

Wicklow County Council
Chief Executive's Monthly Report – February 2025



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Wicklow County Council

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This month:

Department of Transport Awards €15.2 million in Funding to Wicklow County Council

Wicklow County Council is pleased to announce that the Department of Transport has allocated €15.2 million for various maintenance and improvement projects across County Wicklow, focusing on regional and local roads.

This funding is part of a broader national investment of €713.67 million aimed at enhancing regional and local road infrastructure.

The essential funding will significantly enhance the overall safety of Wicklow County Council's road network, benefiting all road users, including cyclists and pedestrians.

Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme

Wicklow County Council is inviting applications for the Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme 2025. A total of €30,000 is available for this fund, with a closing date for submissions set for 4pm on Friday, 7th March 2024.

Now in its fourth year, this scheme supports Wicklow County Council's role in delivering the Creative Ireland Programme. It is open to not-for-profit organizations, local community groups, and arts, heritage, biodiversity, and cultural organisations, as well as venues and societies.

The scheme welcomes activities that effectively capture and showcase the richness of County Wicklow's arts, culture, creativity, heritage, nature, biodiversity and history. Individuals applying for funding must partner with local community, arts, heritage, biodiversity, and cultural groups.

Grants ranging from €1,000 to €3,000 will be allocated to selected projects that creatively and innovatively communicate and celebrate the aspects of Wicklow's people and place. Applications will be assessed by members of Wicklow County Council's Culture Team, which includes representatives from the Heritage, Arts, Libraries, and Archives departments.

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Social Development (Housing & Community)

Housing

	January 2025	January 2024
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	95	120
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1353	1370
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	22
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	21	27

Allocation of Social Housing

	January 2025	January 2024
Wicklow County Council	5	9
Approved Housing Bodies	3	19

Social Housing Stock

	January 2025	January 2024
Tenancies Occupied	5034	4906
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€339,430.17	€325,402.95
Arrears (Including Bray)	€3,029,638.10	€3,254,269.67

Rent

- Income based Differential Rent Scheme - Last Review – 2019
- 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)

Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 31/01/2025
Arklow	933
Ashford	387
Aughrim	40
Avoca	37
Ballinaclesh	7
Ballyconnell	4
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	117

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Barndarrig	11
Blessington	254
Bray	1099
Brittas Bay	1
Carnew	72
Conary	4
Coolboy	4
Delgany	226
Donard	15
Dunlavin	29
Enniskerry	48
Glenealy	11
Greystones	310
Kilcoole	51
Kilmacanogue	10
Kiltegan	5
Kirakee	2
Knockananna	6
Laken	1
Laragh	13
Newcastle	12
Ntmk	60
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	61
Rathnew	118
Redcross	2
Roundwood	33
Shillelagh	25
Stratford On Slaney	3
Thomastown	8
Tinahely	28
Wicklow	257
TOTAL	4307

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 1st November 2023 to 4th November 2024. The data on the housing needs for Wicklow was returned to the Department by 2nd 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.

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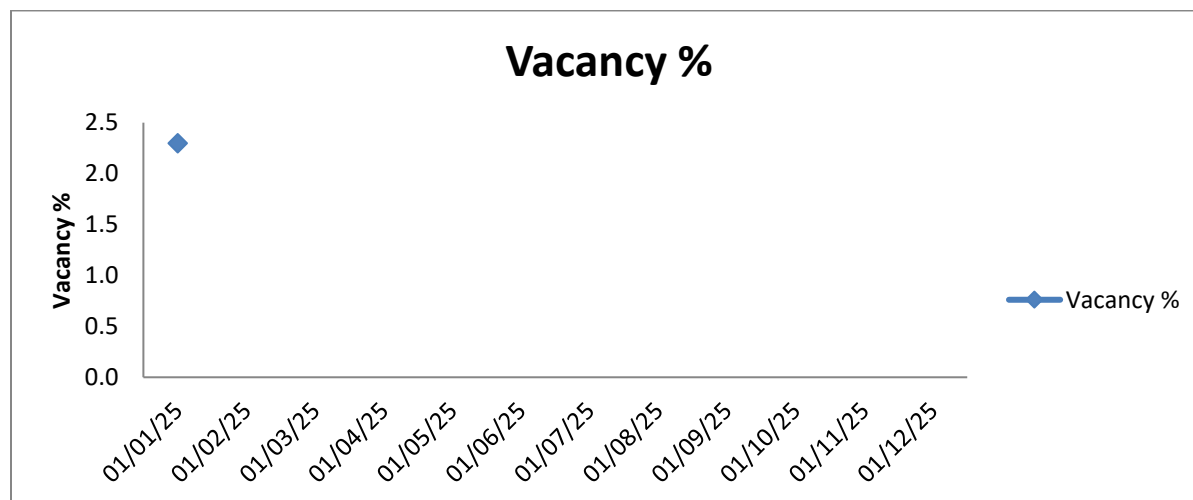
- Review of list by housing teams – Homeless, Traveller accommodation and Tenant Sustainment Officers.
- Reports on the Social Housing application list were generated from the lhouse System.

Re-Lets / Voids

MD	Completed in 2025	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	23 (+5)	7 (0)	5 (0)	7 (-7)	27(0)
Baltinglass	27 (+10)	4 (+2)	7 (+2)	11(-3)	21 (-5)
Bray	59 (+5)	5 (0)	11 (+4)	8(-2)	22(+6)
Greystones	9 (+1)	4 (-1)	3 (+2)	4 (+3)	7(+5)
Wicklow	25 (0)	7(0)	23 (+3)	12(0)	39 (-5)
2024 Totals	0	27 (0)	49 (+11)	42(-9)	105 (-11)
2023 Totals	142				
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)	2.3	Figures in brackets indicate change on last month			

A new local area maintenance framework was setup in 2024. 17 contractors were appointed to cover all five MD 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 €36,000 per house in 2022 and €31,000 per house in 2023.



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

According to CSO Census 2022 data:

Total No of rented properties in the state	513,704	100%
No of properties rented by Private landlords	330,632	64.4%
No of properties rented by Local Authorities	153,192	29.8%
No of properties rented by AHBs	29,880	5.8%
No of vacant houses (including Holiday Homes) in Co Wicklow	4,320	
Average no of WCC vacant units (using 2023 figure)	140 (3.2% of total vacant houses in the county)	

The overall vacancy rate for rental properties (private and social) on Census night was 7%, so our vacancy rate is less than half the overall rate for a rental sector where Local Authorities account for only 29.8% of the properties. Also, Wicklow County Council's vacant units only account for 3.2% of the total number of vacant units in our county.

Housing Maintenance

Planned Maintenance in the form of electrical remedial works has been completed at Parkmore in Baltinglass. Protech Electrical is currently carrying out remedial works at Palladius Park in Donard and will then move on to Mallinswood, Grangecon.

Gas and oil boiler servicing and repairs continue in all MDs. Checks for fire blankets, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are part of the boiler service visit and any missing or time expired alarms are replaced. Heat Pump maintenance contract documents are currently being prepared, and tender competitions will be run on www.supplygov.ie shortly.

Housing crews are also currently replacing fire blankets, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in our housing stock following a request sent out for replacements needed at the end of 2023.

Core Capital Programme

1. Traveller accommodation

Scheme	Current Status
Ballintreskin – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date March 2025

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Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Three group housing schemes. Final layout agreed with department/families. Social house layout is being finalised for the rest of the site. Part 8 Expected Q2 2025.
Vale Road Arklow	Preliminary Design

2. 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 .

3. 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. Number of houses retrofitted as of September 2024. These works comply with our policy on energy fabric upgrades which went through the SPC in 2023.

EERP	Numbers carried out as of January 2025
Houses retrofit	6



Retrofit Scheme at Monastery Grove. Completed nominated for ICE/LAMA Award

Mortgage To Rent

A total of 52 households are tenants of Wicklow County Council through the Mortgage to Rent Scheme and as such pay a weekly rent to WCC. WCC leases these properties for a 25-year period from Home for Life, all 52 properties have been inspected, and our housing team administers the monthly lease payments to Home for Life.

MTR	Numbers of inspections and sign offs as of January 2025
Mortgage to Rent Properties	0

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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 approx. 1500 properties in Co. Wicklow every year. Target properties are selected using a Risk Based 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 last month (January)
Targeted and complaint inspections	15

So far in 2024, 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 2024 (figures in brackets indicate increase on previous month)
Improvement Notice	36 (+2)
Prohibition Notice	9 (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 LA's and Approved Housing Bodies.

LAs 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.

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In 2024, Wicklow County Council delivered 7 acquisition units and 4 construction units, in partnership with Ark Housing Association (3), Sunbeam House Services (3), National Association of Housing for Visually Impaired (NAHVI) (1) and St John of Gods (4 construction units).

Active projects 2025

Wicklow County Council is currently actively working with Ark Housing, Sunbeam housing association, Newgrove Housing Association, Túath, Depaul Housing, Tiglin and Peter Mc Verry Trust to drive projects to completion.

CAS Acquisitions 2025	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Wicklow Town	1	Due to be delivered Qtr. 1	CAS

Active CAS projects leading into 2025 include 4 turnkey & 1 acquisition properties with Ark Housing, to deliver units to persons at risk of homelessness and 1 acquisition property in partnership with Tiglin to accommodate a care leaver category of housing need.

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

Council Delivered Adaptions Works	Completed/Ongoing
Bray MD	39
Baltinglass MD	14
Wicklow MD	21
Arklow MD	29
Greystones MD	12
Total	112

Budget Spend

	2025 Budget	Amount Spent as of January 2025
Grant Funding for Private Housing	TBC	N/A
Grant Funding for Social Housing	TBC	N/A

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Grants Received/Processed	249	216	266	327	281	456	769

Local Authority Home Loans up to January 2025

Received	Approved in Principle
5	4

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2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	<u>To Date</u>	<u>January 2025</u>
Applications Received	466	0
Completed	110	1
Declined	280	0
Ongoing	15	15

Housing Acquisitions

The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage like previous years, have devolved arrangements through the Local Authorities to focus on acquiring properties where a tenant in receipt of social housing supports, including Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), and has received a Notice of Termination (NOT) due to the landlord's intention to sell the property.

	Vacant	Tenant In Situ (TIS)	In Progress	TOTAL
2024	6	6	5	17
2025 (to 31st January)	0	0	5	5



(Apt 19 Parkview Villas, Blessington – sale closed 16th October 2024)

House Purchase Enquiries (To 31st January 2025)

Total Received to date	Early Enquiry EOI Received	Closed -did not Progress with Purchase	Sale Agreed	Due Diligence Ongoing
3	0	0	0	0

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Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

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 98 households in the County availing of this scheme.

Wicklow County Council (MTR)Tenants	Approved Housing Body (MTR) Tenants	In Progress
53	48	8

Homeless Services

Homeless Figures for January 2025

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/01/2025	Year To Date	As at 31/01/2024
No of New Presentations	31	31	26
No. of Repeat Presentations	1	1	0
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	13	13	6
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	24	24	17
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	0	0	2
No. of Children	25	25	6
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	4	4	8
Family Circumstances	18	18	11
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	0	0	2
Mental Health	1	1	5
Risk of Homelessness	14	14	7
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	0	1
Addiction Issues	1	1	3
DV/DA	4	4	1
Medical Issues	0	0	1
Overcrowding	2	2	2
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	1	1	7
ASB:	0	0	0
Rough Sleeping*	1	1	3
Sofa Surfing*	2	2	3
Staying with Family*	5	5	5
Staying with Friends*	7	7	0

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

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Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/01/25	
Families	16
Adults	30
Children	41
Single individual	4

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/01/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	18	22	21	9	4	4	1	3
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/01/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	22	23	23	4	8	4	3	4

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, 602 households (422 families & 180 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 31st January 2025. (239 homeless cases, 336 prevention cases to date and 27 direct provisions). 152 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.

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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.

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

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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 8th April 2024.

Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025

- Three-year strategy published 9th 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

Community

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

The launch of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 was announced on the 7th of November 2024 by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD.

This fund is being provided by the government to support community and voluntary groups, totalling €7 million to be allocated across the local authority network.

County Wicklow has received €199,044 as part of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025, details of which were shared by Ministers Humphreys and Joe O'Brien TD. The allocation is broken down as follows:

	<u>Capital Allocation</u>	<u>Current Allocation</u>	<u>Total Allocation</u>
Wicklow	€170,609	€28,435	€199,044

Under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025, there will be €6 million in capital funding available nationally to assist community and voluntary groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas. This funding can be used for minor capital works, improvements to facilities, and the purchase of equipment for community use.

Additionally, this year's fund includes €1 million in current funding to support community and voluntary groups with non-pay running costs, such as energy bills (electricity, refuse charges, heating), and other operating expenses (rental or lease costs, insurance bills).

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The Department of Rural and Community Development administers the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 through Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs), with support from Local Authorities in each area.

It should be noted that groups applying under the €1 million current fund are not precluded from applying for the capital funding and vice versa.

The Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is responsible for allocating funding through this scheme. Applications must relate to one or more key priority areas identified in their LCDC's Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to be eligible for consideration.

Applications for funding can now be made under this Programme to County Wicklow LCDC by **4.00 p.m. on Friday 7th March 2025.**

Application forms and guidelines are available from Wicklow County Council's website.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

In March 2024, Wicklow County Council welcomed the announcement from the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, along with her colleague Minister Joe O'Brien TD, regarding the allocation of €1,584,550 to Wicklow under the 2024 Community Recognition Fund. This funding is part of a larger investment of €50 million in national funding for project delivery over 2025 and 2026.

The Community Recognition Fund was first introduced last year to recognise the significant efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting newcomers to Ireland. The fund aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community, acknowledging the contributions made by local communities in accommodating arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. Eligibility for this scheme is limited to areas with high levels of new arrivals. Funded projects must be capital in nature, provide medium- to long-term benefits for their communities, and be capable of being completed in 2025 or 2026.

Earlier this year, Wicklow County Council sought expressions of interest for project proposals during the scheme's first phase, resulting in the approval of €694,300 for seven community projects*. The final application window closed on Friday, 10th January 2025, the assessment process will be underway in the coming weeks.

This final application window of the CRF scheme has been advertised in the Wicklow People, Wicklow Times, WCC Instagram Facebook and X pages, WCC website, and PPN Facebook page.

A Community Recognition Fund online information session was held online on Wednesday 11th December. This was very well attended by a number of community groups and elected members. The session focussed on breaking down the scheme outline and the main criteria for this funding.

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*CRF 2024 Phase 1 Approved Projects

Wicklow	Carnew	Old Coolattin County Club CLG and Wicklow County Council	Carnew Community Land Development	€150,000
Wicklow	Dunlavin	Dunlavin GAA Club	Development of multi-use games area	€144,000
Wicklow	Dunlavin	Imaal Hall Committee	Facilities Upgrade	€60,800
Wicklow	Newtownmountkennedy	Newtown GAA	Development of a Walkway	€100,000
Wicklow	Arklow	Arklow Town Team	Upgrade to St. Peter's Place Playground	€135,000
Wicklow	Bray	Bray Area Partnership	Purchase of new vehicle	€50,000
Wicklow	Rathdrum	Rathdrum Playground Committee	Park Placemaking Project	€54,500
Wicklow Total				€694,300

The Department of Rural and Community Development has published the full details of the scheme (including funding allocations).

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2023

The projects below are nearing completion, with most having estimated completion dates of early 2025.

	Project Description
Bray Community Centre	Internal works including electrical upgrade, painting, flooring and heating system improvement works
	External works including windows and doors replacement, safe removal of asbestos, exterior painting,
	Other works will include accessible lift, protected stairway works, insulation upgrade, landscaping and signage
Baltinglass Community Park	Riverside Walking Path
	New Playground
	MUGA Refurbishment
Bray Parish Centre (Completed)	Internal works including electrical upgrade, painting and fittings

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

Bray Parish Centre

The official launch of the newly refurbished Most Holy Redeemer Parish Centre took place on Friday 7th February 2025. This project was part-funded by the 2023 Community Recognition Fund.

The building, which was built in 1907, underwent extensive works involving the repair of its original sash windows, doors, brickwork, and cast-iron gutters. Particular care was taken to restore the original features of this protected building. To the interior, full electrical rewiring, fireproofing and new plumbing works were carried out. The installation of kitchens and accessible toilet fittings were completed to ensure full wheelchair accessibility on the ground floor.



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County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

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

The Older People's Council (OPC) AGM took place on the 1st November 2024 in the Arklow Bay Hotel. Over 200 people attended this event. The Health Minister Stephen Donnelly attended along with the Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien who addressed the attendees. There were information stands from various groups such as H.S.E., An Garda Síochána, Sláintecare, Local Sports Partnership, Healthy Ireland and Speakers from Citizens Information Centre and Bank of Ireland. It was a very informative day and received lots of positive feedback.

OPC Executive is planning for wider engagement with older people across the county and recruitment of more members of the OPC this year.

Clinics for the Greystones area and Blessington area will be scheduled for 2025.

County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance

Alliance meeting was held on the 22nd January 2025. Each Stakeholder gave an update on their Programmes.

"Care and Repair" for the Arklow Area – This is a programme aimed at helping the older person in the community avail of minor works being carried out around their home. Interviews will shortly be taking place. Initially this programme will be a pilot project following which a decision will be made regarding the viability of rolling out in other areas/towns within the county.

Citizens Information Centre (CIC) got Accreditation for Age Friendly Status. They are hoping to put their Arklow Office forward for the award this year.

Age Friendly Ireland Committee

Wicklow Station has been nominated as the first train station within the County to receive Age Friendly Status. A Committee has been formed, and a Walkability Audit took place on the 16th of October 2024 where people from the Irish Wheelchair Association, Members from the Older Peoples Council and members from Wicklow County Council took part. They were given a toolkit to use on the walk up to the station and around the station and they took notes of any issues that they came across. After the Walkability the Committee went back to County Hall to discuss their findings. A report of all the findings will be issued in the next few weeks and work will commence at the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025.

Disability Inclusion Steering Group

A "Make Way Day" meeting was held on the 24th of September 2024. "Make way Day" is a programme that will be piloted to make people aware of the difficulties people with disabilities face when people park their cars on footpaths obstructing people with disabilities to pass by freely. It is hoped that this programme will be launched by the end of the year.

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The Sunflower Lanyard Programme aims to easily identify people with hidden disabilities. This Programme was rolled out in Wicklow County Council. Members of the Customer Care Unit currently wear these Lanyards so that a person with a hidden disability can identify which member of staff they need to talk too.

Access Officer

Training for Access Officer commenced in October 2024.

Comhairle na nÓg

The position of Co-ordinator has been filled.

Healthy Age Friendly Homes

Since the commencement of the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme in Wicklow, in January 2024, the level of interest in the programme has been greater than anticipated. Consequently, a large number of referrals to the programme in Wicklow have been received, and the wait times to be seen by the Local Coordinator are longer than originally forecast.

Since her appointment to her role in January, Local Coordinator for Wicklow, Marion Van der Wel, has been conducting home assessments on a weekly basis to our programme participants. As part of her role, Marion offers a wide range of supports to our participants, including but not limited to, arranging fall detector personal alarms, helping with housing adaptation grants, organising Care and Repair services, linking-in with community services, signposting the older person to health services etc.

The programme has gone from strength-to-strength in Wicklow since its inception. The 2024 projected targets for the programme in Wicklow have been exceeded, which demonstrates the success of the programme, and is a testament to the concerted collaborative efforts of the Local Coordinator and Local Authority Staff.

Total Number Home Visits Conducted (January 2025):

Total Initial Visits	24
Total Additional Visits	16
Total Visits Overall	40
Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit	55

**The revised projected visits for 2024, reflects the time needed this year to recruit new staff, the time required to facilitate staff training, and the time needed to initiate stakeholder engagement, programme promotion and programme scale-up. The new projected target of 203 visits in Wicklow for 2024 has been exceeded, thereby reflecting the success of the programme since its establishment in in 2024.*

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Healthy Wicklow

Period Poverty

Approval has been granted by the Department of Health for the allocation of €15,000 additional funding to continue the roll out of the period poverty initiative across County Wicklow. Following on from the success of 2024 sports clubs, youth organisations, women's refuges, child and family organisations and school Home Liaison Officers will continue to be supported.

Food Poverty

The second 'Food for Thought' think tank event took place in The Little Flower Hall, Bray on the 5th February. This event continues to build partnerships with organisations who support individual and families facing food insecurity. Key topics addressed included: the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on food poverty, overcoming the stigma associated with accessing food support services, enhancing coordination and communication among organisations and improving the quality and suitability of emergency food provision.

Active Communities

Throughout February a 4-week Fundamental Movement Programme is taking place in St Coen's Rathnew for 322 children. Each session focuses on the basic movement skills and will eliminate standing around, turn taking or queueing. By the end of the Programme teachers will have a full resource of activities to implement with the children making it sustainable and something that the school can continue through PE, movement breaks or as an extra activity.



Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Pre and Post Evaluation

Sláintecare Bray has successfully appointed Mary Immaculate College to conduct a comprehensive 12-month pre and post evaluation of the Children's Wellbeing Hub at the Bray Family Resource Development Project. The evaluation will focus on key areas including trauma, poverty, play therapy, and early years interventions. This research will provide critical insights into the impact and effectiveness of the hub's services, guiding future developments and ensuring the project meets the needs of vulnerable children and families in Bray.

Children's Wellbeing Hub – Bray

The Bray Family Resource Development Project has recently appointed a Play Therapist who will begin her role in the coming weeks. Additionally, a Family Engagement Worker has been hired and will be joining the team to work alongside the play therapist, ensuring comprehensive support for children and their families. This collaborative effort with the Marian Centre, the Bray Travellers Community Project, and Sláintecare Healthy Communities aims to deliver targeted interventions that address mental health, family resilience, and social inclusion for vulnerable and disadvantaged families in the Bray community.

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Genio Trust- Bray Travellers Project

In November, under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities (SHC) Wicklow County Council (WCC) initiative, we submitted a proposal to the Genio Trust for funding to support Traveller health and wellbeing in Bray. We were awarded €134,000 to fund a part-time Housing Accommodation Officer over a two-year period for the Bray Travellers Project. This role will focus on advocating for improved housing conditions, supporting Traveller families in accessing appropriate accommodation, and working closely with local authorities and service providers to address housing inequalities. To oversee the effective implementation of this project, a steering committee will be established, led by The Bray Travellers Project and the SHC Local Development Officer, with input from key stakeholders to ensure a coordinated and community-driven approach to addressing Traveller housing needs in Bray.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

SICAP Annual Plans 2025: SICAP workplans for the coming year are currently being finalised in conjunction with the LCDC and SICAP Sub-group. Each Programme Implementer, namely Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership will present their Plans for approval to the full LCDC at next meeting.

Annual Performance Review of 2024 SICAP Programme: The local development companies met the mid-January deadline for submission of all work from 2024 onto the online IRIS system. This is currently being reviewed and assessed by Pobal and the LCDC. Date for final approval of the end of year reports is February 28th.

Once SICAP Annual Plans 2025 and End of Year Reports 2024 are fully approved, the next instalment of SICAP funding can be made to the programme implementers.

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Planning, Economic & Rural Development

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) 2022-2028 (as varied)

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

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

Proposed Variation No 2 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Wicklow Town - Rathnew LAP)

The purpose of the Variation *is* to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. An online consultation portal was created to present the variation alongside the draft Local Area Plan. The Proposed Variation was on display for 6 weeks from 09 October to 20 November with 11 submissions received. The forward planning team prepared a Chief Executives Report which was issued to the elected members on the 10 of January 2025 for their consideration. The elected members have considered the recommendations of the Chief Executives Report and voted to make material modifications to the Variation at a council meeting on the 10 of February 2025. These material modifications will be published in a few weeks and update will be issued. Please see below for further detail on the process of the Draft Wicklow Town –Rathnew LAP. The Variation and the Chief Executives Report are available to view here:

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

Proposed Variation No 3 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Blessington LAP)

The purpose of the Variation *is* to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Blessington Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. An online consultation portal was created to present the variation alongside the draft Local Area Plan. The

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Proposed Variation was on display for 6 weeks from 30 October to 11 December with 11 submissions received. The forward planning team prepared a Chief Executives Report on the proposed variation which was issued to the elected members for their consideration on the 31 of January 2025. The elected members have up to 6 weeks to consider the recommendations of the Chief Executives Report. The Variation and the Chief Executives Report is available to view here -

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

Proposed Variation No 4 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Greystones / Delgany & Kilcoole LAP)

We are currently preparing proposed Variation No. 4 to the WCDP 2022-2028. The purpose of the Variation will be to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Greystones /Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the Variation and the initial stages of the SEA screening is currently being carried out.

LOCAL AREA PLANS

There are 5 Local Area Plans in Wicklow for the following settlements – ‘Bray Municipal District’, ‘Wicklow Town - Rathnew’, ‘Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole’, ‘Arklow & Environs’ and ‘Blessington’. We are currently reviewing all five in the following order.

Draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

The draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 was on display for 6 weeks from 09 October to 20 November 2024 with 166 submissions received. The forward planning team prepared a Chief Executives Report which was issued to the elected members on the 10 of January 2025 for their consideration. The recommendations in the Chief Executives Report were considered at the regular council meeting on the 10 of February 2025. From this meeting, a number of material amendments are proposed to the Draft LAP. These material modifications will be published in a few weeks and update will be issued. The Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan process, including the Chief Executives Report is available to view 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-Process>

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Blessington Local Area Plan

The draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025 was on display for 6 weeks from 30 October to 11 December 2024 with 253 submissions received. The forward planning team prepared the Chief Executives Report which was issued to the elected members for their consideration on the 31 of January. The elected members have up to 6 weeks to consider the recommendations of the Chief Executives Report. This will likely be on the agenda for the meeting on the 3rd of March 2025. The Blessington Local Area Plan process is available to view here -

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

Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan

Pre-draft consultation closed for the new 'Greystones - Delgany' & 'Kilcoole' Local Area Plan closed on 31 January 2024 with 115 submissions received. Two well-attended public information days were held in January 2024. All valid submissions have been reviewed and considered. The draft plan is currently being prepared and it will go out on public consultation for 6 weeks with submissions invited from everyone. It is hoped that the draft plan will commence display in Q1 2025.

