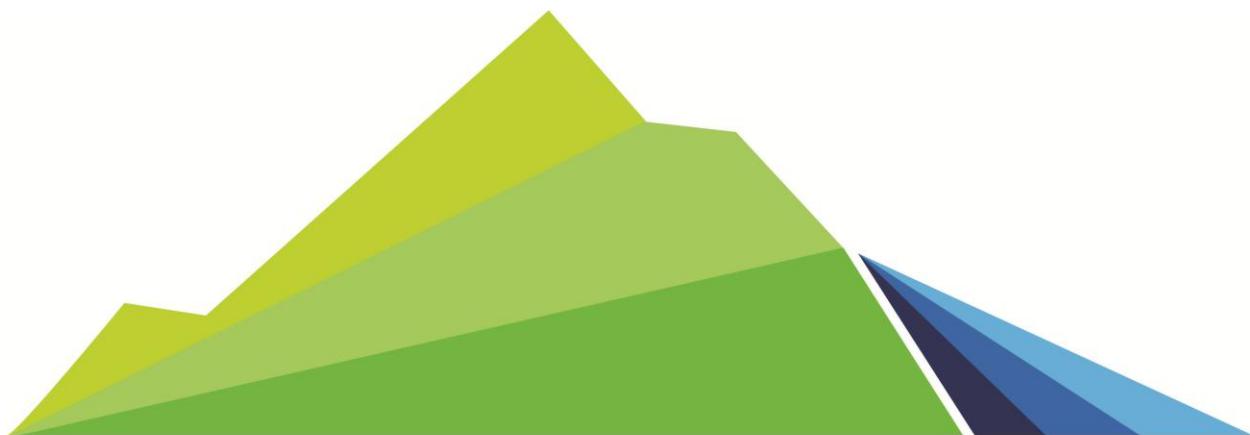


# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin  
Wicklow County Council



W I C K L O W

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

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# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

**This month:**

## **LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE WICKLOW CLIENTS CREATED OVER 115 JOBS IN 2025**

### **NOW SUPPORTING OVER 159 SMALL BUSINESSES AND 695 JOBS ACCORDING TO NEW FIGURES**

The annual results of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) for 2025, were announced, which showed that companies supported by Wicklow County Council's Local Enterprise Office created 115 jobs, in 2025.

Net figures of 50 jobs were created by clients that the Local Enterprise Office supported in 2025. This takes into account companies that amalgamated, ceased trading and those that transferred onto Enterprise Ireland. The new figures show that the LEO Wicklow financially supported 159 small businesses in their portfolio across the county, and these companies in turn employ 695 people.

The Local Enterprise Offices were to the fore in supporting small businesses across the country in 2025, helping thousands to secure funding, upskill and avail of supports to becoming more sustainable and competitive. Recent supports such as the Grow Digital Voucher enables small businesses to take their first steps in digitalisation and the Market Explorer Grant supports companies in looking at new markets.

The Local Enterprise Offices, funded through Enterprise Ireland, support thousands of small Irish businesses and entrepreneurs nationwide. Since their establishment in 2014 they have been the first stop shop for entrepreneurs and small businesses and providing a range of supports including financial, mentoring, training and sector specific expertise to help guide businesses at any stage of their development.

They also run key initiatives to foster entrepreneurship across the country including Local Enterprise Week, National Women's Enterprise Day, the Student Enterprise Programme and the National Enterprise Awards. The Local Enterprise Offices are also running a campaign encouraging small businesses to save time money and energy by availing of their competitiveness and productivity supports including Green, Lean and Digital for Business. [www.AllInADaysWork.ie](http://www.AllInADaysWork.ie)

For more information on the Local Enterprise Offices go to [www.LocalEnterprise.ie](http://www.LocalEnterprise.ie)

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

## Social Development

### Housing

#### Allocation of Social Housing

	December 2025	December 2024
Wicklow County Council	11	10
Approved Housing Bodies	0	1

#### Social Housing Applications

	December 2025	December 2024
New applications	92	44
Awaiting further information/EHO report	64	88

#### Social Housing Stock

	December 2025	December 2024
Tenancies Occupied	5166	5030
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€355,312.14	€338,854.47
Arrears (Including Bray)	€2,588,293.39	€3064,930.44

#### Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 31/12/2025
Arklow	932
Ashford	392
Aughrim	40
Avoca	38
Ballinaclash	8
Ballyconnell	4
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	127

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Barndarrig	11
Blessington	265
Bray 1	36
Bray north	475
Bray south	405
Bray town centre	197
Brittas bay	1
Carnew	70
Conary	3
Coolboy	4
Delgany	217
Donard	14
Dunlavin	29
Enniskerry	51
Glenealy	13
Greystones	308
Kilcoole	51
Kilmacanogue	9
Kiltegan	5
Kirikee	2
Knockananna	3
Lacken	1
Laragh	14
Newcastle	9
Newtownmountkennedy	58
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	60
Rathnew	114
Redcross	2
Roundwood	32
Shillelagh	21
Stratford-on-slaney	3
Thomastown	8
Tinahely	26
Wicklow	231
Wicklow town	22
Grand total	4314

## Rent

- Income based Differential Rent Scheme - Last Review – 2019. A full rent review will carried out this year.

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- 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)

## **Housing Needs Assessment 2024 (SSHA 2024)**

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

The following actions were taken to complete the HNA 2024:

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

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

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

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

## **Assessment criteria**

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

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

To date, December 2025, Wicklow worked in partnership with Ark Housing and Tiglin to deliver on two properties in 2025. Wicklow continues to work with Sunbeam House Services, Oaklee and National Association of Housing for Visually Impaired to bring active projects to completion.

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Areas of delivery below:

CAS Acquisitions 2025	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Wicklow Town	1	Delivered Q2	CAS
Rathnew	1	Delivered Q4	CAS
Rathnew	1	Expected Delivery Q1 2026	CAS

## 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To Date	DECEMBER 2025
<u>Applications Received</u>	483	5
<u>Completed</u>	124	1
<u>Declined</u>	280	0
<u>Ongoing</u>	15	15

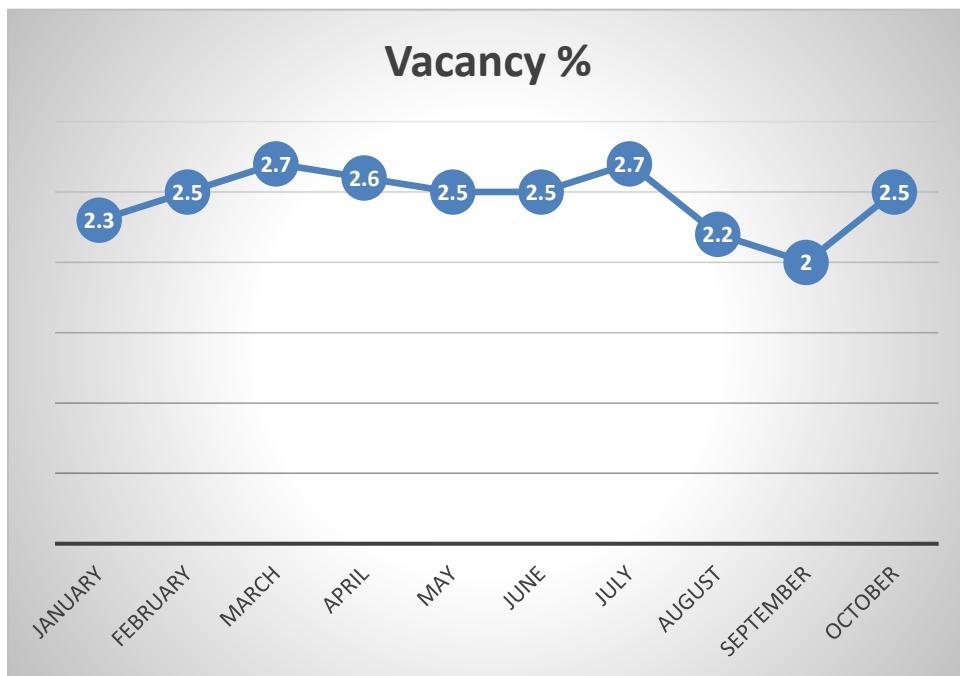
## Voids / Re-Letting Programme

MD	Completed in 2025	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	16 (0)	4 (0)	5 (-1)	10 (-2)	19 (-3)
Baltinglass	17 (+1)	4 (+2)	5 (+1)	14(0)	23 (+3)
Bray	44(+14)	10 (-1)	6 (-1)	4(-3)	20 (-5)
Greystones	15 (+2)	12 (+3)	0 (0)	8 (-2)	20 (+1)
Wicklow	27 (+1)	22 (+4)	17 (0)	12 (+2)	51 (+6)
2025 Totals	119 (+18)	52 (+8)	33 (-1)	48 (-5)	133 (+2)
2024 Totals	110				
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)	2.5 (0)				Figures in brackets indicate change on last month

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As part of the Voids Funding Programme, the Council can recoup a maximum of €11,000 per house from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) on a once off basis. The average cost of refurbishing and re-letting in Wicklow was €35,500 per property in 2024 and is currently averaging €45,866 per property.

A Local Area Term Maintenance Framework for Planned Building Maintenance and Refurbishment Works was set up in April 2024 and has a 2-year term. 17 contractors were appointed under this Framework to cover Wicklow's five Municipal Districts for works such as housing refurbishments works, repairs and adaptation grants. Also, the Housing Direct Labour Team complete a proportion of housing upgrades as part of the Voids Programme.



## Housing - Core Functions - Capital Programme

### Traveller Accommodation (TAU)

Scheme	Current Status
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Project complete and tenants have moved into the properties.
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Part of Housing Capital Works Project - Three-unit group housing scheme. Part 8 consultation approved in October 2025. Detailed design ongoing.
Vale Road, Arklow	Two-unit group housing scheme. Part 8 complete. Tender process for Design Consultants commenced.

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## Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

Scheme	Units	Current Status
5A Rednagh Road, Aughrim – Disability house	1	Substantially completed, final snagging ongoing.
1A Mill Road, Greystones- Age Friendly	3	Expected completion Q3 2026

## Energy Retrofit Program

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

EERP	Numbers carried out as of October 2025
Houses complete	102



Energy Retrofit works completed at Seamount Drive Kilcoole 2025.

## Regeneration Projects/ Special Projects

- Funding in excess of €2m sought from DHLGH to regenerate vacant units in Hillview, Wicklow Town. Property surveys ongoing (+Addjust).
- Stock condition surveys have been completed for the 51 houses at Farrankelly Close, Delgany. An application to DHLGH for Planned Maintenance works (replacement of windows and doors) was approved. Phase 1 of the works proposals identified upgrades to windows and doors at 11

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properties, with works now substantially complete. Finance opportunities are to be developed for further phased works in 2026. It is estimated that window and door improvement works for the remaining houses will cost in the order of €600,000.

- Fitzwilliam Apartment Complex – a contractor has been appointed to undertake fire remedial works at this facility, works are ongoing and completion is expected in January 2026.

## **Disabled Person Grant (DPG) and Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG/MAG/HOP)**

Grant	Home Adaptations
Disabled Persons Grant (DPG)	65
Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG/MAG/HOP)	102

Includes: Housing Adaptation Grant / Mobility Aid Grant /Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant

## **Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement**

The Targeted Inspection programme on private rented accommodation continues. Housing For All requires 25% of all private rented properties to be inspected annually. This equates to approximately 1500 properties in County Wicklow every year. Target properties are selected using a Risk Based approach. The Council is responsible for enforcing the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 (SI 137 of 2019).

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out to end of September
Targeted and complaint inspections	476

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

Notice Type	Served so far in 2025 (figures in brackets indicate increase on previous month)
Improvement Notice	26
Prohibition Notice	18

Prohibition Notices are published on the Council's website. Note that in the case of properties subject to HAP, service of 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.

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Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/12/2025	Year To Date	As at 31/12/2024
No of New Presentations	31	257	13
No. of Repeat Presentations	5	55	2
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	16	103	6
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	33	263	14
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	4	30	1
No. of Children	25	256	8
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	6	45	2
Family Circumstances	14	92	2
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	7	26	2
Mental Health	0	8	1
Risk of Homelessness	10	178	5
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	3	1
Addiction Issues	4	21	3
DV/DA	0	8	1
Medical Issues	0	4	2
Overcrowding	0	21	1
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	1	10	1
ASB:	0	2	0
Rough Sleeping*	2	20	0
Sofa Surfing*	3	28	1
Staying with Family*	2	38	6
Staying with Friends*	2	31	0

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/12/2025	
Families	17
Adults	30
Children	41
Single individual	11

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Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/12/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
<b>Household breakdown</b>	22	23	22	6	6	3	2	4
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/12/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
<b>Household breakdown</b>	21	22	18	4	3	2	3	8

## Homeless HAP Place Finder

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 683 households (480 families & 203 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. (263 homeless cases, 373 prevention cases to date and 47 direct provision). 173 properties were sourced by WCC.

	December 2025	December 2024
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)		
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1320	1351
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation		
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation		

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## **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.

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.

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## 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 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.

## Local Enhancement Programme 2026

**County Wicklow has received €199,043.66 as part of the Local Enhancement Programme 2026.**

	Capital Allocation	Total Allocation
<b>Wicklow</b>	<b>€199,043.66</b>	<b>€199,043.66</b>

Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Jerry Buttner TD announced funding under the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht's Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2026.

This funding will provide capital supports that are essential for many small community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged communities in rural and urban areas.

There will be a particular focus on small capital works/improvements, and the purchase of equipment for community use. The funding may be used for, but it is not limited to; improving access for persons with a disability; enhancing community participation for disadvantaged and marginalised groups and improving energy efficiency of community facilities to reduce ongoing costs.

The scheme is designed to ensure local priorities are identified and met, to improve and enhance community facilities for all. Funding will be available to a diverse range of community groups including, but not limited to, community centres, parish halls and local voluntary groups.

The LEP funding is about helping our communities, local groups and clubs. This funding will empower our communities to become even more vital hubs for activities and services.

Application forms are available on the website the closing date for applications set for Friday, 27th February 2026 at 3pm.

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## Community Awards Scheme 2026

Applications for the Community Awards Scheme 2026

As part of its commitment to supporting local community development, Wicklow County Council operates an annual Community Award Scheme.

The fund for 2026 will be available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area.

Maximum grant amount of €1,000.00 per organisation for small projects and group running costs.

Please note only one application per organisation will be considered.

**Applications for the 2026 scheme will open on 16th February 2026 and close on 13th March 2026.**



## County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

[Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy](#): Review of 2025 work, meeting with key stakeholders, in-person preferably, over December and early 2026, to review actions completed in 2025, ongoing and planned for 2026. Met in December the following; CEART/Wicklow Primary Health Care Traveller Project, Wicklow Sports Partnership, SláinteCare.

