** will host the Arklow Community Choir and an evening with local author, Anthony Cannon.
- **Ballywaltrim Library:** Staff member Robert Butler will present a talk and slideshow on the history of The Arcadia Ballroom in Bray.
- **Baltinglass Library:** Three engaging workshops will run throughout the evening — Introduction to Filmmaking, Botanical Art, and Quilling.
- **Bray Library:** A special author visits from renowned children's writer Natasha Mac a'Bháird.
- **Carnew Library:** An evening of Traditional singing with Luke Brennan.
- **Enniskerry Library:** A curated evening of presentations exploring the theme "Culture and Change", created in collaboration with the local community.
- **Greystones Library:** An evening with Author Oona Frawley and a performance by Bray Comhaltas Group.
- **Rathdrum Library:** Family Puppet Show
- **Tinahely Library:** Hosts Poems Ago, a unique poetry and music fusion event for adults, with light refreshments.
- **Wicklow Library:** Performances by the Wicklow Community Choir and a Ukulele concert performed by Wicklow and Arklow Ukulele Players, plus a block-printing workshop led by artist Susie Fortune.



## Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week – 19<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025

SDG Week is taking place from 19<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September. As part of SDG Week 2025, Wicklow County Council Libraries are hosting a series of community-focused events highlighting sustainable practices and environmental awareness. These events help to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals within the local community, engaging all age groups in fun and educational ways.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Key activities include:

### Arklow Library:

SDG Themed Arts & Crafts session

- 20th September from 11am to 1pm
- 27th September from 11am to 1pm.

Writing Workshops with Nature

- 23rd September, from 6.30pm to 8pm (booking essential).

ECO UNESCO Fast Fashion Workshop on

- 24th September.

### Ballywaltrim Library:

Wicklow Biodiversity Citizen Workshop encouraging community engagement with local ecosystems and themed Biodiversity /SDG Storytime Biodiversity – Importance of Bogs, followed by Arts & Crafts based on Life Below Water.

- 27th September at 11.45am

### Bray Library:

Willow Weaving Workshop with *Wicklow Willow*

- 22nd September

Rain Garden Workshop with environmentalist *Aoife Munn*

- 27th September at 14.30pm (Free coffee for library card holders!)

### Enniskerry Library:

Embroidery Workshop for adults, focusing on sustainable and mindful crafting

- 24th September from 6:15pm -7:30pm. Booking Essential.

### Greystones Library:

ECO UNESCO Fast Fashion Workshop

- 25th September.

Machine Sewing Sustainability workshop for children aged 8-13 years

- Thursday 13th September at 12 noon.

### Rathdrum Library:

Citizen Science Training with *Amy Jennings* and Storytime sessions throughout the month with an environmental theme.

- Friday 13th September

### Wicklow Library:

A Children's Mural Project to showcase young participants' creative work. Fast Fashion workshop taking place

- 26th September

SDG-themed Storytime and Craft Session focusing on marine animals

- 27th September at 11am.

A Mindful Succulent Workshop with ecological artist Ashleigh Downey

- Tuesday 23rd September from 10.30am to 12.30pm.



# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## **National Public Libraries Open Day 2025 - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

Libraries across County Wicklow will be hosting events and demonstrating some of the wonderful services that they offer. Celebrations include coffee mornings, library service demonstrations, demonstrations of online resources, library tours and many other activities.

## **Summer Stars Reading Initiative 2025 draws to a close.**

**3,063** young readers took part in the programme across our library branch network, which ran from June to the end of August. Reading over the summer helps children to maintain and improve their literacy skills, boost their creativity, and prepares children for the new school year. Well done to all the children across the County who took part in this important reading initiative.



## **Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership**

### **Sportability Day – Saturday 6th September 2025**

Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership co-hosted Sportability Day on Saturday September 6th, in collaboration with Fingal Sports Partnership, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership, Active South Dublin, and Dublin City Sport and Wellbeing. The event took place in the Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena and attracted over 500 participants.

The objectives of Sportability Day were to:

- Provide an inclusive platform to showcase the breadth of opportunities available in sport and physical activity for people of all abilities.

More than 40 National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and vendors contributed to the success of the event by delivering:

- Information stands highlighting available supports, pathways, and programmes.
- 'Come and Try' activities enabling participants to engage directly with sports in an accessible and welcoming environment.
- Taster sessions facilitated by qualified coaches and volunteers.

Wicklow was well represented, with over 35 participants from the county, reflecting the growing interest in inclusive sport locally and the importance of creating opportunities for participation at all levels.

The high level of engagement demonstrated the value of strong collaboration across local sports partnerships, National Governing Bodies, and community organisations. The event not only showcased the wide variety of sporting opportunities available but also reinforced the shared commitment to promoting inclusivity, accessibility, and lifelong involvement in physical activity.



# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Inclusive Triathlon Programme - 1st September (6-week initiative); @ Shoreline Leisure Bray

Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership, in collaboration with Triathlon Ireland, launched a new Inclusive Triathlon Programme designed to promote participation in multi-sport activities for people of all abilities.

- Each weekly session is two hours in duration and provides participants with the opportunity to experience all three triathlon disciplines – running, swimming, and cycling – in a structured and supportive environment.
- The programme is being delivered by Triathlon Ireland coaches, ensuring high-quality instruction and tailored guidance to meet the needs of all participants.

The objectives of the programme are to:

- Provide an inclusive introduction to triathlon.
- Develop confidence, skills, and fitness across the three disciplines.
- Create opportunities for social interaction and positive experiences through sport.
- Encourage ongoing participation in physical activity within the local community.

## Chronic Condition Programmes

August Programme: for people with Chronic Condition

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Lawn Bowls Taster	Lawn Bowling Club Greystones	29th August	1	5	HSE Seed Funding
Outdoor Mobility Programme	Bray Promenade	26th August	8	12	HSE Seed Funding

HSE Programmes: for people with Chronic Condition

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Men's Pilates Programme	Baltinglass	5th August	8	25	HSE Grant Aid Funding
Chair Pilates	Baltinglass Community Hospital	11th August	8 weeks	15	HSE Grant Aid Funding

September Programme: for people with Chronic Condition

- Recover Strong with Cancer: Shoreline Leisure Bray, Starting 3rd September 15-week programme.
- Woodlands for Health, The Recovery Village: Newcastle Hospital, starting 8th September 10-week programme.
- Moving Together, a dance programme for Dementia: Bray, start date TBC

September: Training and Education

Activity	Venue	Date
Sports First Aid	Shoreline Sports Park Greystones	13th September 2025
Safeguarding 1	Online	16th September 2025
Safeguarding 1	Online	30th September 2025

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## **Archives & Genealogy Service**

### **Digitisation programme**

Work continues in the digitisation of the Shillelagh Board of Guardians collection, supported by the Heritage Council's Heritage Stewardship Grant Scheme 2025.

### **Extra funding for Archives**

Funding has been secured from the Commemorations Unit of the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport for the digitisation of a series of Labourers Cottages Ledgers dating from the 1880s to the 1920s. Coming under the Labourers Cottages Acts which were designed to improve the housing of rural labourers, the records detail land acquisition, building contractors and early tenants. This collection is a valuable source for social history and change in the early 20th century up to and after Independence and the evolution of local government services.

