

**Minutes of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC
meeting held on Monday 19th September, 2022
Boardroom, Clermont Campus, Rathnew Co. Wicklow @ 10am.**

Present:

Cllr. Tom Fortune Chair (TF)
Cllr. Avril Cronin (AC)
Cllr. Mary Kavanagh (MK)
Cllr. Pat Kennedy (PK)
Mr. Huw O'Toole (HO'T)
Mr. Killian McGreal (KMcG)
Dr. Kathy Walsh, LECP Advisor (KW)
Ms. Christine Flood, WCC (CF)
Ms. Susan Nichols, WCC (SN)
Ms. Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise (VD)
Mr. John Powderly, WCC (JP)
Ms. Caroline Cullimore, WCC (CC)
Ms. Patrice O'Toole, WCC

Apologies:

Cllr. Gerry Walsh, Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, Ms. Deirdre Whitfield,
Ms. Ruth Donnelly

Ms. Christine Flood thanked the SPC for their condolences on the passing of her father-in-law and added her condolences on the passing of Mr. Michael Allen a former member of the Board and acknowledged his contribution to the SPC.

ITEM 1

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 30th May, 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 30th May, 2022 as circulated were proposed by Cllr. Tom Fortune (Chair) and seconded by Cllr. Pat Kennedy and agreed.

ITEM 2

Matters arising

There were no matters arising

ITEM 3

To receive update on the preparation of a Local Economic and Community Plan

Ms. Christine Flood (CF) started by saying that much of the work on the LECP to date has been done by Deirdre Whitfield (DW) with help from the Economic Development Team. She gave a brief summary of engagement to date:

- A socio-economic review was carried out and arrangements are being made to put it on the website, a link will issue to members of the SPC.
- A number of engagements have taken place with business and other agencies e.g. Enterprise Ireland, the annual breakfast briefing etc.
- Feedback was that it is broadly in line with the Regional Enterprise Plan.
- A workshop took place in May and the feedback was that LECP should be in keeping with what is happening in the County e.g. film, food, renewable energy, aquaculture, branding etc.

- High Level Goals (H.L.G.'s) were identified as Tourism, Food, Offshore Renewable Energy, Film and Environment.
- After further work the H.L.G.'s became Health & Resilience, Wellbeing, Climate Action, Innovation, Connectivity and Equality and Inclusivity.
- The H.L.G.'s are broad ideas put forward by the SPC and will be taken into account as the LECP develops.
- The SPC has a pivotal role in the LECP process and engagement at each stage will be considered.

CF introduced Dr. Kathy Walsh, LECP Advisor who gave a presentation on work to date and what needs to be done between now and end of year (presentation attached)

The High Level Goals are emerging from the work completed to date with the next steps to ensure that a comprehensive LECP is developed. The Department issued the guidelines in 2021 for a six year Economic and Community Development Plan and the guidelines are very clear on the process to be undertaken. There are two parts to the process, the first is to identify the H.L.G.'s and secondly to implement the Plan.

Deirdre Whitfield will consolidate feedback from the public consultation and report back to the SPC.

The Chair opened it to the floor for any discussion/questions arising from the presentation:

- It was agreed that there are a lot of initiatives and services available but that we need to improve the channels of communication to get the message out and improve the access routes to services.
- Dr. Walsh said that the timeline was tight but is achievable. Her group work as a team, tasks will be allocated and feedback is an important part of the process. Climate Action will be front and centre.
- All strategies such as Creative Ireland/Creative Wicklow, and including the new human rights strategy will feed into the plan.
- The previous LECP's weakness was engagement with too many agencies. This time around the engagement will be more meaningful as there will be fewer partner/agencies involved – our strategy should be consistent with agency strategies.
- A Skills Taskforce has been set up which will involve engagement with KWETB, BIFE and SETU. There will also be engagement with Minister Donnelly's office to ensure contact with the HSE to align with their strategies. The challenge going forward will be communication and ensuring a link with agencies and getting responses. The Regional Assembly will also have to feed into the Plan.
- Vibeke Delahunt (VD) attended a product delivery team meeting the previous week and she confirmed that the Department are working on a number of actions at the moment and a White Paper on Enterprise Policy will be published shortly.
- LEO highlighted future funding routes which will take account of actions and strategies as funding needs to be embedded in strategies.
- The timing of funding streams will be important for the LECP. We will need to set realistic goals taking into account where the budget is coming from.

At the conclusion of this discussion, Dr. Walsh left the meeting.

ITEM 4

To receive and consider update on LECP - LCDC and Community Activities

Report was circulated to members of the SPC prior to the meeting.

Town and Village Applications 2022

Measure	Location	Project	Funding Amount
T&V Marketing Campaign	County-wide	A Marketing Plan for all present and future BCPs and Remote Working Hubs in County Wicklow. This will provide a county level framework to complement the National Hub Network and provide a strategic direction for the development and marketing of current BCPs/Remote Working Hubs both nationally and internationally.	€50,000
T&V Project Development Measure	Carnew	Wicklow County Council was successful in receiving funding under the Town and Village Building Acquisition Measure to purchase the now non-operational bank building on Main street in Carnew. This proposal is for funding to prepare the building to operate as a remote working hub and community space	€50,000
T&V Project Development Measure	Kiltegan	Wicklow County Council has bought a derelict building and site in Kiltegan. This funding proposal is to fund the plans and permissions needed to prepare the building to be repurposed as a remote working hub and community space	€50,000
T&V	Arklow	This project aims to bring the currently disused 'Goods Store' at Arklow Railway Station back to use as a functional Craft and Ecology Centre	€500,000
T&V	Rathdrum	The Rathdrum Mill project intends to restore the vacant old mill buildings in Rathdrum and restore them into a useable state for heritage, craft and tourism purposes, thus saving them from dereliction, and acting as a creative economic driver for the area.	€250,000
T&V	Kilcoole	A placemaking project to enhance public amenities in Kilcoole through the provision of a skate and scooter park adjacent to the playground.	€250,000
T&V	Ashford	The project aims to take a place-making approach to transform a very unsightly boundary wall on the Main	€114,300