Age Friendly Ireland programme:

- 2025 GAA County Stadium Accessibility Grant Pilot Programme - Stadium Audit 5<sup>th</sup> December - Walkability Audit in the GAA grounds in Aughrim, Echelon Park. Echelon Park are one of 4 successful GAA stadiums around Ireland to pilot a project through Age Friendly Ireland. The aim of this project is the continued implementation of age friendly practices through the GAA's network of club and county structures and to further develop its stadia to achieve age friendly recognition
- Public Realm Steering group 11<sup>th</sup> December - Steering Group provides strategic oversight, guidance, and support for the successful delivery of the new Age Friendly Public Relam publication, that supports planners, designers, and decision-makers in creating public realm spaces that are inclusive of older people. The publication will offer practical insights, design principles, and case studies to ensure that Age Friendly considerations are embedded in the planning and delivery of public spaces. ([previous publication linked here](#))
- AFI Walkability Training 19<sup>th</sup> December – delivered by Declan Gaffney

Over 55's Climate course: The Age Friendly Programme Manager along with the Climate Action Officer Wicklow County Council are organising a Climate Action Programme which will be run by Jacinta Barrins. It will be a six-week programme which will accommodate maximum 40 people and will educate people on

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Climate Change. This will take place in February and March 2026 in Bray. Promotion of the programme is ongoing among local community groups in the county.

OPC Executive Committee: met 9 times in 2025, plus additional meetings to prepare for the OPC AGM on the 5<sup>th</sup> September and the Age Friendly Expo event on the 30<sup>th</sup> October.

Meetings Held 2025	Future Meetings
January, February, April, May, 16 <sup>th</sup> July & 28 <sup>th</sup> August (special meetings AGM prep), 11 <sup>th</sup> September (Chair & Vice Chair elected) September (5 additional special meetings Expo prep) 10 <sup>th</sup> October, 10 <sup>th</sup> December	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026
9 (plus 5 Expo prep meetings)	1

**Age Friendly Technical Advisor, Seán Keane:**

	On Site	Design Stage	Part V/ Turnkey 2026	Completed 2025
Age Friendly Housing Delivery *Numbers Design Stage Subject to Change, numbers include Disability Units UD+	26	58	12	17



## Comhairle na nÓg

- Local Authority Quarterly Cluster Meeting - 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 3, 2025
- Youth Summit ([website link here](#)) took place 4<sup>th</sup> November, Assembly Hall in Wicklow Town. Report currently being finalised by Caroline Winstanley. Due to be published in January.



## Access Officer: Disability & Inclusion

- Website Accessibility: Met with Communications department 11<sup>th</sup> December to progress WCC's commitment to ensuring its website is accessible, in accordance with [European Union \(Accessibility of Websites and Mobile Applications of Public Sector Bodies\) Regulations 2020](#). A draft Accessibility Statement for the website has been developed and sent to the Communications team to finalise as

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needed and to add to the website. This accessibility statement, once in place, applies to content published on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie).

- Training in specific areas of disability funding approved and to be rolled out in the new year.
- Access Officer queries: dealing with ongoing queries for support and/or information, linking in with WCC staff including Laura O'Callaghan and externally, as appropriate.
- The Sunflower Lanyard aims to support people with hidden disabilities. This initiative was rolled out in Wicklow County Council. In the last 6 months, there have been over 370 lanyard packs distributed to every library branch in county Wicklow, as well as events held by the Triple A Alliance support group.
- Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) met 9<sup>th</sup> December online
- Communication Boards: Replacement of vandalised sign in Meadowvale, Arklow paid for and will be in place shortly. Work in ongoing to get rest of planned signs in place for every playground in the county.

## **Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme Update:**

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme in Wicklow continues to support older people, over 65 years of age, to live in their home for as long as possible.

The Programme accepts referrals from a variety of sources including from:

- The older person themselves	- Local Authority Staff
- Family and friends	- Public Health Nurses, GP's and Occupational Therapists
- Elected Representatives	- Community Organisations

Please note, consent from the older person (verbal) must be obtained before the referral is submitted. Once the referral is received, the Local Coordinator will be in-touch with the older person to arrange a free home visit.

Referrals to the programme can be made via phone or email:

 046-924 8899 (Head Office)

 [healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie](mailto:healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie)

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

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programme, and is a testament to the concerted collaborative efforts of the Local Coordinator and Local Authority Staff.

- Referrals to Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme:

After a concerted level of stakeholder engagement and programme promotion early in 2024, the number of referrals to the programme in Wicklow reached peak demand. A decision was then made to curtail programme promotion in order to stabilise programme demand. Consequently, demand for the programme in Wicklow has stabilised in recent months, and more sustainable pattern of referrals are now emerging.

## Scheduled Event for September/October

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

Annual Older Persons' Council meeting was held in the Arklow Bay on the 30<sup>th</sup> October. Clodagh Whelan, coordinator in the Dublin South - East Region gave a presentation of the work the Healthy Age Friendly Homes has undertaken in Co. Wicklow to date.

## Care & Repair Programme

County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) are in the process of securing funding for this much needed service. The programme is listed as an action the Co. Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2022 – 2027. The Age Friendly Homes Coordinator is involved in an advisory capacity. The service has been rolled out in Arklow and South Wicklow area and HAFH participants have availed of this much needed service since beginning of November.

- Total Number Home Visits Conducted (Up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025):

<b>Total Initial Visits</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>Total Additional Visits</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Total Visits Overall</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit</b>	<b>60</b>



**Healthy Wicklow**

**Active Communities**

The Active Community project in the Rathnew and Tinahely/Shillelagh/Carnew and surrounding areas has been given approval for 2026 which will involve an area-based approach allowing programmes to be tailored to the specific needs, demographics, and barriers experienced locally. Rural communities can

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face challenges including limited transport, fewer facilities, social isolation, and reduced access to structured physical activity opportunities.

In response to the local need programmes commencing in January include fundamental movement team challenge programme for children and young people in Shillelagh and an over 55 ladies' strength and conditioning programme in Carnew.

## **Wicklow Travellers Group**

The Healthy Ireland Fund 2026 will play a vital role in supporting Wicklow Travellers Group by providing dedicated funding for a staff salary to coordinate and deliver health-focused activities across all age groups. This investment will enable the consistent delivery of inclusive, culturally appropriate programmes that promote physical activity, social connection, and positive mental health outcomes

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

SICAP Annual Plans 2026: New submission deadline for the 2026 SICAP Annual Plans from Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership (BNWAP) and Co. Wicklow Partnership (CWP) will be set imminently by the Department once overall budgets for 2026 confirmed. SICAP core funding budgets have been set at just over 3% on 2025 levels, with the New Arrivals budgets yet to be finalised. SICAP core budgets for 2026 for the Co. Wicklow Lots are as follows: BNWAP: €900,166; CWP €819,288.

SICAP 2025 End of Year Review: This process will begin shortly once each local development company submits all of the data, information and financial reports required onto the IRIS system. This will then be reviewed by Wicklow LCDC and by Pobal with a final approval date of end February.

## **Public Participation Network:**

PPN Membership: 523 community member groups now registered across the county.

Governance Training – Final session with consultant Senan Turnbull to take place in Brockagh Centre, Laragh on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Over 50 community groups registered.

Online information session on the Local Enhancement Grant Programme and WCC's Community Award Grants scheme to take place on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Consultations: Part 8 - Construct new Playground and Multi-Use Games Area, Newcastle; Expression of Interest fishing berth, Greystones Harbour; Proposed Variation No. 6 to Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028; Seaview Area Masterplan, Arklow.

Funding: 19 funding streams currently open for application.

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

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

The Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 took effect on 2 April 2025, requiring all Local Authorities to establish Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs). Under this legislation, LCSPs have replaced the former Joint Policing Committees in every Local Authority area.

Members of the Wicklow Local Community Safety Partnership were officially appointed by the Minister of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

The Wicklow Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) was formally launched on 4th December, with its inaugural meeting held in the Wicklow County Council Chamber.

At the meeting Cllr. Tom Fortune was elected as Chairperson and Selena Mckenzie was elected as Vice-Chairperson. In addition, a working subgroup was established to commence work on developing a three year Local Community Safety Plan for County Wicklow, which will set out tailored actions to address the specific needs of communities across the county.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

## Planning, Economic & Rural Development

### Local Plans

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

### **Draft Arklow Local Planning Framework 2025 (Variation 5 to the Wicklow County Development Plan) – this is the new form of LAP**

Variation 5 to the County Development Plan which is the draft Arklow Local Planning Framework 2025, was on display from 01 October 2025 to 12 November 2025 with submissions invited. A public information day was held in Arklow MD Office on the 23 October 2025. See the advert in the link below for more information. 67 submissions were received. These are currently being reviewed following which a Chief Executive report will issue to the Elected Members.

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

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Arklow/Arklow-Local-Planning-Framework-Variation-No-5-Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Draft-Arklow-Local-Planning-Framework-2025-Proposed-Variation-No-5-to-the-Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Draft-Arklow-Local-Planning-Framework-2025-Proposed-Variation-No-5-Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028>

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

Variation 4 to the County Development Plan which is the draft Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2025 went on display from 09 May 2025 to 20 June 2025 with 88 submissions received. Public information days were held in Kilcoole and Greystones on the 29 May 2025 and 04 June 2025, respectively. The Chief Executive’s (CE) Report on the submissions received was issued to the Elected Member in August and following on from this the draft LPF and CE report was considered at the Council meeting on the 06 October 2025. Proposed Material Alterations to the draft LPF were proposed by the Elected Members and were on display from 24 October 2025 to 21 November 2025 with submissions invited. 86 submissions were received. These are currently being reviewed following which a CE report will issue to the Elected Members.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

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

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

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

The Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 was adopted at the full Council meeting of 12 May 2025, this plan came into effect on 23 June 2025. The Minister issued a Ministerial Direction with regard to the zoning of 3 sites on the 07 October 2025. The plan as altered is available to view online.

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

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

## **Blessington Local Area Plan 2025**

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

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

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

## **Bray Municipal District (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue) Local Planning Framework/ Variation**

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

There is no specific date to publish Bray draft LPF.

Bray – more information can be found here:

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

## **National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (July 2025)**

As set out in these [new NPF guidelines](#), a Chief Executive's Report was prepared on the implementation of these guidelines and issued to the members for their information. Workshops were held with the Elected Members on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to discuss the CE report. Proposed Variation No. 6 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 will be on display from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025 until 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 with submissions invited. More information is available here -

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<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Variation-No-6>

## **Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028**

### **Proposed Variation No 2**

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

Variation No. 2 was made and came into effect on 12 May 2025. The Minister issued a Ministerial Direction with regard to the zoning of 3 sites on the 07 October 2025.

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

### **Proposed Variation No 3**

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

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

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

### **Proposed Variation No 4**

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

### **Proposed Variation No 5**

See the section on Draft Arklow Local Planning Framework (LPF) 2025 above.

### **Proposed Variation No 6**

The purpose of Variation No. 6 is to revise the Wicklow Core Strategy and associated housing targets, and a number of related housing objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Written Statement to implement the new NPF Guidelines (see above). Variation No. 6 is currently on display from 5th December 2025 until 16th January 2026 and submissions are being.

### **Call for Sites**

New Ministerial Guidelines on NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements were published on the 29 July 2025 on [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) with the aim of updating development plans to reflect the requirements of the

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Revised National Planning Framework (NPF) and achieving a significant acceleration in housing delivery. The Guidelines provide for an increased annual housing growth requirement for County Wicklow, and an 'additional provision' mechanism to support the zoning of additional lands in areas where it can be justified. In response to these new Guidelines, Wicklow County Council is undertaking a non-statutory 'Call for Sites' consultation inviting landowners, homebuilders and other interested parties (including members of the public) to make a submission, identifying possible sites that they suggest could be considered for zoning for new housing development and could meet the objectives of the Guidelines in terms of contributing to the acceleration of housing delivery over the next 15 years.

The "Call for Sites" consultation is now open and will run until 27th February 2026. A drop in service is available to assist members of the public, in County Buildings on:

- Wednesday 07 January 2026 2pm-4pm
- Friday 16 January 2026 10am-1pm
- Monday 19 January 2026 10am – 4pm

The online consultation link is <https://call-for-sites-wicklow.hub.arcgis.com/>

## **Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)**

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

The final RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 were published on 31 January 2025 and can be viewed here: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2025/Liable-Land-View-the-FINAL-RZLT-maps-for-2025>

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

The annual draft RZLT maps for 2026 were published on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2025 and can be viewed here: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Draft-Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2026/Liable-Land-View-the-DRAFT-RZLT-maps-for-2026>

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

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>

## Vacant Site Levy

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

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

## Heritage Office

**County Heritage Plan (CHP) 2025-30:** Final Plan adopted by members on 03/03/2025. Annual CHP programme in progress.

**Wicklow Heritage Forum:** x 4 meetings scheduled for 2025 – next meeting 4<sup>th</sup> December.

**County Heritage Plan Programme 2025:** Heritage Council funding allocation confirmed of €37,500 under the County Heritage Plan Fund and €20,000 under the Community Archaeology Service.

- Wicklow Community Archaeology Service (WCAS): One year part time contract in place. Archaeologist working directly with groups at Castletimon, Donard, Delgany and Killougher

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- Glendalough Community Excavations: Two-week community excavation co-ordinated by UCD
- Wicklow Placenames Project: Project co-ordinator engaged to collate and digitally record minor placenames. Project underway
- Wicklow Heritage Mag: Youth based Heritage guide for Wicklow in production
- Heritage Week: 83 events in County Wicklow 16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August
- Michael Dwyer 200 Programme: Runner up at the Heritage Council's for National Heritage Week Award event on 17<sup>th</sup> October under theme 'Exploring our Foundations'

**Historic Town Initiative (HTI)** 'Retracing Greystones' – A Heritage led Regeneration study focussing on streetscape enhancements on Church Road and options for La Touche Car Park. Funding of €50,000 secured from The Heritage Council. *Myco consultants* engaged. Presentation to Greystones Town Team 29<sup>th</sup> October.

**Built Heritage Funds (Architecture):** Co-ordination of the annual Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes. BHIS 2025 allocation of €171,000 for Wicklow, awarded to 16 Projects. One successful HSF allocation of €160,000 secured for Russborough House. HSF 2024 for Clermont carried forward - €1€165,000 to be recouped.

**BHIS 2026:** Scheme for 2026 advertised with application deadline 26<sup>th</sup> September 30 applications received, assessment to take place by end November.

**HSF 2026:** Open for applications now, deadline 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**Built Heritage Funds (Archaeology):** Secured funding allocations from National Monuments Service under the Community Monuments Fund as follows; Mullinacuff Medieval Church €67,500; Kilmacanogue Old Church €30,000(WCC owned) ; Drumgoff Barracks €130,000. All projects underway. Final recoupment mid-November.

**Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN):** Co-ordination of *Our Wicklow Heritage* (county Wicklow online community heritage archive) plus a network of 11 groups in County Wicklow in association with WCC archives and library services and in partnership with National Museum of Ireland and the Heritage Council. In person Wicklow group meeting held in Blessington in April, National in person event in Claregalway in May, online meeting September. Two Wicklow groups (Blessington & Tinahely) awarded ICAN grants for equipment and activities

**Wicklow Creative Ireland Programme:** HO working with CI Team on 2025 work programme. In-Hand traditional skills weekend held 19-21<sup>st</sup> September in Greenan Museum and Maze, supported by heritage allocation under CI.