### **Conservation programme**

Conservation work is now complete on the Wicklow Borough Corporation minute book 1710-1762, which will enable future digitisation. This is the next volume in the Wicklow Borough series after the earliest record dating from 1662 which was the subject of an archival project recently. This second volume will add to a growing body of newly available archival information about the history and development of Wicklow Town.

### **Michael Dwyer 200 Education Packs**

The newly released Rebellion of 1798 education packs will be sent to schools and history groups this month. An action of the County Archives as part of the Michael Dwyer 200 programme, the pack has been re-printed and updated to mark the bicentenary of the death of famous Wicklow leader Michael Dwyer and is also available digitally here.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

### Transportation

#### Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (08/09/2025) outstanding stands at **270 – 1.70%** of total stock of 15,910. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we have ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults, and progress has been made to repair long standing faults. A large number of faults also require civil works or infrastructure installations to undertake the repair; a number of these faults have been completed, and others are currently in progress. 108 lighting faults were attended in August, while 109 faults were logged during the same period; see below for breakdown by MD.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
<b>Faults Reported (August)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Faults Attended (August)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>95</b>
No Supply		1	1	1		3
Access Issues (Attend)	2	1	9	1	3	16
Cable Fault (Attend)			2			2
Civils	7		10		6	23
Council Approval	14			2		16
ESB Interface Required			5			5
ESB Notified	6	29	16	8	18	77
ESB Required	3	2	2	3	5	15
Knock Down (Attended)	3		1	1	1	6
Materials required						0
On Hold	1	2	6	2	4	15
Submitted	4	22	6	3	9	44
TMR	3		18	3	5	29
Tree Cutting Required	1		6	3		10
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>261</b>
<b>Percentage Not Working</b>	<b>1.38%</b>	<b>2.35%</b>	<b>2.40%</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>1.31%</b>	<b>1.64%</b>
No. of Lamps	3181	2424	3422	2960	3882	15869
Percentage of Total Lamps	20%	15%	22%	19%	24%	100%

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

The retrofitting of lanterns has commenced in all MDs with c. 1,192 lanterns upgraded to date (29/08/2025).

#### Road Schedule

The road schedule is currently under review, with an aim to have a completed schedule available online by the end of 2025.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Speed Limits

A review of urban speed limits is due to commence shortly.

## Transportation Statistics

	Total 2023	Total 2024	Total 2025	July 2025	August 2025
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	1026	1014	850	135	116
<b>Road closure applications</b>	42	50	51	7	2
<b>Road Opening licences</b>	1956	1254	1231	168	138
<b>Abnormal Load applications</b>	54	50	22	2	2

## Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

## M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

### Tender Competition to appoint Technical Consultants for Phase 3 & 4

Following the Publication of the Phase 2 Options Selection Report on 10th April 2025, Wicklow County Council are seeking to appoint Technical Consultants to aid in the delivery of the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme (BPIS) through Phase 3 and 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines. On 15th May 2025 tender submissions were invited from participants of the Framework for Technical Consultancy Services. Following requests and in the interest of maximising the participation of prospective service providers/tenderers, the final date for receipt of tender submissions was extended to 25th July 2025.

The tender assessment board met on 7th August 2025 to complete the tender evaluation. The tender assessment report was submitted on 8th August 2025 for approval by TII. Once TII approval is received then the letters of intent will be issued to notify the successful and unsuccessful tenderers. A 14 day stand still period will follow, after which a letter of acceptance will be issued to the successful tenderer. The Phase 3 design work is expected to commence thereafter and could take up to two years to complete.

### Herbert Road/N11 Junction

As part of the documents issued for the above tender competition, Wicklow County Council issued a Brief to Technical Consultants detailing the service requirement for Phase 3 and 4. The detailed service requirement includes the further examination and assessment of alternatives to Herbert Road access to N11. The options to be considered are: -

- A one-way link road from Herbert Road southward to Junction 7 (L5019 Ballywaltrim Lane).
- A one-way link road extending from Dargle Lane (with link road to Junction 6) to Herbert Road and southward to Junction 7 (L5019 Ballywaltrim Lane).
- A one-way Segregated Service Road (Southbound) connecting Junction 6 to Junction 7.
- A one-way Segregated Service Road (Southbound) from Herbert Road Junction to Junction 7.

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The Council has listened to and accepts the public sentiment with regard to the Herbert Road. Therefore, as a minimum measure, the Council commits to keeping the southbound left-in access to the Herbert Road from the N11 open to vehicular use.

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

## **N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue**

Construction of the noise attenuation fencing commenced on site on Tuesday 16th September 2025. Construction work is expected to take approximately 4 weeks to complete.

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

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

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

A Feasibility and Options Report has been approved by TII. Design and documents to support proposed statutory approvals process are currently being prepared.

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

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

- The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe commenced construction work in April 2025. Commissioning is expected early in 2026.
- The Bus Park & Ride at Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in March 2025. Construction is expected to commence in 2026.
- The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) is being progressed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office. Target lodgement to An Coimisiún Pleanála is expected Q4 2025/Q1 2026.

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

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

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

The Phase 2 Options Selection work is currently progressing under TII's Project Management Guidelines. A non-statutory Public Display event on the Route Options was held in Baltinglass, on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. A second non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred option was held in Jan and Feb 2025.

The public display documents are available to view on the project website [www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie](http://www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie).

The Phase 2 Gate Review Statement was issued to TII in July 2025. The Publication of Preferred Option to follow TII's approval of same. The project team are currently progressing at Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation).

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

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) was approved by TII in November 2023. The Design Report (Phase 3) was approved by TII in April 2024. The Part 8 statutory process (Phase 4) commenced on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 with the period for submissions by interested parties ending on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2024. At the May 2024 meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District the Elected Members voted to approve the Chief Executive's recommendation for the scheme to

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proceed. The Detailed Design and Contract Documents (Phase 5) were completed in advance of the publication of a Tender in March 2025 for the procurement of a contractor for construction. Tenders were received on 17th April 2025. Following the tender assessment process, a Tender Award Request was issued to TII on 16th May 2025. TII approved the awarding of the contract on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The construction contractor was appointed and commenced in July 2025. The current programmed completion date is Jan 2026.

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

A feasibility report, funded by the Baltinglass Municipal District was prepared and submitted to TII in Oct 2021. This report considered an option for parking accessed from the N81. TII subsequently provided funding to further examine the feasibility and options. TII have indicated that they do not support the proposed additional access to the N81. As a result, the option for a parking facility accessed from the N81 has been discounted from the traffic calming scheme. Suitable parking locations, that can be accessed from the regional/local road network, are being investigated.

## **N81 Blessington Gateway Project**

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

## **N81 Baltinglass South Gateway Project**

The construction of the roundabout by the developer (Aldborough Manor), under the auspices of WCC, is near completion. A Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) has been submitted to TII for a proposed scheme on the southern approach to Baltinglass.

