

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Contents

Social Development	4
Housing	4
Community	15
Planning, Economic & Rural Development	23
Planning	23
Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity	42
Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery	67
Transportation	67
Infrastructure Delivery	75
Emergency Response	79
Organisational Development	87
Finance, Water & Information Systems	90
Finance	90
Information Systems	95

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

This month:

OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME (ORIS) PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

Wicklow County Council is pleased to announce that as part of this funding, €306,750 will be allocated to Wicklow for new and upgrading outdoor recreation projects across the County.

This investment, under the ORIS scheme, will be crucial for enhancing Ireland's mountain trails, forest walks, cycleways and outdoor swimming amenities.

The funding announced today is in respect to Measure 1 (small-scale repair and development of recreational infrastructure) and the Project Development Measure of the Scheme. Further announcements regarding Measures 2 and 3 will be made in the coming months.

Five projects, totalling €207,300, have been approved for Wicklow County Council to implement throughout the County, including one Project Development Measure and four Measure 1 projects:

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

Additionally, three further Measure 1 projects have been approved for County Wicklow Partnership, amounting to €99,450.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES 95% FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING

Wicklow County Council's popular Annual Tree Planting Grant Scheme is now accepting applications, offering enhanced funding of up to 95% of project costs. This initiative aims to support local biodiversity and climate action projects. Community groups have until Sunday, 28th September to apply.

The scheme provides financial support for Tidy Towns committees, residents associations, schools, sports clubs and other community groups to plant native trees, mixed native hedgerows and suitable fruit trees in public spaces. This year, applicants can receive up to €500, which covers nearly the entire cost of their planting projects.

The initiative aims to increase tree cover and hedgerows in Wicklow's towns and villages, aligning with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and contributing to the Council's Climate and Biodiversity Action Plans. The late autumn and winter months are ideal for planting, as it allows trees to establish strong roots before spring growth.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Social Development

Housing

	August 2025	July 2024
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	89	104
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1353	1378
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	20
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	19	22

Allocation of Social Housing

	August 2025	July 2024
Wicklow County Council	27	12
Approved Housing Bodies	23	2

Social Housing Applications

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

Social Housing Stock

	August 2025	July 2024
Tenancies Occupied	5105	4964
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€348,275.88	€332,818.29
Arrears (Including Bray)	€3,120,781.39	€3,281,235.27

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 31/7/2025
Arklow	932
Ashford	392
Aughrim	40
Avoca	38
Ballinaclesh	8
Ballyconnell	4
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	127
Barndarrig	11
Blessington	265
Bray 1	36
Bray north	475
Bray south	405
Bray town centre	197
Brittas bay	1
Carnew	70
Conary	3
Coolboy	4
Delgany	217
Donard	14
Dunlavin	29
Enniskerry	51
Glenealy	13
Greystones	308
Kilcoole	51
Kilmacanogue	9
Kiltegan	5
Kirikee	2
Knockananna	3
Lacken	1
Laragh	14
Newcastle	9
Newtownmountkennedy	58
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	60
Rathnew	114
Redcross	2
Roundwood	32

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Shillelagh	21
Stratford-on-slaney	3
Thomastown	8
Tinahely	26
Wicklow	231
Wicklow town	22
Grand total	4314

Housing Allocations June & July 2025

Wicklow County Council successfully allocated over 90 new social homes in June. Many of these new homes became available with the completion of three new estates: Doire Dubh in Tinahely, Cois Droichid in Greystones and Tinakilly Park in Rathnew. The three new estates consists of 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom and 3 bedroom homes, all of which have an 'A' BER rating and are finished to a high standard.

The three bed units in Tinakilly Park were allocated by Choice Based Letting. The Choice Based Letting is a system which enables Wicklow County Council to allocate some of its' social housing units, to approved social housing applicants by the way of an express of interest. There were 36 social housing applicants who expressed their interest in this three bed units.

This CBL has also utilised for a development of 56 apartments in Altidore Gardens, NewtownmountKennedy. These two and three bed apartments will be managed by the Approved Housing Body, Co-operative Housing Ireland (CHI).

A total of 75 social housing applicants expressed their interest in these units. The allocation of these units to the successful social housing applicants in Altidore Gardens is nearing completion.

Rent

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

Housing Needs Assessment 2024 (SSHA 2024)

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

The following actions were taken to complete the HNA 2024:

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

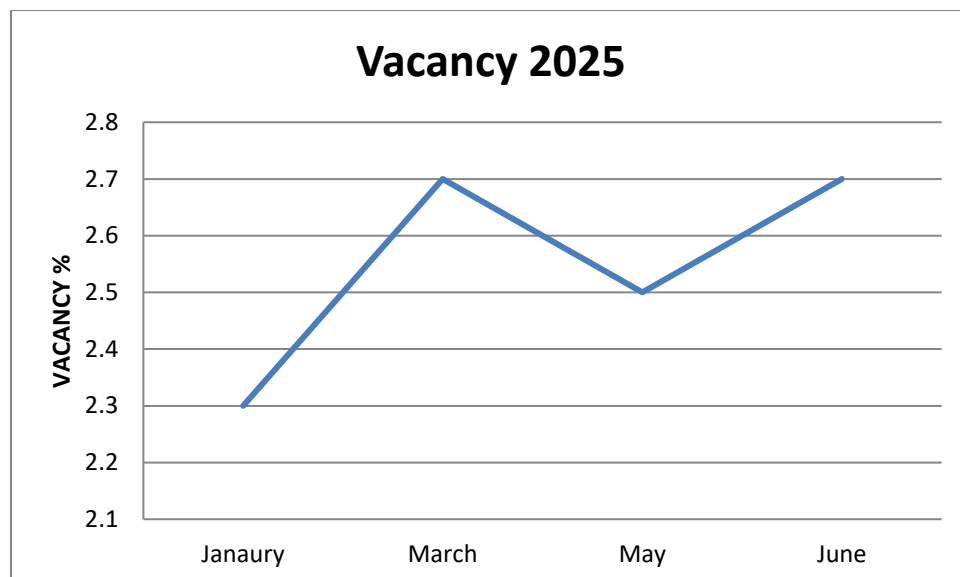
Re-Lets / Voids

MD	Completed in 2025	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	7 (+2)	6 (0)	8 (+3)	10 (+3)	18(-2)
Baltinglass	6 (+1)	5 (-2)	9 (-3)	14(+2)	28 (0)
Bray	23 (+0)	5 (+3)	8 (+3)	10(-8)	25(-21)
Greystones	6 (+3)	9 (+5)	4 (-1)	5 (-1)	15(+2)
Wicklow	15 (+7)	9(-5)	21 (+12)	8(+1)	38 (+7)
2025 Totals	61(+4)	33 (0)	50 (+9)	47(-3)	115 (-21)
2024 Totals	110				
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)	2.5 (+0.2)	Figures in brackets indicate change on last month			

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



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

Core Capital Programme

i. Traveller Accommodation

Scheme	Current Status
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date June/July 2025
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Three group housing schemes. Part 8 out at public display. Expect closeout. October
Vale Road, Arklow	Part 8 completed

ii. Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

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

iii. Energy Retrofit Program

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

EERP	Numbers carried out as of July 2025
Houses retrofit	65



Energy Retrofit works completed at Seamount Drive Kilcoole 2025.

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 July
Targeted and complaint inspections	236

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

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

Prohibition Notices are published on the Council's website and there are currently 6 such notices (the oldest dates back to 2020). Note that in the case of properties subject of HAP, service of a Prohibition Notice

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

results in the HAP payment being stopped as per Section 41(2) (d) (i) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 and this happens within a maximum of 13 weeks.

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

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

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

Assessment criteria

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

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

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

Areas of delivery below:

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

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

Budget Spend

	2025 Budget	Amount Spent as of August 2025
Grant Funding for Private Housing	3,512,851	1,749,522
Grant Funding for Social Housing	1,280,884	965, +05.24

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Grants Received/Processed	216	266	327	281	456	769	253

Local Authority Home Loans up to August 2025

Received	Approved in Principle
30	5

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To Date	July 2025
Applications Received	475	3
Completed	123	2
Declined	280	0
Ongoing	15	15

Housing Acquisitions

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

	Vacant	Tenant In Situ (TIS)	In Progress	TOTAL
2024	6	6	5	17
2025 (to 30 th July)	2	5	1	8



(22 Marian Villas, Arklow – sale closed 26th May 2025)

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

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

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

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

Homeless Services - Homeless Figures for July 2025

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/07/2025	Year To Date	As at 31/07/2024
No of New Presentations	14	152	38
No. of Repeat Presentations	5	32	1
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	6	55	11
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	15	154	33
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	4	12	5
No. of Children	10	110	18
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	3	30	5
Family Circumstances	5	50	13
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	2	10	2
Mental Health	1	4	1
Risk of Homelessness	12	119	21
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	0	2
Addiction Issues	1	11	8
DV/DA	1	7	3
Medical Issues	1	3	0
Overcrowding	4	18	9
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	0	4	5
ASB:	0	0	2
Rough Sleeping*	4	13	6
Sofa Surfing*	1	17	0
Staying with Family*	0	26	9
Staying with Friends*	2	19	3

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/07/25	
Families	16
Adults	28
Children	41
Single individual	13

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/06/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	24	28	24	8	6	3	0	8
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/06/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	24	28	26	8	3	3	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, 652 households (454 families & 197 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 31st August, 2025. (253 homeless cases, 362 prevention cases to date and 37 direct provision). 165 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

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

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.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

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

Housing First

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

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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 18 clients under Housing First. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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.

Community

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

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

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

County Wicklow has received €199,044 as part of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025.

The allocation is broken down as follows:

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

The successful projects under the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025 have been announced by Ministers Jerry Buttimer TD and Minister Dara Calleary TD. The list of projects can be viewed [here](#).

CAPITAL GRANTS:

The number of Capital Grants paid to date is 159 payments to the value of €151,259.00.

There are currently 22 grants to be paid (Wicklow County Council are awaiting outstanding documents from these applicants).

CURRENT GRANTS:

The number of Current Grants paid to date is 121 payments to the value of €24,800.00.

There are currently 13 grants to be paid (Wicklow County Council are awaiting outstanding documents from these applicants).

Community Awards Scheme 2025

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

The fund for 2025 will be available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area.

The number of Community Award Grants paid to date is 203 payments to the value of €70,575.00

There are currently 12 grants to be paid (Wicklow County Council are awaiting outstanding documents from these applicants).

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

The Community Recognition Fund 2024 aims to support the development of facilities and infrastructure that benefit entire communities, in recognition of their contributions toward welcoming new arrivals to cities, towns, and villages across the country in recent years.

In 2024, County Wicklow received funding for seven community projects in the first phase of funding. A further eleven projects received funding in the final phase of funding in 2025 including the two projects below being the final projects to be approved for funding in July 2025 bringing the total funding to €1,584,550:

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



County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

[County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-27](#)

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

Healthy Age Friendly Homes (HAFH) Programme is a support coordination programme that aims to enable older people to age in place and reduce the need to transfer to long-term residential care. The Programme is a collaboration between the Department of Health and the Department of Housing and Local Government. It is funded by the Department of Health and operated by Meath County Council, on behalf of all Local Authorities.

The service is designed to enable older people to remain living in their own home for longer. The local coordinator undertakes home visits to older people living in the community, where a needs assessment is carried out, looking at four key areas of supports: housing, health, community/social supports, and technology. Home visits from the local co-ordinator are available to anyone aged 65+ years. The rollout of the programme will commence in January 2024.

Meanwhile referrals for the service can be registered with National Office at 046 924 8899 or via email: healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie

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

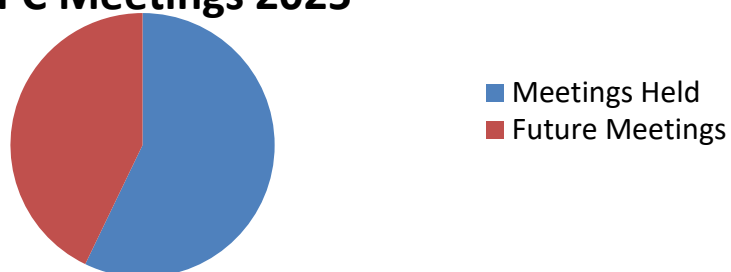
The Older Peoples Council has met four times this year. They met on the 16th July 2025 to discuss the upcoming AGM which will take place on the 5th September 2025 in Lynhams of Laragh. Expressions of Interest have been sent out to local groups in all of the five Municipal Districts. A new Executive Committee will be voted in and Nomination forms have been sent out to the current committee.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Older People's Council Meetings 2025

Meetings Held	Future Meetings
January 2025	July 2025 (Special Meeting)
February 2025	October 2025
April 2025	November 2025
May 2025	

OPC Meetings 2025



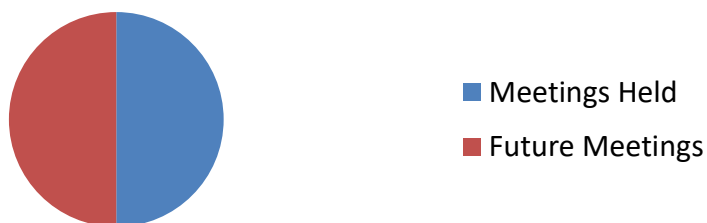
County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance

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

AF Alliance Meeting

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

Age Friendly Alliance Meetings 2025



Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Age Friendly Ireland Committee

The Programme Managers will meet 29th September 2025 in Kilkenny to discuss each Council's Age Friendly Programme.