**Biodiversity Working Group and Climate Action Teams:** HO inputting to internal working groups to prepare County Biodiversity Plan and implement actions of the Climate Action Plan.

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**Historic Graveyards:** Working with Community Archaeology service to undertake digital headstone recording and creation of digital story maps and in situ information boards at selected sites.

## Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024	To 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2025
Received (Valid)	1063	1130

A total of 96 valid applications were received during December as follows:

Type of Development	
Individual Houses	14 (10 Rural)
Housing Developments*	5
Agricultural Structures	3
Commercial	2
Other Developments**	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>

Housing Developments - PRR25/61044 – 74 dwellings at Ballynerrin Lower, Marlton Road, Wicklow

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

Decisions issued in respect of 72 applications in December 2025

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	1
Individual Houses	2
Other Developments	67
Other Developments Requiring EIA	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>

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Decisions issued between January to December 2024, in comparison to the same period for 2025:

	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2025
Total Number of decisions issued	897	950
Total Number of decisions to grant	754	802
% Grant Rate	84%	84%
No of applications withdrawn		11(5 refer to rural house)

## Applications Lodged with an Coimisiún Pleanála

### Strategic Housing Development

ABP-313442-22 – Lands at the former Heiton Buckley site on Castle Street, Bray, (139 Units) Members Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, Chief Executive report forwarded 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2022 – Oral Hearing held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2025.

### Strategic Infrastructure Development

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

### Substitute Consent

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

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## **E-Planning Project**

The e-planning has now been in place since 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

For the month of December 2025, a total of 95 valid planning applications were received of which 12.63% were hard copy applications and 87.37% were received online.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 a total of 1132 valid applications were received of which 22.61% were hard copy applications and 77.39% 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 December via the Eplanning portal including:

- A number of one-off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Change of use to several properties throughout the county
- Extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Demolition of an existing cottage and for the construction of 8 no. dwellings in Greystones
- Change of plan and elevations for the National Mountain Bike Trail Head Building permitted under Planning Register No. 23303, in Roundwood
- Development of 3 no. 3 bedroom semi-detached dwellings & 1 no. 4 bedroom semi-detached dwelling in Rathdrum.
- The construction of a single-storey disability-accessible dwelling on family lands in Enniskerry
- 74 dwellings comprising 46 no semi-detached and terrace houses, with 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms, together with 28 duplex - apartments of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms in Ballynerrin Lower
- Three-storey development of 6 no. residential units consisting of 3 no. 1-bedroom apartments & 3 no. 2-bedroom Duplexes in Bray
- Demolition of existing single story office building and redundant outbuilding; 2. provision of staff car parking for existing building to be retained. 3. provision of external drive-up storage units in 5 separate clusters in Bray

## **Planning Enforcement**

<b>New Files</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Advisory Letters</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Warning Letters</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Enforcement Notices</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Legal Files</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Closed</b>	<b>2</b>

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## Vacant Sites

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

## Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

A Notice of Intention to Enter on the Register – Section 8(2) issued to 2 property owners in Arklow in December 2025.

## Town Regeneration

### 1.0 Town Teams

There are eight Town Teams in County Wicklow: Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew, Greystones, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, and Wicklow.

The Town Regeneration Office remains in regular contact with all Town Teams, providing ongoing support and engagement.

### 2.0 Town Centre First Masterplans

#### 2.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington, as a Pathfinder Town, was selected as the first town in Co. Wicklow to develop a Town Centre First (TCF) Masterplan. This masterplan, published in 2023, offers a clear and strategic framework for the town's positive and sustainable development of the town, both in the short term and in the future, with a strong focus on community well-being, economic resilience, and placemaking.

The plan identifies opportunity sites within the town core for redevelopment. One key placemaking project is the redevelopment of Market Square. Funding for this initiative was secured under the Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Supports, enabling the preparation of plans to transform Market Square into a high-quality public space. Further details on this project are provided later in the report.

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## 2.2 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre First Masterplan

Newtownmountkennedy was one of 26 towns nationally selected under Phase 2 of the Town Centre First Plan initiative. The town received €30,000 in funding to support the development of its Town Centre First Plan, aimed at guiding the revitalisation and sustainable development of the town centre and creating a vibrant community hub. The funding was provided under the Town Centre First Measure 2 Suite of Supports.

Three public consultation workshops were held in June, August, and September 2025, during which the community actively shared their insights and vision for the town's future. The final plan was successfully launched in December 2025 and can be viewed via <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Municipal-Districts/Wicklow/Newtownmountkennedy-Town-Centre-First-Masterplan> .

## 3.0 Town Centre First – Suite of Supports

The Town Centre First Suite of Supports provides funding to strengthen local capacity, assess town needs, and prepare regeneration projects for future investment. Baltinglass, Rathdrum, and Kilcoole each received €10,000 in funding under the *Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1*. This funding was intended to establish or further develop Town Teams in areas where they were either not yet formed or in the early stages of development. Health Checks for each town were completed in 2025 and are being reviewed with the respective Town Teams to explore funding opportunities addressing the identified areas of weakness.

## 3.2 Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Support

Two applications have been approved for funding under the Town Centre First – Measure 3 Suite of Supports: one for Blessington and one for Wicklow Town. Both projects were originally required to be completed and all associated claims submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. However, an extension has been granted, revising the deadline to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### a) Blessington:

This project involves developing plans to transform Market Square into a high-quality public space. It includes commissioning professional services to carry out a pre-development study of the site as a de-risking exercise ahead of a potential construction phase, subject to future funding.

*Update:* Three public consultation workshops were held between August and October 2025, giving the community opportunities to contribute ideas and share their vision for the future of Market Square. The

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first draft of the final plan was presented to the Elected Members of the Baltinglass Municipal District in December 2025 and is expected to be finalised and published in January 2026.

**b) Wicklow Town:**

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

*Update:* Three public consultation workshops were held in August, September, and October 2025, giving the community the opportunity to share ideas for improving the area around the Black Castle. The final plan was presented to the Elected Members of the Wicklow Municipal District and published in December 2025.

## 4.0 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow County Council was awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht under the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme, with three projects successful in securing funding. The selected projects were originally required to be completed, with all associated claims submitted by 31st October 2025. Extension requests were submitted to and approved by the Department for each project to allow additional time for delivery.

**a) Kirikee, Glenmalure** - Renovation works are planned for the Community Centre, including upgrades to the roof, windows, ceilings, and walls. The consultant originally appointed by the community group to oversee the project was removed due to lack of engagement. A new tender for replacement project consultants was issued in early April, with a new consultant appointed in May 2025. The tender for construction works closed in September, a preferred contractor has been identified, and formal appointment took place in November. Construction works are scheduled to commence in January 2026. The Department has approved an extension to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

**b) Lacken** - The old schoolhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community centre featuring a café, community shop, and a small heritage section. As the building is listed in the Record of Protected Structures (2022–2028), a conservation architect has been appointed. Coordination meetings between the community group and consultants are ongoing. The tender for the conservation and construction works closed in September 2025, a preferred contractor has been identified, and formal appointment took place in November 2025. Construction works are due to commence in January 2026. The Department has approved an extension to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

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c) **Wicklow Town – Murrough Pump Track** – This project involved the development of a best-in-class, asphalt-covered pump track suitable for all ages and abilities, has been successfully completed. Works commenced in the final week of June 2025 and the official opening of the track was held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

## 5.0 Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) 2025

The HTI is a joint initiative between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Heritage Council. Wicklow County Council has been awarded €50,000 in funding to support the procurement of consultants to develop a heritage-led regeneration plan for Greystones. The Heritage Officer and TRO team are working closely with the Town Team and the appointed consultants to deliver the project. Community workshops have been held since the project began and the final report was submitted to the Heritage Council in November to facilitate the drawdown of funding.

## 6.0 Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2025

Six applications were submitted, of which two were successful and awarded funding. A total of €225,000 has been granted to support upgrade works at the Rathdrum Development Association Hall. This funding will be used to replace the electrical system to ensure compliance with current safety standards and to refurbish the existing toilet block, including the installation of a fully wheelchair-accessible facility. These works are essential to ensuring the hall remains safe, functional, and inclusive, and continues to meet the needs of Rathdrum's growing population.

In addition, €49,500 has been awarded to engage a professional consultancy to prepare a detailed design for the regeneration of St. Mary's Park in Arklow. The project aims to create a vibrant, multi-functional public space capable of accommodating community gatherings, events, outdoor dining, and markets, thereby boosting footfall and supporting local employment along Main Street. The proposed design will enhance the park's amenities, visibility, and green infrastructure, ensuring sustainability, accessibility, and stronger integration with surrounding civic and cultural assets.

### Rural Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

**(Department of Rural and Cultural Development and the Gaeltacht, DRCDG)**

- Category 1: Applications for large-scale, ambitious capital projects that are ready to proceed with all necessary planning and consents in place.
- Category 2: Provides smaller grant funding to help develop project proposals so they can be submitted for Category 1 funding in future calls.

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## **Blessington RRDF (Category2)**

Of the approved fund, €130,000 allocation covers scoping of the site, viability and planning and design if relevant and applicable. The current allocation does not include refurbishment of any such site under category 2 funding.

Discussions are ongoing with the Department in relation to reinstatement of the fund for vacant property purchase for refurbishment but this is likely to be a category 1 application to RRDF in the future. Following a meeting with the Department on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025, they have asked for further information. This information has been sent to the Department and is under consideration. As of end of December, there is no response to this information yet.

## **Baltinglass RRDF (Category 1)**

The original RRDF grant was awarded in 2019. It was a category 1 application and included the cost of works. 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 completed.

The tender documents for the Public Realm works, phase 1 have been prepared. The Consultants are to carry out a Quality Audit on the design, before the Tender Documents can be completed. Design and Tender documents have been submitted to the Department and we await final confirmation from the Department to proceed to tender. Following a meeting with the Department on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025, they have asked for further information which was sent in. A draft design audit (DA) has been received and was reviewed. A draft Road Safety Audit (RSA) has been received. Comments on both the RSA and DA have been sent to the Consultants for finalising.

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

### **(Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, DHLGH)**

- Category A: Applications for projects that are "ready to go" and have the necessary consents (like planning permission) in place to begin in the current year.
- Category B: Applications for projects that require further development work to enable them to become eligible for Category 1 status in subsequent funding call

## **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

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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.

Meetings have been held with 4 no property owners of sites on the Main Street Arklow. All parties are to submit both short term plans for dereliction and also longer term proposals for development and reuse of these sites. This work with these owners is ongoing. One of the sites identified has been cleaned up and is on the market. Works are to start on another site in January, we understand there has been some activity on site.

A review of other sites across Arklow, at locations previously highlighted by An Taisce, has been completed and correspondence and next steps for all these properties will be finalised shortly.

## **Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004 (Category B)**

A revised business case was sent to DHLGH in December 2024. A tender brief is currently being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for both the proposed land based and marine works. The department have approved this scheme to progress to the next stage: Planning and Design. Tenders will be placed on eTenders in the coming weeks.

The approval covers the Planning and Design stages only at this stage.

## **Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge – URDF Wic0002 (Category B)**

Arising from the ABP decision that an NIS was required, this project has been delayed. The Capital Delivery Team will review the project and discuss further with the Department. The Department have indicated approval for a review of the project with a view to seeing what parts of the project may proceed. An initial in house review is being carried out by the Capital Delivery Team.

## **Tourism**

### **Web and Social Media updates**

The contract between Good As Gold and Wicklow County Council has now ended. 2025 has been the most successful year for the VisitWicklow digital platforms and below are some of the key achievements of the campaign:

- 2.1 million impressions (+237% from previous year)
- 83k engagement (+173% from previous year)
- 1 million video views (+3.9% from previous year)
- 57k Audience (+61% from previous year)

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- 7974 shares (778 the previous year)
- 4166 saves (622 the previous year)
- 7167 messages (+850% from previous year)

The work continues in 2026 but under the supervision of Wicklow County Tourism which will take over a lot of the promotional activities with the support of Wicklow County Council.

## **Wicklow Gaol**

The Christmas Fair 'Wicklow Wrapped' was successfully hosted in the courtyards at Wicklow Gaol last December. This event showed how the courtyards can become a venue to host a variety of events. Work is very much underway at the Gaol to identify, price and fix the various issues still preventing the reopening of the Gaol. Focus remains on allowing safe reopening as soon as possible and welcome visitors and events at Wicklow Gaol.

The appointment of a new operator is in its final stages and the plan is to finalise the agreement and work with the new operator to reopen the Gaol as early as possible.

## **Wicklow Naturally**

2025 was a very strong year for Wicklow Naturally and included various networking events, producers' showcases, many PR events, and culminating with the hosting of the 'Food Writers Guild' in August. The board is currently working at defining actions and priorities for 2026 and developing a strong structure to strengthen the network.

## **Wicklow Passport**

2025 was a very successful year for the Wicklow Passport. The 'Wicklow Way Passport' and the 'Wicklow Town Passport Trail' were introduced with new set of stamps for visitors to collect. The sale of online Passports rose from just over 200 in 2024 to 915 in 2025.

Around 5000 mini passports were distributed during the year through the network of stamping locations, tourist offices, and at trade shows and events.

In 2026, the focus will be on developing new local trails around the County.

## **Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP)**

The Implementation Group of the DEDP met in mid-December. The group includes representatives from the tourism industry, Wicklow County Council and local organisations.

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Fáilte Ireland is currently finalising the DEDP and will soon reconvene the Implementation Group to assess the latest draft.

Current ongoing work includes the 'Glendalough Masterplan', assessment of 'Screen Tourism' opportunities and the restructuring of Wicklow County Tourism to take on promotional activities and networking with the Tourism Trade in Wicklow.

Finally, Fáilte Ireland is working on the 'Wicklow Access & Movement' Report. The report is to provide an overview of current movement and access patterns, from a visitor perspective, with a focus on access to key visitor hubs and visitor experiences.

## **Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan (VEMMP)**

Work continues on the implementation of recommendations contained in the 7 – 10 year VEMMP. The Local Advisory Group and the Working Group of the Glendalough Partnership continue to meet regularly to support the implementation of actions contained in the VEMMP. OPW and National Monuments Services have worked together to procure a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) to support actions in the VEMMP and ensure a collaborative approach is taken and that the heritage of the area is preserved and protected. They have appointed 7L Architects as the lead consultant for the development of the CMP and a support team has been put in place comprising a range of disciplines such as landscape architect, stone conservation expertise and ecological professionals. The Local Advisory Group met in December where they received an update on the CMP process along with anticipated timelines.

## **Economic Development**

### **Abbey Grounds, Wicklow**

The Abbey Grounds development is moving into an active phase for 2026, involving a gradual launch of the Destination Towns project to ensure a seamless integration of new public amenities throughout the year.