		Street of Ashford, which is endangering the place making projects that have previously taken place.	
T&V	Laragh	The project is for a recreational exercise space to be developed located on the GAA grounds (but will not be for the exclusive use of the GAA but rather a wide inclusive and accessible amenity.)	€99,142
T&V	Blessington	This proposal is to fund a kit-out of both a Community and Youth space to ensure functionality for a wide range of uses including a small tech space.	€36,000

Streetscape Funding for Newtownmountkennedy

€100,000 funding has been awarded to Newtownmountkennedy under the Streetscape Enhancement Initiative, Dept. Rural and Community Development. The Streetscape Enhancement Initiative will provide retail and property owners in Newtownmountkennedy with grants they can use to give their business a facelift. The primary aim of the scheme is to make towns and villages more attractive places to live, work or visit. Projects to include upgrade to building facades, artwork, murals, lighting, street furniture and canopies.

Development of New Local Economic and Community Plan

The consultation process for the development of the new LECP is nearly complete.

- Social Inclusion Women's Network – 60 participants
- Breakfast Briefing – approx. 100 participants
- Comhairle na nóg – approx. 100 participants
- PPN Environment Workshop
- Wicklow MD
- Greystones MD
- Baltinglass MD
- Arklow MD
- Bray MD
- Online consultation
- 3 written submissions
- Online survey

Engagement with Marginalised Communities

County Wicklow has been selected as one of four pilot projects to develop and test engagement strategies to support inclusive participation. The project aims to develop toolkits that can be adapted and used by local authorities and other state agencies to enable better engagement with hard to reach groups.

Following an expressions of interest process administered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development, funding of up to €40,000 has been approved for each of 4 LCDCs.

Clare, Fingal, Galway City and Wicklow will undertake pilot programmes to support participation and engagement by marginalised and disadvantaged communities in the Local Economic and Community Planning (LECP) process which is currently underway in each local authority area. The

process will take six months and in Co. Wicklow's case involves both participation and capacity building.

Core Aims & Actions

- Through the networks available – to members of the LCDC, WCC & Co Wicklow PPN, key community leaders and service providers within/working with the target groups will be identified and encouraged to undertake training that will support them to understand the background & context for developing the VCWB & the LECP as well as providing them with the facilitation skills & tools needed for them to run this process of consultation in their communities & those they work with.
- This will extend the reach of the consultations and engage with those groups which are harder to reach.
- The facilitators will also be trained to support the data analysis process that will inform and develop the VCWB as well as the LECP.
- This in-depth consultation should also provide direction and help prioritise some of the actions within the LECP.
- Collaborating with key agencies in this process should also result in cohesive & complimentary local plans, work plans and strategies e.g. SICAP and LEADER plans.
- Record and report on the learning from this process

Food and Beverage Strategy for County Wicklow 2019-2021

Work has begun on the development of a new Food and Beverage Strategy for County Wicklow. A Food Poverty Report on County Wicklow is nearly complete. The action plan will be embedded in the new LECP, the new Healthy Wicklow Plan and the new Food and Beverage Strategy for County Wicklow to ensure implementation and monitoring.

To receive and consider update on LECP – Economic Activities

Report was circulated to members of the SPC prior to the meeting.

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

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

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

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

Wicklow County Council has appointed a team of experts from People and Place to assist with the preparation of the LECP.

LECP ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES

Goal 6	Develop Infrastructure and Measures that are positive to and supportive of, investment, enterprise , innovation and knowledge creation in strategic locations	
Objective		
6.1	<i>Support inward investment and promote the creation and expansion of new and existing employment opportunities in the County to drive economic development within the County</i>	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of locations for inward investment: including locations at Blessington and Greystones • Promotion of sites at Rathdrum • Regular engagement with IDA • Promotional videos produced • Development of Enterprise space at Arklow, plans for development of space at Greystones and Baltinglass and funding application made, plans to acquire additional enterprise space underway. • High level business advisory council established <p>NOT DONE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a County Wicklow Investor Fund • Inventory of available commercial premises
6.2	<i>Support and develop Wicklow County Campus to allow it to reach its full potential as a centre of learning and innovation in the</i>	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Clermont Enterprise Hub for Content Creation • Establishment of Film and TV Academy East • Support Campus companies • Seeking funding for development of a food incubation hub • Engaging with SETU and KWETB to further develop on campus courses for Film, Food and Renewables • Establishment of a Broadband connection point at the campus • Development of the infrastructure necessary to support further development of the campus • WCC has worked with IT Carlow to promote the courses on offer will continue to work with SETU to expand on the offering particularly in the fields of film, food and renewables <p>NOT DONE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of need for a County R&D Innovation Centre
6.3	<i>Support the provision of high quality infrastructure throughout the County that will facilitate and support economic expansion</i>	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicklow County Council and the relevant government agencies have achieved a lot over the lifetime of the plan and continue to support infrastructure; NBP –Broadband, TII Roads, NTA Transport including cycling, Irish Water – water and waste water, DRCD Outdoor recreation, DAFM – port infrastructure