Disability Inclusion Steering Group

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

Sunflower lanyards are worn by people who have a disability that you might not be able to see. They are worn by people who want to let you know that they might need some extra help.

This could be, for example:

- sensory loss, including difficulty seeing or hearing
- a physical disability that may not be obvious
- Autism
- a learning disability
- anxiety or any other mental health condition.

There is no qualifying list of hidden disabilities. If a person has a hidden disability and feel that they would benefit from wearing a sunflower lanyard, they can in the knowledge that their local community that they live in and work in understands this and supports them.

People with hidden disabilities can contribute enormously to their local community and if they feel they are supported by their community around them, this can have an immensely positive impact on their lives too.

When Newtown Community Forum Committee launched their campaign, they estimated that less than 10% of the community were aware of the existence of the Sunflower Lanyard, let alone what it stood for. Now a mere six months later, due to the work of the group and the buy-in from the businesses, community groups and the community in general, the Forum estimate that over 90% of the town understand what the Lanyard stands for now and would support its users.

The Sunflower Lanyards are now available in several prominent locations. Should anyone feel they could benefit from wearing one. The list of locations are The Post Office, Fishers, Red Eye Coffee, The Parkview Hotel, Adrian Dunne Pharmacy, The Pilates Studio, Dunnes Stores, The Primary Care Centre, Newtown Area Sports Development, Newtown Primary School, Woodstock Educate Together School, Cali Special Class, Eugene's Food Store and the Wicklow Wolf Taproom.

Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg Organisers Event - Save the Date for Wednesday 1st October in DCDE.

Seanad na nÓg - Save the date for Friday 14th November 2025

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Healthy Age Friendly Homes

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

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

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

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

HAFH coordinator will be in attendance at the Older Persons' Council Meeting for a presentation.

Care & Repair Programme

County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) are in the process of securing funding for this much needed service. The programme is listed as an action the Co. Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2022 – 2027. The Chairperson of the Older Persons' Council (OPC) is in consultation with the CWP. The Age Friendly

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Homes Coordinator is involved in an advisory capacity. It is anticipated that the programme will be rolled out in Arklow and South Wicklow as soon as this much needed funding is secured.

Total Number Home Visits Conducted (up to 30th June 2025):

Total Initial Visits	110
Total Additional Visits	80
Total Visits Overall	190
Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit	59



**Healthy
Wicklow**



Slaintecare.
**Healthy
Communities**

Healthy Ireland - Healthy Wicklow

Active Communities

FitStick Trail signage has now been installed in Coolafancy Community Field and Shillelagh GAA which will provide increased opportunity for people of all ages and fitness levels to enjoy the outdoors while also improving their health and wellbeing. Each trail combines the use of walking poles with simple, low-impact movements that can help build strength and flexibility.

Healthy Wicklow, in collaboration with Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership, took part in the Tinahely Show on the 4th August inside the "Best of Wicklow" tent. The area showcased a range of initiatives promoting health, wellbeing, and active living across the county. It also offered visitors practical tips, resources, and opportunities to get involved in local sports and wellness activities. The event provided a fantastic platform to connect with people across the county while also providing an opportunity to try out the hugely popular garden games.

A 'Time to Thrive' taster will take place in Tinahely on Thursday 28th August.

Slaintecare Healthy Communities

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Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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Slaintecare Healthy Communities

Bray Travellers Community Development Group

The Bray Travellers Community Development Group, in collaboration with Wicklow County Council (WCC) and Sláintecare Healthy Communities (SHC), is seeking a dedicated Part-Time Traveller Housing & Accommodation Officer to support the Traveller community in Bray and Greystones Municipal Districts. The job application was held online for the last three weeks and shortlisting process has now begun with interviews taking place from August 22nd to September 5th.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP Programme Mid-Year Review Reports 2025 were fully approved at July LCDC meeting for both Programme Implementers, namely Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership.

Key Performance Indicators are above expected level of achievement; annual plan actions are progressing well; both PIs are delivering qualitative interventions/supports to a wide range of target groups; significant collaborative engagement is taking place with stakeholders and agencies; budgets are within the parameters allowable and all spend will be in line with planned budgets by year end.

Public Participation Network

PPN Membership: 513 Member groups from across Co. Wicklow

PPN Connects Local Community Events: Carnew – 2nd September; Tinahely – 3rd September; Blessington – 10th September; Baltinglass – TBC.

"Food for Thought – County Wicklow Food Partnerships Symposium", 25th September, Brockagh Centre.

National PPN Emergency Response Consultation Event held in conjunction with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG): Key outcome of this landmark event- That PPNs across Ireland continue to be recognised as vital pillars of support and communication in times of crisis, showcasing the strength of grassroots collaboration and community led preparedness.

Consultations: Submissions made to: WCC Consultation on Biodiversity Action Plan; National strategy to support Community & Voluntary Sector in Ireland. Information circulated in relation to 9 National Consultations and 3 Local Consultations including: Affordable Housing Survey 2025; Identification-of-Bathing-Waters-2025; Part 8 - Rockbrae House Vevay Road Bray.

Funding: Circa.19 funding streams open for application. See website for more details.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

See 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 – August 2025

Planning, Economic & Rural Development

Planning

Local Plans

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

Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

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

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

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

Blessington Local Area Plan 2025

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

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here -

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

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

Variation 4 to the County Development Plan which includes the draft Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2025 went on display from 09 May 2025 to 20 June 2025 with 88 submissions

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

received. Public information days were held in and Greystones and on the 29 May 2025 and 04 June 2025, respectively. The forward planning team are reading / summarising the submissions and preparing the Chief Executive's (CE) Report. The CE Report will be issued to the Elected Member in mid-August and following on from this the draft LPF and CE report will be considered it at a Council meeting in September/October 2025.

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

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

Other local plans

Arklow and Environs & Bray Municipal District (including Ennis Kerry and Kilmacanogue) Local Planning Frameworks/ Variations

The pre-draft public consultation for both of these LPFs has been completed and work is being carried out on preparing draft LPFs, which will be done through a variation of the County Development Plan. The draft Arklow LPF will be on display in Q3 / Q4 of 2025 and there is no specific date to publish Bray draft LPF.

Arklow – More information can be found here -

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

Bray - More information can be found here -

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

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) 2022-2028

Proposed Variation No 2

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

Variation No. 2 was made and came into effect on 12 May 2025. The Minister issued a **draft Ministerial Direction** with regard to the zoning of 3 sites. The draft Ministerial Direction went on display, with submissions invited from 03 July 2025 to 16 July 2025. The planning authority is currently preparing a Chief Executive report on submissions received. The Chief Executive report must be issued to the Minister, OPR,

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Regional Assembly and the Members on or before **12 August 2025**. The Minister will then decide whether to issue the direction or not, or to issue it with amendments.

More information is available here –

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

Proposed Variation No 3

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

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>

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 31st 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>

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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 have 1 month to appeal WCCs decision to ACP (formerly ABP). To date WCC are aware of 2 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 Levey has been replaced with the RZLT. All existing sites currently on the register are in the process of being inspected and / or demands for payment are being issued.

More information can be found online at the following link

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

HERITAGE OFFICE

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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

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

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

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

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

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31 st July 2024	To 31 st July 2025
Received (Valid)	643	644

A total of 121 valid applications were received during July as follows:

Type of Development	31 st July 2025
Individual Houses	28 Rural
Housing Developments*	06
Agricultural Structures	04
Commercial	02
Other Developments**	81
Total	121

**Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger signpost, Well, change of use, Hoarding, relocation of vehicular entrance, extend the appropriate period of permission, various

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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 92 applications in July 2025

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	00
Other Developments	90
Other Developments Requiring EIA	02
Total	92

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

	31/07/2024	31/07/2025
Total Number of decisions issued	544	547
Total Number of decisions to grant	458	444
% Grant Rate	84%	81%
No of applications withdrawn		10 (5 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanála

Strategic Housing Development

ABP-313229-22 – Lands at **Coolagad**, Greystones (586 Units) Members Meeting 27/4/2022, CE report forwarded 30/5/2022 – Application withdrawn 22/1/2025

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

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Strategic Infrastructure Development

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

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for permission under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-309991-21 - Development and operation of an inert landfill facility to backfill the existing quarry to original ground level; progressive restoration of the backfilled quarry to long-term grassland/scrub habitat: establishment and operation of a construction and demolition waste recovery facility; installation and operation of a soil washing plant and all associated site works at **Ballinclare and Carrigmore townlands, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow** – Decision, refuse permission under section 37G of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, 27/09/2023.

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Substitute Consent

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

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

E-Planning Project

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

For the **month of July**, a total of 119 planning applications were received of which 24.37% were hard copy applications and 75.63% **were received online**.

From **1st January 2025 to 31st July 2025** a total of 632 applications were received of which 24.53% were hard copy applications and 75.47% **were received online**.

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

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

- A number of one off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Change of use to a number of properties throughout the county
- Demolition, extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Construction of 2 warehouse buildings with a gross floor area (GFA) of c. 3,364 sq.m each and a total height of c. 14.1m. Each warehouse includes a warehouse area of c. 2,419 sq.m, to the north of Existing Kish Business Park, Arklow,

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

- Developments at a Stud farm with private dressage stables inc. new entrance and access road; 2 No. stable blocks incorporating stores, tack rooms and toilets; breeding barn; outdoor and indoor arenas; canteen, in Ballymoat
- Construction of a farm managers house in Kilmurry North
- Proposed change of house type on Site Nos. 1 – 8 inclusive in previously granted residential development (Ref. 21/730) in Donard Upper
- Construction of two no. staff accommodation buildings, two no. sheds and all ancillary site development works at Carnew Nursing Home

Planning Enforcement

New Files	7
Advisory Letters	32
Warning Letters	5
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	0
Closed	16

Vacant Sites

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

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

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No. of sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

TOWN REGENERATION

1.1 Town Centre First Masterplans

1.1.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

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

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

1.1.2 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre First Masterplan

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

Following the establishment of the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team in November 2024, the Town Regeneration Officer (TRO), in collaboration with the Town Team, drafted and issued a tender document for the development of the Town Centre First (TCF) Plan. The contract was awarded to ACT (Accelerating Change Together), and the process of compiling the TCF Plan was underway, with the first public consultation workshop taking place in June 2025 and the second workshop planned for August 2025.

1.2 Town Centre First – Suite of Supports

1.2.1 Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

These teams played a crucial role in driving the revitalisation and sustainable development of the town centres.

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

1.2.2 Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Support

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

a) Blessington:

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

Update: The appointed consultants have commenced work. The first of three community engagement workshops will take place in August, with the remaining sessions scheduled for September and October 2025.

b) Wicklow Town:

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

Update: The appointed consultants will hold the first community workshop on 21st August 2025. The capital funding agreement was returned to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) on 16th September 2024. Originally, under the Town Centre First – Measure 3 initiative, all projects were required to be completed and all associated claims submitted by 30th September 2025. However, an extension has since been granted, revising the deadline to 14th November 2025.

1.3 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow County Council has been awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

The selected projects are as follows:

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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

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

1.4 Town Teams

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

The formation of the Rathdrum and Baltinglass Town Teams brings the total number of Town Teams in County Wicklow to seven—joining Arklow, Blessington, Greystones, Newtownmountkennedy, and Wicklow. The Town Regeneration Team is also in the process of establishing a Town Team in Kilcoole, with teams in Carnew and Newcastle to follow.

1.5 Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

1.5.1 Blessington RRDF

Blessington has been awarded over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to be used for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a vacant/derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre. Meetings are being planned with the Town Team in August 2025 to progress these works.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

1.5.2 Baltinglass RRDF

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

1.5.3 Newtownmountkennedy RRDF

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

1.5.4 Urban Regeneration Development Fund Call 3

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

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

1.5.5 Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004

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

1.6 Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) 2025

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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

TOURISM

WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

July has been the most successful month since contracting GoodAsGold company to run VisitWicklow's digital marketing. The monthly report shows extensive reach, engagement and many new followers on the various social media platforms. The main story was around the amazing Knitted Map of Ireland that is on display in Carnew. The video produced went viral and was picked up by national and international press. The launch of the Wicklow Town Passport performed strongly as well.

WICKLOW PASSPORT

Following the social media campaign, 134 Wicklow Passport were sold online in July alone. This was supported by the distribution of the Free Mini Passport through the various hotels around Wicklow. The Wicklow Town Passport Trail was launched in the middle of July and has performed extremely strong with many visitors picking up the Free Mini Passport that have been made available at the various stamping locations around Wicklow Town.