## **Special Projects**

**Avondale Business Park:** The Avondale Business Park project is advancing from the review phase toward the completion of disposals, with sales moving forward in planned stages throughout 2026.

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**Inchinappa, Ashford:** A number of expressions of interest have been received for enterprise land in Inchinappa, Ashford. These are currently being explored for feasibility.

**The GRID:** Stage 2 of the tendering process for the management of The GRID is set for completion in the coming weeks. This coincides with the finalisation of the promotional website and steady progress in reviewing expressions of interest for available spaces.

**Sites on Mill Road, Greystones:** The site registration process is nearing completion, following extensive engagement between the Law Agent and the Property Registration Authority.

**Carnew Remote Working Hub:** Detailed design works are nearing completion, pending final approval. The TVRS funding was announced in December and this project was not successful on this occasion. Alternative funding streams and delivery measures are currently being evaluated to ensure the project's continued advancement.

## **Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)**

Activities of the ORE Network are to resume with the first meeting of 2026 scheduled for January 27th. This initial session will focus on establishing clear goals and strategic actions for the network throughout the year to ensure continued readiness for Phase 1 and 2 Offshore Wind Projects

## **Skills Strategy**

Building on the progress achieved throughout 2025, the Skills Taskforce is set to resume activities with the first meeting of the year scheduled for February 10th. The focus of this meeting will shift to the active implementation of key actions outlined in the Wicklow Skills Strategy, driving the delivery of the 2026 action plan.

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## Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
Metrics: Grants	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2024	2025	2025
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Market Explorer Grant	22 €671,740 7 €12,500	42 Market Explorer Grant (MEG)	24 3 (MEG) Total: <b>€546,033</b>
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
Metrics: Training/ Capacity Building	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2024	2025	2025
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	54	105	80
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	145	105	152
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1223	840	686
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	24	20	20
Metrics: Business Advice & Mentoring	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2024	2025	2025
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	443	400	580

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	578	345	497
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Metrics: Student Enterprise Programmes	Historical	Targets	
	Academic Year	2023/2024	2025/2026
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1358	1100	1170

Metrics: Client Transfers To Enterprise Ireland	Historical	Targets	
	No of transfers	2024	2025
Number of transfers	6	5	6

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	15	15
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	20	18	20
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	7	15	34
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	N/A	6	5
Energy Efficiency Grant	3	18	9
Microfinance Ireland	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	12	13	16
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	3	TBC

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## **December 2025 Activities/Training:**

- Export Development Programme: We welcomed our Export Development Programme Autumn class of 2025 to share their export plans with our colleagues and partners here in Clermont House. We had a great bunch of companies, with superb passionate presentations and ones to watch for sure.
- Get your head around Auto-Enrolment Webinar - 02/12/2025
- Starting Your Canva Business Journey Online - 03/12/2025
- In-Person Business Advice Clinic - 08/12/2025
- Instagram for Small Business Online -10/12/2025

## **January 2026 Activities/Training:**

- Showcase Ireland will take place in the RDS Dublin from 18 to 20 January, with five LEO Wicklow clients exhibiting. Ailbhe Cronin of Appleberry Atelier and Gillian Kavanagh of Beyond the Ferns have been shortlisted for the Business of Craft Awards.
- Starting Your Canva Business Journey Online -21/01/2026
- In-Person Business Advice Clinic - 21/01/2026
- ILM Leadership & Management Programme - Manufacturing Sector - 22/01/2026

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

## Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

### HARBOURS AND PORTS

#### **1) Upgrade of CCTV and Access Control -Wicklow and Arklow Harbours**

CCTV Works completed. Access control works to be completed in January.

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

Additional funding has been approved under the LAMIS scheme to carry out underwater concrete repairs to fill voids in the East Pier at Wicklow Harbour. Works commenced in October and are ongoing as the weather and sea conditions allow. Completion of works delayed until January 2026.

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

Works ongoing. Due for completion in January.

#### **4) Mara Applications**

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

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

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

#### **6) Marine area strategy**

Consultant has been appointed to advance a harbour development “scoping report” into a marine area strategy. Report on Wicklow Harbour stakeholder engagement was completed in December.

### **WICKLOW HARBOUR STATISTICS**

<b>Month / Year</b>	<b>Ships</b>	<b>Single (Import or Export)</b>	<b>Double (Import &amp; Export)</b>	<b>Transactions</b>	<b>Imports</b>	<b>Exports</b>
Jan-25	3	3	0	3	2	1
Feb-25	7	7	0	7	5	2
Mar-25	9	9	0	9	6	3
Apr-25	7	7	0	7	2	5
May-25	5	5	0	5	3	2
Jun-25	9	9	0	9	4	5
Jul-25	5	5	0	5	3	2
Aug-25	4	4	0	4	3	1
Sep-25	5	5	0	5	2	3
Oct-25	8	8	0	8	5	3
Nov -25	7	6	1	8	4	4
Dec-25	5	5	0	5	3	2

<b>GENERAL CARGO DATA JANUARY – DECEMBER 2025</b>	
General Cargo/Container	74
Gross Tonnage	174,924

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SIZE OF VESSELS BREAKDOWN JANUARY – DECEMBER 2025			
Tonnes		Number of Vessels	Gross Tonnage
Lower Limit	Upper Limit		
1,000	1,999	18	20,650
2,000	2,999	48	127,447
3,000	3,999	8	26,827
			174,924

2025 – CARGO BREAKDOWNS			
CATEGORY	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL
FORESTRY PRODUCTS	76,091	17,974	93,993
METALS		35,493	35,493
	76,091	53,467	129,486

## PROJECTS OFFICE

**The Arlow Flood Relief Scheme** : Planning Application and CPO were approved by An Bord Pleanála in July 2022. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender documents for the project. The detailed design which includes elements such as flood walls, flood embankment design, hydrology and hydraulic modelling, archaeological investigations, utility diversions, environmental inputs & bridge remediation specifications is ongoing and should be complete early 2026.

The project team are currently finalising the design, specification and tender docs. The project will be advertised for tender as a 2-stage restricted procedure, this tender process will be complete by Q2 2026 with an estimated contractor appointment date of Q3 2026. The works will take 3.5 years with completion by Q4 2030.

WCC are also in discussion with UE & ESB in relation to facilitating major infrastructure upgrade to their networks in order to aid the proposed/ pending developments in Arklow. It is intended these upgrades will be undertaken in conjunction with the flood relief scheme works.

**Whitestown Remediation Project:** WCC has entered into a contract with Priority Construction Ltd. (PCL) for the excavation and haulage of 350,000 Tonnes of material, from the Whitestown Site, over a three-year period. PCL will mobilise in Q1 2026 and commence with additional site investigation before bulk excavation commences.

## CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS

### Community Climate Action Programme

The second round of the Community Climate Action Programme, offering €646,000 in funding to assist community, voluntary, and non-profit groups in delivering local climate and biodiversity projects across the county closed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. Phase one in the delivery stage of the programme.

A total of 49 applications has been received to the value of €2.3m broken down as follows:

District	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow
Total for District	7	22	3	9	8
Large	4	9	1	3	4
Medium	3	4	0	4	2
Small	0	9	2	2	2

**E-Mobility Scheme:** A Shared Mobility Hub scheme has been retendered for the County. A Bike lock scheme is to commence in Wicklow in December by MOBY.

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**Future Climate Action Events:** Greystones Area Pilot Climate Action Committee AGM will take place on the 12th of February. This will include representatives from Sports Clubs, Community Groups, Local Business Groups and Wicklow County Council. It is intended to draft a community Climate Action Plan as a live document for the Greystones Municipal District Area.

**Garden Village Sewerage Scheme – Project Update:** Wicklow County Council has received funding approval of €1,274,539 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the Garden Village scheme, which consists of 221 dwelling units.

This funding will enable the Council to **decommission the existing wastewater treatment plant** serving Garden Village and **construct a new foul sewer and pumping station** in its place.

Upon full completion of the scheme, the sewer network will be **taken in charge by Uisce Éireann**, who will thereafter assume responsibility for the maintenance of the foul sewer system.

The Project could potentially see construction commence by June 2026 subject to approval of landowners and part 8 planning.

**WCC signed up for NTA Smarter Travel Charter:** This programme will see a travel survey been launched for County Buildings in January. Through the NTA Smart travel programme, a consultant is supporting the roll out of this scheme where a Smart Travel Plan with Actions will be drafted in 2026 for the County Buildings.



**Spongeworks EU horizon programme:** A launch is planned for the Spongeworks project on the 27th of January in Aughrim at 7.00pm. Spongeworks is an EU Horizon project focused on development of a landscape level strategy to improve water retention in river catchments. The Aughrim River catchment is the Wicklow study area. Wicklow Uplands Council, the East Wicklow Rivers Trust and LAWPRO. Stakeholders from local communities, the farming sector and water management sector have been invited to the event. An implementation plan for Wicklow has been approved by project coordinators.

**Environment Awareness: Textiles** - As part of our Re-Imagining Textiles students are learning simple stitch, pattern cutting, improving their textile literacy teamwork, the role of charity shops in the Circular Economy and so much more as illustrated by one of the principals in a participating school.

The Primary Stitch completes its first phase in St Mary's National School, Blessington. Students from Scoil San Eoin, Redcross and St Mary's created upcycled textile bunting illustrating different aspects of Wicklow life and biodiversity and farm life. Councillor and Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass MD, Avril Cronin and local councillor Cllr Jason Mulhall helped the children to hang the long bunting on the school walls.

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**Dog fouling:** A 4-month long anti dog fouling campaign commences with a radio ad going live with East Coast radio station. In addition, primary schools have been invited to create posters that will form an integral part to the wider awareness raising campaign, highlighting the hazards and impacts to dog fouling on our footpaths, nature trails, our water quality and our health.

**Dark Skys:** A County Wicklow Light Pollution Policy and an Environmental lighting master plan, light assessment report and lighting energy audit for the towns of Laragh, Roundwood and Aughrim has been tendered. A meeting with the Wicklow Mountains National Park and Wicklow Uplands Council took place on the 21st of January to explore an application to create a Dark Sky reserve in the Wicklow Uplands. The reserve core would be located in the southern part of the Wicklow Mountains National Park with a buffer zone of 700 KM around the park where lighting policy will be developed to reduce the impact of light pollution. The reserve can help to protect biodiversity, reduce carbon emissions from excess lighting and create an opportunity to develop Wicklow as a nighttime destination for exploring dark skies.

**Bray - Jacinta Barrins, over 55s Climate Programme, due to commence in February 2026:** Applications for this are currently being received.

**Biodiversity Event held in December:** ReFarm is a national initiative supporting farmers in delivering income-generating biodiversity and ecosystem-services actions on their land. The project enables landowners to adopt nature-positive measures that improve water quality, restore habitats and enhance resilience in the farmed landscape. ReFarm works in partnership with Burrenbeo Trust and Trinity College. The annual wrap-up event was held at Kilranelagh Lodge on the 3rd of Dec, where participating farmers were joined by ReFarm staff and Wicklow County Council.

- Action for 2026 include progression
- The Bray Head Management Plan
- Brittas Bay Management Plan
- Wicklow Head Management Plan
- Clermont Management Plan
- And to develop a Magheramore management plan.

Local Biodiversity Action Fund and Heritage Council funding applications are in preparation and are due to be submitted by the 5th & 18th of Feb respectively.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

No. of Complaints Created	70
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	100
No of Litter Fines Issued	8
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	1
No. of Warning Letters Issued	5
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	12
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	2

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No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	6
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	11
Income - Litter	€1,050.00
Income- Waste Management	€50.00

## DOG CONTROL, DOG LICENCES AND HORSES

**Dog Licences:** For the month of December, 222 dog licences were issued. For the full year of 2025, a total of 6067 licences were issued, with 348 licences purchased being lifetime dog licences.

**Dog Shelter Sharphill:** A new operator, Midlands Animal Care, commenced running of the dog shelter at Sharphill, Rathdrum, on the 1st January 2026. The staff who have worked in the shelter while being run by the ISPCA, remain working there. Midlands Animal Care were the successful candidate following a tender process in November 2025.

**Horses:** No horses were seized during the month of December. A total of 15 horses were seized on behalf of Wicklow County Council during 2025. Of these, 3 horses were returned to their owners, others were rehomed and 4 remained in the horse pound on 31st December 2025.

## BLUE FLAGS FOR BEACHES.

Applications have been made to An Taisce to retain the blue flags at Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Greystones South beaches. These applications will be assessed by an international committee from An Taisce and the winners will be announced in May 2026, prior to the season commencing on 1st June 2026.

## **POLLUTION CONTROL**

### Pollution Control Statistics up to end of December 2025

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

<b>Pollution Response &amp; Investigation</b>	
8	Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
7	Water pollution complaints closed.
0	Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
0	Noise pollution complaints closed.
0	Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
1	Air pollution complaints closed.

#### **Ambient Air Monitoring**

0	Inspection of Ambient Air Monitoring Station
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#### **Private Water Supplies**

1	Regulated Private Water Supplies Drinking Water Monitoring Plan.
0	Private Water Supplies were monitored.
0	Private Water Supplies with available results were compliant.
0	Private Water Supplies with available results were non-compliant.
0	Private Water Supplies were requested to take remedial actions.
0	Boil water restrictions placed on water supplies.
0	Boil water restrictions lifted from a water supply.
0	Do not consume restrictions placed on water supplies.
1	Do not consume lifted from a water supply.

#### **Bathing Water**

	The bathing monitoring has finished with the closure of the official bathing water season for 2025.
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	6 submissions were received regarding the identification of new or existing bathing waters in 2026: 3 in Bray, 2 in Wicklow and in 1 Glendalough.
<b>Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme</b>	
2	Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
8	Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.
<b>Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations</b>	
2	Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.
0	Catchment assessments were carried out to determine risk and impacts on rivers.
2	Investigative river samples taken.
0	Misconnection inspection carried out.
<b>Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026</b>	
1	Inspection Plan prepared.
0	Engagement activities undertaken.
0	Inspection of domestic wastewater treatment systems was carried out to confirm compliance with an advisory notice.
1	Inspection of domestic wastewater treatment systems was carried out to confirm compliance with an advisory notice.
0	Inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems related to grant application in High Status Catchments were carried out.
<b>Good Agricultural Practice Inspections</b>	
8	Inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.
1	Follow-up inspection of a non-compliant farm carried out.
1	Sewage sludge nutrient management plan applications to land reviewed.
2	Inspections of farms in response to complaints.
<b>Well Grants</b>	
17	New Water Grant application received
6	New Well granted
30	New Pumps granted
46	Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
36	Inspections in advance/completion of works
<b>Petrol Vapour Recovery</b>	
0	Installation inspected
0	Installation issued with Certificate of Testing
0	Stage Ib applications assessed
0	Stage Ib Installations (petrol vapour recovery during tanker delivery) Inspections.
<b>Deco Paint Solvent Regulations</b>	
0	Inspections of Vehicle Refinisher installations carried out.
1	Certificates of compliance issued to Vehicle Refinisher installations.
0	Letters issued to Vehicle Refinisher Installations.
0	Certificate of compliance issued to Dry Cleaner installation.
0	Dry cleaner installation inspected.
0	Paint retailer inspections for compliant products.
<b>Smokeless Coal Regulations</b>	
2	Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.
1	Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected and non-compliant.
0	Follow-up inspections of non-compliant sites.
<b>Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer</b>	
0	Licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.