		NOT DONE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for Luas Green line to Bray – not in current national transport plan
6.4	<i>Enhance the attractiveness of town centres and retail premises across the County</i>	ACHIEVED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful URDF and RRDF funding applications have attracted significant investment Wicklow, Arklow, Bray, Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy Town and Village funding has enhanced towns and villages Public Realm plans and Town Health checks developed An updated parking scheme has been introduced A range of shop local campaigns have been funded Support for retailers to do business online Streetscape funding for shop fronts Establishment and support for town teams which has attracted further investment in town centre projects NOT DONE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll out of the Purple Flag
Goal 7	Sustain Existing Enterprise and Develop Quality Employment and Income Opportunities for the Wide Range of Employment Needs in the County with possibilities for reversing commuting patterns.	
Objective		
7.1	<i>Stimulate and support the development and expansion of micro-enterprises and SME's, facilitating the growth of economic activities, development of innovative sectors, promotion of business engagement and the creation of new employment opportunities, decent jobs and sustainable, meaningful livelihoods</i>	ACHIEVED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development and expansion of businesses of <10 employees is ongoing activity by LEO Wicklow LEO support transition of business to EI Incubation space provided at Arklow and Clermont planned for Greystones and Baltinglass Ongoing engagement with micro –business to assess business support requirements Support for new business networks at Baltinglass and Greystones Sectoral supports for businesses such as Content creation and food NOT DONE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of a network of professional service providers Support the development of Age Friendly economic enterprises
7.2	<i>Harness the County's existing assets and encourage collaborative opportunities and business</i>	ACHIEVED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies developed for Film, Food and Tourism, Strategic Review for Maritime carried out.

	<i>engagement amongst sectors to develop new markets and initiatives, maximising opportunities for business development and employment creation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCC collaborates with Kildare and Meath as part of the Mid East region on a range of initiatives within the REP and with Wexford, Waterford and Wales on Celtic Routes • Wicklow Naturally brand and network developed • Collaborating with County Wicklow Partnership with regard to a craft strategy • Commuter study undertaken <p>NOT DONE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement measures to support the expansion of of the transportation and storage sectors
Goal 8	Capitalise on Wicklow's Unique Attributes and Proximity to the Dublin Market, Excellent Quality of Life, Human Capital, Tourism, Landscape, Marine, Agricultural and Forestry Resources	
8.1	<i>Promote and direct the tourism development of the County in a sustainable manner that conserves, promotes, protects and enhances the County's natural, built and cultural heritage and derives optimal economic benefit from visitors to the County</i>	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan Developed • Regular engagement with Failte Ireland Ireland's Ancient East • Working with communities in Glendalough and Blessington on specific tourism projects • Funding attracted for outdoor recreation and applications for made for cultural heritage tourism • Accommodation strategy developed • Greenway Steering Group for Blessington and a Taskforce for the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway set up. • Blueway funding awarded, a range of trails under development • Food trails under development • Promotion of Wicklow as a Foodie destination • Film trails to be re-developed • Wicklow Heritage trail supported • A multi-agency team working under Failte Ireland set up to address Glendalough and develop a visitor management plan for County Wicklow • Destination Town Funding for Wicklow • Major investment in Avondale <p>NOT DONE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a marine tourism action plan • Support the development of a County Wicklow Geopark
8.2	<i>Capitalise on the immediate and future economic opportunity in the Film and Television Industry and support the expansion of the sector in</i>	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film Strategy in place • Content creation enterprise hub under construction

	<i>the County</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film and TV Academy East established • Ardmore and Ashford Studios expanded, additional studio infrastructure under development • The nucleus of an industry cluster established • Screen Wicklow established
8.3	<i>Realise the potential benefits of the County's maritime assets</i>	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline study of Wicklow's Harbours carried out • Maritime Strategic Review identifies areas of priority • Funding applied for and invested in harbour improvements • Arklow and Wicklow Harbours selected as O&M bases for the offshore wind industry • URDF applications developed for development of Arklow and Wicklow including harbours <p>NOT DONE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the potential development opportunities within the short sea shipping industry
8.5	<i>Maximise the economic development in the County through improved and strategic branding and marketing</i>	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endless Opportunities brand developed • Web-Portal developed <p>NOT DONE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a dedicated signage strategy to increase visibility of commercial operations
Goal 9	Support a shift towards low carbon and climate resilient economic activity, reducing energy dependency and sustainable use, of resources and leading in the smart green economy	
Objective		
9.1	<i>Support the development of renewable energy and a low energy future for Wicklow</i>	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicklow County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 in place • 4 to 5 offshore renewable energy projects underway including Dublin Array, Codling Windpark, Arklow Bank • URDF applications include plans to develop marine enterprise hubs • Wicklow is working with an established energy agency • Arklow selected as a pilot decarbonisation zone • Wicklow is committed to developing an offshore renewable energy cluster to support businesses in accessing the supply chain • Green for Micro Training established to help

		business reduce carbon footprint NOT DONE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop enterprise and employment opportunities centred on the biofuel sector • Evaluate the potential development opportunities within the short sea shipping industry
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Mr. Huw O'Toole arrived to the meeting

RETAIL BRAY CENTRAL

Practical Completion Cert has been agreed and the transfer of Title has commenced.

Oakmount continues to engage with prospective anchor tenants on the two main units in the centre. It is hoped that agreements to let will be settled in the coming weeks. Oakmount has advised that there are leases in place on all of the leisure spaces and heads of terms are agreed with several new retail units. Fit out of the restaurants continues and Press Up Group has advertised for staff for these units.