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house. The Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan pre-draft process and the consultation portal is available to view here -

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

Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan

The pre-draft public consultation stage of the Local Area Plan ran from 01 March 2024 to 02 April 2024. An online consultation web portal was created for this stage, with submissions invited through the portal. 80 submissions were received. A well-attended public information day was held on 15 March 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. DBFL have also been appointed to complete an ABTA (Area Based Transport Assessment) and prepare an LTP (Local Transport Plan) for Arklow which will underpin the Draft LAP. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

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

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Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue)

The pre-draft public consultation for the new Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan ran from the 20 November 2024 until 18 December 2024. A well-attended public open day was held on the 05 December in Bray Civic offices. An online consultation portal was prepared and 117 submissions were received. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

Portal link - <https://bray-md-lap-wicklow.hub.arcgis.com/>

The current LAP for Bray MD is available to view here

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

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 draft RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 was published on 01 February 2024. Submissions were invited on the draft maps up to 01 April 2024 with 9 submissions received. Submissions requesting a variation of the zoning of land were invited up to 31 May 2024 and no submissions were received by WCC. Determinations on the 9 submissions were issued by 01 July. Landowners had until 01 August to appeal the decision to ABP in the determination and 3 appeals were made. To view the draft RZLT maps click on the link below.

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 may 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.

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

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<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 - may make submissions regarding the inclusion of land on this draft map – these submissions must be made by **1 April 2025**.

Click [HERE](#) to see more detail.

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>

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>

Cáin ar Thalamh Criosaithe Cónaithe — Do Cheisteanna Freagartha :

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Portals/0/adam/Documents/IfY-aWrYDUyZr4qbiNS27Q/Link/RZLT%20FAQs%20%20as%20Gaeilge.pdf>

VACANT SITE LEVY

This is the last year the Vacant Site Levy will apply. All sites currently on the register are in the process of being inspected and demands for payment will issue shortly where applicable. More information can be found online at the following link

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

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HERITAGE OFFICE

County Heritage Plan Review: A draft Heritage Plan was prepared by the Heritage Forum following analysis of issues raised through the pre-draft consultation process. The Draft was adopted by the members of Wicklow County Council during their meeting on 4th November. The second public consultation phase concluded on 3rd Jan 2025. Managers report in preparation to be agreed by Heritage Forum at next meeting.

County Heritage Plan (CHP): All projects co-funded with the Heritage Council for 2024 are complete and recoupment claims submitted. Annual report to Heritage Council for 2024 also submitted. New CHP applications for 2025 in preparation to be submitted by 14th Feb.

Community Monuments Fund- CMF. The Community Monuments Fund for 2025 was advertised with a closing date of 31st January for applications to WCC. Final shortlists being prepared by HO for submission to National Monuments Service by 14th Feb.

Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture): BHIS 2025 was advertised in September. A total county allocation of €141,000, 25 applications received and assessed. Awaiting outcome from Dept. The HSF 2025 and National Thatch Scheme were advertised with a closing date of 17th Jan 2025. Final shortlists from Wicklow to be submitted to Department by 7th Feb.

Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) –following the addition of new groups in Dec 2024, there are now 11 community heritage archives in county Wicklow, see www.wicklowheritage.org . Public heritage event held in Bray on 21st Jan in collaboration with Wicklow County Council's Active Travel Team and Library service

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 30 th January 2024	To 30 th January 2025
Received (Valid)	66	73

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A total of 73 valid applications were received during January as follows:

Type of Development	31 st January 2025 Number Received
Individual Houses	10 (09 Rural)
Housing Developments*	02
Agricultural Structures	00
Commercial	04
Other Developments**	57
Total	73

**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.

Housing Developments – PRR25/60010- Rathnew Partnership, 90 dwellings & Creche, Ballybeg, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow

PRR25/25- Cedarbrick Retail Development Ltd, 47 Dwellings, Mariner's Point, Greenhill Road, Wicklow

Decisions issued in respect of 65 applications in January 2025

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	01
Individual Houses	02
Other Developments	62
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
Total	65

Decisions issued January, in comparison to the same period for 2024:

	31/01/2024	31/01/2025
Total Number of decisions issued	72	65
Total Number of decisions to grant	59	55
% Grant Rate	82%	85%
No of applications withdrawn		10(4 refer to rural house)

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Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

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

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

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

ABP-314686-22 Lands at **former Bray Golf Club Lands**, Off Ravenswell Road and Dublin Road, Bray, Co. Dublin and Co. Wicklow, (586 Units), Members meeting 4th October 2022, CE report submitted 21/11/2022 – Granted 19/08/2024

Strategic Infrastructure Development

An Bord Pleanala has received an application for approval under section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-310090-21- Proposed development will comprise the onshore grid infrastructure including 220kV export cable circuits and fibre optic cables, new 220kV GIS substation at **Shelton Abbey** and overhead line connection and all associated ancillary works. In the **townlands of Johnstown North, Johnstown South, Seabank, Ballymoney, Killiniskyduff, Templerainy, Coolboy, Kilbride, Shelton Abbey, Ballyraine Lower and Ballyraine Middle, in Co. Wicklow** – approved with conditions 27/5/2023.

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

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Ballinclare and Carrigmore townlands, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow – Decision, refuse permission under section 37G of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, 27/09/2023.

An Bord Pleanala has received an application for proposed development primarily comprising of the provision of a new 110 KV substation with Gas Insulator Switchgear (GIS) technology and two 110kV underground transmission cables (connecting to existing 220kV overhead lines to the northwest of the proposed substation) along with associated and ancillary works **at Bogland, Kish, Cooladangan, Ballintombay, Ballyroonaun and Ballynattin, Co. Wicklow** – ABP approved proposed development subject to 15 conditions 30/11/2023.

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.

An Bord Pleanala 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.

Substitute Consent

An Bord Pleanala has received an application for substitute consent for the remainder of the development on **lands at Ashford, Co. Wicklow** - ABP-312283-21 refers. Granted by ABP 16/8/2024 subject to 16 conditions.

An Bord Pleanala 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, Redcorss, Co. Wicklow.**

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E-Planning Project

Eplanning has now been in place since 17th April 2023. For the **month of January**, a total of 73 valid planning applications were received of which 31.25% were hard copy applications **and 68.75% were received online.**

Due to the complexities of larger applications, it has been necessary to request one hard copy for larger multi-unit developments.

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

- A number of one off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Several extensions and conversions of dwellings throughout Wicklow
- Erection of new over ground fibre optic cables on existing timber poles, the erection of new poles and associated fibre optic cables in Arklow
- Change of use to a number of properties throughout the county
- Construction of 47 no. residential units Ballyguile More
- Part 8 - for open spaces, a pump track, 4 no. cantilevered platforms over the revetment, sensory garden, event space in The Murrough
- 99 dwellings including the provision of services, visitor bicycle parking, landscaping proposals in Rathnew
- Proposed reclamation of land through the filling of material comprising of clay, silt, sand, gravel or stone for the purpose of improvement of land for agricultural use, in Newtownmountkennedy

Planning Enforcement

New Files	3
Advisory Letters	9
Warning Letters	6
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	0
Closed	9

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Vacant Sites

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

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

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

1.0 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 revitalizing 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 is one of 26 towns selected nationally under Phase 2 of the Town Centre First Plan initiative. The town will receive €30,000 in funding to support the development of its own Town Centre First

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Plan, aimed at guiding the revitalization and sustainable development of the town centre, transforming it into a vibrant and thriving hub for the community. The funding is provided under the Town Centre First Measure 2 Suite of Supports. The plan must be completed, and all associated claims submitted to the Department by 5th September 2025.

Following the establishment of the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team in November 2024, the Town Regeneration Officer (TRO), in collaboration with the Town Team, has drafted and issued the tender document for the creation of the Town Centre First Plan. The tender return date is 7th March 2025.

1.2 Town Centre First – Suite of Supports

1.2.1 Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1

Baltinglass, Rathdrum, and Kilcoole have been approved for €10,000 in funding under the Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1. This funding is aimed at establishing or further developing town teams in areas where they are either not yet established or in the early stages of development. These teams will play a crucial role in driving the revitalization and sustainable development of the town centres.

Originally, the deadline for drawing down the funding was set for 15th November 2024. However, an application was submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development for an extension, which was granted. The revised deadline for drawing down the funding is now 8th May 2025, giving these towns additional time to finalise their plans and ensure the successful formation of their town teams. This extension provides a valuable opportunity for further planning and preparation within these communities.

Queen's University of Belfast has won the competition to produce the Health Checks and will begin work in March 2025

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 – measures to include enhancement to the Square with tree planting and rain garden, spaces for dining and fixed seating.
- b)** Wicklow Town – Further enhancement at the Black Castle area to encourage more tourism and attractions for locals with installation of picnic tables, seating and a sculpture park.

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The capital funding agreement was returned to the DRCD on 16th September 2024. The *Town Centre First Measure 3* projects must be completed with all associated claims submitted to the DRCD by 30th September 2025. The TRO is actively working with the respective town teams in preparing tenders for the associated works.

1.3 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow Co Council has been awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023. The Projects selected were;

- a) Kirikee, Glenmalure for work on their Community Centre to include renovation of the roof, windows ceilings and walls.
- b) Lacken to renovate the old schoolhouse to be used as a community centre to include café and community shop and a small heritage section.
- c) Wicklow Towns, Murrough BMX pump track to develop into best- in-class asphalt covered pump track for all ages and abilities. The Acceptance Agreements have been signed and the commencement of the tender process was discussed with the associated Town Team /Community Groups in early September.

Meetings are ongoing with the respective Community Groups to review their tender documents prior to issuing to the market. A conservation architect is required for the project in Lacken, as the building is listed in the Record of Protected Structures (2022-2028). The appointment of the architect is nearing completion.

1.4 Town Teams

The process of forming a new Town Team in Newtownmountkennedy was completed in November 2024. Following this, the newly established team held its first meeting in December 2024. This marks an important milestone in the town's efforts to revitalise and develop its town centre as part of the Town Centre First initiative. The formation of the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team brings the total number of Town Teams in County Wicklow to five, joining Arklow, Blessington, Greystones and Wicklow.

The Town Regeneration Team will now plan to form Town Teams in Bray, Rathdrum, Kilcoole, and Baltinglass in 2025.

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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 for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes Greenway. Meetings are being planned with the Town Team in March 2025 to progress these works.

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 7th February 2024. However, the submission was not successful. The Town Regeneration Team have met with the consultants regarding the public realm works and finalised a first phase of the works, which will hopefully go out to tender early in 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.

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

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1.5.5 Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004

A revised business case has been sent to DHL&H in December 2025. 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 Retail Seminar

The Town Regeneration Office, in collaboration with the town teams of Arklow, Blessington, Greystones, Newtownmountkennedy, and Wicklow Town, successfully hosted the Wicklow Retail Seminar on Monday 20th January. This event brought together local stakeholders to explore strategies for revitalising town centres and supporting the retail sector.

Under the auspices of the national Town Centre First Policy, the seminar served as a platform for constructive dialogue and collaboration among town teams, elected officials, and local retailers. The focus was on practical and innovative interventions aimed at supporting local businesses, enhancing the shopping experience, and attracting footfall to town centres.

The event featured a series of informative presentations from a diverse range of industry experts. Following these presentations, the seminar showcased three local independent retailers from County Wicklow, providing attendees with firsthand perspectives on how businesses operate in the current environment. These retailers shared their challenges, successes, and how they are partnering with town teams to improve the local retail ecosystem.

The event concluded with small group discussions that encouraged participants to brainstorm and share actionable ideas for enhancing their town centres. These interactive sessions allowed attendees to discuss practical interventions for increasing footfall, fostering local economic growth, and creating a more vibrant and accessible town centre experience.

TOURISM

1. SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

From March, Wicklow County Council will be contracting a company to manage the various VisitWicklow social media accounts which includes Facebook, Instagram and TikTok in order to maximise the digital marketing potential for Destination Wicklow.

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2. ACCOMMODATION IN WICKLOW

As part of the Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) for County Wicklow, Fáilte Ireland has produced a report that provides an in-depth accommodation stock analysis for Co. Wicklow. The report outlines current tourist accommodation supply, future capacity and growth potential.

Wicklow County Council and Fáilte Ireland will meet regularly to help identify accommodation opportunities for Wicklow.

3. WICKLOW GAOL

The Strategic Report prepared by CHL & Associates' consultant, is now complete and includes a review of the current tourism offering and business structure, a benchmarking exercise to compare the Gaol to other national and international site, suggestions for 'quick fixes', and longer term development opportunities that would revitalise the Gaol. This is now under review and a plan of action will follow.