## **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

An update meeting with TII for The Phase 2 Options Selection Report was held in August 2025 with additional report information requested by TII planned to be submitted in September 2025. Negotiations are still ongoing with landowners. Following TII approval of Phase 2 we will proceed to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation. A meeting was held in April with NPWS on site to review the impacts of the scheme on Tomnafinnoge Wood which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). An update meeting with the project team, Wicklow/Wexford Constituency TDs and elected members of Arklow and Blessington Municipal Districts was held in the Council Chambers on 15/09/2025.

## **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

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

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

Construction work commenced on Section 1 in April 2025. A road closure is currently in place in Section 1 of the works until October 2025. The completion of Section 1 is currently expected at the end of October 2025. Section 2 road closure and major works will commence once Section 1 works are complete. The completion of the full scheme is expected Q2 2026

## **Wicklow Greystones Greenway**

Wicklow to Greystones Greenway is at the options selection phase of TII's Project Management Guidelines. A Draft of the Route Option Selection Report is currently being finalised. A Public consultation on the emerging preferred corridors

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was held in April and May 2024. Route options within those corridors are now being developed and are undergoing a Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA). A public consultation on the emerging preferred option is expected in later in 2025.

## **Blessington eGreenway**

Wicklow County Council was notified by letter dated 04/12/2024 that An Bord Pleanála has refused permission for the Blessington Greenway.

Wicklow County Council has examined the decision by An Bord Pleanála. In consideration of the time and resources that would be necessary to prepare a new and/or revised submission and the uncertainty regarding the potential for a successful outcome, Wicklow County Council is not currently in a position to dedicate resources to the progression of a greenway scheme at this location.

Wicklow County Council's priority in the short term is to consider opportunities to progress with shorter locally based trails to extend on the existing routes. These trail schemes can build on and benefit from the work completed to date for the Blessington Greenway. However, these trails would not meet the criteria for TII Greenway Schemes and therefore are unlikely to attract TII funding. Accordingly, any such trails will need to be progressed at Municipal District level.

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

TII instructed Wicklow Country Council to issue tender documents for design services for the development of the Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme. The tender process was completed in September 2025 with a consultant to be appointed by months end to start work on the project.

## **Active Travel Updates**

### **Projects that have been recently completed**

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

Provision of new pedestrian facilities and road safety improvements along the Ballyguilemore Road between Carrig View and the entrance to the proposed new St. Patricks GAA Pitch. The scheme includes for new footpaths and road widening works. Construction of the new footpath is complete, including all remaining accommodations works.



***Ballyguilemore Footpath***



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

The provision of a new footpath along the R761 Kilcoole Road between Lott Lane and Knockroe. Construction of the new footpath is now complete, along with all associated accommodation works.

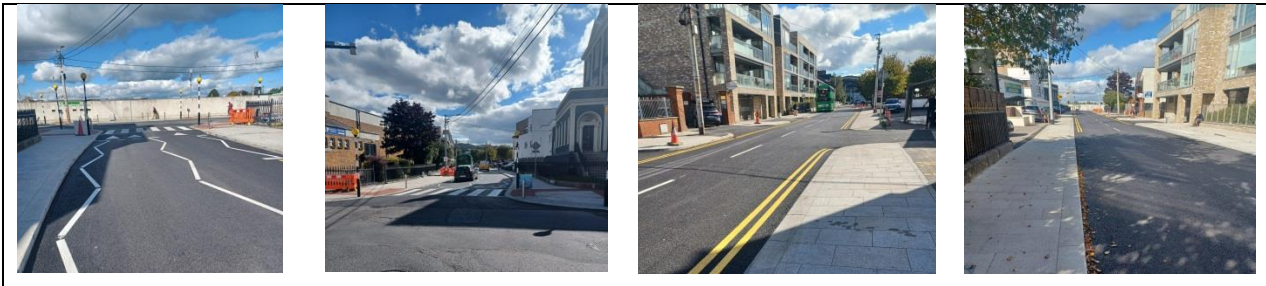


*Kilcoole Road Footpath*

## **Project Updates**

### **Bray Transport Interchange (Bray MD)**

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. Works are substantially complete apart from ESB undergrounding works and paving in front of McEleney site on Station Road. Station Road is now fully operational with buses returned to the station forecourt. Station Road was declared a public road at the Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April. Final works to be completed with both Contractor and ESB due on site in August. Official Launch being planned for the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025.



**Bray Transport Interchange**

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

New pedestrian and cycle bridge to be provided at Wicklow Train Station, linking Station Road to the Port Access Road. Bus and vehicle set down to be provided along with cycle parking. The acquisition of lands on northern side of rail line has been completed. Work has commenced on Detail Design Stage and APIS application for the bridge has been submitted to Irish Rail.



# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvements along the R750 and Station Road from Abbey Street carpark to Station Road Junction to improve linkage to Wicklow Train Station. Preliminary Design stage completed, and approval received from the NTA to move to Statutory Stage. AtkinsRealis appointed as consultants to manage the project through Phases 4-7. Design review has been commenced by AtkinsRealis. Inception meeting has been held.

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

New footbridges and alterations to the road to make provision for cyclists. A tender assessment has been completed for the appointment of a consultant to progress the scheme through Phases 3 to 7. Contract to be awarded to Atkins. Project kick off meeting to be arranged in October.

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

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. Atkins have been appointed as consultant for the scheme. The Options Assessment Phase has commenced. A topographic survey has been completed; traffic surveys are scheduled to be completed in 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September.

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

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

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

The phase will include new and improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Construction works are nearing completion. New Toucan Crossings installed at 5 roundabouts. ESB connections still to be made. Rain gardens have been installed at the junctions to roundabouts (see pictures below). Traffic signal installation to be completed, AAF to be submitted.



- ***Phase 2 - Church Road Improvement Works -***

This phase of the project will reduce vehicle speeds and provide a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists along Church Road through the narrowing of the carriageway, junction realignment, new and improved pedestrian crossings and road resurfacing. Works completed and road markings installed.

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

This phase includes the design of pedestrian and cycle improvement works to be completed along the public road linking Greystones Train Station with the Marina to the north and Charlesland to the south. AtkinsRealis appointed as consultants to manage the project through Phases 4 -7. Design review has been commenced by AtkinsRealis

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

Construction phase has commenced July 1<sup>st</sup> for the school zone, new cycle tracks, two new crossing locations, upgraded junction works and SuDs measures. Construction is ongoing with schedule for substantial completion in October.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



## **Safe Routes to Schools: Kilmacanogue NS (Bray MD)**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Preliminary Designs are being updated by the designer. Site meeting held with District Engineer and Consultant to review park 'n' stride area and the crossing required on R755. A draft of the one-way system for the church car park and grounds where drops off are currently taking place has been provided. Meeting held with the designer to review progress an expedite project. Updated preliminary design has been issued from the designer. Meeting had with school management, Parents Council and An Taisce to review designs and scope given the layout and confined space to work with. The school are looking to review the options for a school street to trial for the current church car park

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

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on Convent Road, Delgany. A presentation was provided to GMD Elected Members at the July meeting – approval was received to progress the preferred option through the Part 8 process. Further engagement required with local community groups.