TOWN TEAMS

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

Most Town Teams in Wicklow have been operating since 2018. It is considered timely to carry out a review of the town teams and with this in mind Wicklow County Council has appointed Mr Allen McAdam of MCA Consulting to conduct the review. The result of the review will be presented to the Council and to the Town Teams in October, 2022.

Since the review was carried out, the government policy document Town Centre First was published, and the Council has received sanction to appoint a Town Regeneration Officer on a three year contract.

TOWN CENTRE FIRST MASTERPLAN

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

This initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future – the Government's ambitious five-year strategy designed to reimagine and revitalise rural Ireland. It is also linked to the Government's Housing for All strategy and a key component of the Town Centre First policy.

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

ARKLOW TOWN TEAM

During Arklow's transformation, Arklow's Town Team in collaboration with Wicklow County Council continued to spread the word that Arklow is 'Open for Business'. Arklow's Town Team has been promoting activities/events such as:

- The 125 flower baskets on main street have kept the street in bloom over the summer months.
- Past employees of Arklow Pottery and members of the community have recorded stories - 'Trip Down Memory Lane' – to be included in the Arklow Pottery Online Project.
- The funding secured under the Community Enhancement Programme 2021 is been used to buy materials to make rainwater planters with the hope that it will encourage people to make their own planters
- Arklow Pottery Heritage Week Event took place in the Main Street Car Park and included a number of activities and exhibitions geared towards all age groups
- The public payphone on Ferrybank is receiving an upgrade which will include a Welcome Touch Screen, Wayfinding information screen, points of interest and will be linked to the Visit Arklow website
- An application submitted by the Arklow Town Team for funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for The Goods Store project at Arklow Railway Station
- The Interactive Tourism Kiosk project is progressing well. The screen has been installed in the new public realm area at the Parade Ground in Arklow. The design process is still ongoing. An EXPLORE ARKLOW section is being created exclusively for the screen with the onus placed on brand new maps of the town, its points of interest, amenities, and selected walks.
- Arklow Town Team were delighted to support The Vessels exhibition with funding received from Creative Wicklow Grants Scheme 2022, to host a number of 'Old Tales made New' events in Arklow. The exhibition celebrates the history of Arklow, its culture and heritage through the eyes of Sean Redmond, James Burke and Adam Burke. The launch was a great success and the exhibition will be displayed in the Arklow Maritime Museum until 31st October.
- The funding will also be used for the Giant Tea Cup Project. The Town Team have purchased a giant teacup made out of fibreglass which will be restored by local group 4o2 Creative Artists. A call out for broken, chipped and unwanted Arklow pottery has been made, to be reused into making a beautiful mosaic for the teacup. The finished cup will be installed at a location in Arklow for all to enjoy.
- A feasibility study is to commence in September on the Ballyduff River in Avoca to identify the optimum solution for fish to move through an impassable barrier at Glenart Ornamental weir.

GREYSTONES TOWN TEAM

The Greystones Train Station project which has been led by the Greystones Town Team is progressing well with landscaping and planting on the platform complete. The Town Team have been involved in numerous other activities/events to include:

- Application for the Establishment of a Night-Time Economy Pilot Programme which would allow NCI's to open later than usual facilitating a range of cultural offerings available to the public at night.
- Celebration of International Yoga Day brought a series of outdoor wellness yoga events to the community
- Application was made for funding to hold an Annual Film Festival earmarked for October 2022
- A very successful Multi-Cultural event was held at Burnaby Park where the Greystones Town Team actively supported the African Irish Society Wicklow. The event comprised of music, dance, food, costume, storytelling and language classes. It was well supported and an enjoyable day for all attendees.

WICKLOW TOWN TEAM

The Team structure is currently being reviewed with the hope of attracting some younger members. The team are working hard to advance the Greenway and other projects being considered are:

- Ballyguile Hill Walk - contact with landowners
- Wicklow to Glendalough Pilgrim Walk – issues are being addressed to progress the walk.
- Contact is being maintained with the Court Services on the continued maintenance of the Courthouse. The Court Service have agreed to backlight the Courthouse building
- 220K funding received in respect of connecting Main Street to Quays – the project will link Wicklow Town Centre to the South Quay through its three existing routes Doctor's Steps, Salthouse Lane and Quarantine Hill. The aim of the project is to reanimate and revitalise these central links. A Project Manager is to be appointed to oversee project. The project will require a Part 8
- Pump Track – Licence being prepared to facilitate funding application. There is a Part 8 requirement for this project
- The Archaeological ground investigation works at the Abbey Grounds have now been completed and the report is being prepared
- The Wicklow Town Heritage Walk is being well attended each weekend

BRAY TOWN TEAM

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

BLESSINGTON TOWN TEAM

In conjunction with the Town Teams the following Festivals/Events have taken place:

- The Blessington area Rose of Tralee fundraiser, Darkness into Light walk, Glimpses of Blessington and District before the lake talk presented by Seamus Matthiu, World premier of 'Blessington' by Adam Walker & Fiachra Garvey in Russborough House, The West Wicklow Festival in Russborough House, Ninette De Valois, Baltyboys House history tour, and Ninette De Valois festival programme in the Tramway Theatre.
- A presentation was made to the Town Team by Kaleidoscope during the festival held at Russborough House.
- The Team are pushing for a bronze medal at The National Tidy Towns Competition this year. The key to this success is the hard work of the Blessington Tidy Towns committee and volunteers; they encourage everyone to work together for a better Blessington.
- There is ongoing engagement from Businesses in Blessington, with staff from Wicklow County Council regarding getting business's Greenway ready.