7I Architects have been appointed to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for Wicklow Gaol to identify a schedule of works and ongoing maintenance for this important heritage asset in Wicklow. An initial site visit has taken place. A funding application has been made for the Historic Structures Fund 2025 to address some urgent repairs.

4. 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. Some improvements have already implemented. The Local Advisory Group, the Glendalough Partnership, and other stakeholders continue to meet regularly to support the implementation of actions contained in the VEMMP.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. ABBEY GROUNDS, WICKLOW

Work is progressing on the Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns project at the Abbey Grounds and is expected to be complete later this year.

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2. SPECIAL PROJECTS

GRID: The GRID (Greystones Regional Innovation District) is now open for business with several companies now using office space in the building. Work is ongoing to complete fit-out of offices not yet licenced to customers.

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

Carnew Remote Working Hub: Design drawings have been reviewed and are being finalised. Documents for Part VIII planning approval are currently being prepared and will be submitted in the coming weeks.

Marketing Plan: The #ChooseWicklow campaign continues with regular social media posts and radio advertising each week, backed up by the ChooseWicklow.ie website. The campaign will run until April 2025 with posts as Gaeilge scheduled for Seachtain na Gaeilge starting 24th February.

3. OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Network continues to meet regularly and engage with the offshore renewable energy companies who are developing proposals off the coast of County Wicklow. Recent updates included an update on potential future plans for the harbours in Wicklow and Arklow.

4. SKILLS STRATEGY

The Skills Strategy for County Wicklow is available on the wicklow.ie website and the Skills Taskforce is working on implementation of the strategy. The Taskforce will meet quarterly this year to ensure cooperation between local government and training and development providers, and to drive implementation of the actions contained within the strategy.

5. Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow Naturally:

Wicklow Naturally is applying to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for funding under the Rural Innovation and Development Fund (RIDF) for a new food related event to be run later this year.

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LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO) FOR FEBRUARY 2025 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
	2024	2025	2025
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	22 €671,740 7 €12,500	TBC	0
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	TBC	14
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	145	TBC	30
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1223	TBC	81
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	24	TBC	2
METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
Number of new clients added to database.	443	TBC	33

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*Criteria have been amended for this metric			
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	578	TBC	15

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2023/2024	2024/2025	Year to Date 2024-25
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1358	TBC	1135

METRICS: Client Transfers to Enterprise Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of transfers	2024	2025	Year to Date 2025
Number of transfers	6	TBC	0

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2024	2025	Year to Date 2025
Trading Online Vouchers	124	TBC	N/A

Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	17	TBC	0
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	20	TBC	0
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	7	TBC	7
Energy Efficiency Grant	3	TBC	1
Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025

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No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	12	TBC	3
New Exporters	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	TBC	0

January 2025 Activities:

- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out several times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Business Advice Clinics continue to run 3 days per week to provide advice to those individuals hoping to start a business and to assist existing businesses grow and develop.

February 2025 Activities:

- **Student Enterprise Awards:** Preparations are underway for the Student Enterprise Awards, taking place on **Thursday, 27th February** at Wicklow County Campus. This event marks the culmination of a **6-month enterprise training programme** delivered to TY students in secondary schools across Wicklow.
- **Local Enterprise Week:** Planning is in progress for Local Enterprise Week, running from **3rd – 7th March**, celebrating entrepreneurship and business growth through a series of events. A highlight includes the **LEAN Breakfast: Eliminate Waste & Increase Profit** on **Wednesday, 5th March 2025**.
- **Start Your Own Business Bootcamp:** February saw the commencement of the **Start Your Own Business Bootcamp**, aimed at supporting aspiring entrepreneurs.
- **Employment & Pricing Events:** Additional events focused on **staff employment legalities** and **pricing strategies (Price It Right)** took place, offering valuable guidance for local businesses.
- **Female Entrepreneurship:** LEO Wicklow continues its 2025 partnership with **Network Ireland Wicklow Branch** to promote female entrepreneurship. Over **20 networking and training events** are planned throughout the year to support and connect female entrepreneurs.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The training programme for Spring/Summer 2025 is open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow.

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Training which took place in January:

- Start Your Own Business Course 14/01/2025
- LinkedIn Masterclass 15/01/2025
- Using Canva for your Business: Beginners 21/01/2025
- Using Canva for your Business: Advanced 28/01/2025

Training Scheduled for February:

- Bookkeeping for Small Business (04/02 & 11/02)
- Start Your Own Business Course (08/02)
- Legalities of Staff Employment (18/02)
- Costing & Pricing for SME's (25/02)

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Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

Climate Action

Miscellaneous Works:

- Fisher Huts ready for hand over
- Welfare Units in Arklow connected to ESB and ready for handover.
- ESB to connect Wicklow Welfare Unit
- DPI Garden Village correspondence ongoing with Irish Water – Seeking Connection Agreement
- Review of Planning submissions and attendance at pre planning when required

Climate Actions Focus:

- **Climate Action Committee** established Meeting held 13th November and 29th Jan
Terms of reference agreed. Invites issued for meetings to be held this year.
- **Climate Action Delivery committee** established
TOR agreed and meeting held 27th Jan
- **E-Bike Shared Mobility Scheme.**
Moby are ready to mobilise in Bray MD for 1st March.

Coastal Erosion:

1. The ECRIPP project has held its public consultation, small number of submissions for County.
2. Malachy Walsh and Partners have been engaged in relation to Brittas Bay and Ennereilly and have submitted an Inception report.
OPW funding drawn down for 80% of funding
3. RPS Ltd have been appointed for the Seabank to Kilmichael Point coastal erosion management risk study and have submitted an Inception report.
OPW funding drawn down for 80% of funding
4. Greystones North Beach (Funding submitted to OPW, Area may be covered by ECRIPP)
Communication with OPW ongoing here, WCC to prepare a scope for Jacobs to price and then possibly enter a MOU with Irish Rail

Glyphosate Policy:

Wicklow County Council has joined a Service Level Agreement for the Scientific Assessment of Alternatives to Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Amenity Public Open Spaces project with various third level institutions (such as Maynooth University and Trinity), agencies, and ten other local authorities (some with large park departments). This SLA commenced in 2020 and findings have been received by WCC. Documents reviewed and advice issued to municipal districts,

Dark Skies:

- A second meeting was held with The Climate Action Team, Public Lighting Section, Wicklow Uplands Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service to explore an application for a Dark Sky park in the Wicklow Mountains.
- A Draft Map for the proposed area has been prepared. An Assessment of Laragh, Roundwood and Aughrim will cost approx. 5K each. Will commence Assessment with Laragh.

EU Funding Applications:

- EU Life Application Partners (WCC in Partnership with NORRI and Oyster Heaven)- Stakeholder meeting Arklow Friday 4th April 7-9pm, Arklow Bay Hotel

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- An application was submitted for €100K funding by the CAO under the EU Horizon project SpongeWorks for funding to develop a catchment water retention strategy with two sub-catchments of the Aughrim River identified as a pilot study area. Wicklow Uplands Council, LAWPRO and the East Wicklow Rivers Trust are partners to the project proposal
- An application submitted under EUCF City Life Seventh Call application process - €60,000 for An Energy Officer for Arklow DZ
- Wicklow SuDS Policy - Draft Complete for SPC review, an online meeting to be held to discuss with SPC.
- Greystones MD - Active Travel Scheme with NB SuDS Rainwater Garden scheme taking place– Part Funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund
Job Code issued to MD
- Rainwater Management Plan drafted for area in Redford Park. An initial design has been completed, Detailed design to be completed. CCTV survey required
In communication with MD on this CCTV survey.
CCTV survey for drains taking place 24th Feb.
- Greystones Murals to be updated with SDG theme at 4 locations.
Quote to be sought from Artists
- Sea Bin and Oysters to be piloted in Greystones Harbour
- Arklow MD Office, Civic Centre, Depot and Harbour Office – Solar PV was added and funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund.
Arklow MD done, Civic centre done. Depot done, All done & funded by Climate Team Budget. Energy Team organised works. Harbour Office advised not suitable.
- **Bray MD EV Mower demonstration Day –**
EV Mower delivered to Bray MD
- **Wicklow MD - Brittas Bay –** 1000m of Chestnut Fencing,
To be erected by Wicklow MD funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund.
Job Code issued. Fencing all delivered.
Works have commenced by District.
- **Baltinglass MD –**
Community Notice Board to be trialled in Blessington.
Meeting to take place with MD Engineer
The option of a shared mobility scheme for Blessington will be reviewed.
Meeting school on the 18th Feb in relation to Biodiversity Youth Conference to take place on 2nd April in Blessington.

Climate Action Officer Update:

- Litter Management Plan – Presented to SPC on 14th Feb
- Draft Green Events Policy
- An application was submitted from the CAO and CCAO to participate in the Systems Innovation for Sustainable Enterprise and Communities programme with IKC3 in Trinity College. The programme provides training for mobilizing community engagement and participation. It was piloted in the Portlaoise decarbonisation zone last year and our application is focused on the Arklow decarbonisation zone.
- A meeting was held with Wicklow Naturally and the Wicklow Uplands Council to plan the development of a Vision for Venison Campaign for this year. A one year plan is being developed and a three year plan will also be developed.
- A meeting was held with Saint Vincent de Paul to explore development of a communal garden in Tinahely. A meeting with the Blessington allotment campaign is planned. Whether development of a communal gardening site in Clermont is feasible is also being explored.

Biodiversity Officer Update:

- Biodiversity Working Group have reviewed the draft actions.
- Internal consultation ongoing
- BAP Report and Environmental Report to be completed for initial draft consultation phase

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- Contributing to Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee through WORC
- Grants applications for 2025 Heritage Council & Local Biodiversity Action Fund to be prepared Jan/Feb 2025

Community Climate Action Programme:

- Provided support to applicant groups in Phase 1 of CCAP Strand 1 grant applications
- WCC has set up a new revenue code for payments to the community groups
- Payment Procedure set up
- Initial Claim return issued to DECC for post and expenses
- Site visits to individual projects carried out to assist with queries and to take 'after' photographs.
- Regular meetings with DECC and CCAO network.
- Support Climate Action Team in various projects
- Announcement of opening date of "Phase 2" of the programme not available yet but expected in March.

Environmental Awareness:

Green Schools:

- Between now & mid-March Green Schools flag renewal visits.
- Curtlestown School Textile upcoming St Patrick's Day bunting project starting early Feb

Greystones 2GoCup

- Meeting held 30th Jan in library

Organising 5 number site tree planting/fruit tree pruning/tree advice for Feb/March/National Tree Week

- SD Awards to be held 11th March:
- Schools Textile upcycling awareness raising programme:
- Piloting with Curtlestown NS, nr Enniskerry
- Theme St Patrick's Day – working title 'St Patrick's Day Bunting'
- Basic sewing, Textile literacy, Circular Economy literacy

Anti Dog Fouling campaign on-going:

- social media campaign.
- audio devices,
- ad in newspapers planning.

Data Analyst:

- Started working with the energy team to calculate the carbon emission of all the buildings owned by the council. Completed extracting the data for the past two year 2023 & 2024 from 'Energy Elephant' software and SEAI monitoring platforms as well. Planning to do the analysis by generating a performance dashboard and a report over the course of time.
- Completed a report on housing retrofit project for carbon and energy analysis, for review to include it in the action plan progress report.
- Got access to the fuel card transaction data from both Fire Services and Civil Defence in reference to the project of Carbon Footprint Monitoring for the fleet owned by the council. Processing and cleaning the data at the moment.
- Analysis project for Biodiversity with Hannah and the GIS Team on the Barn Owl Conservation
- Graveyard Mapping to commence

Climate Networking

- Bioeconomy Forum member (Two LA's represented Tipperary (Enterprise) and Wicklow (Climate Team)).
- SDG Forum
- Biodiversity Officers Network

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- Community Climate Actions Officers network
- LA Climate Action Forum
- Revised Climate Action Charter Workshop

Forums /Groups:

Wicklow County SEC's

- Solar Meithal in Greystones ongoing
- Fabric Meithal in Arklow
A third phase of the Arklow Sustainable Energy Community Insulation Meitheal which aim to promote uptake of attic and cavity Wall insulation has been launched. An information event will be held for the public in Arklow Library on the 27th of February.
- Wicklow County Council provided bridging funding of €10,000 for the completion of an Energy Master Plan for Carnew Community Care SEC. A claim was submitted to SEAI for grant funding of the works and this has now been paid out by SEAI.

Tidy Towns Forum

- Tidy Towns Education Event for County with Tidy Towns Forum launched (Good representation from around County)
A WhatsApp group communication has been set up for the Forum
- List of TT groups to be issued to IPB to explore the possibility of the Tidy Towns Insurance for the County.