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0	Licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed non-compliant and corrective action requested.
0	Unlicensed wastewater discharges to waters were inspected.
<b>Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring</b>	
0	River samples were taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
4	Lake samples were taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
<b>Planning &amp; Development</b>	
7	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
2	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
3	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.
1	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning quarry development.
1	Environmental reports on compliance with planning permission conditions was completed.

## CEMETERIES

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

### Published Death Notices Data

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	2025
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>1339</b>
<b>WCC</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>508</b>
<b>Cremation</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>441</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>390</b>

1339	<b>Total Published Death Notices 2025</b>
38%	Traditional Interment in Local Authority Burial Grounds
33%	Cremation/Other non-traditional interments
29%	Other Burial Grounds

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

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.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

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

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion/ Update
OR221WW02	<b>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</b>	Wicklow County Council appointed RPS to provide engineering consultancy services for the walk. The walk remains closed due to safety concerns over instability of the area, which represents a significant safety risk to the public. Cliff Walk Task Force to provide update following January meeting with consultants.	Extension granted by DRCD.
OR221WW01	<b>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</b>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Awaiting response on re-design of steel works.	31/03/2026
OR222WW03	<b>Coolkenno Equestrian Trail</b>	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners pending their planning permission process.	31/01/2026
OR322WW01	<b>Roundwood Recreation Area</b>	Contractor appointed. BMX pump track bike area works starting in January.	31/03/2026
OR423WW02	<b>Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan</b>	Feasibility project to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. 50% Plan work completed approximately.	31/12/2025
OR123WW01	<b>Hollywood Natural Play Area</b>	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Awaiting sign off to publish tender. Licence Agreement due.	30/04/2026
OR123WW06	<b>Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way</b>	Signage replacement along an 18km route. Ongoing 	30/04/2026
OR223WW01	<b>Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure</b>	Car park upgrade works and fencing completed during November. Feasibility / Scoping study for lands purchased progressing. Phase 2 cannot commence until this is complete.	30/06/2026
OR223WW02	<b>Three Trouts Bridge, Delgany</b>	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the pathfinder route. Consent process to progress	Q4 2026
OR223WW03	<b>Tinahely New Loop Trail</b>	Funding for additional spur to loop walks on a 10km route to Tinahely village. Review of project specifics being undertaken.	TBC
ORIS 2024	Project Name	Brief description	Completion
OR424WW01	<b>Disability and Outdoor Recreation</b>	Creation of a strategy and work plan to ensure accessibility for walking, cycling and water access for the disabled community in Co Wicklow. Background specification underway to identify available/usable sites for 2 x water, 2 x bike and 2 x trail access for exploration in the study.	26/02/27
OR124WW01	<b>Brockagh Forest Science and</b>	Provision of rustic, timber exploration, science tables, magnifying glasses play equipment and seating in Brockagh Forest.	26/02/27

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

	<b>Discovery Area</b>		
OR124WW02	<b>Wicklow Harbour Sea-Trac</b>	Installation of a Sea-Trac system in Wicklow Harbour to create independent swimming access for those with a physical disability.	26/02/27
OR124WW03	<b>Vartry Anglers Disabled Access</b>	Disabled access to the lakeshore with 320m of new trail surfacing for wheelchair use and installation of a self-contained eco toilet and tree planting. Project under review	26/02/27
OR124WW04	<b>Wild Swimming Infrastructure</b>	Installation of changing screens at 4 locations where wild swimming is popular throughout Wicklow. Bike shelter installation at 3 of those locations.	26/02/27
OR224WW01	<b>Glen Turn Cliff Walk</b>	Complete surface upgrade and drainage work on cliff walk trail. Not commenced	30/11/27
OR224WW02	<b>Russelstown Link to Russborough House</b>	Proposed trail linking Russelstown Wood to Russborough House & Park. Review of project being undertaken	30/11/27
OR324WW01	<b>Djouce Mountain Trail construction and habitat restoration</b>	Djouce Mountain trail construction works will significantly reduce the safety issues and habitat damage currently occurring. Project steering group to be established.	30/11/27

## WICKLOW OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE (WORC)

WORC is comprised of members from Coillte, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wicklow County Council, County Wicklow Partnership, Wicklow Local Sports and Recreation Partnership and Wicklow Uplands Council and is an information sharing forum of parties most involved in planning, development and management of recreation in Wicklow. The Committee meets four times a year with the last meeting of 2025 taking place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December.

## LIBRARY SERVICE

### **Wicklow County Council Library Service**

2025 was a busy year for Wicklow County Council Library Service. 42,015 members made use of their library cards to borrow items or use our internet facilities, equating to almost 27% of the county's population. Libraries were visited 611,145 times over the course of the year, with people using the library for more than borrowing, such as seeking information, studying, and taking part in the many events and exhibitions we offer throughout the year. In total, over 470,000 physical items were borrowed in the branches. In addition to audiobooks, sensory toys, blood pressure monitors, CPens, and Acorn tablets were available, and the offering expanded to include a number of radon detectors. Additionally, borrowers continued to embrace e-book and e-audiobook borrowing through the BorrowBox app, with an impressive 147,101 issues in 2025.

In 2026, Wicklow Library Service will continue to provide welcoming spaces that promote learning, wellbeing and community life across the county. This year brings a focus on digital confidence through the new Skills for Life programme, alongside ongoing Healthy Ireland initiatives. As always, Wicklow Library Service supports literacy through the national Right to Read programme, and through our shared physical and online collections, reflecting books as one of the most established examples of the circular economy. In addition to core services, our libraries will remain active local hubs for cultural activity, learning and community engagement, with strong participation across all age groups, supporting the wider council priorities in an accessible and inclusive way.

Skills for Life: The new Skills for Life programme, replacing Work Matters, takes a people-focused approach to media literacy in our libraries. It aims to help adults feel confident and supported as they navigate news, social media, and online information in their everyday lives. Through friendly, practical sessions, participants learn to spot misinformation, stay safe online, and gain a better understanding of the digital world around them. In 2026, we look forward to expanding this programme as a welcoming space for learning, conversation, and building digital confidence together.

Healthy Ireland: Healthy Ireland at Your Library is a national programme that promotes wellbeing and quality of life at every stage of life. Wicklow Library Service continues to play an active role in this initiative and, in 2026, will offer a diverse range of events, including chair yoga, meditation, classical music sessions, and mental health talks. The programme will

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

also feature dedicated book displays focused on health, wellbeing, and fitness, providing accessible resources to support the community's holistic wellbeing.



## Library Events

**Arklow Library:** Arklow library's weekly early-years activities include Toddler Storytime & Craft sessions every Wednesday morning and Baby Sing-Along Sessions on Thursdays for ages 0–2. Children and families can also enjoy the Arts and Crafts Activity Stations on Saturdays, Mini Movies on Friday afternoons, Lego Club sessions for ages 6+, and the popular Saturday Chess Club for children aged 7–12.

Reading and literacy are supported through the Wednesday Book Club, the Young Adult Book Club and the Thursday evening Book Club, encouraging reading for pleasure and social connection across age groups.

Adult learning and social inclusion initiatives include the Adult Chess Club, Ciorcal Comrá (Irish Conversation Circle), the English Conversation Group and the Writers Group, which meet twice during the month. Two Adult Knitters' Groups meet weekly, providing creative social outlets for participants.

Community wellbeing and support are addressed through Parents and Carers Arts & Crafts sessions, the Tuatha Male Carers Support Group and ongoing Alzheimer's Society of Ireland Young Onset Group Therapy sessions.

Educational and civic engagement opportunities include a six-week DigiLit programme, Irish language classes with Séadna, a local history talk by Jim Scannell on The Big Freeze of 1947, and a Wicklow County Council Climate Action Drop-In Clinic. An art exhibition by Mike Lockyer, displayed throughout January, further enhances the cultural offering in Arklow Library.



**Ballywaltrim Library:** Ballywaltrim Library hosts a busy January programme for children including the weekly school visits from Bray School Project, St. Fergal's Primary School and Marino Special School. Early-years provision continues with Tummy Time sessions for babies every Monday and Tuesday, while Saturdays feature STEM Free Play and regular Storytime sessions. Monthly Junior Club meetings and Arts & Crafts sessions add variety to the children's programme.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

The Adult activities run consistently throughout the month, including weekly Scrabble sessions, CV Review and Advice Drop-In clinics, and a 12-week Cognitive Stimulation course focused on dementia care. Creative and social activities include knitting sessions, a monthly quilting group, Ballywaltrim Crafters, and Age Action's one-to-one digital skills classes for older people.

There are plenty of book clubs including the Wednesday Book Club, Page-Turners Book Club, Saturday Book Club and the Rehab Care Book Club, all meeting during the month. A Local Residents' Meeting on Saturday 17th further demonstrates the library's role as a key community meeting space.

**CV REVIEW & ADVICE**

**FREE DROP IN**

Your CV is your first impression—make it count with our expert CV Review Service. This service is free of charge for everyone.

**FREE CAREER ADVICE**

• Want to learn new skills?  
• Looking for a new job?  
• Need help or advice getting started?

• We also provide information on all local and national courses

01 276 4638  
guidancebray@kwetb.ie

**Ballywaltrim Library**

**Tummy time**

Every Tuesday 10.30am - 12pm

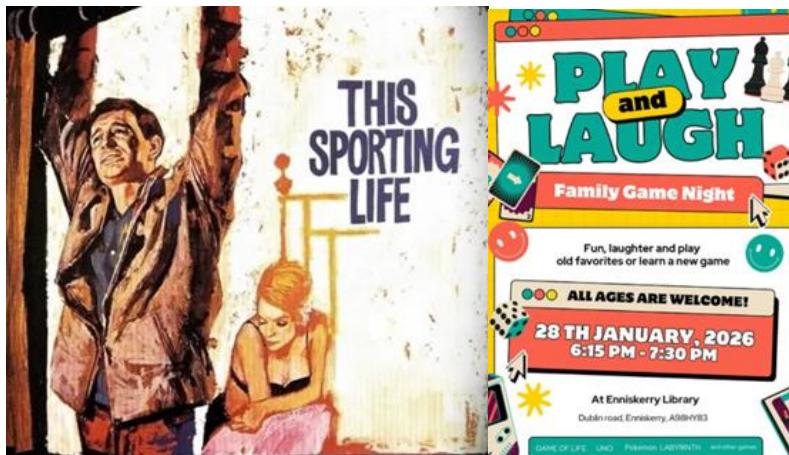
Mondays & Tuesdays at 10.30- 12 pm

For babies who haven't started to crawl yet

**Baltinglass Library:** Planned programme provides a mix of cultural, creative and youth-focused activities.

Enda's Film Club continues to screen a film of his choice every Friday morning, offering a relaxed and popular weekly event. Tidy Towns runs two sessions for young people, supporting environmental awareness and community involvement. The Creative Writing Group meets for its monthly gathering, while Baltinglass Film Club Screens This Sporting Life later in the month.

Weekly sessions continue with InSync, the Youth Diversion Programme, and Camille Lynch from Creative Places Baltinglass is based in the library every Wednesday, providing open clinics for those seeking advice on grant applications and creative development.



**Blessington Library:** Programmes include adult and children's book clubs, story times, Spanish and Italian conversation groups, and the breastfeeding support group. A special one-off Ballet for Adults takes place on 14th January as part of the Healthy Ireland programme, offering an opportunity to promote physical wellbeing and creative expression in an inclusive and welcoming setting.

**Bray Library:** Toddler Storytime takes place at 10am on Monday mornings, school age Storytime is 3pm Tuesdays and STEAM Saturday - open ended construction play is on Saturday mornings until 12.30pm. A highlight of the month is the celebration of Nollaig na mBan, marked with a special performance by the Bray Harp Ensemble, creating a warm and culturally rich experience for library users and the wider community.

**Carnew Library:** Book club meeting on the 2nd Monday of every month and the local National School and Secondary school visit on a weekly basis.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

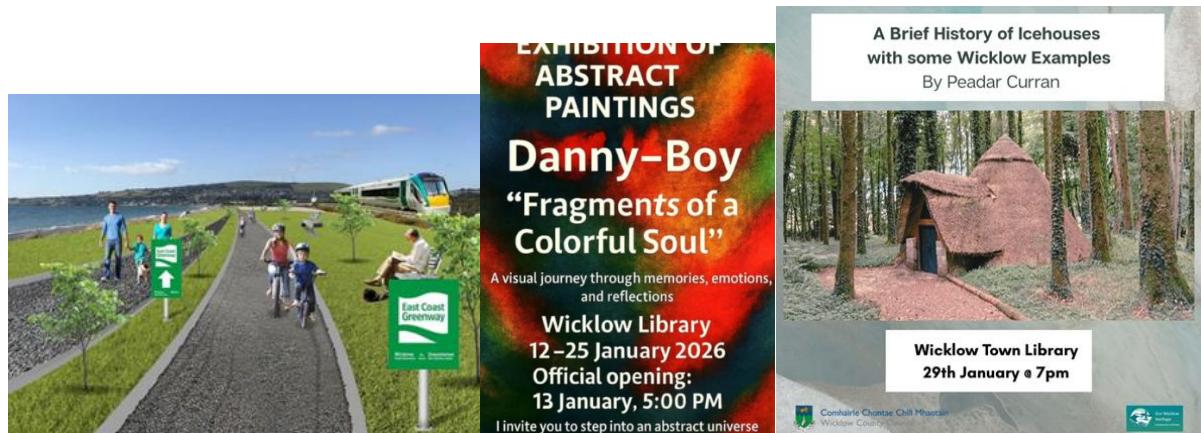
Enniskerry Library: Games Night, kicking off January activities in a relaxed and social setting. Regular book clubs' welcome members back, including the Wednesday Book Club, the Murder Mystery & Thriller Book Club, and the Junior Book Club, all continuing to foster a strong reading culture within the community.

Language learning also resumes in January, with the Spanish Conversation Group meeting every Friday and the French Conversation Group returning for its monthly meet-up.

The Junior Cycle Secondary School Book Club, recently renamed the Hot Chocolate Book Club, meets on 23rd January, providing an engaging and supportive space for young readers.

**Greystones Library:** A public consultation event for the Wicklow–Greystones Greenway Scheme takes place on Tuesday 20th January, welcoming local residents to engage with future planning.

The popular Artists in Conversation series continues, showcasing the library as a vibrant space for creative dialogue. Age Action IT classes remain a valued weekly offering, while regular book clubs, language conversation groups, the Greystones Music Circle and the Greystones Creative Writers group all hold their monthly meetups, contributing to a lively and connected library community.