TOURISM

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

The Key Priorities are:

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

TINAHELY SHOW

Wicklow Tourism was present at the Agri Show in Tinahely over the August Bank Holiday. The main focus was to present and promote the Wicklow Passport. Many passports were distributed raising tremendous interest from the members of public.

WICKLOW PASSPORT

A few Wicklow Ambassador Certificates were issued over the summer, including two from the US who spent time in Wicklow with families. Another Certificate was delivered to a Bray resident who collected all passport stamps either walking or cycling around Wicklow. General feedback is very positive and we created a blog of a Dublin family going around the County. See blog at link: <https://visitwicklow.ie/our-wicklow-passport-family-adventures-meet-toby-and-harry-wicklow-passports-new-ambassadors/>

ROSE OF TRALEE

Wicklow Tourism helped organise a two day tour around Wicklow for a number of National and International Roses taking part in the international Rose of Tralee Festival. The tour included visits to Powerscourt, Glendalough, Arklow, Avondale, Cookery School Ballyknocken and Russborough House with overnight in the Arklow Bay Hotel. See video edit of their time in Wicklow at <https://youtu.be/Q86apqLj07Y>

ECOTRAIL WICKLOW

Following the support granted by Fáilte Ireland, Wicklow Tourism has been busy developing promotional activities for the event, as well as developing a few activities to enhance visitors experience as well as develop a Festival Atmosphere. Activities include the following:

- Journey to Wicklow mini series. Shot by the Tracks & Trails production company, this mini documentary follows first time trail runner Siobhan on her journey to EcoTrail Wicklow. Two episodes have been shot so far, with the third and final episode being shot on race day in September. See current episodes at <https://visitwicklow.ie/introduction-to-trail-running-videos-journey-to-ecotrail-wicklow/>
- EcoTrail Festival Banners are now on display along Bray main street. Those were placed on the last week in August and will remain in place until the end of September. See image: https://www.instagram.com/p/CiANY_9qBPP/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
- Extensive PR and online advertising to promote the event and attract as many participants as possible.

GLENDALOUGH MASTERPLAN AND WICKLOW VISITOR ORIENTATION STUDY

Glendalough is a tourist hub within the National Park and is recognised as a cultural attraction due to the volume of visitors it attracts year on year. The area is recognised as a site of international significance due to its monastic city and natural heritage and is a potential World Heritage Site, but those qualities have unfortunately led to visitor management issues in recent years.

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

and Management Masterplan for Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park and Visitor Orientation Recommendations for Co. Wicklow.

Key issues identified in the brief included:

- Improving the regional and seasonal spread of visitors
- Encouraging more tourists to visit outside seasonal peaks
- Encouraging people to visit areas outside of the main attractions all intended to mitigate against regional and seasonal congestion and deliver a better experience for all
- Increase dwell time in the county

The consultancy team undertook an assessment and consultation process to discern key issues which affect the National Park experience. In tandem with this consultation and information gathering, detailed site surveys were conducted to assess the existing ecological and archaeological sensitivities of the area.

Ownership and responsibility of attractions within the County is split amongst a myriad of state bodies, local authorities, private estates, farmers and individuals. All have their own responsibilities and pressures on resources but none have the responsibility or capacity for overall management.

The plan outlines a strategy for clustering, and promotion of an overall cohesion of visitor offer. This will increase the profile and attractiveness of Wicklow County as a place to visit, encouraging exploration of multiple destinations of interest, with associated extended stays.

The need for visitor dispersal from Glendalough, sites and key recreation access points in the northern part of the county is widely accepted. This is supported in part by counter data (pedestrian and vehicle).

The need for Visitor Management has been further exacerbated by the growing popularity of walking, cycling and other forms of outdoor recreation in recent years.

The following recommendations are made, working together to effectively disperse visitors to sites across the county-

- Enhanced online presence – particularly via social media channels
- Enhanced quality on the ground – improvements to basic visitor infrastructure
- Product enhancement and product development
- Strengthened outdoor recreation hubs
- Increased Connectivity

Improving the quality and sustainability of outdoor recreation sites is integral to achieving effective dispersal within the park and on a county wide level.

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE SPACE

The letter of Contract Award for design Consultants issued to the successful tenderer on the 30th March. The successful tenderer is Vincent Hannon Architects

Meetings have taken place with Strand Road residents, Royal Marine Terrace and Martello Terrace.

A site meeting took place on the 9th May with the Design Team, Council officials and representatives from the Mermaid Theatre where the different canopy options were discussed. Initial drawings showing canopy options are being considered. When the final design is agreed drawings will be prepared and presented to the Members prior to commencing the Part 8 process

RURAL AND URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

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

Two applications have been submitted for RRDF category 1 proposals in April 2022. The applications were Rathdrum RISE (Regenerate, Invest and Support Enterprise) and Baltinglass; Looking Back and Moving Forward. A decision on these applications is expected in Q4 2022.

URDF: URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND

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

Bray Harbour Improvements

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

RPS was requested to carry out an EIA Scoping Exercise as an add-on to their current engagement. A draft EIA has been received and this is being reviewed at present. This identifies all of the potential environmental impacts that need to be addressed in the EIAR. A Stage 1 Screening for an Appropriate Assessment report has yet to be provided after which it is proposed to organise further public consultation that includes a 3D visualisation of the proposed scheme.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Wicklow County Council Economic Development Unit are progressing the acquisition of an Enterprise Space in Greystones from Cairn and are also progressing the sale of the 1.33 acre site on Mill Road/South Beach to the HSE.