Greystones, Newcastle, Kilcoole and Delgany Climate Action Forum

- Looking at date in March for next event

2025 Events:

- Combined Climate Action and SDG Week 2025
The Mount Lucas Energy Truck booked for two weeks next year
Jacinta Barnes Climate Course
- Biodiversity Week 2025
- Annual Youth Biodiversity Forum
- Wicklow Third Youth Climate Conference 2025

Harbours and Ports

CCTV and Access Control

Civil works are largely completed and electrical works are commencing end Feb, to put in place improved CCTV and access control systems in Wicklow and Arklow harbours.

Arklow Harbour

Water has been connected to the Fishers pontoon in Arklow Harbour, and electrical works are due to be completed in March.

Wicklow Harbour

The showers for swimmers adjacent to Sandfiner beach have been installed.

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Shipping statistics

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-25	3	3	0	3	2	1

Litter/Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created	166
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	320
No of Litter Fines Issued	6
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	7
No. of Warning Letters Issued	4
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	10
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	2
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	7
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	18
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	1
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	3
Income - Litter	€1,230.00
Income- Waste Management	€1,931.00

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 5 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 7 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 5 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Noise pollution complaints closed.
- 0 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 0 Air pollution complaints closed.

Private Water Supplies

- 1 Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for 118 Regulated Private Water Supplies in preparation.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 5 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 8 Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 2 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.
- 2 Investigative samples taken in Three Trouts Stream.

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Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared
- 8 Pre-inspection visit and letters issued to house owners connected to domestic wastewater treatment systems.

Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

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

Well Grants

- 5 New Water Grant application received
- 1 New Well granted
- 6 New Pumps granted
- 3 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 16 inspections in advance/completion of works

Petrol Vapour Recovery

- 0 Installation inspected
- 0 Installation issued with Certificate of Testing
- 0 Stage Ib applications assessed
- 0 Stage Ib Installations Inspections.

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 0 Dry cleaner Installations issued with Certificates of Compliance.
- 3 inspections of vehicle refinishers carried out.
- 14 Paint retailers inspection for compliant products.

Smokeless Coal Regulations

- 13 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.
- 3 found non-compliant and requested to take corrective action.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

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

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

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

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Planning & Development

- 3 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
- 11 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
- 3 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.
- 1 environmental report on compliance with planning permission conditions was completed.

Control of Dogs

Dog Licences

For the month of January 2025, a total of 728 dog licences were purchased. Of this amount 371 were purchased online, which represents 55% of all licences purchased.

XL Bully Regulations

From 1 February 2025, it is illegal to own an XL Bully dog unless you have a Certificate of Exemption. The certificate means you can keep your XL Bully at your address until the end of their natural life. All XL Bully owners had to have made an application for a Certificate of Exemption no later than 1st February 2025. As at that date 55 applications had been received by Wicklow County Council. A dog must be neutered for the Certificate of Exemption to issue. All dogs have until the end of June 2026 to be neutered, but the application must have been received by Wicklow County Council by the 1st of February 2025.

Lambing Season

A radio and social media campaign was launched in January reminding dog owners that their dogs should be on leads at all times in the countryside during the lambing season. The official launch of this campaign by the IFA was carried out on Monday 10th February at a farm in Newcastle, Co Wicklow.

Projects Office

Whitestown Remediation Project

The draft remediation plan has been presented to the court and has been approved in part. Tender Documents for the Outlets for Material excavated from the site and also for the main contractor are presently being prepared.

Avoca Mines Remediation Project

The Council is working in Partnership with DECC 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. The contract has been awarded to complete the fencing around Cronebane and Tigroney sections of the Mines. Monitoring and repair works to existing fencing continues.

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Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Planning Application and CPO has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender stage of the project. Site Investigation and Archaeological Investigations will be carried out in 2024.

Wicklow Arts Office

Creative Places Baltinglass

Three further residencies and a commission commenced in December 2024. The residencies will have durations of six to nine months and will have wide ranging participation both in age range and inclusion from the town. The residencies are shaped by our experiences to date in working with the community to identify areas of artistic need and input. The first is a 'Cruinniú na nÓg' residency engaging with local primary schools' children and direct provision centre children in music and visual arts, the second is a 'TY Music & Dance' residency engaging with post primary school youth, the third is a residency with the Rathcoran community focusing on art, environment, and the world of nature.

Baltinglass Sings

As part of the Creative Places Baltinglass programme, Baltinglass Sings choir performed an evening of music and song at their annual Christmas concert on 13th December 2024, in St. Joseph's Church, Baltinglass. Baltinglass Sings is a community choir comprising over 50 local participants. Led by conductor Paula Phelan and accompanied by pianist Halyna Obshta, the concert was a resounding success with over 350 in attendance.

Making Music with Trio Record: the Wicklow Music Teaching Residency

Wicklow Arts Office and Music Network have partnered again for a fourth iteration of the Music Teaching Residency for over 55's. Music lessons are provided by Trio Record, comprising renowned musicians Dermot Dunne (piano accordion/piano), Aoife Dowdall (violin), and Claire O'Donnell (harp) and will be based in the Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew for the duration of the residency.

This residency focuses is on encouraging people aged 55+ to return to playing an instrument and to share in the joy of group music-making. Participants will receive free tuition from the trio on harp, flute, recorder, violin or viola from November 2024 to March 2025.

Following an open call for participants, the Residency received 35 applications for 15 places on the programme. The selected participants are from across the county including Bray, Wicklow, Ashford, Glenealy, Enniskerry, Greystones, Blessington, Arklow and Kilpedder.

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'Session 55'

Stemming from the 2023/2024 Wicklow Music Teaching Residency for over 55's, a group of participants came together to form a traditional Irish music group called 'Session 55'. The primary aim of the fledgling group is the revival of old Irish music and songs. This is the second music group that formed as a result of the Music Teaching Residency, 'The Barn Ensemble' being the first, has gone from strength to strength with regular performances across the county.

Wicklow Artist Salon

The final session of the 2024 Wicklow Artists Salon series took place in Russborough House in November with three contemporary artists from varied disciplines; Visual artist - Helen Blake; Poet - Jessica Traynor; Musician - Colm Mac Con Iomaire; sharing their recent work and relating the inspiration behind their works and the creative processes involved.

Poetry Residency

Wicklow Arts Office has engaged Poetry Ireland to present the Poetry in Schools Residency in West Wicklow in 2024/2025. The Residency is designed to provide participants with access to professional writers in the classroom. It will provide a quality learning experience to help students foster an appreciation of writing, learn new skills and make new connections. This is an inclusive opportunity which is classroom based.

Yarn Storytelling Festival

Funded by Wicklow Arts Office, the Mermaid's annual Yarn Storytelling festival took place in November. YARN is a community based festival that strives to bring the art-form of storytelling to as many people of all ages in the community as possible.

Mobile Music Machine – Care Concerts

Due to its popularity and success, Wicklow Arts Office will continue the Care Concert programme with Mobile Music Machine in 2025. Concerts will be rolled out in four residential care homes in Co. Wicklow with performances by renowned musicians and singers.

Reporting

Funding returns and reporting to the Arts Council and Creative Ireland has been completed for 2024. Investment for Wicklow County Council through these bodies for the Arts was announced in December.

Creative Ireland have, subject to Ministerial approval, increased their Core Grant Funding to the Wicklow Arts Office by €10,000 bringing the Core funding for 2025 up to €187,419 which, when combined with €30,000 funding for Cruinniú na nÓg, brings the total Creative Ireland funding for 2025 to €217,419

Appointments

A new CEO/Artistic Director has been appointed to the Mermaid Arts Centre. Aoife Demel has been a core member of the Mermaid team since 2007 and we wish her every success in her new role in fostering meaningful connections with artists and audiences and expanding the Mermaid's role as a vibrant arts hub that serves local, national, and international artists and engaging communities and audiences in Wicklow and beyond.

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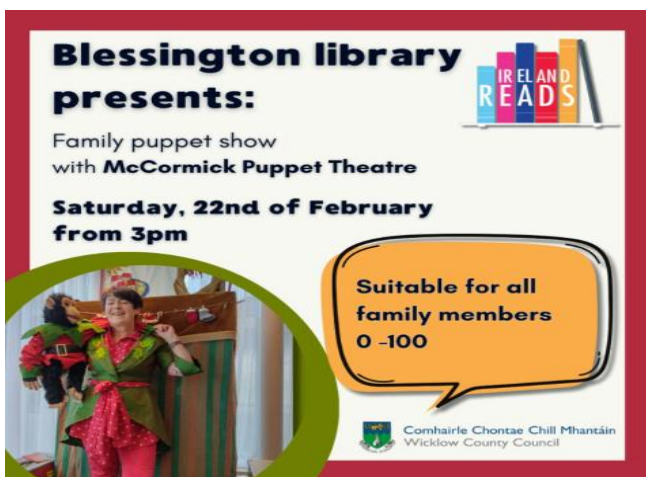
Wicklow County Library Service

Ireland Reads

Throughout February, and particularly on Ireland Reads Day (February 22nd), Wicklow Libraries are encouraging people of all ages to take some time to enjoy a good book. Ireland Reads is a national initiative funded by Healthy Ireland and supported by public libraries, alongside many literacy, arts, and reading advocacy organisations. The campaign highlights the joy and benefits of reading, promoting the idea that it doesn't matter what, where, or how you read—just that you do. Wicklow Libraries will be actively promoting Ireland Reads through events, book displays, and community engagement activities.



Blessington Library



Join us at Blessington Library for a family puppet show presented by McCormick Puppet Theatre!
'Sinbad the Sailor'

On Saturday, February 22nd, starting at 3pm, prepare to be entertained by this hilarious performance that's perfect for all ages, from the youngest to the oldest (literally 0 to 100!).

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Blessington Library

Valentine's-Themed Movement & Mindfulness for Kids

Come join in our Valentine's-themed movement and creative mindfulness session led by Katie from Twinkle Kids at Blessington Library. For ages 6+.

Enjoy creative journaling, yoga, storytelling, and guided meditation, all centered around self-love, gratitude, and kindness.



Ballywaltrim Library



Valentines Arts & Crafts at Ballywaltrim Library.

Join us for a fun and creative arts & crafts session on Saturday, 15th of February From 11am For ages 4+. Booking required. Contact Ballywaltrim Library to reserve your spot: Phone:(01)2723205 Email: ballywaltrimlibrary@wicklowcoco.ie

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Join us Ballywaltrim Library on Saturday, February 22nd, at 3pm for a special event with acclaimed Irish romantic fantasy (or as we like to call this genre; Romantasy) author Ruth Frances Long / Jessica Thorne!

Ruth will be reading from her latest novel, *The Book of Gold*—a spellbinding tale of magic, danger, and an impossible heist set in an alternate-Renaissance world.

Known for her richly woven fantasy and compelling characters, Ruth has enchanted readers with *The Bookbinder's Daughter*, *The Water Witch*, and many more.



Are you curious about crystals and how they work?

Come join Bianca at Ballywaltrim Library, Saturday Feb 15th from 3–4pm for a fun, hands-on workshop on piezoelectric energy crystals.

You'll learn how to cleanse, program, activate, and use crystals in everyday life.

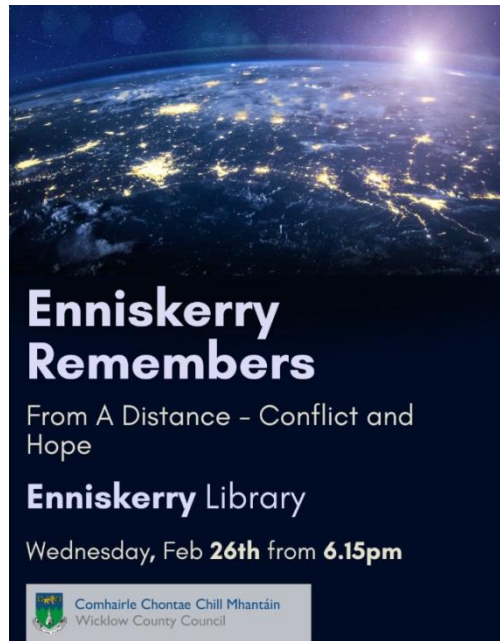
Make sure you book your spot—just get in touch with Ballywaltrim Library

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Enniskerry Library

Join us at Enniskerry Library for an evening of stories, music, and history. Enniskerry Remembers – "From A Distance" will explore life during WWI, WWII, and the war in Ukraine through talks, poetry, and music. Inspired by Nanci Griffith's song From A Distance, which will also be performed, this event is a chance to reflect, connect, and share stories of hope and peace.



Dunlavin Library

Come to Dunlavin Library for a Watercolour Paint Workshop, tomorrow, the 12th of February from 12 noon.

Whether you're looking to pick up a new hobby or refine an existing skill, this workshop is ideal for everyone over the age of 18, and you don't need to be a library member to participate.