***Convent Road 3D Visualisation***

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

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on the R761 Kindlestown Lower Road, with new Public Lighting, and Public Realm improvements in Killincarrig Village. The Detailed Design phase is ongoing. Construction works will not commence in 2025 as it would conflict with the diversion route that is currently in place for the Chapel Road Scheme. Expected start date is Q2 2026.

## **Blessington Main Street to Deerpark**

Impact of refusal on Greenway project for Blessington to be assessed – design updates being made by the consultant.

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

The provision of new and improved pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure along Church Road, Delgany. The Scheme is at Phase 5 – Detailed Design and Procurement. Works are currently on hold due to lack of resources.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## 2025 Budget Allocation – New Projects

From the NTA Budget Allocation for 2025 the following project proposals have been initiated this year -

- ***SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara HSRR\*, Brittas Bay.***  
Meeting with School and District Engineer has taken place. An Taisce have arranged a further meeting with the School in April. The school zone (NTA Project) is planned to be progressed with the Brittas footpath project. Consultant is currently being appointed. The project will be managed by the Wicklow Municipal District for now as the footpath is their project. Meeting with School held and tender completed for designer and PSPS as part of Footpath renewal project. Meeting with NTA and ATSO on design. An Taisce have circulated the GDP to WCC for review.
- ***SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird***  
Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Meeting with School and District Engineer took place in March. An Taisce to provide delivery plans and surveys. Traffic surveys have been undertaken.
- ***Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry***  
Provision of footpath along Scalp Road, Enniskerry. Topographical survey is complete.
- ***Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely***  
Provision of a new Zebra/Controlled Crossing and upgraded footpath to link Kilcommon National School to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. Works will include second pedestrian crossing and additional footpath. Section 38 consultation completed.
- ***Kiltegan Road Pedestrian Crossing, Baltinglass***  
Provision of a new Zebra Pedestrian Crossing and footpath extension at Baltinglass GAA Club Grounds to link to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. Gateway 5 approval received from NTA, and construction work has commenced.
- ***Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Arklow***  
Construction of 150m footpath and pedestrian crossing linking to the GAA Club. Topographic survey completed. Gateway 5 approval received from NTA, WCC to prepare design for extension of footpath works. Work is to commence on the approved section.

The following project proposals have been submitted in Q3 of this year –

- ***Redford Park Junction, Greystones***  
Redford Park Junction upgrade to provide improved pedestrian and cycle facilities. Inception meeting held with consultant.
- ***Cycle Facilities Wicklow***  
Provision of secure cycle parking at Wicklow County Council offices.
- ***Donard Footpath & Pedestrian Crossing***  
Provision of footpath link between town centre and Donard Daycare Centre.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work completed at Bonabrocka Bridge.

Work commenced at Redcross Bridge

## Winter Maintenance

Planning for 2025/2026 season has begun with draft of Winter Service Plan.

## Parking Income

\*January to August 2025\*

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	715,641.72
Greystones Municipal District	235,270.80
Wicklow Municipal District	336,602.88
Arklow Municipal District	185,691.16
Parking Permits	79,823.33
Parking Fines	445,243.20
<b>Wicklow County Council Total</b>	<b>1,998,273.09</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Infrastructure Delivery

### Affordable Housing Information as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

#### Aldbrough Manor Baltinglass - 11 Houses

- All sales closed as at 31/03/2025

#### Murrough View Greenhill Road – 36 Houses

- All sales closed as at 30/06/2025

#### St. Ernan's Rathnew – 44 Dwellings 34 Houses, 10 Apartments

- All sales closed - 34 houses, 10 apartments

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

### Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed and allocated
Greenhills Road (Affordable)	36	Completed and sold
Ballard, Shillelagh	20	Completed and allocated
Merrymeting, Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completed, allocation in progress
Lugduff, Tinahely	20	Completed, allocation in progress
Scheme on Site	Units	Current Status
Fassaroe, Bray	11	Contractor on site.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor on site.
1A Mill Road, Greystones	3	Completion expected Q1 2026
5A Rednagh Road, Aughrim	1	Completion expected March 2025
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Merrymeting, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Contractor on site.
Burgage More, Blessington PPP	106	On hold due to Minister's decision
Rehills, Bray Phase 1	140	Stage 1 funding application submitted to Dept, awaiting approval.
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Stage 2 funding approved
Carrig Eden Tiglin	12	Preliminary Design Stage
Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	16	Stage 1 approved. Masterplan being developed prior to Part 8.
Burnaby, Greystones PPP	262	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Ballinahinch, Ashford	19	Tender assessment done. Contractor has been appointed; Stage 4 approval received from Dept.
Tinahask, Arklow	74	Detailed design and tender docs underway

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Tinahask PPP, Arklow	128	PPP Bundle 6 continuing
Sheephouse, Arklow	48	Design Stage
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Design team being appointed
Hawkstown Park Phase 2, Wicklow Design & Build	54	Detailed design and tender docs underway

## Traveller accommodation

## Capital Programme

Ballintreskin – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site, final snagging underway
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Part 8 advertised July 2025
Vale Road Arklow – 2 Units	Part 8 permission expected July

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

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

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

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

## Energy Efficiency upgrades to Council Stock

Wicklow county council has an ongoing Programme of works retrofitting our council housing stock. The works selected and completed complies with our Energy Fabric Upgrade Policy that went through SPC in 2023. In 2024 we took on a second contractor from our framework to cover the Arklow, Tinahely Area.

Work has been completed on 110 units by the end of the year.

Monastery Grove Was Nominated for LAMA award 2024.

## Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2025:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivered Q1 2025	CALF
Bray	3	Delivery due Q3 2025	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q3 2026	CALF
Delgany	2	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Rathnew	36	32 Delivered Q2 – Q3 2025, remainder due Q3 2025	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q4 2025	WCC
Rathnew	3	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q4 2025	WCC
Baltinglass	9	Delivery due Q4 2025 to Q1 2026	WCC
Delgany	10	6 Delivered Q2, remainder due Q4 2025	WCC
Bray	3	Delivery due Q4 2025	CALF
Roundwood	2	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Delgany	2	Delivery due Q4 2025	WCC
Dunlavin	18	Delivery due Q4 2025 to Q2 2026	WCC
Wicklow	15	Delivery due Q3 2025 to Q1 2026	WCC
Roundwood	2	Delivery due Q3 2025	CALF
Rathdrum	14	Delivery due Q3 2025 to Q1 2026	CALF
Rathnew	15	Delivery due Q4 2025	CALF

## Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Rathnew, Bray, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy, Baltinglass, Wicklow, Rathdrum, Newcastle and Arklow with delivery ranging from 2025-2027. This includes the units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

## Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2025:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	17	Delivered Q1 2025	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	56	Delivered Q2 2025	CALF
Newcastle	11	Delivery due Q3 2026	CALF
Baltinglass	12	Delivery Q4 2025 & Q1 2026	CALF
Rathnew	1	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Arklow	3	Delivered Q1 2025	WCC
Baltinglass	2	Delivery due Q4 2025	WCC
Roundwood	4	Delivery due Q4 2025	WCC
Rathnew	5	1 Delivered Q2, remainder due Q4 2025	WCC
Kilcoole	5	Delivery due Q4 2025	WCC
Arklow	2	Delivery due Q4 2025	WCC
Rathdrum	4	Delivery due Q3 2025 to Q1 2026	CALF

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



# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

- Expression of Interest for Turnkey Housing Developments/Housing Schemes and or land for the provision of social housing/affordable housing was advertised on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Closing date was 25<sup>th</sup> July.