**Tinahely Library:** Storytime Every Wednesday at 10am and the Book club on the First Wednesday of month 11am.

**Wicklow Library:** Four Adult Book Clubs, a Junior Book Club, a YA Book Club, and a wide range of youth-focused groups such as the YA Writing Group, YA Cosplay Group, Children's Chess Club and Awesome Kids Lego Club. Weekly class visits, Saturday Storytime, Baby Rhyme Time and Comhrá agus Ceol sessions for parents and toddlers continue to attract strong participation.

Adult learning and community use of the space include Toastmasters training meetings, an Irish Conversation Group, Film Club screenings, a Diversity Social Group, and a new Stitch Group meeting during 'My Open Library' hours. The library also hosts a range of civic and professional gatherings, including BITC Teacher Training, Greenway Project meetings and a monthly Local History Talk.

In January, Wicklow Library will launch a new Wicklow Creative Co-op session, alongside the exhibition Fragments of a Colourful Soul by Danny-Boy – a visual exploration of memories, emotions, and personal reflections.

**Mobile Library:** The Mobile Library returns visiting schools and service points throughout the county, bringing books, learning, and connection directly to local communities.

## WICKLOW SPORTS & RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

**Katie Taylor Bursary:** WCC and WLSP have opened the application process for the Third level Katie Taylor bursary award for 2025/26. The Katie Taylor Bursary (€1500 every year for 4 years), funded by Wicklow County Council, is a third level award to support students who excel at sport to complete their college education.

Deadline EXTENDED to Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2026.

[Home - Wicklow Local Sports Partnership](#)

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

## Training & Education

Activity	Venue	Date
Safeguarding 1	Online	28 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026
Safeguarding 1	Online	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
Safeguarding 2	Online	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2026
Sports First Aid	St. Kevins Hall, Blessington	21 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2026

## ARCHIVES & GENEALOGY SERVICE

**Digitisation programme:** Work is completed on the digitisation of the Labourers Cottages Ledgers dating from the 1880s to the 1920's, and progressing on the Rural District Council records dating from 1899-1925, supported by the Commemorations Programme of the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport. Both collections will be uploaded to Wicklow.ie shortly.

**Schools programme:** The Archives and Local Studies services welcomes North Wicklow Education Together 5th & 6th year students for an archives workshop and Local Studies workshop, which includes a guided tour of the collections and resources available to them.

**Special projects /Outreach activities:** The Arklow Street Preachers publication has progressed with a final proof from Wordwell Publishers. Research has commenced for the Wicklow Town Atlas project. Genealogy service continues.

**Conservation programme:** The next items identified for conservation treatment are two Wicklow Town maps dated 1850s and two Wicklow Corporation rental rolls dated 1850 and 1860.

## ARTS OFFICE AND CREATIVE IRELAND

Wicklow County Arts Office has invited applications for the 2026 Arts Act Funding schemes which are designed to support artists, communities, arts festivals, arts participation and art form development across Co. Wicklow. The Award Schemes opened on December 8<sup>th</sup> 2025.

**The three schemes available are:**

- Artist Award Scheme
- Artist & Community Collaboration Scheme
- Arts Festival Award Scheme

These schemes are integral to Wicklow County Council's broader efforts to encourage excellence in the arts and enhance community involvement in artistic endeavours across the county. The deadline for receipt of applications is **Thursday 5th February 2026 at 4:00pm**.

**Wicklow Short Film Award :** Following the success of the initiative in 2024 and 2025, Screen Wicklow and Wicklow Arts Office are delighted to announce the launch of the Wicklow Short Film Award for 2026. The purpose of the award is to support filmmakers from Wicklow in creating high-quality, original films in the county. Eligible projects include narrative films, documentaries, digital films and animations. The Wicklow Short Film Award is funded by Wicklow County Council and The Arts Council, with support from Clermont Screen Hub. For 2026, there will be a maximum of two grants of up to €15,000 each for the production of a short film or documentary. Films should be approximately 10 to 15 minutes in duration, although animation projects may be shorter. The total fund therefore available for award in 2026 is €30,000. The closing date for applications is **Thursday, 5th February 2026 at 4pm**

**New Artist Development Initiative Open for Ticket Booking in January 2026:** Made in Wicklow and Wicklow Arts Office present 'Supporting the Arts', a weekend of connection, discussion and engagement curated and funded by Wicklow Arts Office, on Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th February, in Powerscourt House

As part of the Made in Wicklow presents: For the Love of Creativity - a month at Powerscourt programme, Wicklow Arts Office have curated a series of free events offering an opportunity to connect and engage with the artists and creative practitioners working in the vibrant arts and cultural scene in Co. Wicklow.

### Event details

Saturday 7th February, 10.30am - 12pm: In Conversation with Wicklow Arts Office

Saturday 7th February, 1.30pm - 4.30pm: Wicklow Artists Salon #15, Portrait of the Artists

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

Sunday 8th February, 10am - 1pm: The Shaking Bog - I Wonder

Sunday 8th February, 2pm - 4.30pm: Kunstverein Aughrim presents House of Kunst

## **The new Community Creative Hub Development Panel call for Participation closes end of January 2026 for Baltinglass**

Creative Places Baltinglass has invited local people to join The Hub Collective - a new community group that will co-create and guide an ongoing programme of exhibitions in Baltinglass library. The Hub Collective will bring together people from across the community to imagine themes, select artists and projects, and support creative events throughout the year. The aim is to build a locally-led, sustainable creative space that reflects the identity and imagination of Baltinglass. Deadline for expressions of interest extended to **Friday 23rd January 2026**

WCC Arts office has advertised a Call for Professional Development Needs of Artists Survey for Baltinglass Artists. Creative Places Baltinglass is a community-led five-year project that celebrates people and culture of Baltinglass. It is managed by Wicklow County Arts Office and funded by the Arts Council as part of the national Creative Places programme.

A new series of **professional development workshops for artists** in Baltinglass is being developed, as part of the Creative Places Baltinglass programme. The workshops will support artists to develop their practice, learn new skills, and connect with peers.

**Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme 2026 was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025:** This scheme has been put in place to support Wicklow County Council's role in delivering the Creative Ireland Programme. The fund is open to not-for-profit organisations, local community groups, arts, heritage, biodiversity and cultural groups, venues and societies.

Activities that effectively capture and showcase the richness of County Wicklow's arts, culture, creativity, heritage, nature, biodiversity, and history are welcomed. Applications by individuals must be in partnership with local community, arts, heritage, biodiversity and cultural groups.

Grants up to €3,000 will be allocated to projects that communicate and celebrate aspects of Wicklow People and Place in creative and innovative ways. Total budget €15,000 (5 x €3,000 awards)

Deadline for receipt of applications: Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 4pm online at <https://wicklowcountycouncil.submittable.com/submit>

**New Creative Wicklow Innovation Award 2026 was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025:** This new Award was established to support creatives and organisations in the five Municipal Districts for projects of greater innovation and scale with a broad range of participation sought.

The brand-new Creative Wicklow Innovation Award aims to support ambitious projects which grow the capacity of individuals and communities. This scheme has been put in place to support Wicklow County Council's role in delivering the Creative Ireland Programme.

Wicklow County Council seeks high quality applications featuring novel ways to increase engagement between people, cultural heritage, climate action, biodiversity and creativity.

The fund is open to not-for-profit organisations, local community groups, arts, heritage, biodiversity and cultural groups, venues and societies.

Wicklow County Creative Ireland programme team launched this new award designed especially for larger, more ambitious projects with significant scope and impact within the five different Municipal Districts. Total budget €50,000 (5 x €10,000 awards for each of the Municipal Districts)

Applications must be submitted online at <https://wicklowcountycouncil.submittable.com/submit> by the deadline of **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026, at 4pm**.

**Sing in Wicklow Award 2026 was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025:** The goal of the 'Sing in Wicklow Award' is to support choirs across the county in participating in workshops and competitions, fostering inter-choir collaborations, and facilitating performances, peer learning, networking and member recruitment.

Successful applicants to the 'Sing in Wicklow' Awards Scheme will receive up to €1,000. Total budget €7,000

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

Singing plays a crucial role in building self-confidence, promoting self-esteem, and engaging emotions. It is an innate ability that can improve dramatically with a little guidance and practice, regardless of one's tone. Group singing has numerous well-documented benefits for physical, mental, social, and emotional health and well-being. It allows individuals of all ages and abilities to come together and create something special.

The application for the 'Sing in Wicklow' Award Scheme will close at **4pm on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026**.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

## Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

### Transportation

#### Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (08/12/2025) outstanding stands at **334 – 1.83%** of total stock of 18,255. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we have ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults, and progress has been made to repair long standing faults. A large number of faults also require civil works or infrastructure installations to undertake the repair; a number of these faults have been completed, and others are currently in progress. A total of 276 faults were attended in December, while 259 faults were reported during the month.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Faults Reported - December	40	50	86	58	25	<b>259</b>
Faults Attended - December	29	44	111	62	30	<b>276</b>
No Supply			1			1
Access Issues (Atten)	2	2	8	2	4	18
Cable Fault (Attend)	1		3	4	1	9
Civils	3		7	1	5	16
Council Approval	1			8		9
ESB Notified	21	35	12	8	21	97
ESB Required	5	7	9	1	11	33
On Hold	1	4	39	3	3	50
Submitted	11	22	12	9	7	61
TMR	4	1	5	4	6	20
Tree Cutting Required	1	1	12	5	1	20
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>334</b>
<b>Percentage not working</b>	<b>1.32%</b>	<b>2.65%</b>	<b>2.84%</b>	<b>1.25%</b>	<b>1.35%</b>	<b>1.83%</b>
No. of Lamps	3775	2713	3799	3598	4370	18255
Percentage of Total Lamps	21%	15%	21%	20%	24%	100%

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

The retrofitting of lanterns has commenced in all MDs with c. 1,520 lanterns upgraded to date (19/12/2025).

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

## Transportation Statistics

	Total 2024	Total 2025	Total 2026	November 2025	December 2025
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	1014	1065	78	105	78
<b>Road closure applications</b>	50	56	6	1	6
<b>Road Opening licences</b>	1254	1494	77	104	77
<b>Abnormal Load applications</b>	50	33	2	0	2

## National Roads, Greenways and Projects

### **Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme**

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

### **M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme**

TII approval was received on 18/12/2025 to appoint Technical Consultants to progress the scheme through Phase 3 and 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines. Following the mandatory stand still period the letter of acceptance was issued to the successful tenderer on 16/01/2026. The Phase 3 design work will commence shortly and could take up to two years to complete.

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

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

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

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

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

The primary objective of the scheme is to address recurring safety issues and rat running during peak hours through the village and area of Kilpedder. The scheme aims to eliminate this rat-running through residential areas, enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety, and improve public transport accessibility. The scheme also aims to improve safety on the mainline of the N11.

### **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).

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

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

## **N81 Hollywood Cross to Tallaght Road Improvement Scheme**

The preferred route corridor was published in 2016. No funding has been provided to progress the scheme further.

## **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 (Option Selection) Gate Review Statement was submitted to TII in July 2025 with approval received on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The Preferred Option was published in October 2025 on the project website [www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie](http://www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie). The project team are currently progressing at Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation).

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

The construction contractor was appointed and commenced in July 2025. The current programmed completion date is the end of Feb 2026.

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

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

TII have indicated that they do not support the proposed additional access to the N81. As a result, the option for a parking facility accessed from the N81 has been discounted from the traffic calming scheme. Suitable parking locations, that can be accessed from the regional/local road network, are being investigated.

## **N81 Blessington Gateway Project**

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

## **N81 Baltinglass South Gateway Project**

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) for the proposed scheme on the southern approach to Baltinglass was approved by TII on 22nd October 2025. The tender to procure a Technical Consultant to progress the scheme through to next phases was published in December 2025.

## **N81 Hearn's Cross**

A Feasibility and Options Report will be prepared to support an application to TII for funding for road improvements.

## **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

The Preferred Route for the Arklow Shillelagh Greenway was published as a non-statutory public consultation in December 2025. The Phase 2 Options Study Phase of the project concluded with the confirmation of the preferred

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options to be brought forward to the design and environmental evaluation phase. The Options Study Report and plan drawings of the preferred option are available on the project website. The preferred route option will be further refined and developed into preliminary designs over the coming months. Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Considerations) and Phase 4 (Statutory/Planning Process) are currently out to tender for the appointment of a consultant to progress the scheme through these Phases.

## **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

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

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

Construction work commenced on Section 1 of the Scheme in April 2025. The main footpath, cycle lane and road surfacing works was completed in Section 1 in December 2025 and are fully open to the public. The full road closure for Section 2 is currently in operation. The completion of the full scheme is expected Q2 2026

## **Wicklow Greystones Greenway**

A non-statutory public consultation for the Emerging Preferred Route for the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway is currently underway. The Public Consultation will last for one month starting on 13/01/2026 with two public display events taking place in Greystones and Wicklow during the month. Submissions and observations will be accepted by the public up to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Any updates required following the Public Consultation will be undertaken and reflected in the Options Selection Report submitted to TII for the Phase 2 Options Selection Gateway Review approval. Following this TII approval, this route will advance to Phase 3 for Preliminary Design.

## **Blessington eGreenway**

Wicklow County Council was notified by letter dated 04/12/2024 that An Bord Pleanála has refused permission for the Blessington Greenway. Wicklow County Council has examined the decision by An Bord Pleanála. In consideration of the time and resources that would be necessary to prepare a new and/or revised submission and the uncertainty regarding the potential for a successful outcome, Wicklow County Council is not currently in a position to dedicate resources to the progression of a greenway scheme at this location. Wicklow County Council's priority in the short term is to consider opportunities to progress with shorter locally based trails to extend on the existing routes. These trail schemes can build on and benefit from the work completed to date for the Blessington Greenway. However, these trails would not meet the criteria for TII Greenway Schemes and therefore are unlikely to attract TII funding. Accordingly, any such trails will need to be progressed at Municipal District level.

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

TII instructed Wicklow County Council to issue tender documents for design services for the development of the Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme. The tender process was completed in September 2025, and the contract was awarded on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025. The appointed consultant is advancing the scheme in line with TII requirements.

## **Active Travel Updates**

### **Project Updates**

#### **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. Archaeological Testing completed. Detail design work to continue. Ongoing liaison with Irish Rail on the detail design.

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

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvements along the R750 and Station Road from Abbey Street carpark to Station Road Junction to improve linkage to Wicklow Train Station. Preliminary Design stage completed and approval received from the NTA to move to Statutory Stage. AtkinsRealis appointed as consultants to manage the project through Phases 4-7. Preliminary Design to be reviewed by Atkins and scheme extended to include R750 railway bridge.

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

New footbridges and alterations to the road to make provision for cyclists. Atkins are progressing with the preliminary design phase. An inspection of the existing Fran O'Toole bridge structure has been carried out, and procurement has commenced for the required topographical and traffic surveys. Atkins are also progressing with an Options Assessment Report for the proposed bridge structures.