The purchase of the former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew has been completed and the building has been insured and secured. A Town and Village Renewal Scheme application has been approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development to fund the purchase of this building, and the application to draw down this funding is in process.

MARITIME

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

Key milestones have been:

- The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme Consultation. Wicklow County Council made a submission strongly supporting the case for the funds created as a result of the offshore renewable energy projects to be managed and distributed locally rather than centrally.
- The adoption of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021 aimed at harnessing Ireland's offshore wind potential while protecting our marine environment.
- The Marine Area Consent process is now open for relevant projects, it should be noted that the Arklow Bank Wind Farm, which is Ireland's first offshore wind farm, is at an advanced stage of planning and has been operating under an earlier consent regime. SSE has recently announced its intention to apply for a larger more ambitious project under the new MAC scheme.
- An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission to SSE Renewables to develop the onshore grid infrastructure necessary to connect the 800MW Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park.
- Codling Windpark has submitted their Marine Area Consent application, this is a very significant milestone in the development of Ireland's largest offshore windfarm.
- Shelmalere Offshore Windfarm (DP Energy Iberdola) has completed consultation on its EIAR
- Bord na Mona Ocean Winds Réalt na Mara Offshore Windfarm has delivered a number of community engagement clinics and is seeking to further engage with the local authority.

The next significant milestone will be the announcement of the Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (ORESS) Auction either later in 2022 or early 2023. Under ORESS eligible projects will be invited to bid to deliver renewable energy services. The Community Benefit Fund associated with the ORESS Auction will be significant.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE STRATEGY

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

Wicklow Naturally continues to increase its network of members in 2022 to add to the array of County Wicklow produce. Wicklow Naturally members will be represented at a range of events throughout the year including Taste of Wicklow, the Tinahely show, Ploughing Championships, OctoberFeast and Gifted; all aimed at raising the profile of Wicklow produce. Wicklow Naturally and its members continue to receive coverage in national and international media including Lonely Planet, Farmers Journal, Forbes and Nationwide.

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

The launch of Farm to fork trails was held on 31st August as part of the Wicklow Naturally food promotion campaign and was hosted by renowned chef Catherine Fulvio in the gardens of Ballyknocken House and Cookery School.

The Farm to Fork Trails will include guided and self-guided tours throughout County Wicklow. The trails aim to showcase the best of Wicklow food and drinks producers and providers, connecting the visitors' experience from Farm to Fork and offering a true taste of the Garden County.

Guided tours include return coach travel to several destinations such as farms, historic houses, food and drinks producers, farmers markets etc. Self-guided tours can be facilitated also.

It is hoped that the initiative will further enhance the reputation of County Wicklow as a great destination for quality food and drink.

SKILLS TASKFORCE FOR COUNTY WICKLOW

A Skills Taskforce Chaired by the Chief Executive has now been set up following meeting held on the 20th of July to coordinate key stakeholders, in partnership between Government, industry, and education and training providers, to continue with engagement and explore areas of collaboration to build skills education and training programmes in County Wicklow, including the Wicklow County Campus, that will meet the future employment needs of the sectors.

The Skills Taskforce will meet on Friday 23rd September, 2022 and it is expected to receive a report from the Sub Group / Education Sub Committee. It is also expected that nominations from the three industries, i.e. renewables, food and the screen sector will be agreed.

Wicklow County Council will shortly be advertising for consultants to carry out a skills audit to identify existing skills and competencies and future skills required to support economic development in the County.

Cllr. Tom Fortune thanked CF for the extensive report and asked a question in relation to resources.

CF confirmed that a new Grade VI was appointed recently to Economic Development and that we will make a case for more funding as needed. There is a lot of grant funding available but it stretches resources, and only some of the funding includes administrative costs and staffing. Currently there is €1.5 million in funding from two different funding streams, i.e. URDF and RRDF. It was agreed that where grants are available they should be applied for.

The Incubation Hub requires a high level person to monitor it and a CLG should be set up to meet its legal obligations.

A question was asked regarding whether offshore development would be led by Government or does WCC have any say. The Board were advised that An Bord Pleanála will make decisions but WCC will have a say and will engage with companies. There was also concern about the Arklow site and where the cables would go and what roads would the cables cross. It was advised that there will be engagement with communities.

ITEM 5

Report of Head of Enterprise, LEO supports

Report was circulated to members of the SPC prior to the meeting.

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral 			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Grants Approved (number/ value)	- 33/ €641,745	- Meet Demand	-22/ € 404,782
- Measure 1	- 4 / €6,594	- Meet Demand	-8/ € 12,286
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters			
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	77	64	29
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	105	75	72
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	994	900	301
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	10	5
METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	849	750	156
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor and Brexit 1-1	530	500	189
METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2020/2021	2022/2023	Year to Date 21-22
No. of Secondary Student Participants	953	1000	864

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

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Trading Online Vouchers	135 Total value: € 279,127.40	50 Depending on budget and demand	44

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

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

JULY 2022 Activities

- Fortnightly newsletter continues to be circulated to the LEO client database outlining supports, training courses, events and other relevant information.
- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- LEO Wicklow client, Kate Dempsey of Aqualicense Ltd. won the Overall Winner Award at the National Enterprise Awards 2022, held at the Mansion House on Thursday 2nd June.
- WCC Economic Development Team and LEO Wicklow organised a skills event called 'From Screen Skills to Green Skills: Meeting the needs of our key sectors into the future' on Friday 24th June at Wicklow County Council. Keynote speaker was Minister Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education followed by industry speakers and representatives from the relevant education and training providers.
- LEO Wicklow was represented at the Best of Wicklow tent at the Tinahely Show on 1st August and distributed advice and information to attendees.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Autumn/Winter business skills training programme has been published on the LEO website. Courses are now open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow. A wide range of courses are on offer from August through to December, The first course of the Autumn Winter programme, Start Your Own Business Course commenced on 30th August.

