

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



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

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This month:

WICKLOW BUSINESSES INVITED TO EXPERT BRIEFING ON US TARIFFS AND GLOBAL TRADE CHALLENGES

Wicklow County Council, through the Local Enterprise Office (LEO), invites local businesses to a crucial in-person morning briefing titled "Tariffs & Trade Tactics – What Every Business Needs to Know About Mitigating Risk." This event will take place at The GRID, Charlesland, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, on Friday 2nd May 2025.

This strategic session will be led by international trade expert Brian Murphy from Global Trade. Murphy will explain the political and economic forces driving recent US tariffs and their direct impact on Irish business operations. Attendees will learn how duties affect sales margins and will explore smarter, diversified market strategies, gaining practical tools to navigate today's increasingly complex global trade environment.

Participants can expect to leave the session with clear, actionable strategies for managing international trade risks. This includes a deeper understanding of the political and economic factors behind tariffs, their effects on pricing and margins, and how to adapt by exploring alternative markets.

ENGAGING YOUNG MINDS IN LOCAL HISTORY

Wicklow Local Studies Service, along with Coláiste Chill Mhantain secondary school, is excited to announce the launch of 'The Past in My Place,' an exhibition of local history projects completed by second-year history students as part of their Junior Certificate curriculum.

The exhibition aims to provide a platform for students to showcase their work while highlighting the fascinating history of the people, places, and events that have shaped County Wicklow. It celebrates the diverse heritage of the school's students and features over 40 displays on genealogy and local history, ranging from the history of the Jameson family, sawmill owners from Rathnew, to the ancient Eastern Chinese city of Fuqing.

This event is part of the broader Local Studies Schools Programme, which seeks to engage students in exploring the history of their community. The initiative connects local schools with the library's extensive local studies collection to foster a deeper understanding of local heritage and its impact on the present. Through this program, students from both primary and secondary schools have the opportunity to visit the local studies library in Wicklow Town, where they can view and handle historic photographs, books, maps, and newspapers.

Schools also benefit from curriculum-aligned resources that assist students and teachers in completing their Class-Based Assessment (CBA). These resources include activities for historical document analysis and tailored support for educators. Recently, class sets of these resources have been distributed to all secondary schools in the county.

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Social Development (Housing & Community)

Housing

	March 2025	March 2024
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	93	108
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1356	1398
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	22
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	21	24

Allocation of Social Housing

	March 2025	March 2024
Wicklow County Council	7	8
Approved Housing Bodies	4	12

Social Housing Stock

	March 2025	March 2024
Tenancies Occupied	5042	4918
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€340,747.87	€327,831.65
Arrears (Including Bray)	€2,998,222.34	€3,153,547.36

Rent

- Income based Differential Rent Scheme - Last Review – 2019
- 2 Schemes in the County – one in Bray and one for the rest of the County (new tenants in Bray now go onto Wicklow Scheme)

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Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 31/03/2025
Arklow	938
Ashford	393
Aughrim	40
Avoca	37
Ballinaclash	8
Ballyconnell	4
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	117
Barndarrig	11
Blessington	259
Bray	1135
Brittas Bay	1
Carnew	73
Conary	4
Coolboy	4
Delgany	222
Donard	15
Dunlavin	31
Enniskerry	48
Glenealy	12
Greystones	316
Kilcoole	54
Kilmacanogue	10
Kiltegan	5
Kirakee	2
Knockananna	6
Laken	1
Laragh	13
Newcastle	12
Ntmk	66
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	61
Rathnew	117
Redcross	2
Roundwood	33
Shillelagh	21
Stratford On Slaney	3
Thomastown	8
Tinahely	32
Wicklow	257
TOTAL	4374

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.

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The purpose of the process is to identify the current level of national housing need . At county level, it captures the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the county whose social housing need is not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support. The social housing applications were reviewed from 1st November 2023 to 4th November 2024. The data on the housing needs for Wicklow was returned to the Department by 2nd December 2024.

The following actions were taken to complete the HNA 2024:

- Forms issued to the social housing support applicant.
- Advertised in paper and on local media to remind applicants to complete and return these forms.
- Reminder letters issued to applicants.
- Follow up emails and phone calls to the applicant.
- 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