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

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. Atkins Realis are progressing with the options selection phase. The Architectural and Heritage impact assessment has been completed. A draft Options Assessment Report has been completed and has been issued to WCC/NTA for review.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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## Convent Road Active Travel Scheme (Greystones MD)

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on Convent Road, Delgany. The Options Assessment Phase has been concluded. A presentation was provided to GMD Elected Members at the December meeting – approval was received to progress the preferred option through the Part 8 process. EGIS are currently finalising the Part 8 deliverables along with the relevant Road Safety and Quality Audits. It is planned to advertise the Part 8 in February.



**Convent Road 3D Visualisation**

## Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme (Greystones MD)

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on the R761 Kindlestown Lower Road, with new Public Lighting, and Public Realm improvements in Killincarrig Village. The Detailed Design phase is ongoing. Construction works are scheduled to commence when the Chapel Road Scheme has been completed. Expected start date is Q3 2026.

## Blessington Main Street to Deerpark

The preferred option has been submitted to the NTA for comment. WCC and NTA met to review preliminary design. NTA comments have been noted and under review with the consultant

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

The provision of new and improved pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure along Church Road, Delgany. The Scheme is at Phase 5 – Detailed Design and Procurement. It is planned to complete the Detailed Design and Procurement Phase in 2026, and progress to the Construction Phase in 2027.

## 2025 Budget Allocation –

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

- **SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara HSRR\*, Brittas Bay.**  
The school zone (NTA Project) is now being progressed with the Brittas footpath project. Consultant appointed. An Taisce have circulated the delivery plan to the school. The project will be divided into two phases. Phase 1 from the junction of the L5108 to past the school and will include the school zone works under Section 38. Preparation of the preliminary design and cost estimate for review and approvals is progressing. Section 38 planned to be advertised in February.
- **SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird**  
Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Meeting with School and District Engineer took place in March. Traffic Count and Speed Surveys have been completed. An Taisce delivery plan prepared. Stakeholder meeting held with school on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025. Further meeting to be scheduled once revised outline delivery plan has been issued.

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- **Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry**

Provision of footpath along Scalp Road, Enniskerry. Topographical survey is complete. Consultant to be appointed to carry out feasibility study.

- **Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely**

Provision of a new Zebra/Controlled Crossing and upgraded footpath to link Kilcommon National School to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. Works extended to include two additional pedestrian crossing on School Road Section 38 consultation completed. Construction works ongoing.

- **Kiltegan Road Pedestrian Crossing, Baltinglass**

Provision of a new Zebra Pedestrian Crossing and footpath extension at Baltinglass GAA Club Grounds to link to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. Gateway 5 approval received from NTA and construction work has commenced.

- **Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Arklow**

Construction of 150m footpath and pedestrian crossing linking to the GAA Club. Topographic survey completed. Gateway 5 approval received from NTA, WCC to prepare design for extension of footpath works. Construction works have commenced.

The following project proposals were submitted and approved in Q3 of 2025 –

- **Redford Park Junction, Greystones**

Redford Park Junction upgrade to provide improved pedestrian and cycle facilities. Inception meeting held with consultant. NTA have reviewed design updates and approved scope change to extend scheme footprint to include extra junction. Design works ongoing.

- **Bus Priority Little Bray**

Consultant review of options assessment completed. Meeting held with the NTA and stakeholders. Meeting also held with WCC planning dept and developers for Fassaroe to review BETS and Upper Dargle Rd status.

- **Bus Enhancement Scheme**

Upgrade works have begun at locations in two Municipal Districts.

The following project proposals were submitted and approved in Q4 of 2025 –

- **Wicklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**

Pedestrian crossings to be installed at 4 locations.

- **Arklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**

Pedestrian crossings to be installed at 4 locations. Construction ongoing in Avoca and Rathdrum.

- **Greystones MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**

Pedestrian crossing to be installed in Kilcoole. Construction works commenced.

We hope to receive our budget allocations for 2026 at the end of January.

## **Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)**

Works completed at Kelsha and Randlestown Bridges.

Work commenced at Knockanree Bridge with 2 more nearby planned.

## **Winter Maintenance**

The season continues. Between 15/12 and 20/01, over 37 nights there were 27 callouts.

14 single runs, including Christmas night.

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13 double runs, including New Years night

Also, a run of 18 consecutive nights, with 8 consecutive nights of double runs.

Many thanks to all the staff involved around this time.

2 new trucks have arrived. Trucks 3 and 4 are due for delivery in the coming weeks.

## **Machinery Yard**

The majority of the framework Circle K cards have been distributed and usage has commenced.

Truck 2 of 4 was delivered in December. 2 more are awaiting delivery in the coming weeks.

Procurement for Machinery Yard plant and vehicles related to surface dressing

and winter maintenance has commenced.

## **Parking Income**

\*January to December 2025\*

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	1,053,350.48
Greystones Municipal District	358,243.66
Wicklow Municipal District	496,239.57
Arklow Municipal District	277,537.61
Parking Permits	117,015.33
Parking Fines	656,508.30
<b>Wicklow County Council Total</b>	<b>2,958,894.95</b>

## Infrastructure Delivery

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

#### **Aldborough Manor Baltinglass - 11 Houses**

- All sales closed as at 31/03/2025

#### **Murrough View Greenhill Road – 36 Houses**

- All sales closed as at 30/06/2025

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

- All sales closed - 34 houses, 10 apartments as at 30/07/2025

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

4 two bedroomed houses at Mariner's Point, Wicklow will be advertised in January 2026.

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26 Affordable houses at Lott Lane have been approved and are due to be launched Summer 2026.

An application has been submitted to the AHF for 9 houses at Rockbrae, Bray and 4 houses at Market Close, Dunlavin. Awaiting approval.

## Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Ballard, Shillelagh	20	Completed and allocated
Merrymeeting, Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completed, allocation in progress
Lugduff, Tinahely	20	Completed, allocation in progress
5A Rednagh Road, Aughrim	1	Completed, allocation in progress
Scheme on Site	Units	Current Status
Fassaroe, Bray	11	Contractor on site.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor on site.
1A Mill Road, Greystones	3	Completion expected Q1 2026
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Contractor on site.
Ballinahinch, Ashford	19	Contractor on site.
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Burgage More, Blessington PPP	106	On hold due to Minister's decision
Rehills, Bray Phase 1	140	Options being considered
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Stage 2 funding approved
Carrig Eden Tiglin	14	Preliminary Design Stage
Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	16	Stage 1 approved.
Burnaby, Greystones PPP	262	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Tinahask, Arklow	74	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Tinahask PPP, Arklow	128	PPP Bundle 6 continuing
Sheephouse, Arklow	48	Design Stage
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Design team being appointed
Hawkstown Park Phase 2, Wicklow Design & Build	54	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	20	Part 8 approved Oct 25
18 Old Conna, Bray	3	Part 8 approved Dec 25

## Traveller accommodation

## Capital Programme

Ballinteskin – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Part 8 approved Oct 25
Vale Road Arklow – 2 Units	Part 8 permission expected July

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

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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 comply with our Energy Fabric Upgrade Policy that went through SPC in 2023. In 2024 we took on a second contractor from our framework to cover the Arklow, Tinahely Area. Work has been completed on 110 units by the end of the year. Monastery Grove Was Nominated for LAMA award 2024.

## **Part V**

The following Part V units are due during 2025:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivered Q1 2025	CALF
Bray	3	Delivered Q4 2025	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q2 2026	CALF
Delgany	2	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Rathnew	36	32 Delivered Q2 to Q3 2025, remainder delivered Q4 2025	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Rathnew	3	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q2 2026	WCC
Baltinglass	9	2 delivered Q4 2025, remainder due Q1 to Q2 2026	WCC
Delgany	10	6 Delivered Q2, 1 delivered Q4 2025, 3 due 2026	WCC
Bray	3	Delivered Q4 2025	CALF
Roundwood	2	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Delgany	2	Delivered Q4 2025	WCC
Dunlavin	18	4 delivered Q4 2025. Remainder due Q4 2025 to Q2 2026	WCC
Wicklow	11	4 delivered Q3 2025. 7 due Q1 2026. 4 to be sold under the Affordable Housing Scheme.	WCC
Tinahely	2	2 Delivered Q4 2025	WCC
Roundwood	2	Delivered Q4 2025	CALF
Rathdrum	14	7 Delivered Q4 2025. Remainder due Q1 2026	CALF
Rathnew	15	Delivery due Q1 2026	CALF
Wicklow	13	Delivery due Q1 2026	CALF

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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	Delivered Q1 2025	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	56	Delivered Q2 2025	CALF
Newcastle	11	Delivery due Q2 2026	CALF
Baltinglass	12	2 delivered Q3 2025. Remainder due Q1 2026	CALF
Rathnew	1	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Arklow	3	Delivered Q1 2025	WCC
Baltinglass	2	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Roundwood	4	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Rathnew	1	1 Delivered Q2. No longer proceeding with remaining 4 units	WCC
Kilcoole	5	Delivered Q4 2025	WCC
Arklow	2	Delivery due Q1 2026	WCC
Rathdrum	4	1 delivered Q4 2025. Remainder due Q1 2026	CALF
Rathnew	4	Delivered Q4 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 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Closing date was 25<sup>th</sup> July.

## Vacant Homes Scheme

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

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

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

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

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

There are 2 types of Grants available:

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

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

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

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

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

Number of Applications to date	284
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants to date	21
Applications Approved in Principle to date	141
Number of Applications paid to date	66
Value of 66 Grants paid out to date	€3,609,280.50
Applications withdrawn/Rejected to date	56

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## Emergency Response

### Fire Services

There were **91 incidents** attended during the month of December 2025. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **131 occasions** including **11 mobilisations** in other counties. On one occasion an incident commander requested additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance. On 19<sup>th</sup> December the Incident Commander requested an additional crew to a shed fire in Arklow.

Operational activity for the month of December 2025 **decreased by 19% (-30 mobilisations)** on the preceding month **November 2025 (161 mobilisations)**.

Storm Bram brought strong winds and heavy rain on 8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> December. In addition, low temperatures during the month created difficult driving conditions. There was however a decrease in mobilisations to RTCs (-18 mobilisations) which represents 26% of overall activity for the month.

- Alarm Activations (21 incidents) represented 16% of all activity in the county for the month of December; it represented 25% of all activity in both Bray and Greystones stations.
- Ambulance Assists (10 incidents) represented 8% of activity in the county in December and are generally evenly geographically spread.
- Incidents in other counties (Kildare, and Wexford) amounted to 11 incidents or 8% of overall activity in the month.
- RTC incidents where two stations are alerted to each incident amounted to 34 mobilisations or 26% of overall activity.

Operational activity for the month of December 2025 **decreased by 11% (-16 mobilisations)** on the equivalent month **in 2024** (December 2024, 147 mobilisations).

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

- 04/12/2025 Blessington crew attended a car fire at Bishopsland, Ballymore Eustace.
- 12/12/2025 Baltinglass crew supported crews from Carlow Town at a 3-vehicle RTC at Gortenvacan on the Kildare / Carlow border.
- 18/12/2025 Baltinglass crew supported crews from Carlow Town at a single vehicle RTC, car in ditch, near Castledermot.
- 22/12/2025 Blessington crew supported crews from Naas at a single vehicle RTC, car in field, at Arthurstown, Kill.

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## Incidents in County Wexford (4-incidents total, examples below):

- 05/12/2025 Arklow and Rathdrum crews supported crews from Gorey at a domestic fire in apartments above shops in Coolgreany.
- 14/12/2025 Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey at a single car RTC, vehicle on side, at Ballyellin, Inch.
- 21/12/2025 Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey at a single car RTC, vehicle with 4 occupants hit wall, at Hollyfort.
- 31/12/2025 Arklow crew attended an ambulance assist call at Castletown.

## **Training / Activity in December 2025**

- 10 Students completed a 5-day Compartment Fire Behaviour Initial Training in Hacketstown.
- One student completed a 10-day Breathing Apparatus Initial training course in Tullamore.
- Four existing drivers underwent recertification to the “Emergency Services Driving Standard”.
- Baltinglass Fire Crew arranged a road safety demonstration for secondary school students in conjunction with local Gardaí.
- A meeting of Station Officers took place in Wicklow Town (11/12/2025).
  - Training and equipment were provided in relation to Electric Vehicles and Alternatively Fuelled Vehicles (SOG 4.07).
  - Training was provided in relation to Fighting Fires in Tall Buildings (SOG 3.02).
  - A new draft Communications Policy was presented.
  - A demonstration of the new water tanker from Rathdrum / Greystones was provided.
- A meeting of Sub Station Officers took place in Wicklow Town (17/12/2025) with a similar agenda to the Station Officers' meeting.

## Fire Prevention Statistics November 2025

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

<b>Application type</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn</b>	<b>Requested additional information</b>	<b>Inspections</b>	<b>Recommended for Grant</b>
FSCs	22	0	19	0	13
Revised FSCs	1	0	0	0	0
FSC 7-Day Notice	2	0	0	0	2
Regularisation FSCs	0	0	8	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Application type</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn</b>	<b>Requested additional information</b>	<b>Inspections</b>	<b>Recommended for Grant</b>
DACs	17	0	11	0	9
Revised DACs	0	0	0	0	0

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Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>

24 planning files were referred to the Chief Fire Officer for comment. Observations were made on 20 files received.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	0	0	0	0	0
Circuit	0	2	0	5	5
Dangerous Substances Act	0	0	0	0	0
Explosive Act	0	0	0	0	0

## Building Control Statistics December 2025

### Commencement Notices for December 2025:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 26

- 8 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 9 Opt Out Declarations
- 8 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 1 Seven Day Notice

### Submission Statistics

- 34 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 42 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 11 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which

5 with Compliance Documentation (45%)

5 are Opt Out (45%)

0 Without Compliance Documentation (0%)

1 Seven Day Notice (10%)

- 22 Valid Commencement Notices
- 37 new build residential units
- 8 domestic extensions
- 2 Non Res new builds
- 4 Invalidated CNs from December

### Certificates of Completion processed in December 2025

- 17 New No. of CCC submitted

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- 14 Required Revised Information (82%)
- 21 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 21 new Residential units & 3 Apartments
- 8 Non Res. Builds

## **Submission Statistics**

21 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 14 No. CCCs submitted in December
- 7 No. CCCs submitted in November

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

37 new residential houses, 8 residential extensions and 2 Non-res buildings were notified to LA for Commencement & 21 newly residential units with an additional 3 apartments & 8 non-residential units were for completion submitted, assessed and validated in December. 4 No. Commencement Notice submissions were invalidated this month, this is due to a joint direction by both NBCO & Dept of HLGH to LA's. Commencement Notice data extracted from BCMS is being used in the National Action Plan on Housing Supply. If Revised Information request has not been responded to by the Commencement Date, submissions are to be invalidated, so BCMS real time statistics can be extracted.

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

Building Control continued with multiple site inspections in December to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 6 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests remained high in December for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 42% of Commencement Notice submissions & 82% 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.