Clermont Campus Developments

- Tender awarded to Woodco Ltd. for installation of new Biofuel Heating System

- Asbestos removed from prefab and demolition complete to allow for installation of new heating system and future sewer line.
- Tender for preparation of a Conservation Management Plan awarded to 7L Architects.

Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

Chris Fogarty has taken up the position of Programme Manager of the Mid East Regional Enterprise on behalf of Wicklow, Kildare Meath. Chris is based in Kildare but works from Clermont at least once a week.

Strategic Objective 1: position the Mid East as the primary location for the development of the agri food hubs.

Action 1.3: The development of a food incubation development unit in County Wicklow.

Recruitment of Project Manager to prime the development of a Food Incubation Centre at Wicklow County Campus is underway. The Priming Grant application that was submitted for funding under the Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme, towards the appointment of an Architect Led Design Team to prepare detailed drawings of a Food Incubation Development Hub at Wicklow County Campus, to apply for Part 8 and project manage the construction phase of the Hub has been granted approval. First step for the Project Manager is to publish a brief to appoint a design team on e-tenders.

Strategic Objective 2:

Action 2.1 Develop and operate a Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathew

- Good progress on the construction of the Hub overall, roof is almost finished onto courtyard buildings. New building up to second floor, roof metals placed. Dormitory conversion is well under way and scheduled to be finished late October.
- The project has been delayed by a number of weeks due to COVID closure of site and a number of Site Manager and Project Manager changes.
- Overall completion date is Mid December 2022.
- Project costs subject to construction inflation and a number of unforeseen costs. An EI REDF funding application is prepared to apply for additional funding for the Hub to address cost shortfall.

Next steps:

- Promotion and marketing of facilities to commence, Q4 2022
- Recruitment of Centre Manager Q4 2022. Advertisement and Job Spec in preparation.
- Foul drainage system: route has been decided and an application to IW to be submitted. Larry Roe and John Powderly are taking lead on this campus wide project.

Action 2.2 Establish a Film and TV Crew Academy to develop and nurture new talent across the region

- Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG has been approved a funding application for €300,000 funding for screen skills training courses and work placements under the Film & TV Crew Academy East Initiative at Screen Ireland.
- Manager Jade Travers in place since May 2022 and a number of training courses (First Aid, Excel course, Hair Design etc) have taken place and were very well received by the participants.
- Steering Group will have second meeting 7th Sept to sign off on next quarter programme and budget.

Action 2.3: Implement the Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy to support the growth of the industry across the region.

Rationale:

Through the development of a screen sector strategy Wicklow County Council wants to ensure that the county and wider region is fully prepared to avail of the projected growth in Ireland's audiovisual sector over the next five years. According to the Olsberg SPI report, Ireland's audiovisual sector could double employment in film, television and animation to over 24,000 full time equivalents (FTEs) and a gross value added of nearly €1.4 bn.

Consultants, Saffery Champness Ireland, were appointed to develop this strategy which sets out a number of actions to match the ambitious growth for the industry.

Action Outcome:

The strategy will focus on delivering upon its remit across a number of key areas.

- Specify how the Film sector can position itself as a key sustainable economic driver and employer for the county.
- Consider opportunities to develop regional relationships across the film industry, with a specific focus on the Mid-East and South-East
- Outline key actions that will continue to attract and secure future foreign direct investment into the film sector in Wicklow
- Propose the most appropriate method of funding apparatus to aid in the development of filmmakers in the county
- Identify actions that will support the promotion and communication of the positive attributes of the film industry in Wicklow to a wider audience, with a particular focus on screen tourism

By highlighting the recommendations and actions required the outputs will drive economic growth within this and associated sectors and create sustainable employment. This will in turn aid of the continued success of the screen industry in the Mid-East.

Update on Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy 2022 - 2026

The final strategy was noted at the full Council meeting on 4th April 2022.

The Strategy contains 35 recommendations over the following six headings:

- Content Creation Enterprise Hub
- Screen Wicklow
- Skills Development & Training
- Domestic Screen Content Creation
- Foreign Direct Investment
- Screen Tourism

Actions underway:

Screen Wicklow

- Rebranding of the Film Office to reflect a wider range of screen activities is no complete.
- Consultant has completed draft of new film section for www.wicklow.ie. New content added to website.
- Working with Screen Ireland to mirror their location database for County Wicklow to the film section of www.wicklow.ie
- System now in place to capture annual public filming data within the County.
-

Domestic Screen Content Creation

- Currently preparing to seek quotes from Social Media companies to manage Website and Social Media presence for Screen Wicklow

Screen Tourism

- Permission received from Netflix to use promotional material for “Valhalla” the new Viking series which will show case County Wicklow to the world.

LECP

6.2 Support and develop Wicklow County Campus to allow it to reach its full potential as a centre of learning and innovation in the County

Engaging with IT Carlow now SETU

- I.T. Carlow has merged with Waterford I.T. to become the South Eastern Technical University (SETU).
- The new president of South Eastern Technical University, Prof. Veronica Campbell, made a short informal visit to Clermont on 13th May and met with John Powderly on site. Meeting to be arranged with senior management in the coming weeks.