Finally, work is currently taking place on The Wicklow Way Passport with a focus on developing the network of stamping locations and distributing the branded Free Wicklow Way Passport to that network. A dedicated page on the website has been developed with all relevant information on the Wicklow Way Passport: <https://visitwicklow.ie/listing/the-wicklow-way-passport-trail/>

TINAHELY SHOW

Tourism was present at the Best of Wicklow tent at this year's Tinahely Show. The team displayed its new backdrop of Wicklow landscape and distributed a large number of tourism maps and Wicklow Passports. Part of the exhibition included two large screen monitors that showed a fifteen minute video of some of the best clips produced over the past months which included golf, outdoor, food and Wicklow Passport videos.

WICKLOW GAOL

Stage 2 of the tender process is underway with a closing day of 29th August 2025 for receipt of submissions. The current contract will finish at the end of September, and Wicklow County Council will endeavour to have a replacement in place as soon as possible.

In the meantime, some repair work is being done on the Gaol along with the review of the draft Conservation Management Plan.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

GLENDALOUGH AND WICKLOW MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND MANAGEMENT MASTERPLAN (VEMMP)

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

- Fáilte Ireland has engaged a Project Manager, KSN, and a consultant, Design ID, to work on key initiatives for the VEMMP. KSN will provide project management for Phase 1 of the VEMMP, while Design ID will design an All-Ability Trail connecting Laragh to the Monastic City and Upper Lake. Work on the trail is contingent on the progress of the Conservation Management Plan and both firms will consult with local stakeholders and community groups.
- As previously advised, 7L Architects have been appointed as the lead consultant for the development of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP), and a support team is currently being put in place comprising a range of disciplines such as landscape architect, stone conservation expertise and ecological professionals. OPW and National Monuments Services have worked together on the CMP to ensure a collaborative approach is taken and that the heritage of the area is preserved and protected.
- Wicklow County Council continues with the traffic management arrangements each weekend, supported by a social media campaign. WCC have also worked with Laragh Tidy Towns to prepare an application to the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. This proposal is for the appointment of a consultant to develop an Improvement & Enhancement Plan for Laragh, aiming to re-establish the village's unique identity, boosting its appeal as a destination and fostering pride among residents, tourists, and visitors. Crucially, the plan will safeguard Laragh's future by offering recommendations to mitigate the impacts of increased traffic and footfall, while preserving its cherished amenities.
- NPWS are progressing with improvements to the Spinc trail (continuing improvements made previously) and Poulanass Waterfall route, following severe storm damage.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ABBNEY GROUNDS, WICKLOW

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

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Avondale Business Park: Numerous expressions of interest for the Avondale sites have been received, and all submissions are currently under review.

The GRID: Interest in the available spaces at The GRID is growing, with new inquiries coming in regularly. A tender for the management and operation of The GRID has been published, and the deadline for responses is Friday, August 29th.

Sites on Mill Road, Greystones: Ongoing discussions with the legal team are progressing regarding the site's registration with the Property Registration Authority.

Carnew Remote Working Hub: The TVRS Mainstream Funding Application has been submitted to the department and decision of funding approval will be announced in the coming weeks. Phase 2 of the tender process is now complete, and a contractor is expected to be appointed in the coming weeks, subject to the signing of contracts.

OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

Meetings of the event subcommittee will continue over the summer months in preparation for the ORE event. Regular meetings of the ORE Network will resume from 23rd September.

SKILLS STRATEGY

The Skills Taskforce continues their work on implementing the Wicklow Skills Strategy. The next meeting is scheduled for September 19th.

WICKLOW NATURALLY

Wicklow Naturally organised a live cooking demonstration at Tinahely Show with participation from some of Wicklow's top chefs and food producers. The demo turned out to be very popular with visitors giving an opportunity for Wicklow Naturally producers to have their product showcased. Focus is now on the Food

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Writers Guild trip where top food writers are coming to Wicklow at the end of August to experience some of Wicklow's best flavours.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral 			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME)	22 €671,740 7 €12,500	42 TAME Is discontinued. New support: Market Explorer Grant	11 €211,771.00
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	54	105	19 – AOMDP 15 – Strategic Retail Master Class = 34
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	145	105	80
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1223	840	458
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	24	20	15
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	410
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	578	345	294

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2023/2024	2024/2025	Year to Date 2024-25
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1358	1100	1135

METRICS: Client Transfers to Enterprise Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of transfers	2024	2025	Year to Date 2025
Number of transfers	6	5	4

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	11
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	20	18	7
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	7	15	27
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	N/A	6	3
Energy Efficiency Grant	3	18	1
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	11
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	0

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

July 2025 Activities:

Various events taking place:

- The tendering and evaluation process is currently underway to appoint core training providers for the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow.
- Wicklow-based businesses will continue to be represented at key national events like National Ploughing Championships.

August 2025 Activities:

Various events taking place:

- LEO Wicklow will be proudly represented at the National Ploughing Championships by Aartha Organics Limited; ensuring Wicklow-based businesses continue to have a strong presence at key national events.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The tender for training providers for the next three years has been completed and 15 separate Lots have been awarded. Contracts are being agreed and following that, an autumn/winter programme will be published on the LEO website.

Training which took place in July:

- Expression of Interest for Export Development Program

Upcoming August Events:

- Let's Talk – Green for Business / Energy Efficiency Grant

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

Harbours and Ports

CCTV and Access Control

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

Improvement works to gates and approach road to Wicklow harbour are complete.

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. The tender for these works is currently ongoing. Contractor to be appointed in August and works are scheduled for completion by September 2025.

Storage Units at Arklow Harbour

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

Bad-Levelling at Wicklow Harbour

Bed-levelling works at Wicklow Harbour have been completed to ensure that the main shipping channel maintains the required water depth. Applications to MARA for dredge and dump site licences are ongoing.

Accessibility to Wicklow Harbour Swimming Areas

A comprehensive plan to improve accessibility to our swimming area is in development. This will include additional steps and wheelchair accessible ramp. Along with the recent addition of open showers and public WCs this will further improve our facilities in the area.

Wicklow Harbour Statistics

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-24	3	3	0	3	2	1
Feb-24	7	7	0	7	5	2
Mar-24	9	9	0	9	6	3
Apr-24	7	7	0	7	2	5
May-24	5	5	0	5	3	2
Jun-24	9	9	0	9	4	5
Jul-24	5	5	0	5	3	2

GENERAL CARGO DATA JAN - JULY 2025	
General Cargo/Container	45
Gross Tonnage	103,826

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

SIZE OF VESSELS BREAKDOWN JAN – JULY 2025			
Tonnes		Number of Vessels	Gross Tonnage
Lower Limit	Upper Limit		
1,000	1,999	12	14098
2,000	2,999	28	73265
3,000	3,999	5	16,463
			103826

2025			
CATEGORY	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL
FORESTRY PRODUCTS	45,812	9,284	55,096
METALS		21,648	21,648
	45,812	30,932	76,744

Projects Office

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

Avoca Mines Remediation Project: The Council is working in Partnership with DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project. Currently, this work primarily involves making the mines sites safe, by replacing fencing and making safe access to locations that require sampling and monitoring. The contract has been awarded to complete the fencing around Cronebane and Tigrooney sections of the Mines. Monitoring and repair works to existing fencing continues. **Works were carried out by** Priority Construction Ltd. to make safe an opening to a mine shaft safe, which was discovered in the area of the Ballymurtagh Landfill.

Arklow Flood Relief Scheme:

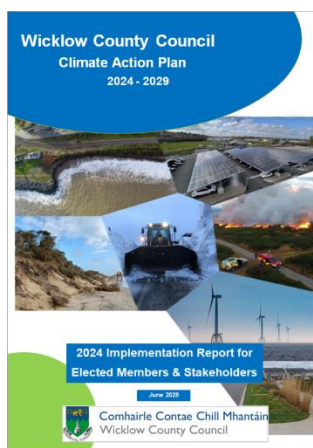
Planning Application and CPO was approved by An Bord Pleanála in July 2022. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender documents for the project. The detailed design which includes elements such as flood wall & embankment design, hydrology and hydraulic modelling, archaeological Investigations, utility diversions, environmental inputs, bridge remediation specifications is ongoing and should be complete in Q3/Q4 of 2025. The project will be advertised for tender in Q1 2026 with an estimated contractor appointment date of Q2 2026.

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

Climate & Biodiversity Action and Environment Awareness

- 1) **Annual Progress Report:** Wicklow Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was circulated to the members and published on our website in July.
- 2) **Community Climate Action Programme**

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



Strand 1: Building Low Carbon Sustainable Communities

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

A total of 19 projects are progressing through various stages. Each applicant group has a number of phases they are working through. Four groups have now completed their projects and all phases, and either submitted their drawdowns or are in the process of drawing down.

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

GROUP	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PROGRESS
Eir Og GAA Greystones	LED Internal Lights & Sensors Bicycle parking racks Recycling Bins Water Bottle Refill Station Hot Water Dispenser Crockery Cups Pipe Insulation LED floodlights	72,114.20	Completed
Rathnew Community Centre	(Solar PVs installed on community centre)	12,300.00	Completed
	EV Charger installed at community centre	2,714.92	Completed
Kilcoole Men's Shed	Dispersed orchard	4,365.67	Completed
Arklow Tidy Towns	Community rainwater harvesting tank	11,536.14	Completed
Signal Arts Centre	Insulation of ceilings, walls	22,700.00	Completed
Donard Community Enterprises CLG	Insulation of ceiling, walls	35,547.00	Completed
	Solar PV installation	35,185.00	Completed
Wicklow Town Team / SEC	Heating controls upgrade	13,088.82	Completed
	Ceiling and cavity wall insulation	31,851.17	Completed

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



Rewild Wicklow's new storage / office / shed at Newtownmountkennedy; new seed trays, and new nursery beds to propagate locally sourced native Irish tree seeds.



Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



Kiltegan GAA installed new water refill units, recycling bins, and bicycle stands at their clubhouse.



Solar PV panels on roof of Kiltegan GAA clubhouse.

Phase 2

It is expected that Phase 2 of the CCAP should be open in October 2025. Details will be available as soon as Wicklow County Council is updated from DCEE.

Phase 2 is expected to be rolled out under the same framework as Phase 1 with similar amounts available to each local authority.

A number of information sessions will be carried out by the Community Climate Action Officer in the coming weeks for interested groups to attend. Details will be available on Wicklow County Council's website, through social media, and by direct messaging.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

3) Sustainable Energy Awards:

Wicklow County Council's annual Sustainable Development Awards competition closed for entries at the end of July. A great response from around the county as usual with Tidy Town groups and other community organisations submitting their entries covering the Sustainable Development Awards, Tidy Main Street and Tidy Estates Awards. As usual, we are grateful to the huge efforts undertaken by voluntary groups who are undertaking excellent work contributing to climate action, restoration of biodiversity and community engagement. Awards ceremony to take place in early 2026.

Image from a 2025 awards ceremony.



With the new school year fast approaching, the EAO office continues to support, develop and fund a range of excellent awareness raising, pro-active and educational programmes for primary and secondary schools. Starting in the new school year is the following:

- An Taisce's Green Schools Programme
- An Taisce's new 'Let's Fix Fashion
- The Rediscovery Centre's national ReLove Fashion competition
- Rubbish Film Festival
- Composting and Food Waste Management programme for schools
- Picker Pals
- The Bunting Project – a new textile upcycling programme for primary schools

4) Spongeworks EU horizon programme:

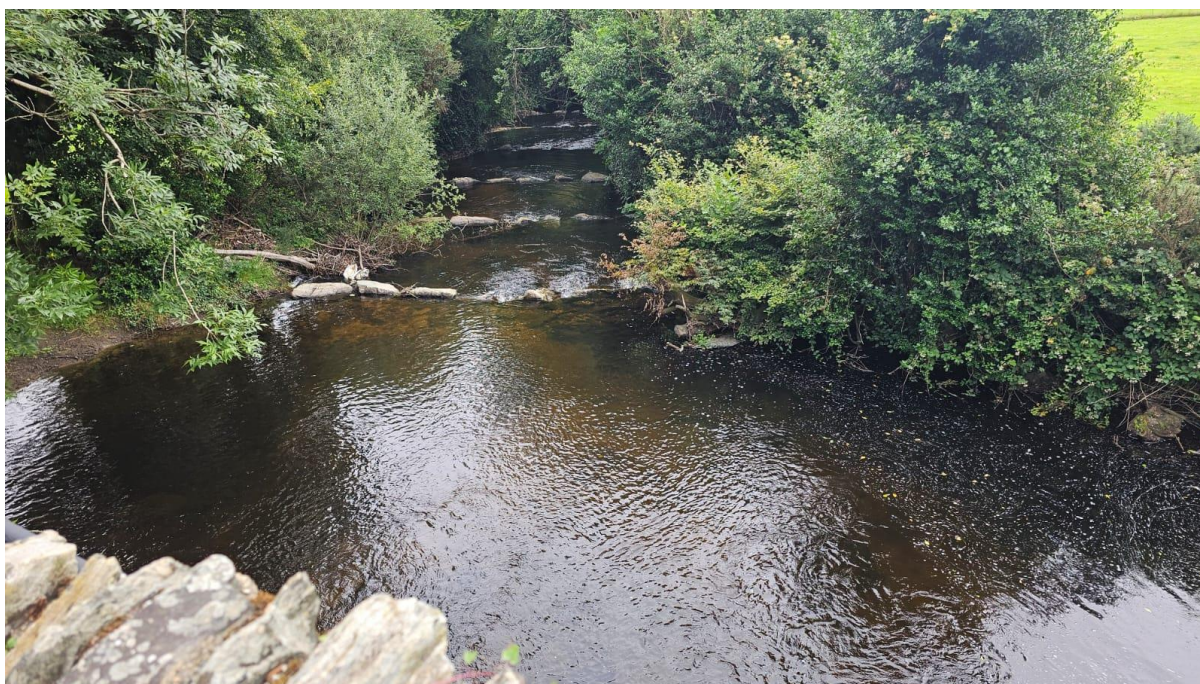
Spongeworks on Aughrim River

Wicklow County Council in partnership with the Wicklow Uplands Council, the East Wicklow Rivers Trust and LAWPRO have been selected to participate in an EU horizon programme called SpongeWorks. After the programme received over 70 applications eight regions were chosen to become associated regions in the project which aims to help shape how Europe manages water, land, and climate risks. Each participating region will work on strategy to develop and scale sponge measures – Nature based Solutions that help retain water, reduce flood or drought risk and restore ecosystems. Wicklow's project explores restoring the upper Aughrim River's capacity to slow water flow.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Wicklow is the only participating region selected from Ireland and joins regions from Germany & The Netherlands, France, Greece, Hungary, Belgium, Italy, Finland, Spain, Ukraine and Montenegro. All regions will work together sharing learning and mutual capacity building. The plan is to implement sponge measures with the aim that they can then be scaled up with new tools developed for their implementation and the embedding of sponge strategy into local governance and planning.

SpongeWorks is a leading Horizon Europe initiative in nature-based climate adaption, bringing together 28 partners and 23 knowledge institutions. The project is developing practical, scalable solutions for sponge measures implementation which address critical questions about effectiveness, financing, governance and stakeholder engagement.



Photograph by Faith Wilson, Ecologis

5) Community Climate Action Programme with IKC3 team:

A programme facilitated by Quentin Crowley and his team in Trinity College and based on a systems thinking model. The course, delivered over a period of months, focuses on empowering local participants as challenge owners with the skills and knowledge necessary to address sustainability challenges within their communities. Participants engage actively and collaboratively, applying systems thinking to tackle issues surrounding climate change on a local scale.

Wicklow's Climate Action team will work with over 30 interested participants from Arklow and support from the IKC3 team.

The Challenge Owner

Wicklow County Council in partnership with the community is the challenge owner and challenges will be addressed through the eight goals of the Arklow Decarbonisation Zone implementation plan.

Goal 1: *To build on Arklow's status as a leader in offshore renewables as a centre of innovation for decarbonisation.*

Goal 2 *To Work with the industrial and business sector on developing a resource efficient economy*

Goal 3 *To work on retrofitting buildings in the town, decarbonizing our homes, workplaces and community facilities.*

Goal 4 *To develop active travel to get around town and between services along with better public transport options.*

Goal 5 *To create a strong dynamic town centre resilient for the future*

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Goal 6 To harness the potential of biodiversity in building a more resilient environment.

Goal 7 To raise citizen awareness and achieve behaviour change across the community

Goal 8 To create a network of towns and communities in the county implementing decarbonisation opportunities

The Community

Arklow has a closely linked community with a strong sense of local identity and enjoys strong community engagement across all three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, social, economic.

Wicklow County Council enjoyed wide and enthusiastic stakeholder engagement when formulating a plan for the pilot decarbonisation zone in 2022 with support for the plan across all three pillars of the community. The IKC3 programme is being viewed as a mechanism to move that engagement to a more focused action phase.

6) Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030

- Draft Biodiversity Action Plan approved by SPC 11th July
- Public consultation draft BAP 14th July -11th August
- Biodiversity Stand at Tinahely Show – 4th August
- Participated in Knowledge Exchange Field visit with Scientific Unit NPWS Brittas Bay SAC -5th August
- reFarm project commenced, with 12 farmers signed up and field work (pond creation underway)
- Citizen Science programme commenced, 5 workshops planned for August /September
- National Heritage week underway, 1 owl workshop planned, 1 owl talk, and kick-off citizen science event in Arklow.



*Citizen Science Workshop Arklow,
Photograph by Hannah O'Kelly, Biodiversity Officer*

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Litter/Waste Management

• Litter/Waste Statistics up to end of June 2025

No. of Complaints Created	126
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	105
No of Litter Fines Issued	5
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	0
No. of Warning Letters Issued	8
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	11
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	2
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	8
No of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	1
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	20

No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	5	3 No. litter fine defendants could not be located (1 No. was no longer resident in the country). Therefore, these cases had to be withdrawn. In the 2 No. remaining cases listed by the courts service, the defendants did not show up to court on the day. The judge ordered that Bench Warrants be issued for these 2 No. defendants.
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Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

No of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	3	<p>1. The first case concerned the defendant having a lot of waste material, cars, engine, tyres etc. on his property. While the defendant had made some progress on site a concerning amount of waste materials remained. The judge agreed to giving the defendant a further couple of months to clean the property which is visible on the Wicklow Way.</p> <p>2. The second case involved a construction company engaging a contractor to move/remove soil/waste from his site. However, the contractor did not have a waste permit which allowed for the removal/transportation of these materials. The company pleaded guilty to handing over their waste to an unauthorised collector. The judge ordered that they pay the sum of €5,000 into the court poor box in lieu of receiving a conviction. Wicklow County Council was awarded €500 costs.</p> <p>3. The third case involved substantial dumping at a woodland entrance near Shillelagh. The judge did not reach on this case on the day and the case was rescheduled for January 2026.</p>
Income - Litter	€1,050.00	
Income – Waste Management	€12,074.00	Invoices in relation to Annual Monitoring Charges for Waste Permitted Facilities issued during July 2025.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 2 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 3 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 9 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 5 Noise pollution complaints closed.
- 0 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 0 Air pollution complaints closed.

Ambient Air Monitoring

- 1 Inspection of Ambient Air Monitoring Station

Private Water Supplies

- 1 Regulated Private Water Supplies scheduled in Drinking Water Monitoring Plan.
- 3 Private Water Supplies were monitored.
- 3 Private Water Supplies with available results were compliant.
- 0 Private Water Supplies with available results were non-compliant for coliform bacteria, 1 for e. coli and 1 for enterococci.
- 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 supply.
- 0 Do not consume lifted from a water supply.

Bathing Water

- 37 Bathing Waters were monitored and had excellent quality.
Bray South, Greystones Cove, Greystones South, Silver Strand, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga. South of Bray Harbour, Kilcoole. The Murrough Wicklow, Wicklow Harbour, Wicklow Travelahawk, Arklow South, The Cove Arklow.
- Public consultation on the identification (designation) of existing and new bathing waters in County Wicklow and length of the bathing season is now opened until September via www.wicklow.ie
- Do not swim advisory notices were issued to 11 bathing waters on 22nd July informing the public of the potential drop in microbiological quality in view of Met Eireann's orange status rainfall warning. The notices were lifted on 24th July after excellent/good water samples on 23rd July.
- Heavy rainfall can result in wastewater overflows, runoff from agricultural and urban areas which can cause short term deterioration in water quality.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

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

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

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

Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

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

Well Grants

- 7 New Water Grant application received
- 3 New Well granted
- 19 New Pumps granted
- 15 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 42 inspections in advance/completion of works

Petrol Vapour Recovery

- 0 Installation inspected
- 0 Installation issued with Certificate of Testing
- 2 Stage 1b applications assessed
- 2 Stage 1b Installations Inspections.

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 0 Dry cleaner installations inspected.
- 2 Inspections of vehicle refinishers carried out.
- 2 Certificates of compliance issued to Vehicle Refinisher installations.
- 0 Letters issued to vehicle refinishers.
- 0 Paint retailer inspections for compliant products.
- 1 Certificate of compliance issued to Dry Cleaner Installation.

Smokeless Coal Regulations

- 0 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

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

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

- 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.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Planning & Development

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

Cemeteries

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

Published Death Notices Data

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	2025
Total	158	114	118	92	90	94	107	773
WCC	59	47	44	41	37	35	46	309
Cremation	49	45	37	26	26	28	26	237
Other	50	22	37	25	27	31	35	227

Percentage Breakdown YTD

2025	
%	
773	Total Published Death Notices
40	Traditional Interment in Local Authority Burial Grounds
31	Cremation/Other non-traditional interments
29	Other Burial Grounds
100	

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

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

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

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion
OR320WW01	Wicklow Coast Project	Project infrastructure completed at Greystones, Wicklow Harbour, Brittas Bay and Arklow with project signage installed. DRCD funding received.	31/05/2025
OR221WW02	<i>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</i>	Established Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk Task Force. Updates due from Task Force.	Extension granted by DRCD.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

OR221WW01	<i>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</i>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Meeting on site to find route in for piling equipment – last piece for input to new tender and access works required. NPWS landowners.	In progress. Extension granted.
OR321WW01	<i>The Sugar Loaf Repair</i>	Interpretative signage installed and a newly constructed baby Sugarloaf at the start of the walk to showcase the upgrade trail works. New fencing installed at the entrance and gates moved. Car park upgrade works completed. Project completed with drawdown submission to DRCD during August.	31/05/2025
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW03	<i>Coolkenno Equestrian Trail</i>	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners pending their planning permission process, which is not resolved yet.	In progress
ORIS 2022 M3 OR322WW01	<i>Roundwood Recreation Area</i>	Groundworks and extension of existing car park with fencing works completed. Play equipment installed, surface works completed. Resurface of main trails in progress with emergency repair works completed after extensive storm damage and rerouting signage in place. Tender completed for bike area. Running routes planned. Storm damage recovery due completion by Uisce Eireann in central area.	31/05/2025

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

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

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion
ORPDM23WW01 CC781	<i>Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan</i>	Recreation Plan for the area is now completed. DRCD funding received.	30/06/25
ORPDM23WW02 CC782	<i>Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan</i>	Feasibility project to provide a work plan to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. Tender awarded.	Extension granted to 31/12/25
OR123WW01- CC791	<i>Hollywood Natural Play Area</i>	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Play Equipment area works due to commence. Play area at design stage. Specification ready.	31/10/25
OR123WW02 - CC792	<i>Wicklow Way (Glencree River) Re-surface</i>	200m of new trail construction and 800m of surface dressing. Project completed with drawdown submission to DRCD during August.	30/06/2025
OR123WW03 - CC793	<i>Knockree Bridge</i>	Knockree bridge replacement at the Glencree brook on the Wicklow Way, between Ballyreagh and Onagh Bridge. Works completed during July and early August.	31/07/2025
OR123WW04 - CC794	<i>Knockamunnion-Stranahely Bridges</i>	Replacement of 2 bridges and additional drainage works between them over a track of some 200m. Contractors on site with works just completed.	31/10/2025
OR123WW05 - CC795	<i>Three Wells and Cushbawn Link</i>	8m of surfacing on Three Wells crossing and 270m of surfacing on the looped upper trail. Project completed with drawdown submission to DRCD during August.	31/05/2025

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

OR123WW06 - CC796	Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way	Signage replacement along an 18km route. Discussions ongoing with WUC and Roundwood community group. Project planning meetings ongoing.	31/10/2025
OR223WW01 – CC903	Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure	Contract awarded for car park upgrade works. Due to commence in September.	30/06/2026
OR223WW02 – CC904	Three Trouts Bridge, Delgany	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the route. Greystones MD Engineer to manage this project and submit updates.	30/06/2026
OR223WW03 – CC905	Tinahely New Loop Trail	Additional spur to loop walks on a 10km route to Tinahely village. Design and landowner agreement in progress. Tinahely walking group in discussions with landowner regarding access to trail crossing land. Alternative routes being identified.	30/06/2026

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

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

Awarded Measure 1 and Project Development Measure projects will be announced by DRCD within the next month, with the Measure 2 and 3 projects to be announced shortly afterwards.

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 next WORC meeting will take place on the 11th September 2025 at Coillte's Avondale Forest Park.

OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY (2025-2029)

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

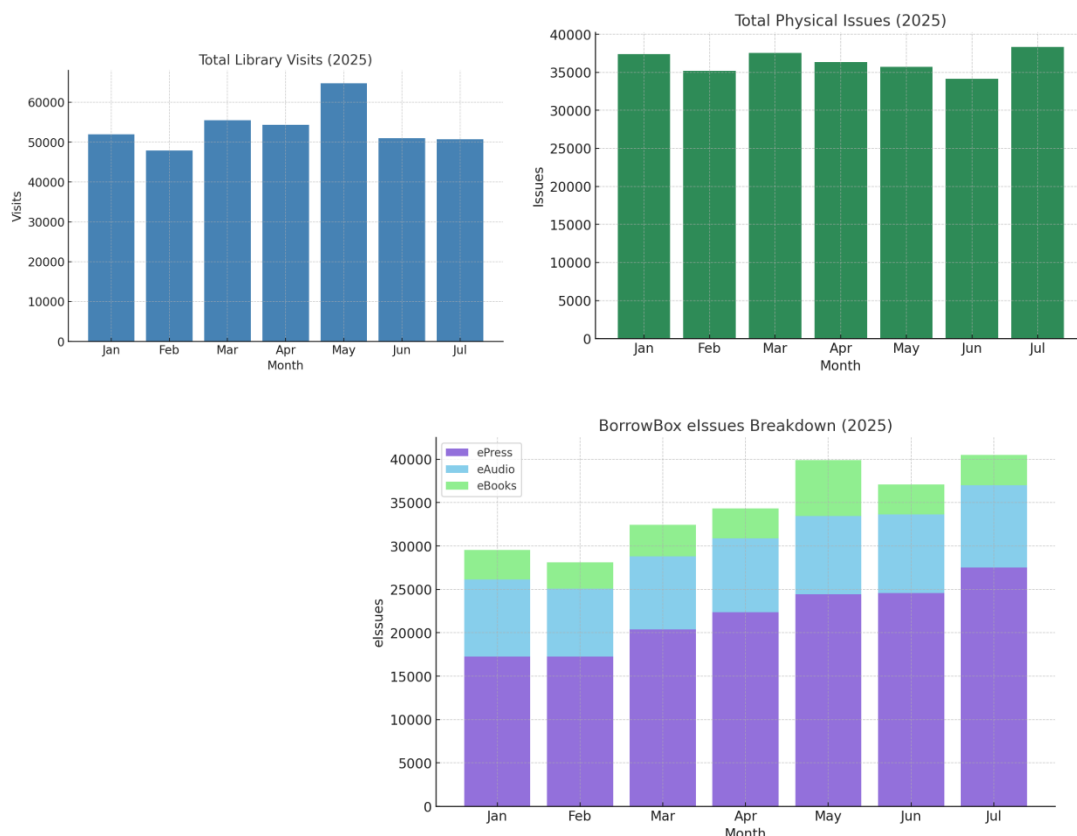
OR123WW02 - Wicklow Way (Glencree River) Re-surface – Images:



Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Library Usage Report – July 2025

July saw strong borrowing activity across the library service, with physical issues rising to their highest level since January and BorrowBox use reaching its strongest performance of the year. Visits remained steady overall, with some smaller branches showing encouraging growth, reflecting strong community engagement. Loans per head of population at 0.26, matching May's peak, means that Wicklow CC Library service is at the helm nationally in terms of digital issues.

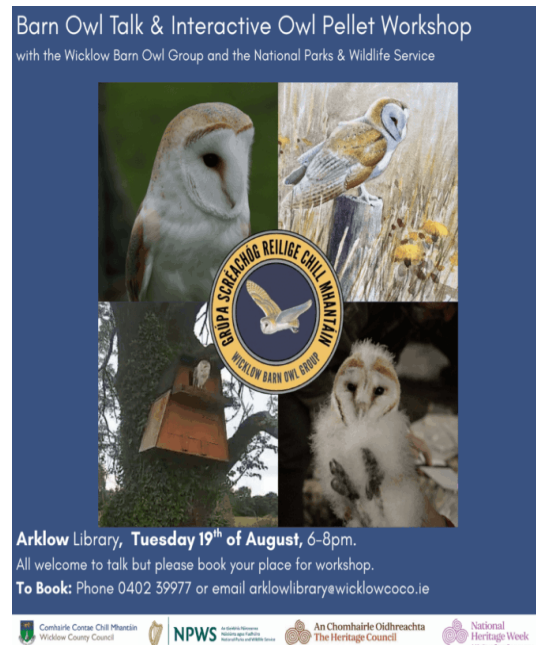


Arklow Library:

At Arklow Library the children's favourites continue with the weekly **Toddler Storytime & Craft** on Wednesdays, **Baby Sing-Along Sessions** on Thursdays, and drop-in **Arts and Crafts** on Saturdays. **Chess Club** meets Saturdays, while special events include a **Kids' Chess Tournament**, **Lego Club**, and creative workshops such as the **Pop-out Paintings** and **Mini Beast Clay Modelling**. The inclusive **All Kinds of Amazing** group welcomes families for a fun meet-up later in the month.

Adults also have their weekly clubs such as the **Adult Chess Club**, **Writers' Group**, and multiple **Book Clubs**, alongside **conversation groups** in Irish and English. The **Adult Knitters' Group** and **Tuatha**, a male carers' support group, provide additional community connections. Some one-off workshops and talks this month include a **Biodiversity Citizen Scientist Workshop** and for bird watchers there is a **Barn Owl Talk** followed by an **Interactive Owl Pellet Workshop** with the *Wicklow Barn Owl Group* and the *National Parks and Wildlife Service*. The **Rapid Reads** collection has kicked off to great success in Arklow Library, with over 70% of our **Junior Rapid Reads** on loan after just a few days. The adult collection is proving very popular too; watch this space for increased investment and a bigger collection!

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



Baltinglass library

In Baltinglass Library **The Creative Writing Group** meets monthly, with new participants each month eager to share their stories. Film lovers can enjoy regular screenings with the **Baltinglass Film Club**, with this month's feature being *To Walk Invisible*. Additionally, a special bi-monthly screening caters to a patron on the autism spectrum, offering a private viewing of *Citizen Kane* and *Fight Club*. The library's meeting and creative spaces are also being used by three different groups, supporting young people **InSync** and **WAY Youth Diversion Programme** and **Respond** throughout the month



Ballywaltrim Library

In Ballywaltrim Library adults can enjoy weekly **Scrabble Club** every Monday, a **Senior's Computer course** runs weekly with *Age Action*, and the **Knitting and Quilting Group** meet fortnightly. Book lovers have three **monthly book clubs** to choose from—two daytime and one evening and adults with additional needs can book time on the *Tover Tavel Table*.

For families and children, **Tummy Time** sessions run twice weekly, alongside **STEM** activities every Saturday. There is a special performance from **The Harbour Ukulele Group** on Saturday the 16th with a sing-song for all, while **Luke's Deadly Dinosaurs** offers two exciting sessions on Saturday the 30th. **Summer Stars** events include **Storytimes** and **Saturday Scavenger hunts**, the creative writing group **Fighting Words** and **Arts & Crafts**. The **Summer Stars' Closing Event** wraps up the month with a prize-giving, hosted by Cathaoirleach Erika Doyle, celebrating all our young readers' achievements.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



Photo: Arts & Crafts at Ballywaltrim

Bray Library

Bray Library **Summer Stars** programme continues with a weekly prize draw with fun vouchers from local businesses for treats like ice cream, chips, or craft supplies. The popular and fully booked **Comic Club Camp** has returned for ages 9-12 year olds.

Heritage Week brings a special evening on Thursday 21st, as retired staff member Michael Kelleher (known affectionately around town as Mick “the Book”) shares the fascinating **History of Bray Library**, including gems from the 1913 catalogue. The library space is also host to **Trócaire’s Climate Change Exhibition**, with a workshop and launch event taking place on the 16th as part of the **Sustainable Development Goals** initiative.

Regular favourites continue through the month, including **Toddler-Storytime** on Mondays at 10am and **Afternoon Storytime** on Tuesdays at 3pm. **Book Clubs** for all ages and interests are ongoing—Michael’s, Ruth’s, Crime, Literary, and Children’s—alongside film clubs including the **Children’s Film Club** who, for August, watched *The Muppets Take Manhattan* and a special needs group of adults and teens from *Festina Lente* who watched *Barbie*. This month’s featured Bray Library Reads is *Nala’s Journey*.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

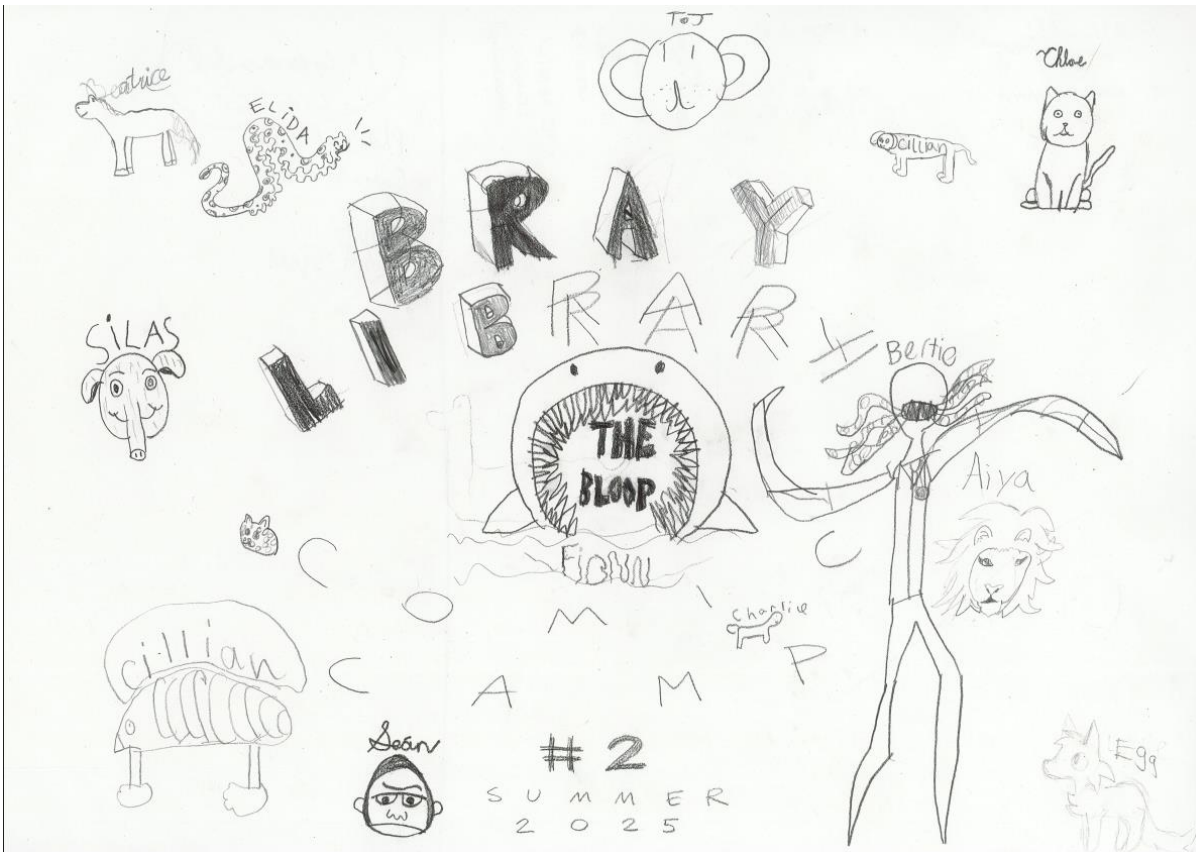


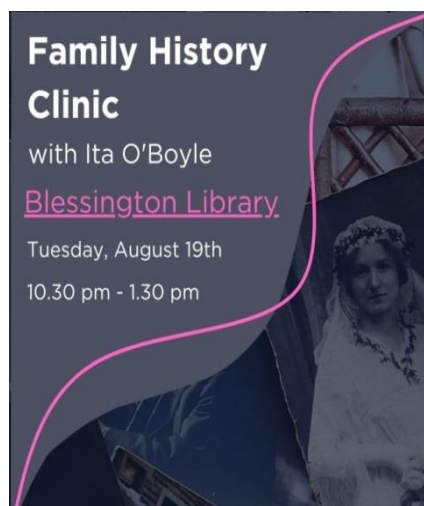
Photo: Bray

Library's Comic Camp

Blessington Library

10 Day Loans are flying off the shelves in Blessington Library and the collection has now expanded to include a number of popular junior titles. For 12 lucky children **Storytime with Eoin**, a local firefighter, included a tour of his fire engine. The popular **Weekly Children's Films** on Wednesday afternoons finishes up at the end of August and the weekly drop-in **Chess Club** for children continues on Friday afternoons at 3pm.

For adults the weekly events include a new **Italian Conversation Group**, the regular **Spanish Conversation Group** and the **Wednesday Knitting Group**. Ita O'Boyle hosts a **Family History Clinic** for **Heritage Week** on Tuesday, August 19th and author Gerry Daly who illustrated *The Puffling* visits that afternoon also. The **Summer Stars finale** will take place on Saturday August 30th where *Candlelit Tales* will be telling stories and playing music to celebrate.



Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Carnew Library

Carnew Library are encouraging community co-operation with a special evening event on Friday, August 22nd: **Carnew Foraging Trail – Celebrating the Power of Community**. The evening, a part of the *Pride in Carnew* initiative, is a collaboration between Carnew Tidy Towns and Wicklow County Council's Environment Awareness Department.

David Wilcoxon, a dedicated local volunteer, and Sarah Rubalcava, Environmental Awareness Officer, will share the story behind the creation of the *Food Foraging Trail* and offer practical tips on sustainable living for both individuals and community groups. The event will also feature a display of beautiful knitted work from *Carnew's Community Care*, celebrating the creativity and connection at the heart of local life.



Enniskerry Library

At Enniskerry Library the **Weekly Saturday Story Time** continues at 10 a.m. sharp - offering a gentle start to the weekend for young listeners. **Chess sessions** are on Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m., with a mix of adult and junior players participating through the month.

Returning from their summer holidays the 6th Class and 1st/2nd Year **Summer Book Clubs** resume on Tuesday 19th. Adults have their **Wednesday Book Club** on the 6th and can enjoy relaxed creativity at the **Wednesday Craft Sessions** twice during the month.

Heritage Week brings special highlights, including a talk on Saturday 16th with John Prosser with *Exploring Enniskerry Library's history and Andrew Carnegie's legacy*. A **Bluegrass band** performance is planned for Wednesday 20th as part of the celebration.

Tinahely Library

In Tinahely Library the **Adult Book Clubs** meet on the 5th and 7th for lively one-hour discussions, while little ones can enjoy **Summer Stars Baby and Toddler Storytime** every Tuesday throughout the month. **Heritage Week** runs from the 16th–23rd, featuring a special exhibition on **125 Years of Local Government in Ireland**. On the 19th, families are invited to a celebration of **Lughnasadh**, exploring Celtic customs, myths, and seasonal stories, followed by a creative arts and crafts session.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



Wicklow Library

At Wicklow Library the children's **Summer Stars reading programme** is in full swing, with weekly prize draws rewarding readers with vouchers for local businesses. A *Circus Skills* workshop added fun mid-month, and the programme wraps up on **Saturday 30th August** with a lively **puppet show** by Julie Rose McCormick.

This month's calm and creative sessions include *Pocket Stories*, *Storytime with Teddy*, and 'Am Leapa le Teidí' – a gentle, as Gaeilge storytime for little ones, presented by library staff member Bairbre on **21st August**. In the lead-up to Heritage Week, the library hosted a meeting for **Ireland's National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage**, bringing together over 25 participants.

Highlights of **Heritage Week** include a talk by **Therese Hicks** on her research into 17th-century Wicklow, uncovering fascinating stories from the Wicklow Borough Corporation Book.

- The library is a proud stop on the *Where's Wally Hunt*, in partnership with Bridge Street Books, bringing children through the town in search of the elusive character.
- A new **photography exhibition** by Geoffrey Kane and Esther Bartley Kane is now on display.
- Wicklow Library recently hosted a **PPN meeting** and a well-attended **GIS session for INTREO** community members.
- Groups using the library this month include the *Partially Sighted Support Group*, *Wicklow Community Choir*, and the *Ausome Lego Group* with their inclusive workshop for children.

On **26th August**, Wicklow Library will host **WASP** for a presentation of their new book "*Love is Not Enough*", sharing lived experiences of families impacted by addiction.



Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Greystones Library

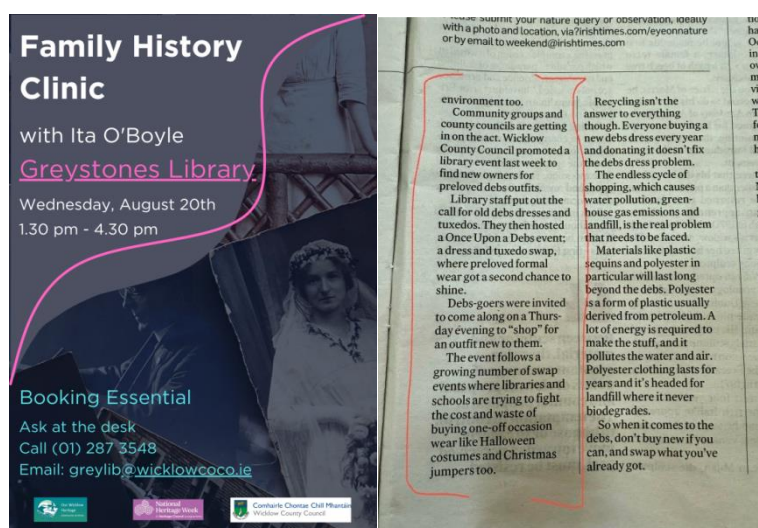
Local writer Frances Browner is facilitating a 3-part **Creative Writing workshop** aimed at those new to writing or who have never shared or submitted a piece of writing.

As part of Heritage Week, artist Nicola Sedgwick will host a **"Watercolour Painting of Local Heritage Scenes" workshop** on Saturday August 16th, when participants will challenge themselves to paint a local heritage scene based on photographs provided.

Also for Heritage week, on August 20th Greystones library will host a **Genealogy clinic** during which attendees can book a one-to-one 30 minute session with Genealogist Ita O'Boyle.

On August 23rd, the library will host a **"Community Conservation and Rescue Volunteer Training"** event delivered by Seal Rescue Ireland after which participants may become an official Rescue Volunteer!

The very popular **"Once Upon a Debs"** clothes-swap event, which was highlighted in an *Irish Times* article on **Saturday August 2nd**, highlights the value and importance of sustainable living.



History Poster and Irish Times mention.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

National Play Day 2025

In 2025, Wicklow County Council, in collaboration with libraries and direct provision centres across the county, distributed Play Packs as part of its National Play Day celebrations. These Play Packs included a selection of giant garden games designed to be suitable and enjoyable for children of all ages.

The Play Packs were actively used during the designated National Play Day period, from the 5th to the 13th of July, and continue to be enjoyed by communities and centres beyond these dates. Aligned with this year's theme, *"The Power of Play,"* the initiative encourages outdoor play and provides meaningful opportunities for children to engage in activities that nurture their imagination and enhance their physical development.

By equipping libraries and direct provision centres with these Let's Play, Play Packs, Wicklow County Council aims to support inclusive, accessible play within the community.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

The objectives of National Play Day 2025 were to:

- Increase public awareness of National Play Day 2025.
- Promote widespread use of the Let's Play, Play Packs across the county via libraries and direct provision centres.
- Embed the value of play as an integral part of community life.
- Maximise opportunities for inclusive participation in play activities.

Disability Summer Camps

In July, nine inclusive summer camps were delivered across County Wicklow. These camps welcomed children and young people of all ages and abilities, providing a safe, supportive, and enjoyable environment for everyone to get active. Each camp was tailored to encourage participation, build confidence, and create new friendships. The programme aimed to ensure that every participant, regardless of ability, had the opportunity to experience the fun and benefits of physical activity during the summer.

Camp Name	Location	Target age	Numbers Attended
Inclusive Sailing	Bray	14 to 22years	4
Inclusive Swimming 4 weeks x 2 sessions	Coral Leisure Arklow	7 to 12 years	15
Inclusive Activity session	Coral Leisure Arklow	7 to 14 years	12
Inclusive Dance Camp	Wicklow Town	10 to 22 years	4
Multi-Sport Neuro Diverse Camp	Enniskerry	7 to 12 years	7
Learn to Cycle camp x 2sessions	Enniskerry	5to 12 years	11
Multi-Sport Inclusive camp with Shoreline	Greystones	7 to 11 years	5

ESF+ Programmes

August has been a busy month for ESF+ in preparation for September programmes. There will be a number of new programmes getting underway through the ESF+ Programme in September with a number of different stakeholders.

In Sync, a youth group in West Wicklow, will begin 2 projects. One with older teens, 15-18 years of age and one with a group of younger teens, aged 11-13. Both groups will be involved in the co-design of programmes to match their needs and wants to work towards lifelong participation in sport and physical activity.

2 IPAS centres, Kippure and The Grand Hotel, will begin a project focused around Table Tennis. The aim is to establish two standing Table Tennis clubs as a way to integrate people living in the IPAS centres into society using sport as the mechanism for this.

Cross Care in Wicklow town is a youth group including some children from IPAS centres also. This group will also take part in a co-designed initiative with the same goal as the In Sync groups.

The Wicklow Traveller Network will begin a working on co-designing another programme. After the success of the swimming programme previously ran, we will work to grow the participation in sport of the Wicklow Traveller Network.

Links have been made with Table Tennis Ireland, Golf Ireland, FAI, Orienteering Ireland, Bray Sports Promotion Unit and Wicklow Rowing with the aim of collaboration in the near future with the above projects.

Her Outdoors 2025

Her Outdoors Week took place from 11 to 17 August 2025, with more than 30 events held across County Wicklow, see schedule of events below. The programme encouraged women and girls to get involved in outdoor activities in a variety of settings, with opportunities for all ages and abilities.

The main event of the week was the Her Outdoors Beach Festival, held on Thursday 14 August at Greystones South Beach. The festival featured face painters, stand-up paddle boarding, calisthenics on the beach, beach volleyball, a social

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

5k run, yoga and a dip, beach table tennis, beach cricket with Greystones Cricket, and a “let’s play” area. The event was well attended and feedback was very popular.

SEACHTAIN AMUIGH FAOIN AER DI

HER OUTDOORS WEEK



SPORTS & RECREATION PARTNERSHIP
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
SPORT IRELAND

Upcoming events

WICKLOW 2025

MON 11 AUGUST

Therapeutic Horse Riding
Intro to Sea Swimming - Bray
Social 5km Run - Rathdrum
Intro to Rowing with Bray Rowing Club

Try Rowing - Wicklow Rowing Club
Yoga at Black Castle
Intro to Trail Running Webinar

WED 13 AUGUST

Activator Poles - Bray
Intro to Sea Swimming - Bray
Social Orienteering - Tinahely
Social 5km Run Arklow

Greystones Beach Festival

FRI 15 AUGUST

Activator poles - The Murrough
Environmental Walk- Laragh

St. Kevin's Way Hike, Sauna, Dip and Bus Back
Bray Wheelers Women's Open Day
Strut Your Mutt - Bray
Intro to Sailing with Bray Sailing Club
Intro to Trail Running Meet Up

SUN 17 AUGUST

Crone Woods Hike
Social Canoe around Blessington Lakes

TUES 12 AUGUST

THURS 14 AUGUST

SAT 16 AUGUST






SCAN ME

Training & Education

Activity	Venue	Date
Safeguarding 1	McCreddin Golf Club	15th July 2025
Safeguarding 1	Online	12th August 2025

Archives & Genealogy Service

Digitisation programme

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

Collection management

New archival descriptive lists for Wicklow Business Archives now on Wicklow.ie - collections include records relating to milling, merchants, blacksmiths and dairy suppliers. See <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Business-Archives>

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Michael Dwyer 200 event

The archives is on the organising committee for this event, co-ordinated by Arklow M.D. which will span two days and includes a conference at Glenmalur, monument unveiling and bus tour of Dwyer locations in west Wicklow. As part of this programme, County Archives has supported a reprint and update of the 1798 Education Pack, which will be distributed to conference attendees, schools, libraries and history groups.

Heritage Week 2025

Archives Open Evening

The public are invited to explore the collections of Wicklow County Archives in our Archives Open Evening event. A selection from our collections will be displayed including workhouse registers, school records, estate papers and maps as well as items from our local government collections. County council collections include the early old age pension records, labourers' cottages volumes, minutes of county and town council meetings and early vehicle registration volumes. An exhibition relating to the Wicklow Grand Jury will also be displayed.

Talk by Therese Hicks

Drawing on a transcription of the Wicklow Borough Corporation minute book (1662–1707) commissioned by the County Archives, this talk offers a glimpse into the life and evolution of Wicklow Town revealed by this important item in our collection.

Exhibition on history of local government

Tinahely Library presents an exhibition of the history and development of local government, produced by the County Archives as part of a project by the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers group, in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Exhibition explores the history of Irish local government, including the pivotal first local elections in 1899, as well as examining some of the important services provided by local councils across the country and includes images and content relating specifically to County Wicklow.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (05/08/2025) outstanding stands at **261 – 1.64%** of total stock of 15,869.

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.

95 lighting faults were attended in July, while 77 faults were logged during the same period; see below for breakdown by MD.

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

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The retrofitting of lanterns has commenced in all MDs with c. 1,074 lanterns upgraded to date (25/07/2025).