## Vacant Homes Scheme

Current Compulsory Purchase Orders on long term vacant houses around the county 2025.

No.	Property Location	Current Status
1	5 Priory Way, Delgany	Tenants in situ.
2	30 South Green, Arklow	Tenants in situ.
3.	53 South Green, Arklow	Tenants in situ.
4.	88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	Tenant in situ.
5.	6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Refurbishment complete. Waiting on ESB connection.
6.	2 Harbour Road, Arklow	Refurbishment complete. Waiting on ESB connection.
7.	114 Hillside, Greystones	Works commenced.
8.	108 Charnwood, Bray	Works commenced.
9.	53A South Green, Arklow	Works complete.
10.	36 Wheatfield, Bray	Works commenced.
11.	10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow	Works commenced.

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

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

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

There are 2 types of Grants available:

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

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

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

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

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

Number of Applications to date	257
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants to date	39
Applications Approved in Principle to date	129
Number of Applications paid to date	51
Value of 51 Grants paid out to date	€2,759,280.48
Applications withdrawn/Rejected to date	38



# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Emergency Response

### Fire Service

	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
<b>Two Stations Mobilised</b>											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	1						1				
Fire Domestic	10	2	2	3	2				1		
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	20	4	4	3	4			1	1	1	2
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	0										
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	8	1	1	2	1	1	1	1			
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	1			1							
<b>One Station Mobilised</b>											
Fire Alarm or CO <sub>2</sub> Activation	16	3	9	1	1				1		1
Fire Outdoor Rural: Gorse / bushes	10	2	3	2	1		1				1
Fire Chimney	0										
Fire Small Urban / bin / skip / bonfire	39	11	10	10	1	4		1		2	
Fire Vehicle	1							1			
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	0										
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	9	1	1	2		3				2	
Garda Assist	1	1									
Electrical Incident	1						1				
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	1		1								
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	1						1				
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	0										
False Alarm – Good Intent	5	2	2	1							
Malicious False Alarm	9			4		3	1	1			
<b>Mobilised into other County</b>	<b>13</b>					2	3	2	1	4	1
<b>Times Stations mobilised</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>

There were **127 incidents** attended during the month of August 2025. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **146 occasions** including **13** mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Operational activity for the month of August 2025 **decreased by 6% (-10 mobilisations) on the preceding month July 2025 (156 mobilisations)**. There was a reduction in mobilisations to RTCs (-12 mobilisations) but there was an increase in malicious fires in urban areas (+10) and rural areas (+5). There was also a spate of Malicious False Alarms that resulted in 7 mobilisations.

Operational activity for the month of August 2025 **increased by 11% (+15 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2024** (August 2024, 131 mobilisations which was an unusually quiet period). There was a reduction in RTCs and other road based incidents (-10 mobilisations) but there was an increase in malicious fires in urban areas (+24 mobilisations) and an increase in fires in other counties (+10 mobilisations).

Year to date, compared with 2024 has seen an increase in fires in buildings (+38 mobilisations), RTCs (+28 mobilisations), gorse fires (+49 mobilisations), mobilisations in other counties (+22 mobilisations) and malicious fires in urban areas (+67 mobilisations).

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

- 05/08/2025 Blessington crew assisted Naas crews at an RTC involving an overturned truck at Punchestown.
- 10/08/2025 Baltinglass crew assisted crews from Carlow Town at a fire in farm buildings near Castledermot.
- 05/08/2025 Blessington crew assisted Naas crews at a 2-car RTC with multiple patients at Craddockstown.
- 05/08/2025 Blessington crew assisted Naas crews where a chemical had been used in a domestic setting causing respiratory issues.
- Dunlavin Crew assisted the ambulance service twice during August, a lift assist and forcing entry to reach a patient.

## Incidents in County Wexford (7-incidents total, examples below):

- 03/08/2025 Carnew crew supported crews from Bunclody at an RTC involving an overturned car at Borris, Bunclody.
- 09/08/2025 Carnew crew supported crews from Bunclody at an RTC involving an overturned car at Graigue, Bunclody.
- 13/08/2025 Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey at a barn fire near Gorey.
- 16/08/2025 Tinahely crew were mobilised to a small outdoor fire at Hollyfort.
- 24/08/2025 Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey at an RTC involving an overturned car at Kilpatrick, Castletown.
- 26/08/2025 Carnew crew extinguished a small outdoor fire at Askamore.

## **Training / Activity**

- Community Safety events took place at the Wicklow Regatta and the Tinahely Agricultural Show.

## Fire Prevention Statistics August 2025

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

<b><i>Application type</i></b>	<b><i>Received</i></b>	<b><i>Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn</i></b>	<b><i>Requested additional information</i></b>	<b><i>Inspections</i></b>	<b><i>Recommended for Grant</i></b>
FSCs	1	0	0	0	5
Revised FSCs	4	0	7	0	1
FSC 7-Day Notice	2	0	3	0	6
Regularisation FSCs	1	0	0	0	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>
<b><i>Application type</i></b>	<b><i>Received</i></b>	<b><i>Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn</i></b>	<b><i>Requested additional information</i></b>	<b><i>Inspections</i></b>	<b><i>Recommended for Grant</i></b>

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

DACs	5	0	1	0	18
Revised DACs	0	0	0	0	0
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>

30 planning files were referred to the Chief Fire Officer for comment. Observations were made on 25 files received.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	15	36	0	4	4
Circuit	0	0	0	0	0
Dangerous Substances Act	0	0	0	0	0
Explosive Act	0	0	0	0	0

## **Building Control Statistics August 2025**

### **Commencement Notices for August 2025:**

Commencement Notices Submitted: 27

- 6 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 11 Opt Out Declarations
- 6 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 6 Seven Day Notice

### **Submission Statistics**

- 40 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 62 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 17 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
  - 5 with Compliance Documentation (29%)
  - 4 are Opt Out (24%)
  - 2 Without Compliance Documentation (12%)
  - 6 Seven Day Notice (35%)
- 18 Valid Commencement Notices
- 37 new build residential units and an additional 14 Apartments
- 8 domestic extensions
- 3 Non Res new builds
- 3 Invalidated CNs from August

### **Certificates of Completion processed in August 2025**

- 10 New No. of CCC submitted
- 6 Required Revised Information
- 17 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 39 new Residential units & 8 Apartments
- 2 Non Res. Builds

### **Submission Statistics**

- 17 No. Validated CCCs related to;
  - 8 no. CCCs submitted in July

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

- 9 no. CCCs submitted in August

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

37 new residential houses, 14 apartments, 8 residential extensions and 3 Non-res buildings were notified to LA for Commencement & 39 newly residential units with an additional 8 apartments & 2 non-residential units were for completion submitted, assessed and validated in August. In August, 3 BCMS submissions were invalidated.