Supporting campus companies

- Work ongoing to identify tenants for the new hub.

Developing a masterplan for the campus to focus on the screen sector, food and renewable energy

- Work ongoing on preparation of tender for masterplan.

Broadband Connection Point

A BCP room has been fitted out at the campus. Awaiting IT equipment and staffing solution. In November the BCP will move into the Enterprise Hub space.

Strategic Objective 4: Ensure that the Mid East Region accelerates the transition to a low carbon economy.

Action 4.4 The establishment of a Marine Education and Training Facility for the Mid East

A Skills and Training event was held on Friday 24th June called: From Green Skills to Green Skills. The event was successful and following the event a Skills Task Force was formed representing industry, education sector and WCC. First meeting held on 20th July, Terms of Agreement agreed. Next steps are Masterplan for the campus and a Skills audit and Strategy for the county.

Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS)

A Priming Grant of €199,600 has been awarded to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG from Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS) for the provision of Architectural Design Services & Project Design Preparation (including Part VIII) for a Food Incubation Development Hub at Wicklow County Campus comprising regional infrastructure of scale for agri-food and drinks SMEs including specialist food production units, co-working innovation kitchens, and scaling and growth support services.

This funding will allow for plans to be primed for the full implementation of the Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation Centre. It will enable the recruitment of a project manager to advance plans for the centre, retention of an architect led design and multi-disciplinary team to prepare plans,

appointment of a financial team to complete a business model and a financial analysis review, and the launch of a promotional awareness campaign.

The Wicklow Naturally Food Hub is expected to realise the following benefits within 3 years:

- Build sectoral improvement and smart specialisation with clear and achievable targets:
 - 4 food and drinks production tenants embedded in 4 independent food production units, creating 40 new jobs;
 - Development kitchen for product development, training, and small-scale production enabling 40 new food and drink start-ups to create 80 new jobs;
 - 1500 industry professionals participating in training/networking events;
 - 70 food and drink professionals attending regular networking events;
 - 30 businesses receiving business growth mentoring support;
 - 20% reduction in costs of new concept development for early stage start-ups;
- Facilitate food businesses to grow and develop their business by engaging with students academics and specialist mentors, through SETU and the Local Enterprise Office which are co-located on the Campus, to work on innovation led projects and avail of management capability training.
- Unlock real growth and scale in such a dense area of population as the mid-east region;
- Lever the benefits of affordable food infrastructure close to Dublin to attract new, innovative food businesses to relocate.

Wicklow County Campus is working towards a zero carbon status in the near future through the use of solar energy and biomass heating systems and this will carry forward to the Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation Hub, helping to deliver on the Government's Climate Action Plan 2019 and the European Green Deal plan to build a fairer economy while protecting our planet.

The Food Hub will facilitate the development of scalable, sustainable, and profitable food businesses across the mid-east by providing the physical environment to choreograph opportunities for food entrepreneurs to interact with each other and will support Wicklow food and drink companies to adjust, pivot, or reposition themselves to respond to new market realities arising from Covid-19, Brexit, and other market changes, including climate change/sustainability, innovation, and digital transition.

VD confirmed that the team was well on target to meet targets. She said that businesses are busy at the moment so there is not the same appetite for training courses as there was during lockdown. A fortnightly newsletter is published and posted to the website detailing what is available. There will also be a lot more courses to come in the Autumn/Winter programme.

The National Women's Enterprise Day will take place on 13th October – Kate Dempsey and Nina Carberry will be attending.

A course on how to apply innovation in your business in challenging times is being run. This is affiliated to Trinity College Dublin and will count for 30 credits at Level 9.

Capital funding has been received to appoint a project manager and the new building is moving well with the roof now on the courtyard.

ITEM 6

Wicklow County Campus, Content Creation Hub update

John Powderly (JP) gave an update on Wicklow County Campus:

- There is a new Bio-fuel system being installed and windows are being renovated at the moment but the appearance will not change.
- SETU are going to renew their lease.
- The Screen related pages on the Wicklow County Council website have been replaced.
- There have been over 30 film production in the county (not including Bray)

ITEM 7

Update on Greenways in Co. Wicklow

Susan Nichols presented the report on the Greenways which was circulated prior to the meeting and there were no questions arising from it.

ARKLOW SHILLELAGH GREENWAY

We are currently incorporating the published December 2021 "Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways" and the associated "*Greenway Sustainability Payments*" documents to the proposed Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway Scheme. The options are being revisited for a few sections of the proposed greenway with updated ecological surveys underway on those sections. Tenders have been sought for the role of Independent Agronomist, it is anticipated that the independent agronomist will be appointed in the very near future. Once the Independent Agronomist is appointed, the Agronomist's details will be communicated to Landowners.

WICKLOW GREYSTONES GREENWAY

Wicklow County Council is seeking to appoint consultants to this project. Tender submissions are due on the 20th September with the appointment of the successful consultant team to follow on thereafter. The consultant will be tasked with carrying out detailed environmental surveys and develop and bring forward the project to statutory approval stage.

BLESSINGTON EGREENWAY

Planning documents under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act were lodged with An Bord Pleanála with the end date - 4th March 2022. No update has been received yet from An Bord Pleanála on a likely decision date. It is still anticipated that an oral hearing will be required by ABP.

ITEM 8

Correspondence

There was no correspondence for discussion.

ITEM 9

Set date and time for next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC will take place on Monday 12th December, 2022 at 11am, venue to be confirmed. Cllr. Tom Fortune thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed:



Cllr. Tom Fortune

Chair

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date:

12th Dec. 2022