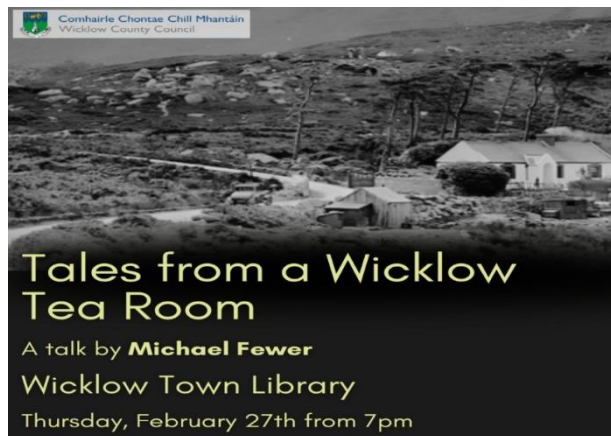
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Local Studies – Wicklow Town Library

Local History talk at Wicklow Town Library Thursday, the 27th of February at 7pm

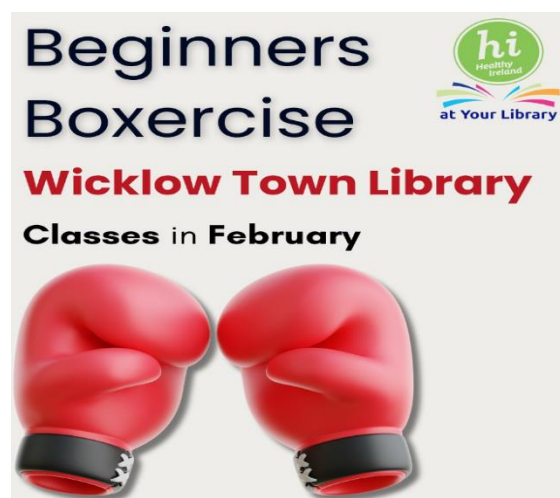
Our local history talk this month 'Tales from a Wicklow Tea Room' is presented by Michael Fewer, who shares the fascinating story of a small cottage and tearoom in Glencree in the Wicklow Mountains. Three successive generations of Mrs. McGuirks welcomed visitors to the tearoom from 1898 to 1960, ensuring each signed their Visitors' Books as they left.



Limited space available for our Boxercise for Beginners.

Come to Wicklow Town Library for Boxercise taster sessions, where having fun, getting fit and letting off some steam is the purpose in this series of Beginners Boxercise lessons with Michal.

- Friday 7th 12:00 - 12:45 pm
- Friday 14th 12:00 - 12:45 pm
- Friday 21st 12:00 - 12:45 pm



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Wicklow Libraries had a fantastic 2024, with people of all ages engaging with our services in huge numbers. Over 613,000 visits were recorded, and more than 439,000 items were borrowed, showing just how valued our libraries are. Digital reading remained popular too, with nearly 140,000 eBooks and eAudiobooks borrowed through BorrowBox. Our events programme was buzzing, with over 3,500 events drawing more than 44,000 attendees and nearly 5,000 class visits. With over 32,000 active members, Wicklow Libraries continues to be a welcoming space for reading, learning, and relaxing in warm and inviting spaces.

Archives & Genealogy Service

Digitisation programme

County Wicklow Valuation records are now uploaded to Wicklow.ie. These records date from 1887 to 1892 and place individuals in towns and townlands in County Wicklow at a time when there are relatively very little records for family history in Ireland. The records are accompanied by guidance information on searching as well as contextual information on the records and the purpose of their creation. The records list ratepayers, usually heads of household, and often show if property changed hands, where one name is simply crossed out and replaced with another - known as "cancelled records"- which provides valuable information to the family and local historian.

Genealogy Service

The Archives operates a genealogy service assisting those with Wicklow roots to access records and information about their ancestors. Enquirers are also directed to our online resources such as the digitised collections on Wicklow.ie and the genealogy and local history resources on the community archives site Our Wicklow Heritage – wicklowheritage.org

Outdoor Recreation

Wicklow Coast Blueway

The Wicklow Coast Blueway project is moving towards the second stage of the accreditation process with the current accreditation mainly reliant on provider-based activities. Blueway promotion and links has commenced with a timetable of events and providers listed. Project completion is due in March 2025, with signage installation a priority and works currently at various stages of completion on the selected Blueway Nodes:

Greystones – Accessible boardwalk installed at South Beach. Works completed.

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Brittas Bay – Accessible toilet, upgraded toilets, new larger water tank and new outdoor shower facilities. Car parking painting and tidy up. Works completed.

Wicklow Town –Harbour area: path and toilet facilities upgrade completed. Two new outdoor showers installed and ground works completed.

Arklow – New path completed replacing the old boardwalk at South Beach. Planters with shrubs now installed along the Roadstone site fence by the car park. Licence Agreement and MOU finalised with Roadstone, landowner, with new facility works at the Cove consisting of installation of a changing screen with seating area, bike shelter and 2 picnic benches being installed in Q1 of 2025.

Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee (WORC) – NPWS

The next meeting will be held online on the 13/02/2025 hosted by NPWS.

ORIS 2021- M3 – The Sugarloaf Repair Project – February 2025 photos:



Trail surfacing-water management



Baby Sugarloaf installation

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Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

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

The table below is a list of current projects funded under ORIS:

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Date for Completion
OR221WW02	<i>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</i>	WCC liaising with Bray MD and a new task force on project funds' allocation decision.	Extension being considered by DRCD.
ORIS 2021-M2 OR221WW01	<i>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</i>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. New tender in progress. Trial hole dug, engineers report with JJ Martin for tender documentation drafting.	In progress. Extension granted.
ORIS 2021-M3 OR321WW01	<i>The Sugar Loaf Repair (Images above)</i>	Stone Pitching by hand, waterbars, path building and crossdrains completed on Shoulder to Cone section. V-Ditches dug for water management on lower sections and family area. Cross drains installed on the family area and bottleneck. Some areas cordoned off to allow plant recovery with damaged caused by construction and user traffic, particularly after heavy rain and snow periods. 22 native tree planting in progress adjacent to trail. All machinery leaving site 14/02. Interpretative signage being installed and a newly constructed baby Sugarloaf at the start of the walk to showcase the upgrade trail works carried out. Car park upgrade works progressing.	Extension granted. Nearing completion.
ORIS 2022 M1 OR122WW05	Red Kite Loop (Avoca) Play Area	Ground works completed around Play Area. Play Equipment installed.	Completed
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW01	Blessington Greenway Link to Russborough House & Park	Enhancement of trails in Russborough Parklands/cycle hub to link with Greenway. Bike shelter installed at the end of the trail and new finger signage and plaque.	Completed
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW02	Glenmalure Community Riverside Walk & Recreation Area	Upgrade of existing trail, boardwalk replaced with a path. Play Equipment installed and groundworks completed.	Completed
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW03	<i>Coolkenno Equestrian Trail</i>	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners pending their planning permission process.	In progress
ORIS 2022 M3 OR322WW01	<i>Roundwood Recreation Area</i>	Groundworks and extension of existing car park with fencing works completed. Play equipment installed in play areas and surface works completed. Bike area designed; works will commence in mind February. Running routes planned. Resurface of main trails in progress with contractor engaged to carry out emergency repair works after extensive storm damage.	In progress

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Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Bike Week 2025

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership were allocated **€31,767** in funding for Bike Week 2025, which will run from 11th to 18th of May.

LAMA Nomination

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnerships programme 'Urban Outdoors with Wicklow Travellers has been shortlisted for the LAMA awards. This programme integrates members of the travellers community into Outdoor Recreation including cycling running and swimming.

Chronic Condition Programmes

January and February Chronic Condition Programmes:

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Aqua Aerobics for People with Chronic Pain & Arthritis	Coral Leisure, Arklow	20 th January	8 weeks	12	HSE Seed Funding
Prime Time of Life	St. Kevin's Hall, Blessington	22 nd January	12 weeks	32	HSE Seed Funding
Strength & Balance	Shoreline Leisure, Bray	12 th February	6 weeks	12	HSE Seed Funding

Arklow Sports Hub January Programmes

Activator Poles Taster – Wicklow Active Retirement Group	Pastoral Hall, Wicklow Town	21 st January	Taster	70	Age & Opportunity Funding
Exercise Taster & Talk with North Wicklow Womens Shed's	Villa Pacis, Bray	6 th February	Taster	30	Women in Sport Funding
Get Active, Stay Active for Older Adults	Fatima Hall, Baltinglass	19 th February	8 weeks	10	HSE Grant Aid Funding

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Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Walk n Talk programme	Coral Leisure Arklow	14 th January	6	6	Arklow Hub
TY tennis and Yoga Leadership	Arklow Tennis Club	14 th January	8	16	Arklow Hub
Inclusive Gym for Sunbeam service users	Stephen Hurley Fitness	16 th January	8	10	Arklow Hub

Rathdrum Sports Hub Programmes

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Walk n Talk programme	Parnell Memorial Park	13 th January	6	12	Rathdrum Hub
Learn to Cycle	Avondale GAA	13 th January	5	6	Rathdrum Hub
Teen Boxing Programme for Crosscare Teenagers	RDA Hall	23 rd January	8	17	Rathdrum Hub
Activator Poles	RDA Hall	15 th January	6	17	Rathdrum Hub

Couch to 5km Programme for Women

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Couch to 5km Avoca	Rooster Park Avoca	6 th January	6	15	WIS
Couch to 5km Bray	Bray Bandstand	27 th January	8	25	WIS

Learn to Cycle

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Learn to Cycle Rathnew	Rathnew Soccer Club	14 th January	6	14	Cypsc/Health Ireland

Training and Education

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Autism in Sport Workshop	Online	10 th February	2.5hours	17	Volunteer Support

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Women in sport week 3rd to 10th March

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	Funding
Women's Try Padel	Shoreline Sports Park Greystones	Monday 3 rd March	6	WIS
Women's Resistance Training	Mel Rawl Fitness	Monday 3 rd March	6	WIS
Teen Roller Skate	St Kevins Dunlavin	Tuesday 4 th March	1	WIS
Absolute Beginner Crossfit	Blessington	Tuesday 4 th March	1	WIS
Women's Try Tennis	Blessington Park	Wednesday 5 th March	1	WIS
Inclusive Tennis for Sunbeam	Arklow Tennis Club	Wednesday 5 th March	1	Arklow Hub
Absolute Beginner Circuit Class	Shoreline Bray	Wednesday 5 th March	1	WIS
Absolute Beginner Spin	Shoreline Bray	Wednesday 5 th March	1	WIS
Inclusive Dance 10+years	Coral Leisure Arklow	Wednesday 5 th March	1	Arklow Hub
Inclusive Dance Adults	Coral Leisure Arklow	Wednesday 5 th March	1	Arklow Hub
Walking Women Tinahely Loop	Tinahely	Thursday 6 th March	1	WIS
Teen Girl Roller Skate	Shoreline Greystones	Thursday 6 th March	1	WIS
Absolute Beginner Hyrox	Blessington	Thursday 6 th March	1	WIS

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Intro to Pilates	Imaal Hall Dunlavin	Friday 7 th March	1	WIS
Social 5km	Wicklow Town	Saturday 9 th March	1	WIS

Training & Education		
Activity	Venue	Date
Safeguarding 1	Online	29th January 2025
Safeguarding 1	Online	4th February 2025
Safeguarding 2	Online	25th February 2025

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Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (13/02/2025) outstanding stands at **591 – 3.75%** of total stock of 15,750.

Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults. It should also be noted that, works on ESB infrastructure were stood down for over a week following Storm Éowyn. 334 lights were attended in January, while 347 faults were logged during the same period. Two further electricians have been audited and approved for works on ESB Networks.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
No Supply		1	11	1		13
Access Issues (Attend)	3	1	6	4	4	18
Cable Fault (Attend)	8		3			11
Civils	4					4
Council Approval					1	1
ESB Interface reqd	2		10			12
ESB Required	15	15	27	16	18	91
Escalated	1					1
Knock Down (Attended)			2	1		3
Materials required	1	2	1		1	5
On Hold	5	2	6	3	3	19
Submitted	56	112	74	43	107	392
TMR	4		8		2	14
Tree Cutting Req			5		2	7
Grand Total	99	133	153	68	138	591
Percentage Not Working	3.15%	5.48%	4.51%	2.32%	3.58%	3.75%
No. of Lamps	3142	2425	3389	2934	3860	15750
Percentage of Total Lamps	19.95%	15.40%	21.52%	18.63%	24.51%	100%
Faults Reported (January)	179	59	29	20	60	347
Faults Attended (January)	148	62	36	22	66	334

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The initial survey element of the above project has been completed. This is the initial phase of the project; the design is currently ongoing. The retrofitting of lanterns has commenced in Arklow, Baltinglass & Bray MDs with c. 650 lanterns replaced.

Speed Limits

The change to the rural local road default limits came into effect on 7th February. Signs have been erected by the MDs. Review/revision of the urban speed limits are due to commence in the coming months.

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Transportation Statistics

	Total 2023	Total 2024	Total 2025	January 2025
Solicitors Queries	1026	1014	92	92
Road closure applications	42	50	9	9
Road Opening licences	1956	1254	135	135
Abnormal Load applications	54	50	3	3

TRANSPORTATION M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

A non-statutory public display on the emerging preferred options for sections A and C took place in November 2022.