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

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

Revised Information requests remained high in August for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 62% of Commencement Notice submissions & 60% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. Revised information requests are issued to nominated role holders of submissions when compliance with Building Regs has not been demonstrated.

Opt Out submissions are both extensions and single unit dwellings, generally from BCMS users who are unfamiliar with both BCMS and Building Regulations which leads to Building Control resources being directed to resolving both administration and technical issues with Opt-Out Submissions. Some Opt Out Submissions are requiring 2 or 3 Revised information requests which results in submissions being assessed multiply times to ensure the proposed design is illustrating compliance prior to commencement.

It has been observed by Building Control during CN Assessments that there has been an increase in the proposed use of modern methods of construction (MMC), uncertified products and systems. Additional resources have had to be used to assess both these new products/systems and associated alleged certification. These resources are being used for Market Surveillance & Construction Product Regulations which is one of the key roles of Building Control.

Building Control also updated their content on the Wicklow Co Co website in August. Wicklow Building Control continues to perform rigorous assessment of submissions at commencement stage and onsite presence during construction. These methods remain the best way to promote compliance with Building Regs

## **Civil Defence August 2025**

August was another busy and productive month for the Civil Defence volunteers in Wicklow, our volunteers provided critical support at events, participated in high-level training, and engaged with the wider emergency services network. Below is a summary of key activities carried out during the month.

### **Operations & Duties**

#### **Event Support & Medical Cover**

- Our volunteers assisted Wexford Civil Defence alongside the Red Cross and Order of Malta in providing medical cover for the Fleadh Cheoil Music Festival in Wexford over the week; over 300 hours were volunteered by Wicklow Civil Defence volunteers.

- Michael Dwyer 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event held in Glenmalure

- Head to Head charity walk from Wicklow Head to Bray Head in aid of Aoibheanns Pink Tie Charity

- Hers beach festival event at Greystones South Beach ran by the Local Sport Partnership

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Search & Rescue

- Assisted An Garda Síochána with a missing persons in the Greystones and surrounding areas, we were also supported by our K9 unit from Dublin Civil Defence RIP
- Assisted An Garda Síochána with a missing persons in the Wicklow Town area, our Sonar Boat team deployed supported by our Drone team. RIP

## Emergency Services Engagement

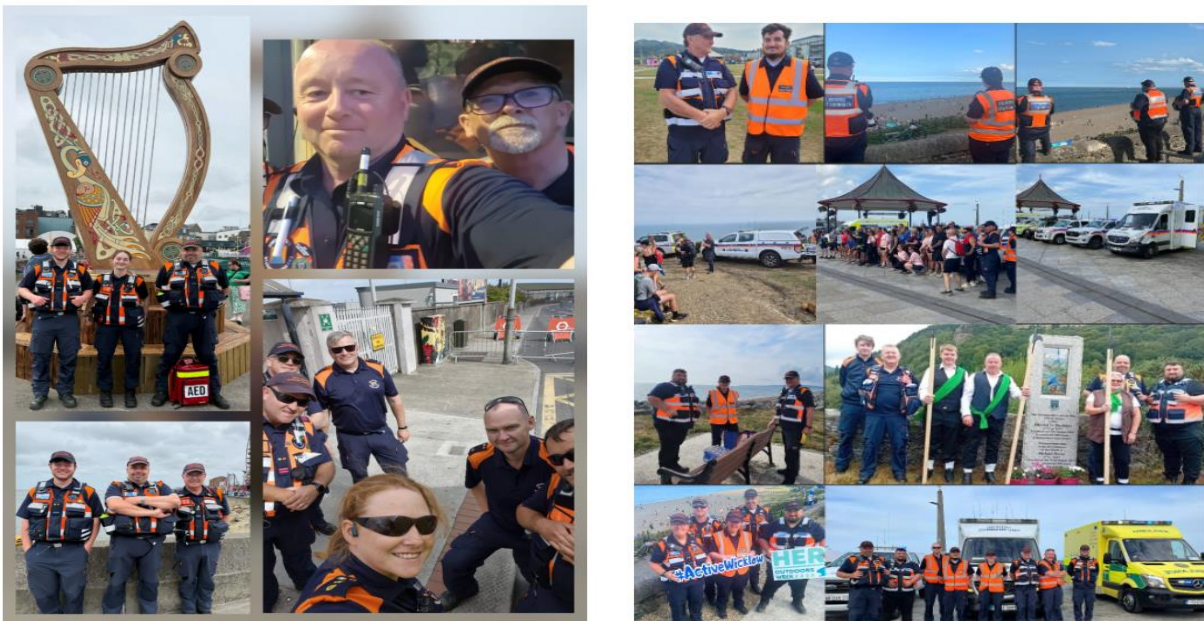
- Wicklow Civil Defence volunteers were selected alongside Kildare and Dublin by the Department of Defence to film promotional videos in Lough Dan using Wicklow equipment and volunteers, the videos will be used to promote the work of Civil Defence increasing national awareness and hopefully attract new volunteers nationally

## Training & Development

- Wicklow Civil Defence hosted Hugs @ Home to provide a mental health first aid course for representatives from emergency services across Wicklow including, Wicklow Fire Service, Greystones Coast Guard, An Garda Síochána, Community First Responders and Wicklow Civil Defence

Follow us on Instagram

[https://www.instagram.com/wicklowcd?utm\\_source=qr&igsh=NmF6Z2ZuOWhsNjc4](https://www.instagram.com/wicklowcd?utm_source=qr&igsh=NmF6Z2ZuOWhsNjc4)



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

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Top Line Data

Totals per Municipal District (in Department run emergency accommodation only)			
MD	IPAS	Ukrainian Response	Total
Arklow	33	51	84
Baltinglass	636	124	760
Bray	245	571	816
Greystones	0	94	94
Wicklow	359	74	433
Total	1273	914	2187

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	10
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1273
Of which are children	395

IPAS Totals per MD	
Arklow	33
Baltinglass	636
Bray	245
Greystones	0
Wicklow	359

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2025	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	64
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	428
Total number of sessions with single adults	208
Total number of sessions with couples	9
Total number of sessions with families	177

## LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for July

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	15
No. of Individuals	59
No. of Couples	5
No. of Families	37
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	15

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

No. in Ireland 1-3 months	25
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	9
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	45
No. of International Protection Applicants	95
No. Persons with Status	7
No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	16

## Integration Supports – Key Enablers

In Session Support	Incidence
Accommodation	1
Community/Family	13
Culture/Religion	2
Education/Training	4
Employment/Enterprise	10
Events	0
Finance/Welfare	15
Health/Wellbeing	18
Language/Communication	1
Legal/Justice/Civic	14
Transportation	2
Other	0

Follow up Support	Incidence
Accommodation	3
Community/Family	20
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	22
Employment/Enterprise	7
Events	0
Finance/Welfare	10
Health/Wellbeing	10
Language/Communication	8
Legal/Justice/Civic	27
Transportation	0
Other	10

Overall Support July	
Emails sent for Clinic work	135
Emails Received	446
Emails Sent	489
Contacts with stakeholders	70
Referrals	14

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Other Activity

The Local Authority Integration Team and Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership registered 199 children in County Wicklow, aged 4 to 12 years, to participate in summer camps local to their areas. Funding was provided by CYPSC under the IPSS (International Protection Support Services).