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Road Schedule

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

Speed Limits

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

Transportation Statistics

	Total 2023	Total 2024	Total 2025	June 2025	July 2025
Solicitors Queries	1026	1014	599	119	135
Road closure applications	42	50	49	8	7
Road Opening licences	1956	1254	925	154	168
Abnormal Load applications	54	50	20	2	2

Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #7 on the project website www.n11m11bpis.ie on 10th April 2025. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in September 2023. This review resulted in a revisit of the preferred option that now includes additional major road improvement features, such as: -

- A major upgrade at Junction 7 Bray South to a full grade separated junction
- A northbound Service Road at Junction 8 Kilmacanogue
- A northbound Service Road linking Junction 7 Bray South to Junction 6 Fassaroe

The Phase 2 (Options Selection) preferred option will be used at Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) as the basis on which the project design will be developed. The design will be subject to further and more detailed analysis including more detailed traffic analysis and the further examination and assessment of alternatives to the Herbert Road access to the N11. An environmental evaluation will also be completed. This design and analysis will ensure that the project progressed through to the Statutory Approval submission is fully appraised and all implications are known and addressed. Wicklow County Council anticipates that following the publication of the Phase 2 Options Selection Report that the Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation will be progressed, with the statutory approval phase following thereafter

The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet with stakeholders any interested parties.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) have directly appointed the contractor for the construction of the Noise mitigation fence. The start date advised by TII has been pushed out by the contractor. A new Confirmed start date is to be advised. Wicklow County Council is continuing to liaise with residents as required.

N11 Junction 12 Road Safety Improvement Scheme

A Feasibility and Options report was submitted to TII on 9/5/25 for a proposed scheme to improve the southbound diverge ramp at the Garden Village / Newtownmountkennedy exit. TII returned comments on 16/6/25. An amended report was formally submitted to TII on 7th July 2025.

N11 Kilpedder 'Rat-Run' Road Safety Improvement Scheme

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

N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities

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

The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe commenced construction work in April 2025.

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.

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

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

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

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

The Phase 2 Options Selection work is currently progressing under TII's Project Management Guidelines. A non-statutory Public Display event on the Route Options was held in Baltinglass, on 27th March 2024. A second non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred option commenced on the 30th January 2025 with a display event in Germaines in Baltinglass. Submissions and observations were accepted up until 12:00 noon on 27th February 2025. The public display documents are available to view on the project website www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie.

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

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) was approved by TII in November 2023. The Design Report (Phase 3) was approved by TII in April 2024. The Part 8 statutory process (Phase 4) commenced on the 28th March 2024 with the period for submissions by interested parties ending on the 14th May 2024. At the May 2024 meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District the Elected Members voted to approve the Chief Executive's recommendation for the scheme to proceed. The Detailed Design and Contract Documents (Phase 5) were completed in advance of the publication of a Tender in March 2025 for the procurement of a contractor for construction. Tenders were received on 17th April 2025. Following the tender assessment process, a Tender Award Request was issued to TII on 16th May 2025. TII approved the awarding of the contract on 4th June 2025. The construction contractor was appointed in July 2025.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Park & Ride/Share at Hollywood

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

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

N81 Blessington Gateway Project

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

N81 Baltinglass South Gateway Project

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

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

The Phase 2 Options Selection Report, which will determine the preferred route for the Greenway, is currently being reviewed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Negotiations are still ongoing with landowners. Following TII approval of Phase 2 we will proceed to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation. A meeting was held in April with NPWS on site to review the impacts of the scheme on Tomnafinnoge Wood which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Blessington Inner Relief Road

An Bord Pleanála (ABP) granted permission for the northern section of the Blessington Inner Relief Road on 9th September 2024. However, the residential element of the development (330 units) was refused permission by ABP.

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

Construction work commenced on Section 1 in April 2025. A road closure currently in place on Section 1 until August 2025. The completion of section 1 is currently expected in Q4 2025. Section 2 follows with completion of same currently expected Q2 2026

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Wicklow to Greystones Greenway is at the options selection phase of TII's Project Management Guidelines. A Public consultation on the emerging preferred corridors was held in April and May 2024. Route options within those corridors are now being developed and are undergoing a Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA). A public consultation on the emerging preferred option is expected in later in 2025.

Blessington eGreenway

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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

The appointment technical consultants are necessary to prepare an EIAR for the scheme for submission to An Bord Pleanála. The tender was published on e-tenders on 22nd April 2025 with submissions received on 17th June 2025. The tender evaluation is currently being progressed with an appointment expected in Q3 2025.

Active Travel Updates

Projects under Construction

Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities (Wicklow MD)

Provision of new pedestrian facilities and road safety improvements along the Ballyguilemore Road between Carrig View and the entrance to the proposed new St. Patricks GAA Pitch. The scheme includes for new footpaths and road widening works. Construction of the new footpath is complete, along with the drainage and public lighting works. Accommodation works are ongoing with the stonework wall now complete. The remaining works are scheduled to be completed in August.

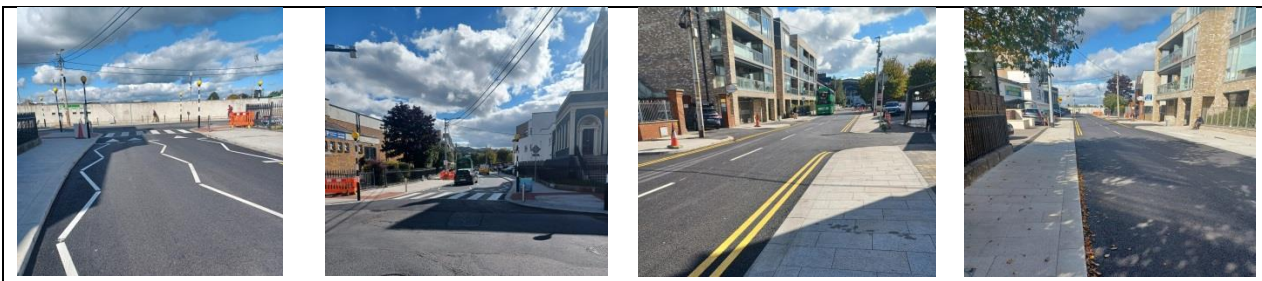


Ballyguilemore

Project Updates

Bray Transport Interchange (Bray MD)

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



Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Bray Transport Interchange

Wicklow Station Pedestrian and Cycle Link (Wicklow MD)

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

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

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

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

New footbridges and alterations to the road to make provision for cyclists. Tender advertised for consultant to progress the scheme from Phase 3 to Phase 7, closing date 27/07/2025. A tender assessment will be carried out on the tenders received.

Baltinglass Bridge Active Travel Scheme (Baltinglass MD)

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. Atkins have been appointed as consultant for the scheme. A kick-off meeting was held in June, and the Consultant has commenced work on Phase 2 – Option Selection and Development. Tender invitations have been issued for the required traffic surveys, topographic survey, and tree surveys.

Greystones Pathfinder (Greystones MD)

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

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

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



Phase 2 - Church Road Improvement Works -

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

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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

Construction phase has commenced July 1st for the school zone, new cycle tracks, two new crossing locations, upgraded junction works and SuDs measures

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

2025 Budget Allocation – New Projects

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

- **SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara HSRR*, Brittas Bay**

Meeting with School and District Engineer has taken place. An Taisce have arranged a further meeting with the School in April. The school zone (NTA Project) is planned to be progressed with the Brittas footpath project. Consultant is currently being appointed. The project will be managed by the Wicklow Municipal District for now as the footpath is their project. Meeting with School held and tender completed for designer and PSPS as part of Footpath renewal project. Meeting with NTA and ATSO on design. An Taisce have circulated the GDP to WCC for review.

- **SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Meeting with School and District Engineer took place in March. An Taisce to provide delivery plans and surveys. Traffic surveys have been undertaken. Meeting had with NTA and ATSO on design.

- **Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry**

Provision of footpath along Scalp Road, Enniskerry. Tender evaluation for topographical survey is underway, 4 tenders received.

- **Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely**

Provision of a new Zebra/Controlled Crossing and upgraded footpath to link Kilcommon National School to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. Works will include second pedestrian crossing and additional footpath. Section 38 public consultation has been advertised and the closing date for submissions is 27th August 2025.

- **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 is to commence.

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Construction of 150m footpath and pedestrian crossing linking to the GAA Club. Topographic survey completed. Gateway 5 approval received from NTA, WCC to prepare design for extension of footpath works. Work is to commence on the approved section.

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

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

Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work continued at Bonabrocka Bridge.

Surface Dressing

Works completed on 10th July.

95 km surfaced at 54 locations.

35 days on site. 7 days off site due to rain, heat and bank holiday.

Parking Income

January to July 2025

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	634,128.60 634,128.60
Greystones Municipal District	212,430.78
Wicklow Municipal District	295,709.80
Arklow Municipal District	164,178.78
Parking Permits	73,693.33
Parking Fines	384,988.20
Wicklow County Council Total	1,765,129.49

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing Information as at 31st July 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

- 41 closed - 34 houses, 7 apartments
- 3 paid pending close - 3 apartments

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

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed and allocated
Greenhills Road (Affordable)	36	Completed and sold
Ballard, Shillelagh	20	Completed and allocated
Merrymeeing, Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completed, allocation in progress
Lugduff, Tinahely	20	Completed, allocation in progress
Scheme on Site	Units	Current Status
Fassaroe, Bray	11	Contractor on site.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor on site.
1A Mill Road, Greystones	3	Completion expected Q1 2026
5A Rednagh Road, Aughrim	1	Completion expected March 2025
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Contractor on site.
Burgage More, Blessington PPP	106	On hold due to Minister's decision
Rehills, Bray Phase 1	140	Stage 1 funding application submitted to Dept, awaiting approval.
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Stage 2 funding approved
Carrig Eden Tiglin	12	Preliminary Design Stage
Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	16	Stage 1 approved. Masterplan being developed prior to Part 8.
Burnaby, Greystones PPP	262	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Ballinahinch, Ashford	19	Tender assessment done. Contractor has been appointed; Stage 4 approval received from Dept.
Tinahask, Arklow	74	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Tinahask PPP, Arklow	128	PPP Bundle 6 continuing

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

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

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

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

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

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

Energy Efficiency upgrades to Council Stock

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

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

Monastery Grove Was Nominated for LAMA award 2024.

Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2025

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivered Q1 2025	CALF
Bray	3	Delivery due Q3 2025	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q3 2026	CALF
Delgany	2	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Rathnew	36	24 Delivered Q2 2025, remainder due Q3 2025	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q3/Q4 2025	WCC
Rathnew	3	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q3 2025	WCC
Baltinglass	9	Delivery due Q2 to Q1 2026	WCC

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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

Potential units

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

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

Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2025:

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

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Expression of Interest for Turnkey Housing Developments/Housing Schemes and or land for the provision of social housing/affordable housing was advertised on 25th and 26th February 2025. Closing date was 25th July.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Vacant Homes Scheme

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

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

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

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

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

There are 2 types of Grants available:

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

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

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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

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

Number of Applications to date	242
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants to date	35
Applications Approved in Principle to date	119
Number of Applications paid to date	51
Value of 48 Grants paid out to date	€2,759,280.48
Applications pending execution of Legal Deed of Charge/Payment to date	3
Applications withdrawn/Rejected to date	46

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Emergency Response

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics July 2025

There were **128 incidents** attended during the month of July 2025. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **156 occasions** including **17** mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of July 2025 **increased by 23% (+29 mobilisations) on the preceding month June 2025 (127 mobilisations)**. There were increases in fires in buildings (+14 mobilisations), malicious fires in urban areas (+10 mobilisations). There was an increase in RTCs (+4 mobilisations).

Operational activity for the month of July 2025 **increased by 84% (+71 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2024** (July 2024, 85 mobilisations which was an unusually quiet period). There was an increase in fires in buildings (+18 mobilisations), an increase in RTC (+19 mobilisations), an increase in malicious fires in urban areas (+21 mobilisations) and incidents in other counties (+13 mobilisations).

Year to date, compared with 2024 has seen an increase in fires in buildings (+30 mobilisations), RTCs (+32 mobilisations), gorse fires (+48 mobilisations) and malicious fires in urban areas (+43 mobilisations).

Incidents in County Kildare (10-incidents total, examples below):

- 04/07/2025 Dunlavin crew supported a crew from Athy at a single vehicle RTC involving an overturned car at Crookstown.
- 06/07/2025 Blessington crew supported a crew from Naas at a single vehicle RTC at Eadestown.
- 09/07/2025 Blessington crew supported a crew from Naas at a domestic house fire at Ballymore-Eustace.
- 21/07/2025 Dunlavin crew supported a crew from Naas at a single car RTC at Grangebeg.
- 22/07/2025 Blessington crew supported a crew from Naas at a single car RTC at Ballymore-Eustace.
- 30/07/2025 Dunlavin crew supported a crew from Athy at a single car RTC at Ballytore.
- 30/07/2025 Blessington crew supported a crew from Athy at a single car RTC at Punchestown.

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

- 01/07/2025 Carnew crew supported crews from Gorey at a 2-car RTC at Baker's Cross, Castletown.
- 17/07/2025 Carnew crew supported Buncloody crew at an outdoor fire at Clonegal.
- 31/07/2025 Carnew crew supported a Gorey crew at a 2-car RTC at Ballyellis, Askamore.