A further non-statutory public display event was held in the Glenview Hotel in September 2023 that presented the overall emerging preferred option for the BPIS between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview).

The public display documents are available to view on the project website www.n11m11bpis.ie. The Post Consultation Report which summarises the issues raised, has been prepared and is available on the Project Website since the 18th October 2024.

Since December 2023, work has been progressing to develop the emerging preferred option in greater detail and to undertake a thorough environmental evaluation of the scheme.

Specifically, the reassessment of options currently being undertaken is focussed on Sub-Scheme B, between Junction 6 (Bray/Fassaroe) and Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue). Further details on the options being assessed are presented in the Post Consultation Report. This work is currently progressing, and following completion of this revisit of Phase 2, details of any revision to the final preferred option will be published. This is expected in late Q1 2025.

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment to the east of the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The options review and design commenced in March 2023 following confirmation of funding from TII. Site investigation works were completed in November 2023. This information has been reviewed by the Design Team and the final design option has been prepared. Direct consultation has taken place with the affected residents/landowners. The procurement of a contractor for the construction works is currently being progressed by the project team in conjunction with TII.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

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

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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 took place in the Inis Fail Germaines, Main Street, Baltinglass, on Wednesday 27th March 2024. The public display documents are available to view on the project website www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie. The period for submissions ended on Friday 26th April 2024. A second non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred options commenced on the 30th January 2025 with a display event in Germaines in Baltinglass. Submissions and observations were accepted up until 12:00 noon on 27th February 2025

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 28th March 2024 with the period for submissions by interested parties ending on the 14th 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 proceed. The Detailed Design and Contract Documents (Phase 5) are being prepared in advance of tendering for a contractor for construction.

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 have also approved funding to proceed with the design phase in accordance with TII Standards. Wicklow County Council are progressing this project to the design phase (Phase 3) to be followed by any necessary statutory approvals process (Phase 4).

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 was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in November 2023. Land acquisition and tendering was carried out during 2024 and construction work is expected to commence during Q1 of 2025

The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) was on public display under Part 8 up until the 11th December 2024. Submissions were accepted up until noon on the 10th January 2025.

The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) is being progressed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

The Phase 2 Options Selection Report, which will determine the preferred route for the Greenway, is currently being reviewed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Negotiations are still ongoing with landowners. Following TII approval of Phase 2 we will proceed to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

As of September 9th, 2024, An Bord Pleanála (ABP) have granted permission for the northern section of the Blessington Inner Relief Road as a partial approval for a planning development. The residential development (330 units) has been refused permission by ABP. A preplanning LRD application was submitted in November 2024 based on the current Draft Blessington LAP.

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

The Letter of Acceptance has been issued to the contractor with a pre-construction meeting and contract signing planned for 14/02/2025. The CPO Notice to Treat was issued on all landowners in October 2023 and Notice of Entry issued in November 2024 with the CPO fully confirmed in January 2025. Discussions between Wicklow Roads Project staff and landowners are ongoing. A Wicklow County Council appointed valuer is engaging with valuers and homeowners as part of the CPO process.

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Phase 2 Route Options are currently being developed by Wicklow County Councils consultant Atkins Realis within the preferred coastal route corridor. Site visits are being planned for February 2025. Meetings and information sharing is ongoing with Irish Rail for their East Coast Rail Infrastructure Protection Project.

Blessington eGreenway

Wicklow County Council were notified by letter dated 02/12/2024 that An Bord Pleanála has refused permission for the Blessington Greenway. The full ABP inspectors report has been issued and has been referred to Wicklow Law Department and project design consultant Aecom for advice on how to proceed.

Kilmacanogue to Bray Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme

TII have instructed Wicklow County Council to issue tender documents for design services for the development of the Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme.

Active Travel Updates

Projects under Construction

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, along with the drainage and public lighting works. Road edge reinstatement works have also been completed and the planting of new native hedgerow and native trees along roadside boundary are also complete. Tender process has concluded for the completion of remaining accommodation works. A Contractor has been appointed and is scheduled to commence works at the end of March.



Ballyguilemore



Arklow South

Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

Provision of 2.8km of segregated cycle track along the R-772 Wexford Road, Arklow between Knockmore Roundabout and M11 Junction 21. The scheme will also construct 1.4km approx. of pedestrian footpath. Construction works have been completed on this project. Stage 3 of Road Safety Audit to be completed.

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

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Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Front of school implementation works are completed. New pedestrian crossing and footpath civil upgrade works are completed on Church Lane. Demobilisation and handover to school completed in February.



Scoil Nioclais Naofa

Safe Route to Schools: Scoil Nioclais Naofa, Dunlavin (Blessington MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. This project includes implementing a one way system on the eastern side of Fair Green. The front of schoolworks, for the school zone, have been completed and works on permeability link are also complete. Public lighting is scheduled to be installed, date to be agreed with contractor. Stage 3 of Road Safety Audit to be completed and a launch will be arranged with An Taisce and the school.

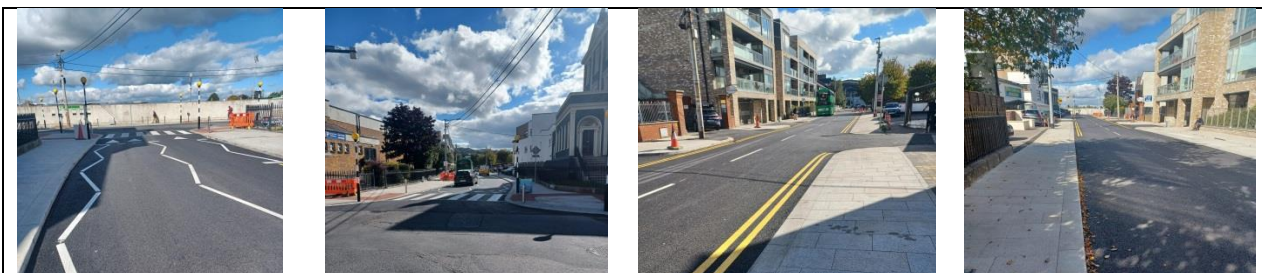
Kilcoole Road Footpath (Greystones MD)

Footpath to be constructed linking Greystones to Kilcoole. Construction works have commenced on the new boundary wall at Barna Cottage.

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. David Walsh Civil Engineering commenced ground works in Mid-February. Main drainage works have been completed. Paving has been installed on Quinsborough Road and Adelaide Road. Works are progressing on schedule. Buses are relocated to temporary stops. Florence Road, drainage, paving and road surfacing substantially complete. Accommodation works are ongoing.



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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. NTA approval has been sought for commencement of Phase 5-Detail design and Procurement.

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. The project scope has been revised. Design to focus on pedestrian and cycle improvements between the town centre and Train Station. Preliminary Design issued to NTA and comments received. Traffic modelling of the 3 junctions completed. Consultant contract only extends to end of Phase 3. Tender advertised for consultants to manage the project through Phase 4 -7.

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

New footbridges and alterations of road to make provision for cyclists. Tender to be advertised for the appointment of a consultant to progress the scheme through Phase 3 to Phase 7.

Baltinglass Bridge Active Travel Scheme (Baltinglass MD)

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. The tender period has concluded for the appointment of a Technical Consultant to progress the scheme through Phases 2 to 4. A total of 5 tender submissions were received. Tender Assessment to be completed and Consultant to be appointed.

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

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

The phase will include new and improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. NTA approval received to proceed to construction stage. Construction works commenced are ongoing.

- **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. Preliminary Design issued to NTA. Meeting held with NTA to discuss design. The preliminary design has been completed. The Gateway 3 Approval Request has been submitted. Road Safety Audit is to be completed.

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

Provide improvements on Blacklion Manor Road to make the area safer for school children. These works aim to encourage more children to walk and cycle to school. NTA have confirmed Gateway 3 approval with approvals to proceed to Phase 4: Consultation. Section 38's have been advertised for the two schools and the closing date is Wednesday 19th of February.

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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.

2025 Budget Allocation

The NTA have recently announced Budget Allocations for 2025 and the following projects will be initiated this year -

• SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara HSRR*, Brittas Bay	N/A*
• SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird	€ 70,000
• Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry	€ 75,000
• Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely	€ 50,000
• Kiltegan Road Pedestrian Crossing, Baltinglass	€ 50,000
• Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Arklow	€ 100,000

* Scheme to be designed by NTA consultants under different project code

Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work commenced on 1 new bridge (Spinans) in January.

Work continued at Drummin Bridge.

Notification of 1 seriously damaged bridge (Shankill Bridge, near Kilbride Camp) to be assessed.

Winter Maintenance

Salting continues under WM Plan.

Significant cold event during 1st week of January led to continuous gritting in areas.

Oct 14 to 31 - 0 treatments

Nov 1 to 21 - 1 single and 2 double treatments

Nov 22 to Dec 11 - 7 single and 4 double treatments

Dec 12 to Jan 26th – 8 single and 9 double runs

Jan 27th to Feb 13th – 9 singles and 1 double

Machinery Yard

Large truck (HCV) tender for 4 vehicles currently being processed with delivery during the Summer.

13 vehicles disposed of in Jan.

Procurement of 20 pick-up trucks has commenced via SupplyGov framework. 4 EV included.

Purchase of 1 new truck tractor unit completed in January. Emergency replacement of damaged truck.

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Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	70,355.71
Greystones Municipal District	26,907.99
Wicklow Municipal District	33,993.96
Arklow Municipal District	19,724.94
Parking Permits	10,990.00
Parking Fines	66,585.00
Wicklow County Council Total	228,557.60

Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing information as at the 31st January 2025

Greenhill Road – 36 Houses

- Final house in the process of being sold.

Aldbrough Manor Baltinglass – 22 Houses – Phase 1

- 58 applied
- 29 eligible
- 29 offered
- 6 accepted

Phase 2

The Scheme was re-advertised on Wednesday 21st February in both the Wicklow People and Irish Independent. Portal opened on the 6th March 2024 until the 17th April 2024 for applications to be submitted.

- 80 applications received
- 32 offers made
- 5 accepted

All applications exhausted, no more offers to be made from this portal all applicants have been notified. Payment of Affordable Contribution has been paid for 8 of the houses (6 in December 2024 & 2 in January 2025) to allow for the sales to close. It is hoped to close the remainder early 2025.

Rathnew – 44 dwellings

- Advertised - Wicklow Times is Monday 27th May 2024 and Wicklow People is Wednesday 29th May 2024.
- Portal opened from the 10th June 12noon until the 22nd July 20024. Offers have been made. 42 accepted. All who have applied have been notified.
- A Purchaser of a 3 bed pulled out in November 2024 as they could not secure a mortgage.

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- The original 2 remaining terrace houses were re-advertised week starting 28/10/2024 with portal to open on the 14th November 2024 until the 13th December 2024. We now have 3 to offer from this portal. Offers made and accepted on all 3 properties in January 2025.

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
Schemes on Site	Units	Current Status
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Final snagging underway
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completed
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2025
Merrymeeing Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
1A Mill Road	3	Completion expected Q1 2026
5A Rednagh Road	1	Completion expected March 2025
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Tender assessment underway, contractor expected to be appointed March 2025
Fassaroe, Bray	13	Contractor commenced on site.
Burgage More Blessington PPP	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor commenced on site.
Rehills, Bray	193	PPP dropped the scheme due to high projected costs, WCC reconsidering the viability of this scheme
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Stage 1 funding application underway
Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	14	Design Stage
Burnaby, Greystones PPP	272	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Ballinahinch Ashford	19	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Tinahask, Arklow	75	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Tinahask PPP, Arklow	128	PPP Bundle 6 continuing
Sheephouse Arklow	48	Design Stage
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Hawkstown Park Phase 2, Wicklow Design & Build	54	Part 8 approved, design work underway

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Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

Ballintreskin – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date January 2025
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Three group housing schemes. Final layout agreed with department/families. Social house layout is being finalised for the rest of the site. Part 8 Expected Q2 2025.
Vale Road Arklow – 2 Units	Preliminary Design Stage/Pre- Part 8

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	Delivery due Q1 2025	CALF
Bray	3	Delivery due Q2 2025	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q3 2025	CALF
Delgany	2	Delivery due Q1 2025	WCC
Rathnew	36	Delivery due Q1 & Q2 2025	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Rathnew	3	Delivery due Q1 2025	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q1 & Q2 2025	WCC
Baltinglass	9	Delivery due Q1 to Q4 2025	WCC
Delgany	10	Delivery due Q1 & Q2 2025	WCC
Bray	3	Delivery due Q1 2025	WCC

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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	Delivery due Q1 2025	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	56	Delivery due Q2 2025	CALF
Newcastle	11	Delivery due Q3 2025	CALF
Baltinglass	12	Delivery due Q3 & Q4 2025	CALF
Rathnew	1	Delivery due Q1 2025	WCC
Arklow	3	Delivery due Q1 2025	WCC
Baltinglass	2	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Roundwood	4	Delivery due Q3 2025	WCC
Rathnew	5	Delivery due Q1 & Q3 2025	WCC

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Expression of Interest for Turnkey Housing Developments/Housing Schemes and or land for the provision of social housing/affordable housing was advertised on 30th July 2024 and closed 2nd December 2024. A new advert requesting Expression of Interest will be placed in February.