## Ukrainian Response

As of the end of August 2025, there are **863** Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the county.

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

- Arklow MD: **51**
- Baltinglass MD: **37**
- Bray MD: **580**
- Greystones MD: **115**
- Wicklow MD: **80**

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

BOTP Relocations will resume from June and continue through summer. Details are available here: [Accommodation centres returning to original or alternative use](#).



# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Organisational Development

### Recruitment

The following interviews were held in August 2025:

- Final Interviews Assistant Staff Officer
- Preliminary Interviews Staff Officer

### Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025
Managerial/Administrative	334	333	343	356
Professional/Technical	146	146	147	150
Outdoor	255	252	250	246
Temporary/Seasonal	91	68	66	95
Non DoHPLG	5	5	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>849</b>

\* Increase in Temporary/Seasonal as lifeguards commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025

### Freedom of Information

August 2025: 10	August 2024: 6
January – August 2025: 68	January – August 2024: 89

### Ombudsman Requests

August 2025: 3	August 2024: 1
January – August 2025: 24	January – August 2024: 12

### Press Releases

August 2025 – 17

### Register of Electors

With the Presidential Election Polling Day due to take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025, online applications via [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) continue to be received and processed daily. The Franchise Team continue to process applications which were minor in nature such as updating contact details etc. and are preparing the Postal and Special Voters List for use by the Returning Officer.

Work has commenced on the next phase of works on the migration to a national database of Register of Electors. Phase 2 of this works is approximately 45% complete. The Franchise team will commence testing a trial version of the National Database in mid-November 2025 along with 3 other local authorities

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Customer Service Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	8,750	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,797
No. of Customer Service Emails received	3,145	Revenue Transactions	1,663
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	115	Housing Counter Visits	n/a

## Energy Office

WCC appointed a new energy officer on 8<sup>th</sup> September, Ben Mangan took up the role as Wicklow County Council's Energy Officer.

Projects Completed in 2024/2025;

- Bray Fire Station – Air Source Heat Pumps, Window and Appliance bay door replacement
- Bray MD Civic Office – Air Source Heat Pump
- Arklow MD - Solar Photovoltaic System
- Civil Defence HQ Greystones – Air Source Heat Pump & Solar PV
- Blessington Fire Station – Air Source Heat Pump, Fabric Upgrades & Solar PV
- County Buildings – Air Source Heat Pump and Radiator Upgrade
- 

Ongoing monitoring and verification of projects completed in 2024.

The Energy office collaborates with all sections of the council and supports the development of other energy efficiency works such as;

- Bray Courthouse – Energy Efficiency Works
- Wicklow Fire Station – Energy Efficiency Upgrades
- Arklow Depot – Solar PV System
- Arklow Recycling Centre – Solar PV System
- 

The Energy Office is currently scoping a number of energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects for 2025 with support for Mid-East Energy Unit, Codema and SEAI

SEAI Pathfinder Funding 2025

- Arklow MD / Library (Part removal of gas boiler, ASHP, PV solar panels)
- Blessington MD office (Removal of gas boiler, ASHP, PV solar panels)
- Greystones MD (TBC following survey and carbon/cost review)
- Shoreline Leisure Centre Energy Performance Contract (Preparatory Work Ongoing)

Other ongoing projects

District Heating Feasibility Study – Arklow Decarbonised Zone

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Mid-East Energy Unit

- Tender published to establish multi-party framework for smaller works outside EPC
  - One stop shop for SEAI Pathfinder projects for Mid-East Region
  - Currently implementing competitive dialogue stage
- First EPC project for Kildare CoCo gone to tender (competitive dialogue stage)
- Second EPC for Meath County Council gone to tender (competitive dialogue stage)
- Installing sub heat meters in leisure centres across the region to inform EPC process

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Finance, Water & Information Systems

### Finance

#### Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31 AUGUST 2025							
	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	38,755,983	56,316,634	69%	(40,864,676)	(59,446,038)	69%	(2,108,693)
Road Transport & Safety	16,907,771	26,329,169	64%	(12,123,588)	(18,925,016)	64%	4,784,183
Water Services	3,107,350	4,633,084	67%	(3,671,838)	(5,554,021)	66%	(564,487)
Development Management	11,007,372	16,414,646	67%	(6,125,337)	(9,859,576)	62%	4,882,035
Environmental Services	12,611,253	17,038,883	74%	(3,418,992)	(5,011,509)	68%	9,192,261
Recreation and Amenity	6,631,152	10,003,906	66%	(917,114)	(1,151,712)	80%	5,714,038
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,627,104	2,393,346	68%	(583,357)	(1,103,228)	53%	1,043,747
Miscellaneous Services	6,167,957	9,487,115	65%	(10,642,691)	(16,490,485)	65%	(4,474,734)
Central Management Charges	16,926,591	25,473,897	66%	(629,686)	(1,050,000)	60%	16,296,906
Local Government Fund				(11,466,979)	(17,200,469)	67%	(11,466,979)
Commercial Rates				(21,975,460)	(32,448,626)	68%	(21,975,460)
	<b>113,742,534</b>	<b>168,090,680</b>	<b>67.7%</b>	<b>(112,419,719)</b>	<b>(168,240,680)</b>	<b>66.8%</b>	<b>1,322,815</b>

#### Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements daily and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1 August to 31 August 2025.

#### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31 August 2025					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2025	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/08/2025
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,210,356	51,454,107	(42,060,589)	(356,500)	21,247,373
Road Transport & Safety	(36,985,832)	10,643,296	(6,435,333)	(364,514)	(33,142,383)
Water Services	(6,760,795)	545,927	(229,643)	(90,000)	(6,534,511)
Development Management	(58,018,087)	12,346,521	(3,832,817)	(493,066)	(49,997,449)
Environmental Services	4,260,881	6,042,554	(3,756,596)	(484,842)	6,061,997
Recreation and Amenity	1,466,601	3,075,824	(1,422,824)	(322,910)	2,796,691
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,069,769)	232,271	(380)	(283,798)	(2,121,676)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,918,102)	2,516,864	(546,255)	2,451,112	(6,496,381)
	<b>(96,814,747)</b>	<b>86,857,363</b>	<b>(58,284,438)</b>	<b>55,482</b>	<b>(68,186,340)</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31 AUGUST 2025										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2025	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/08/2025	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,064,245	32,952,154	(15,558)	0	0	36,000,841	(27,064,692)	8,936,149	768,688	77%
Rents & Annuities	3,310,655	12,509,305	0	2,117	0	15,822,077	(12,669,631)	3,152,446	0	80%
Housing Loans	513,181	1,630,845	0	0	0	2,144,026	(1,649,294)	494,732	0	77%