Wicklow Building Control continues to perform standardised assessment of submissions at commencement stage and onsite presence during construction. These methods remain the best way to promote compliance with Building Regs.

In December, Building Control staff attended the Quarterly Regional Building Control meeting in DLR and a Building Control CPD online Day event run by NBCO in Trim. NBCO closed BCMS closed for all Submissions on the 19<sup>th</sup> December & it reopened on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026.

## **Civil Defence**

As we come to the end of another year for Civil Defence, and particularly in this 75th anniversary year, we took a moment to reflect on what our volunteers have achieved. A sincere thank you to all our volunteers for another year of dedication and commitment to their community.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

We have 91 duties/tasking's (4714 volunteer hours) recorded for 2025, and this is just the duties/tasking's. In addition, 62 training days/ courses on top of duties have a significant amount of hours committed also. That is something we are very proud of.

## Tasking's 2025

Search and Rescue – 18

Community Assistance – 52

Medical Response – 3

Emergency Response – 15

National Events - 2



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026



## Top Line Data

Totals per Municipal District (in Department run emergency accommodation only)			
MD	IPAS	Ukrainian Response	Total
Arklow	34	17	51
Baltinglass	667	37	704
Bray	195	553	748
Greystones	0	110	110
Wicklow	355	90	445
Total	1,251	807	2058

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	9
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1,251
Of which are children	379

IPAS Totals per MD	
Arklow	34
Baltinglass	667
Bray	195
Greystones	0
Wicklow	355

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2025	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	118
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	889
Total number of sessions with single adults	459
Total number of sessions with couples	39
Total number of sessions with families	322

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

## LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for December

<b>Basic Clinic Data</b>	
No. of clinics	8
No. of Individuals	8
No. of Couples	0
No. of Families	19
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	3
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	7
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	10
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	5
No. of International Protection Applicants	25
No. Persons with Status	2
No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	10

## Integration Supports – Key Enablers

<b>In Session Support</b>	<b>Incidence</b>
Accommodation	2
Community/Family	4
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	7
Employment/Enterprise	7
Events	0
Finance/Welfare	3
Health/Wellbeing	4
Language/Communication	2
Legal/Justice/Civic	11
Transportation	3
Miscellaneous	2

<b>Follow up Support</b>	<b>Incidence</b>
Accommodation	0
Community/Family	0
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	0
Employment/Enterprise	0
Events	0
Finance/Welfare	0

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

Health/Wellbeing	0
Language/Communication	0
Legal/Justice/Civic	0
Transportation	0
Miscellaneous	0

Overall Support December	
Emails sent for Clinic work	29
Emails Received	125
Emails Sent	137
Contacts with stakeholders	22
Referrals	10

## Ukrainian Response

As of the end of December 2025, there are **807** Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the county.

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

- Arklow MD: **17**
- Baltinglass MD: **37**
- Bray MD: **553**
- Greystones MD: **110**
- Wicklow MD: **90**

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

BOTP Centre information	
Current number of BOTP centres in County Wicklow	14
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	807
Of which are children	203

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

## Organisational Development

### Recruitment

The following interviews were held in December 2025:

- Executive Engineer Interviews
- Administration Officer Final Interviews
- Architectural Conservation Officer Interviews

### Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
Managerial/Administrative	343	356	365	361
Professional/Technical	147	150	144	146
Outdoor	250	246	245	238
Temporary/Seasonal	66	95	96	58
Non DoHPLG	2	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>805</b>

\* Decrease in Temp/Seasonal category due to end dating of Lifeguard appointments.

### Freedom of Information

December 2025: 12	December 2024: 1
January –December 2025: 123	January - December 2024: 118

### Ombudsman Requests

December 2025: 1	December 2024: 3
January – December 2025: 31	January – December 2024: 23

### Press Releases

December 2025 – 16

### Register of Electors

As part of the move to a National Register of Electors Database, data quality work continues on the Register and online applications via [www.checktherregister.ie](http://www.checktherregister.ie) continue to be received and processed. Applications that were parked due to their minor nature such as updating contact details etc. have now been followed up and completed.

Phase 1 of the testing of the new National Database is now complete with sign off in mid-December 2025, Phase 2 of this works is 95% complete with a minor adjustments to be made on the developer's side to reach final completion and Phase 3 of the testing will commence before the end of January 2026. Wicklow is one of three local authorities

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

selected to carry out this testing and troubleshooting on the developer's behalf before it is rolled out to all local authorities as part of a phased programme of works.

## Customer Hub

<b>Customer Service Innovation Hub</b>			
<b>2025 – December</b>			
<b>Communication Channels</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Public Counters</b>	<b>No.</b>
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	5,857	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,359
No. of Customer Service Emails received	2,076	Revenue Transactions	1,233
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	69	Housing Counter Visits	n/a

## Energy Office

ISO 50001 - is an international standard for establishing, implementing, maintaining, and improving an energy management system. Wicklow County Council achieved certification in September 2024. In order to maintain the system an annual surveillance audit is required. Wicklow County Council appointed NSAI as external auditors to carry out the annual surveillance audit on Wicklow County Council's ISO 50001 energy management systems. The auditor did not identify any non-conformances and recommended continued certification to ISO 50001 for 2025/2026.

Projects Completed in 2024/2025;

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

Ongoing energy monitoring and verification of projects completed in 2025 to verify energy savings.

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

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

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

SEAI Pathfinder Funding 2025

- Arklow MD / Library (Part removal of gas boiler, ASHP, PV solar panels)

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

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

Other ongoing projects

District Heating Feasibility Study – Arklow Decarbonised Zone

## Mid-East Energy Unit

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

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

## Finance, Water & Information Systems

### Finance

#### Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	62,603,446	56,316,634	111%	(65,815,221)	(59,446,038)	111%	(3,211,775)
Road Transport & Safety	30,275,228	26,329,169	115%	(22,970,201)	(18,925,016)	121%	7,305,027
Water Services	4,114,863	4,633,084	89%	(5,256,512)	(5,554,021)	95%	(1,141,649)
Development Management	16,869,552	16,414,646	103%	(9,124,145)	(9,859,576)	93%	7,745,407
Environmental Services	19,132,711	17,038,883	112%	(5,383,751)	(5,011,509)	107%	13,748,960
Recreation and Amenity	10,136,626	10,003,906	101%	(1,515,055)	(1,151,712)	132%	8,621,571
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,172,913	2,393,346	91%	(800,834)	(1,103,228)	73%	1,372,079
Miscellaneous Services	8,944,153	9,487,115	94%	(15,785,584)	(16,490,485)	96%	(6,841,431)
Central Management Charges	25,588,753	25,473,897	100%	(1,047,328)	(1,050,000)	100%	24,541,425
Local Government Fund				(17,200,469)	(17,200,469)	100%	(17,200,469)
Commercial Rates				(32,979,018)	(32,448,626)	102%	(32,979,018)
	<b>179,838,245</b>	<b>168,090,680</b>	<b>107.0%</b>	<b>(177,878,119)</b>	<b>(168,240,680)</b>	<b>105.7%</b>	<b>1,960,126</b>

Note: The above figures do not represent the final accounts as year-end adjustments will be made as part of the 2025 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) process.

#### Cashflow/Overdraft

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

#### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2025	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/12/2025
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,210,356	75,439,440	(72,874,628)	(534,750)	14,240,417
Road Transport & Safety	(36,985,832)	20,482,817	(13,625,410)	(247,852)	(30,376,278)
Water Services	(6,760,795)	1,244,977	(658,694)	(135,000)	(6,309,512)
Development Management	(58,018,087)	12,937,083	(11,526,004)	(480,316)	(57,087,324)
Environmental Services	4,260,881	7,481,562	(10,235,652)	(953,842)	552,949
Recreation and Amenity	1,466,601	4,519,935	(2,370,497)	(594,910)	3,021,129
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,069,769)	947,705	(443,194)	(355,048)	(1,920,306)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,918,102)	3,709,639	(863,503)	2,747,873	(5,324,092)
	<b>(96,814,747)</b>	<b>126,763,158</b>	<b>(112,597,583)</b>	<b>(553,845)</b>	<b>(83,203,017)</b>

Note: The above figures do not represent the final accounts as year-end adjustments will be made as part of the 2025 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) process.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2025	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/12/2025	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,064,245	32,979,087	15,558	317,756	121,396	35,588,622	31,863,548	3,725,074	642,169	91%
Rents & Annuities	3,310,655	18,795,172	-	49,718	-	22,056,110	19,292,650	2,763,459	-	87%
Housing Loans	513,181	2,458,207	-	7,476	-	2,978,864	2,515,458	5,494,322	-	85%

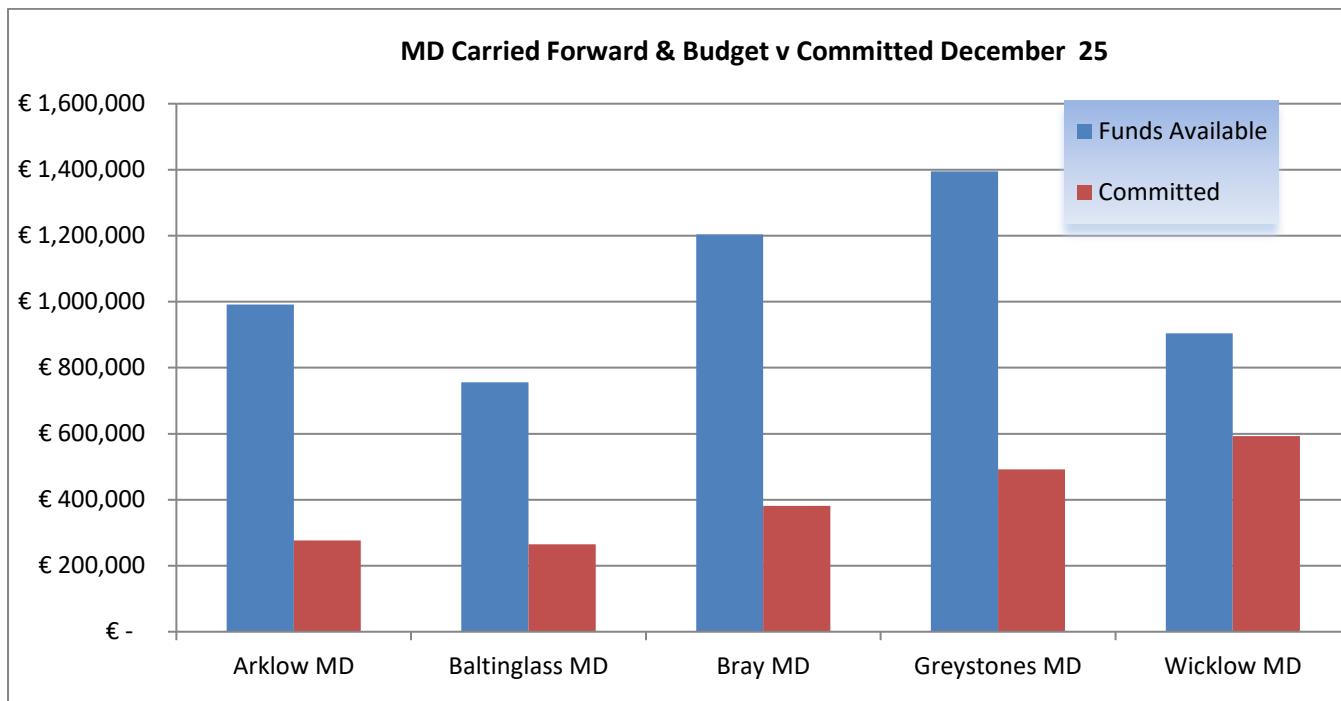
Note: The above figures do not represent the final collection rates as year-end adjustments will be made as part of the 2025 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) process.

## General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2025

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

Municipal District	C/F from 2024	Adopted Budget 2025	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	399,545	591,804	991,349	276,804	714,545
Baltinglass MD	228,948	527,124	756,072	264,992	491,081
Bray MD	512,742	691,048	1,203,790	381,722	822,068
Greystones MD	873,886	521,458	1,395,344	491,978	903,366
Wicklow MD	374,922	529,443	904,365	592,582	311,783
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,390,042</b>	<b>2,860,877</b>	<b>5,250,920</b>	<b>2,008,076</b>	<b>3,242,843</b>

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026



## Capital Investment Programme 2025-2027

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

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

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

## Capital Funded Projects

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

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

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 Ballinabunshogue	€28,000	€2,800
ORIS 2022 M1	Red Kite Loop Play Area	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	West Wicklow Access Points	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Wicklow Uplands Airlift	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Aughrim Heritage Access to Stoneworks	€30,000	€3,000
ORIS 2022 M1	Devil's Glen river Walk Extension	€30,000	€3,000
ORIS 2022 M1	Oakwood Ballinagee Trail Upgrade	€30,000	€3,000
ORIS 2022 M2	Blessington Greenway Link to Russborough	€198,200	€19,820
ORIS 2022 M2	Glenmalure Riverside Walk & Recreation Area	€133,100	€13,310
ORIS 2022 M2	Coolkenno Equestrian Trail	€220,000	€22,000
ORIS 2022 M3	Roundwood Recreation Area	€550,000	€55,000
<b>Total to date</b>		<b>€63,955,710</b>	<b>€13,910,951</b>

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

## 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

### 1. Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) Mapping

Significant progress has been made on the preparation of the Residential Zoned Land Tax maps for 2026 and 2027. Updated mapping now reflects feedback from the Department and includes additional areas such as Arklow Town and Environs for the first time. All residential and mixed-use lands have been carefully reviewed to ensure accuracy and consistency. This work supports national housing policy and provides greater clarity for landowners and the public.

### 2. Public Planning Portals and Engagement

Several public-facing planning portals were enhanced to improve accessibility and ease of use. The “Call for Sites” and Variation No. 6 consultation portals allowed members of the public to view information online and make submissions in a clear and transparent way. These digital tools continue to support open and inclusive planning processes.

### 3. Interactive Mapping and Online Services

New and improved interactive web maps were developed to support both public access and internal decision-making. These include planning, environmental and land-use viewers that allow users to explore locations alongside key constraints such as flood risk, heritage and zoning.

### 4. Environmental and Biodiversity Supports

GIS data and mapping were provided to support a range of environmental initiatives across the county. This included protected area mapping for the Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan and spatial data for the Grey Squirrel Eradication Programme. These datasets help inform evidence-based environmental management and conservation efforts. The work supports national biodiversity objectives at a local level.

### 5. Derelict Sites and Land Management

Work commenced on identifying lands under the Derelict Sites Act in line with statutory requirements. Updated datasets are being prepared to support local and national reporting, including a proposed aggregated national derelict sites database. This work strengthens oversight of underutilised land and supports regeneration objectives..

### 6. Support to Infrastructure and Public Services

Mapping and data support were provided for a range of infrastructure and public service needs, including fire hydrant planning, gas network updates, harbour CCTV locations and port signage. Accurate spatial data helps ensure services are delivered efficiently and safely.

## Infrastructure

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