Infill Sites/ Age Friendly/ Disability Units

Scheme	Units	Current Status	TiCC
5A Rednagh Road – Disability house	1	Expected completion Q3 2025 Contractor expected on site Octob	
1A Mill Road- Age Friendly	3	Planning permission granted expected on Site Q1 2025	

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.	Works completed.
2	30 South Green, Arklow.	Works completed.
3.	53 South Green, Arklow.	Works completed.
4.	88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	Works completed.
5,	6 Ashleigh, Ashford.	Works commenced.
6.	2 Harbour Road, Arklow.	Works commenced,
7.	114 Hillside, Greystones.	To appoint contractor.

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8.	108 Charnwood, Bray.	To appoint contractor.
9.	53A South Green, Arklow.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
10.	36 Wheatfield, Bray.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
11.	10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.

N.B. 12 CPO files completed (7 Houses now in WCC Stock - 5 houses sold by owners)

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

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

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

A grant of up to €70,000.00 is available, If the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000.00, a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000.00 is available.

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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

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

Number of Applications	189
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants.	20
Applications Approved.	81
Number of Applications paid.	31
Value of 25 Grants paid out.	€1,704,592,69
Applications pending execution of Legal Deed of Charge/Payment.	15
Applications withdrawn/Rejected.	42

Serviced Sites – Kilcommon, Tinahely,

Number of Sites	5
Letters of Offer Issued	7
Number of applications	7

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Emergency Response

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics January 2025

There were **109 incidents** attended during the month of January 2025. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **143 occasions** including **10** mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of January 2025 **decreased by 3% (- 4 mobilisations) on the preceding month December 2024 (147 mobilisations)**. Domestic house fires increased (+13 mobilisations), small malicious urban fires increased (+6 mobilisations) while there was a decrease in alarm activations (-5 mobilisations).

Operational activity for the month of January 2025 **increased by 8% (plus 11 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2024** (January 2024, 132 mobilisations). There was an increase in mobilisations to domestic house fires (+18), an increase in mobilisations to RTCs (+7) and a decrease in mobilisations to vehicle fires (-8) and a decrease in chimney fires (-7).

Incidents in County Kildare (4-incidents total):

- 13/01/2025 Blessington crew supported a crew from DFB at a 5-car RTC at Junction 9, N7, Naas North.
- 13/01/2025 Dunlavin crew supported a crew from Athy at a single car RTC at Broomfield Lodge, Moone.
- 24/01/2025 Blessington crew attended a chimney fire at Glenmore, Ballymore Eustace.
- 24/01/2025 Dunlavin crew attended a Garda Assist at Calverstown.

Incidents in County Wexford (5-incidents total):

- 11/01/2025 Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey at an industrial fire in a recycling business at Ramstown.
- 11/01/2025 Arklow crew attended a car fire on M11 southbound at Junction 22.
- 12/01/2025 Carnew crew attended an ambulance assist at Knockshaufin, Ballyellis.
- 18/01/2025 Arklow crew and Carnew crew supported crews from Gorey at an RTC at Balykale.
- 26/01/2025 Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey at an RTC at Junction 22 on the M11.

Fire Prevention Statistics November 2024

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	3		6		4
Revised FSCs	1		2		0
FSC 7-Day Notice	2		1		6
Regularisation FSCs	0		2		0
DACs	17		2		29
Revised DACs	0		0		0
Dispensations / Relaxations	0		0		0

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Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	1				
Circuit					
Dangerous Substances Act	1		1		
Explosive Act					

Building Control

Commencement Notices for January 2025:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 21

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

Submission Statistics

- 76 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 76 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 16 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 7 with Compliance Documentation (44%)
 - 5 are Opt Out (31%)
 - 4 Without Compliance Documentation (25%)
 - 0 Seven Day Notice (0%)
- 16 Valid Commencement Notices (5 carried over from 2024)
- 18 new build residential Units and additional 7 Extensions
- 1 Non Res new builds
- 1 Invalidated CNs from January

- **Certificates of Completion processed in January 2025**

- 18 New No. of CCC submitted
- 16 Required Revised Information
- 18 No. Validated

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- 0 No. Invalid
- 21 new Residential units and 65 additional apartments
- 3 Non Res. Builds

Submission Statistics

18 No. Validated CCCs related to;

16 no. CCCs submitted in January 2025

2 No. CCCs submitted in December 2024

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

18 new residential houses and 7 Extensions were notified to LA for Commencement & 21 newly completed residential units with an additional 65 apartment units and 2 non-residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in January. In January, Building Control focused on closing off submissions from 2024, 13 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 site inspections in January to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 2 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests remained high in January for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 76% of Commencement Notice submissions & 89% 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.

It has been observed by Building Control during CN Assessments that there has been an increase in the proposed use of non-traditional, 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, which is one of the key roles of Building Control.

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.



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Top Line Data

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	12
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1542
Of which are children	466

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2025	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	6
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	59
Total number of sessions with single adults	16
Total number of sessions with couples	0
Total number of sessions with families	25

LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for January

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	6
No. of Individuals	16
No. of Couples	0
No. of Families	25
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	4
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	8
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	6
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	41
No. of International Protection Applicants	54
No. with Refugee Status	5
No. with Subsidiary Protection	0
No. with Leave to Remain	0
No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	30

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Integration Supports – Key Enablers

In Session Support	Incidence
Accommodation	2
Community/Family	19
Culture/Religion	8
Education/Training	28
Employment	22
Events	2
Finance	19
Health	16
Language Support	2
Legal/Justice/Civic	21
Transportation	0
Other	0

Follow up Support	Incidence
Accommodation	4
Community/Family	0
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	3
Employment	2
Events	0
Finance	2
Health	3
Language Support	0
Legal/Justice/Civic	2
Transportation	1
Other	0

Other Activity

- In collaboration with County Wicklow Partnership the team arranged for Safe Pass Training to be delivered to 20 residents in two IPAS centres in Dunlavin on Tuesday 28th January.
- Another Safe Pass Training in Arabic will be delivered in February to 20 participants from four IPAS centres in west Wicklow.
- LAIT Wicklow facilitated Boundaries, Reflective Practice and Self Care training. Integration Teams from Kildare, Wexford, South County Dublin, Louth and Meath attended with the Wicklow Integration team staff for full day training in January.

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Civil Defence

In early January Civil Defence volunteers were tasked by AGS to assist with stranded motorists on the Sally Gap, 5 separate motorists were assisted. welfare checks were also carried out on vulnerable persons during the adverse weather.



At the request of the HSE MEM Manager for the eastern region, Civil Defence were tasked to assist with the transportation of vital staff into Baltinglass and Tallaght Hospital during the adverse weather. Crews carried out multiple staff transfers to ensure the resilience of the hospitals.



Blessington Gardai requested assistance with a missing person in the Blessington lakes area, Drone team and search responders were tasked alongside our ops support crew to support the operation. missing person located alive within 30 of drone team on site.

Our annual awards night was held on the Celrmont campus in Rathnew, the purpose of this Award ceremony is to show appreciation and recognition for the volunteers of Wicklow Civil Defence. For the years of dedicated service and celebrate the achievements they have obtained over the last year.

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Our efforts to assist the community in times of adverse weather saw our crews respond to houses under threat from coastal flooding due to high tide and wind direction, sandbags were deployed to the affected areas across Wicklow Town and Arklow.



The effects of storm Eowyn were felt across the country, west Wicklow was affected with power outages and fallen trees, our volunteers from our Baltinglass unit completed welfare checks on vulnerable people during this time.

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Organisational Development (HR & Corporate)

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in January 2025:

- Interviews Clerical Officer
- Interviews Local Sports European Fund Officer
- Interviews Local Sports Programme Manager
- Shortlisting Assistant Arts Officer

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024
Managerial/Administrative	323	337	334	333
Professional/Technical	150	146	146	146
Outdoor	261	259	255	252
Temporary/Seasonal	44	87	91	68
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	5
Total	783	834	831	804

*** Decrease in Temp/Seasonal category due to end dating of Lifeguards (delay in employee submitting leaver documentation)**

Freedom of Information

January 2025:3	January 2024: 23
January – January 2025: 3	January – January 2024: 23

Ombudsman Requests

January 2025: 5	January 2024: 0
January – January 2025: 5	January – January 2024: 0

Press Releases

January 2025 – 9

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Register of Electors

Online applications via 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 any applications received after the closing date. A large amount of returned polling cards were received after the General Election and work is commencing in establishing to contact these electors to ascertain if they are still resident or if they wish to register at a new address.

Work has commenced on the Electoral Registration Project and the first phase of works has commenced on the migration to a national database of Register of Electors.

Customer Service Innovation Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2025 – January			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	8,569	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,978
No. of Customer Service Emails received	1,468	Revenue Transactions	1,529
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	59	Housing Counter Visits	Not available

Energy

Projects Completed in 2024;

- 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

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 (Removal of gas boiler, ASHP, PV solar panels)

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- Blessington MD office (Removal of gas boiler, ASHP, PV solar panels)
- Greystones MD (TBC following survey and budget review)
- Shoreline Leisure Centre Energy Performance Contract

Other ongoing projects

District Heating Feasibility Study – Arklow Decarbonised Zone Finance, Water & Information Systems

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Finance

Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT			
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st JANUARY 2025			
	Expenditure	Income	NET
	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	€
Housing and Building	56,316,634	(59,446,038)	(3,129,404)
Road Transport & Safety	26,329,169	(18,925,016)	7,404,153
Water Services	4,633,084	(5,554,021)	(920,937)
Development Management	16,414,646	(9,859,576)	6,555,070
Environmental Services	17,038,883	(5,011,509)	12,027,374
Recreation and Amenity	10,003,906	(1,151,712)	8,852,194
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,393,346	(1,103,228)	1,290,118
Miscellaneous Services	9,487,115	(16,490,485)	(7,003,370)
Central Management Charges	25,473,897	(1,050,000)	24,423,897
Local Government Fund		(17,200,469)	(17,200,469)
Commercial Rates		(32,448,626)	(32,448,626)
	168,090,680	(168,240,680)	(150,000)

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st January 2025 to 31st January 2025.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST JANUARY 2025					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2025	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/01/2025
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	17,131,715	3,032,393	(1,980,663)	0	18,183,445
Road Transport & Safety	(38,018,301)	1,404,321	(35,411)	0	(36,649,391)
Water Services	(7,476,056)	114,065	(7,776)	0	(7,369,767)
Development Management	(57,330,252)	23,512	(697,704)	0	(58,004,444)
Environmental Services	4,497,410	830,360	(11,169)	0	5,316,601
Recreation and Amenity	1,332,877	678,609	(27,950)	0	1,983,536
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,947,815)	52,647	0	0	(1,895,168)
Miscellaneous Services	(9,136,911)	57,672	0	0	(9,079,239)
	(90,947,333)	6,193,579	(2,760,672)	0	(87,514,427)

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Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST JANUARY 2025										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2025	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/01/2025	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,064,115	3,152	0	0	0	3,067,268	(478,668)	2,588,600	450,871	18%
Rents & Annuities	3,310,455	1,783,957	0	0	0	5,094,412	(1,469,806)	3,624,606	0	29%
Housing Loans	(18,331)	0	0	0	0	(18,331)	(155,895)	(174,226)	0	-850%

NB: The commercial rated figures will be populated after the 2025 rate demands are issued. The updated 2025 housing loan figures will be available in next month's report. The rent collection percentage is 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 October 14th 2024 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% generated circa €1.3m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the 5 Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2025 is set out below:

Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	34,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	9,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	65,500
Festivals / Other	25,000	20,000	52,000	20,000	25,000	142,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Discretionary Funding	235,650	235,650	379,200	235,650	235,650	1,321,800
Total	296,650	272,650	235,560	273,650	277,650	1,573,300

Capital Investment Programme 2023-2025

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

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

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Capital Funded Projects

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

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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
	Total to date	€63,955,710	€13,910,951

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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

- **Data Request** - A mapping tile data request was received from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. The requested files have been prepared, ensuring compatibility with their specifications.
- **Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)** - The RZLT data for 2025 has been returned. Work has commenced on drafting the 2026 RZLT. Final amendments to zoning on the RZLT viewer have been completed. The FINAL 2025 map and the DRAFT 2026 map have been uploaded to the Department.
- **Survey123 Conversion for WERLA Surveys** - A substantial batch of WERLA surveys was received from the Environment Department for conversion into Survey123 formats. Work has commenced on the conversion process.
- **Barn Owl Database** - Data extraction for NPWS Rangers regarding nests and nesting boxes per 10km grid in County Wicklow was completed.
- **Map Preparation** - A Greystones map was prepared for the Planning, Economic & Rural Development Department.
- **Tailte Éireann** - Quarterly download and systems update was completed.

Infrastructure

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