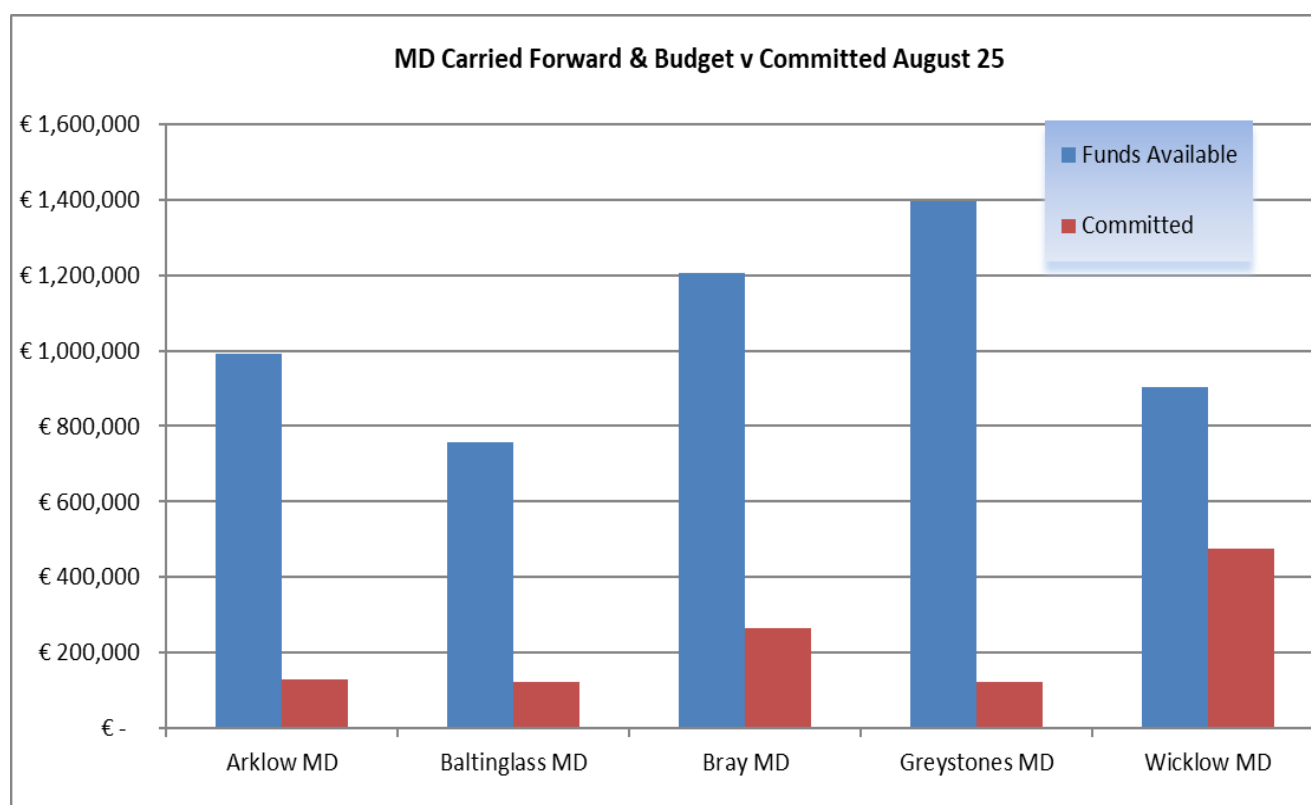
**NB:** The collection percentages are below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

## General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2025

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on 14 October 2024, to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6%, generated circa €1.3m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the five Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2025 is set out below:

Municipal District	C/F from 2024	Adopted Budget 2025	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	399,545	591,804	991,349	128,723	862,626
Baltinglass MD	228,948	527,124	756,072	122,121	633,951
Bray MD	512,742	691,048	1,203,790	264,077	939,713
Greystones MD	873,886	521,458	1,395,344	123,050	1,272,294
Wicklow MD	374,922	529,443	904,365	476,060	428,305
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,390,042</b>	<b>2,860,877</b>	<b>5,250,920</b>	<b>1,114,031</b>	<b>4,136,889</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



## Capital Investment Programme 2025-2027

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

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2025	2026	2027	TOTAL	Dev Charges <sup>1</sup>	Loan	Grant Aid <sup>2</sup>	Other <sup>3</sup>	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	97,600,000	146,800,000	227,450,000	471,850,000	-	30,000,000	414,800,000	27,050,000	471,850,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	30,102,000	37,019,000	30,280,000	97,401,000	23,201,000	7,000,000	64,800,000	2,400,000	97,401,000
WATER SERVICES	255,000	140,000	140,000	535,000	-	-	535,000	-	535,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	5,889,420	6,872,557	9,747,343	22,509,320	2,466,157	-	15,470,959	4,572,204	22,509,320
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	7,920,000	23,070,000	23,687,000	54,677,000	-	-	48,377,000	6,300,000	54,677,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	7,960,000	13,875,000	21,313,572	43,148,572	13,692,072	-	25,486,500	3,970,000	43,148,572
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	5,700,000	16,410,000	23,500,000	45,610,000	1,759,500	-	37,175,500	6,675,000	45,610,000
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	900,000	900,000	900,000	2,700,000	-	-	-	2,700,000	2,700,000
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>156,326,420</b>	<b>245,086,557</b>	<b>337,017,915</b>	<b>738,430,892</b>	<b>41,118,729</b>	<b>37,000,000</b>	<b>606,644,959</b>	<b>53,667,204</b>	<b>738,430,892</b>

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Capital Funded Projects

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

# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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



# Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

## Information Systems

### Operations

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 50 tickets a day this month, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.

### GIS & Systems Analysis

- **Fire Hydrant Mapping for Fire Service**

We supported the Fire Service in locating fire hydrants using our GIS mapping tools. This ensures firefighters can quickly identify hydrant locations during emergencies, improving public safety.

- **Food Poverty & Food Environment Mapping**

Updates were made to the Wicklow Food Poverty and Food Environment mapping applications. New data was processed and added in partnership with Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership. These tools help community groups and local authorities understand access to food resources across the county.

- **Residential & Population Analysis (Forward Planning)**

Significant progress was made on our interactive planning tools. A new GIS viewer was updated to include zoning, CSO, housing, and transport data. We also created a new layer to track planning permissions that are under construction but not yet completed, supporting better monitoring of development across Wicklow.

- **Roads Data & Mapping**

The Roads Schedule for 2025 was obtained and integrated into all existing GIS applications. This provides an up-to-date record of the county's road network for planning and operational purposes.

- **Landownership Records**

New landownership data was procured from the Property Registration Authority of Ireland (PRAI). This information will support planning, corporate services, and climate action projects.

- **Map Production for Roads Department**

A series of new maps were created for the Roads Department, including updated schedules and supporting documents. These maps are used to guide maintenance and infrastructure planning.

### Infrastructure

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