Incidents in County Carlow (3-incidents total, examples below):

- 01/07/2025 Tinahely crew supported a crew from Tullow at a large bailer on fire in a field at Liscolman, Ballyconnel.
- 16/07/2025 Baltinglass crew supported crews from Carlow at a hay barn fire at Rathvilly.
- 16/07/2025 Baltinglass crew diverted to a second agricultural fire at Ballybrit.

Training / Activity

- Two students successfully completed their Initial Breathing Apparatus Wearers (10 Day) course in Tullamore Training Centre.
- A total of seven 1 Day Team Building sessions took place in individual fire stations during July, delivered by external training providers.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Fire Prevention Statistics July 2025

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	5	0	0	0	3
Revised FSCs	0	0	0	0	0
FSC 7-Day Notice	2	0	0	0	1
Regularisation FSCs	0	0	0	0	3
DACs	3	0	0	0	3
Revised DACs	0	0	0	0	
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0	0	0

40 planning files were referred to the Chief Fire Officer for comment. Observations were made on 27 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	13	12	2	1	1
Dangerous Substances Act	0	0	0	0	0
Explosive Act	0	0	0	0	0

Building Control Statistics July 2025

Commencement Notices for July 2025:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 27

- 4 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 20 Opt Out Declarations
- 6 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 2 Seven Day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 74 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 92 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 25 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 4 with Compliance Documentation (16%)
 - 14 are Opt Out (56%)
 - 4 Without Compliance Documentation (16%)
 - 3 Seven Day Notice (12%)
- 25 Valid Commencement Notices

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

- 24 new build residential Units and additional 11 Extensions
- 5 Non Res new builds
- 1 Invalidated CNs from July

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

- 15 New No. of CCC submitted
- 9 Required Revised Information
- 19 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 50 new Residential units
- 1 Non Res. Builds

Submission Statistics

19 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 1 no. CCCs submitted in May 2025
- 4 no. CCCs submitted in June 2025
- 14 no. CCCs submitted in July 2025

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

24 new residential houses, 11 residential extensions and 5 Non-res buildings were notified to LA for Commencement & 50 newly residential units & 1 non-residential units were for completion submitted, assessed and validated in July. In July, 1 BCMS submissions were invalidated.

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

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

Revised Information requests remained high in July for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 92% of Commencement Notice submissions & 60% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. Revised information requests are issued to nominated role holders of submissions when compliance with Building Regs has not been demonstrated.

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

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Civil Defence July 2025

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

Operations & Duties

Event Support & Medical Cover

- Shelton Abbey open day and family event
- Mountain Biking Festival – Medical cover and safety support

Search & Rescue

- Assisted An Garda Síochána with a missing persons in the Bray area, we were also supported by our K9 unit from Dublin Civil Defence

Emergency Services Engagement

- RNLI emergency services open day at Wicklow harbour

Training & Development

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

County Training Night

- Ongoing monthly training to maintain core skillsets and unit cohesion among all teams



Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



Wicklow

Local Authority Integration Team



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council



LGMA
An Ghriomharacht
Bainisteoireacht Riaráin Áitiúil
Local Government
Management Agency



An Roinn Dó Eagraíochtaí,
Gnóthaí Riala agus Inneoin
Department of Justice,
Home Affairs and Migration

Top Line Data

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

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

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for July

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	15
No. of Individuals	59
No. of Couples	5
No. of Families	37
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	15
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	25
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	9
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	45
No. of International Protection Applicants	95
No. Persons with Status	7
No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	16

Integration Supports – Key Enablers

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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

Other Activity

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

Ukrainian Response

As of the end of July 2025, there are 914 Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the county.

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

- Arklow MD: 51
- Baltinglass MD: 124
- Bray MD: 571
- Greystones MD: 94
- Wicklow MD: 74

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

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

Accommodation Recognition Payment for hosting refugees from Ukraine

The Order to reduce the monthly payment to €600 was signed by the Minister on 30th May. The Order takes effect from 1st June. It was assigned Statutory Instrument Number 228 of 2025 and published in Iris Oifigiúil. As the payment is payable monthly in arrears, the first payment at the reduced rate will be received by hosts on 8th July 2025.

The ARP scheme has been extended to 31 March 2026 in line with the extension of the EU Temporary Protection Directive.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Organisational Development

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in July 2025:

- Interviews Executive Engineer
- Interviews Energy Officer
- Preliminary Interviews Assistant Staff Officer
- Interviews Senior Library Assistant
- Interviews Library Assistant
- Interviews Part-Time Retained Firefighter Wicklow
- Interviews Part-Time Retained Firefighter Rathdrum, Dunlavin, Blessington, Carnew

Employee Numbers

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

* Increase in Temporary/Seasonal as lifeguards commenced on 1st June 2025

Freedom of Information

July 2025: 16	July 2024: 8
January – July 2025: 58	January – July 2024: 83

Ombudsman Requests

July 2025: 3	July 2024: 0
January – July 2025: 21	January – July 2024: 11

Press Releases

July 2025 – 13

Register of Electors

Online applications via www.checktheregister.ie continue to be received and processed daily.

Work is ongoing on the Electoral Registration Project in advance of the migration to a national database of Register of Electors. Preparatory work in advance of the Presidential Election has commenced.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Customer Service Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	8,524	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	2,063
No. of Customer Service Emails received	3,328	Revenue Transactions	1,745
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	125	Housing Counter Visits	n/a

Energy

Projects Completed in 2024;

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

Ongoing monitoring and verification of projects completed in 2024.

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

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

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

SEAI Pathfinder Funding 2025

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

Other ongoing projects

District Heating Feasibility Study – Arklow Decarbonised Zone

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Mid-East Energy Unit

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Finance, Water & Information Systems

Finance

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31 JULY 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	36,138,369	56,316,634	64%	(38,041,594)	(59,446,038)	64%	(1,903,225)
Road Transport & Safety	13,810,574	26,329,169	52%	(9,538,865)	(18,925,016)	50%	4,271,709
Water Services	2,722,829	4,633,084	59%	(3,318,520)	(5,554,021)	60%	(595,691)
Development Management	9,936,253	16,414,646	61%	(5,216,742)	(9,859,576)	53%	4,719,511
Environmental Services	10,971,866	17,038,883	64%	(3,256,876)	(5,011,509)	65%	7,714,991
Recreation and Amenity	5,870,436	10,003,906	59%	(741,037)	(1,151,712)	64%	5,129,399
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,438,093	2,393,346	60%	(490,100)	(1,103,228)	44%	947,993
Miscellaneous Services	5,341,184	9,487,115	56%	(9,262,455)	(16,490,485)	56%	(3,921,272)
Central Management Charges	14,920,287	25,473,897	59%	(564,090)	(1,050,000)	54%	14,356,197
Local Government Fund				(10,033,607)	(17,200,469)	58%	(10,033,607)
Commercial Rates				(19,202,213)	(32,448,626)	59%	(19,202,213)
	101,149,891	168,090,680	60.2%	(99,666,100)	(168,240,680)	59.2%	1,483,791

Cashflow/Overdraft

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

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31 JULY 2025					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2025	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/07/2025
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,210,356	45,833,357	(36,927,844)	(356,500)	20,759,369
Road Transport & Safety	(36,985,832)	9,531,122	(6,221,048)	(364,514)	(34,040,273)
Water Services	(6,760,795)	455,893	(229,095)	(90,000)	(6,623,997)
Development Management	(58,018,087)	12,201,118	(15,804,018)	(368,066)	(61,989,053)
Environmental Services	4,260,881	5,642,323	(3,099,198)	(448,188)	6,355,818
Recreation and Amenity	1,466,601	2,577,382	(1,389,824)	(484,564)	2,169,594
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,069,769)	230,528	(380)	(283,798)	(2,123,419)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,918,102)	2,342,947	(545,213)	2,744,246	(6,376,122)
	(96,814,747)	78,814,669	(64,216,621)	348,616	(81,868,083)

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31 JULY 2025										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2025	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/07/2025	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,064,245	32,922,080	(15,558)	0	0	35,970,767	(25,463,928)	10,506,839	785,557	72%
Rents & Annuities	3,310,655	11,058,588	0	2,117	0	14,371,360	(10,988,106)	3,383,255	0	76%
Housing Loans	513,181	1,215,328	0	0	0	1,728,509	(1,466,376)	262,133	0	85%

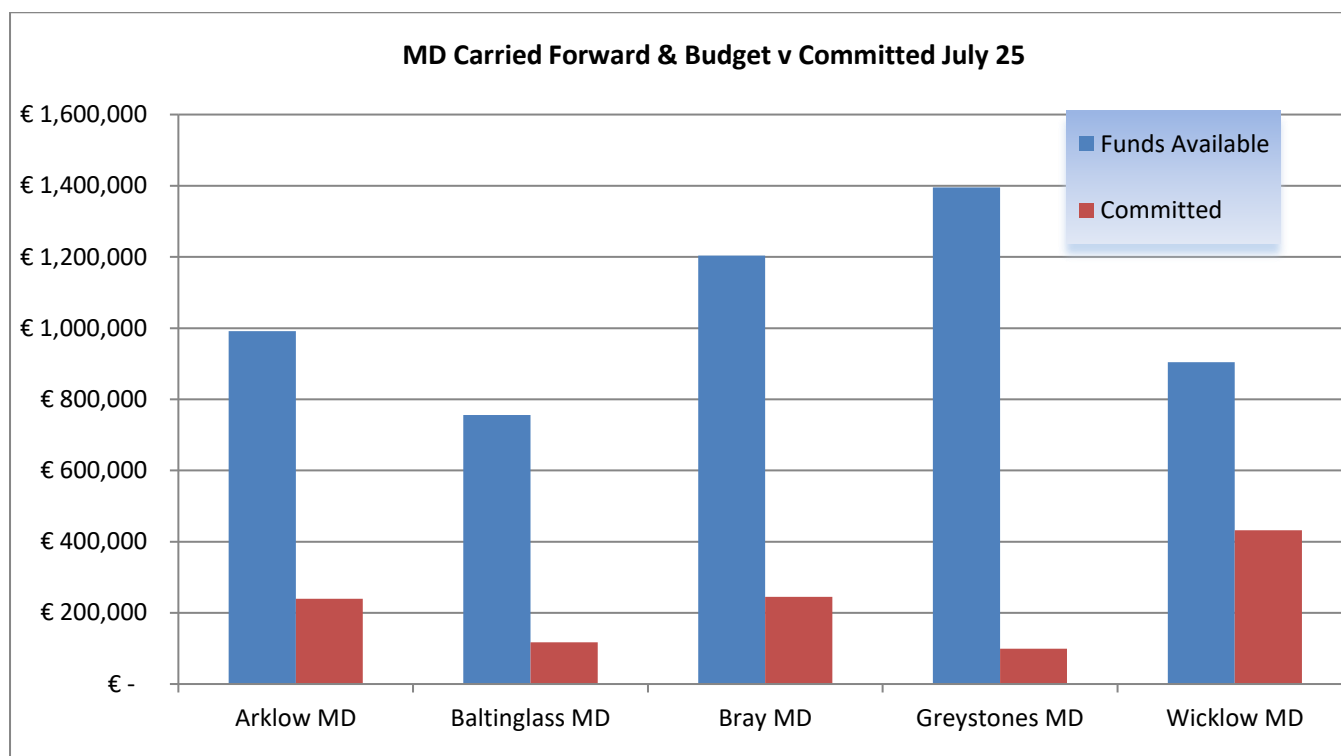
NB: The collection percentages are below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2025

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

Municipal District	C/F from 2024	Adopted Budget 2025	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	399,545	591,804	991,349	239,464	751,885
Baltinglass MD	228,948	527,124	756,072	117,175	638,898
Bray MD	512,742	691,048	1,203,790	244,513	959,276
Greystones MD	873,886	521,458	1,395,344	99,161	1,296,183
Wicklow MD	374,922	529,443	904,365	432,100	472,265
Total	2,390,042	2,860,877	5,250,920	1,132,413	4,118,506

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025



Capital Investment Programme 2025-2027

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

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2025	2026	2027	TOTAL	Dev Charges ¹	Loan	Grant Aid ²	Other ³	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
OVERALL TOTAL	156,326,420	245,086,557	337,017,915	738,430,892	41,118,729	37,000,000	606,644,959	53,667,204	738,430,892

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Capital Funded Projects

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2025

Information Systems

Operations

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

GIS & Systems Analysis

Labworks Update

- Performed an update to Labworks and installed application on Department's laptops.

Enforcement Register

- User Acceptance Testing is ongoing for the new Planning Enforcements Register.

Food Poverty Mapping

- Implemented amendments to improve data accuracy and updated web map design to enhance user experience, focusing on visual clarity and accessibility.

Residential & Population Analysis (Forward Planning)

- Reviewing the core strategy and settlement housing targets.
- Baseline information prepared for housing across all county settlements.
- Added new housing targets data and built-up area layers from the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

MyPlan Upload (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)

- Continued zoning topology corrections for Dunlavin in preparation for submission to the MyPlan system for departmental review.

Infrastructure

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