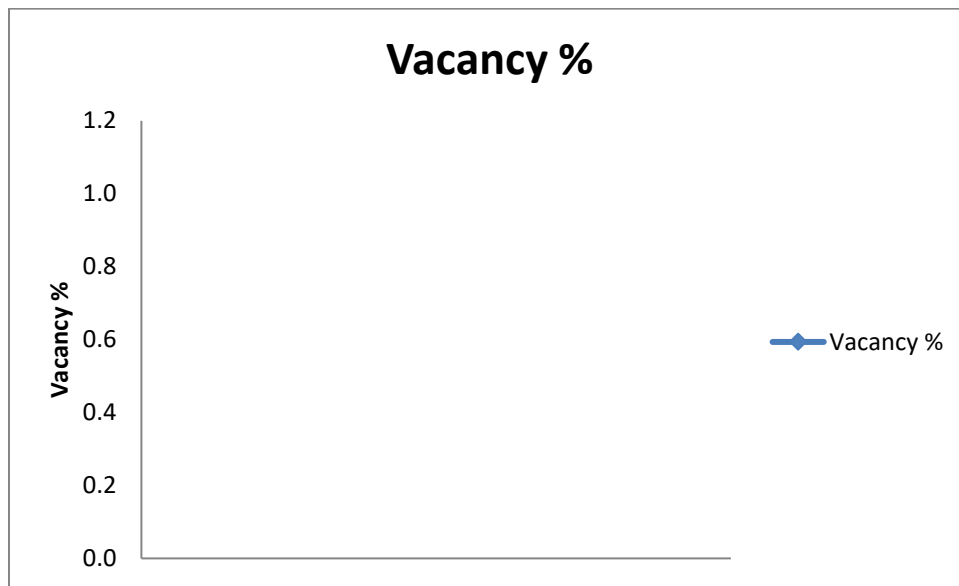
MD	Completed in 2025	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	4 (0)	5 (-1)	5 (-1)	10 (-1)	20(-3)
Baltinglass	0 (0)	7 (-2)	9 (-3)	12(+1)	28 (+5)
Bray	7 (+7)	5 (0)	11 (0)	7(-1)	46(+23)
Greystones	1 (0)	4 (0)	4 (+1)	6 (+2)	13(-1)
Wicklow	7 (0)	12(+5)	20 (-3)	10(-2)	31 (-11)
2025 Totals	19	39 (+5)	40 (-6)	59(+14)	138 (+13)
2024 Totals	110				
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)	2.76	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.

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

According to CSO Census 2022 data:

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

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

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Housing Maintenance

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

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

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

Core Capital Programme

i. Traveller Accommodation

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

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.

EERP	Numbers carried out as of March 2025
Houses retrofit	20

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

Mortgage To Rent

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

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

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 March
Targeted and complaint inspections	148

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	9 (0)
Prohibition Notice	14 (+5)

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

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

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

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- 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.

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

Active projects 2025

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

CAS Acquisitions 2025	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Wicklow Town	1	Due to be delivered Qtr. 2	CAS

Active new CAS projects at present include the acquisition of a property by Ark Housing to deliver to persons at risk of homelessness and Tiglin actively seeking to acquire a property to accommodate a care leaver category of housing need.

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

Budget Spend

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

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Grants Received/Processed	216	266	327	281	456	769	101

Local Authority Home Loans up to March 2025

Received	Approved in Principle
16	5

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2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	<u>To Date</u>	<u>March 2025</u>
<u>Applications Received</u>	466	4
<u>Completed</u>	123	2
<u>Declined</u>	280	0
<u>Ongoing</u>	15	15

Housing Acquisitions

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

	Vacant	Tenant In Situ (TIS)	In Progress	TOTAL
2024	6	6	5	17
2025 (to 31st March 2025)	0	3	3	6



(194 Charlesland Court – sale closed 27th March 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 98 households in the County availing of this scheme.

Wicklow County Council (MTR) Tenants	Approved Housing Body (MTR) Tenants	In Progress
53	49	7

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Homeless Services

Homeless Figures for March 2025

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/03/2025	Year To Date	As at 31/03/2024
No of New Presentations	36	94	37
No. of Repeat Presentations	9	19	0
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	15	37	12
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	49	117	32
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	3	6	5
No. of Children	34	74	22
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	7	16	8
Family Circumstances	8	31	9
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	0	3	3
Mental Health	0	2	1
Risk of Homelessness	34	70	16
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	0	2
Addiction Issues	2	3	8
DV/DA	1	6	1
Medical Issues	1	1	2
Overcrowding	3	9	1
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	1	4	1
ASB:	0	0	3
Rough Sleeping*	2	4	1
Sofa Surfing*	5	10	3
Staying with Family*	9	18	6
Staying with Friends*	5	14	6

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/03/25	
Families	18
Adults	31
Children	43
Single individual	14

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Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/03/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	21	31	52	0	4	1	0	16
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/03/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	27	29	24	9	4	9	0	7

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, 618 households (432 families & 186 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 31st March 2025. (243 homeless cases, 347 prevention cases to date and 28 direct provision). 156 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.

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.

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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 pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation. The main issue facing this programme is the availability of 1-bed units in suitable locations with easy access to required services.

Homeless Action Plan 2024 – 2026

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

Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025

- Three-year strategy published 9th November 2022
- Focus on ending homelessness for young people aged 18-24 through:

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- Prevention of young people from entering homelessness
 - Improving the experience for young people accessing emergency accommodation
 - To assist young people exiting homelessness
- Multitude of stakeholders all with vital roles in addressing fundamental issues

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Community

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Applications for funding closed on Friday 7th March 2025 and the assessment process underway. A large volume of application received both for current and capital funding.

Community Awards Scheme 2025

Applications are now open for the 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.

Maximum grant amount of €500 per organisation for small projects and group running costs.

The closing date for receipt of applications is **4.00p.m. on Friday 25th April 2025.**

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Community Safety Fund

The Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan opened the nationwide funding call for the Community Safety Fund 2025 on Monday 7th April.

The annual fund allows for the proceeds of crime, seized by the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) and An Garda Síochána, to be directed into local projects to support and enhance community safety. The Community Safety Fund will be managed by the newly established National Office for Community Safety within the Department of Justice.

This year, €4 million is available nationally, which is double the original allocation of €2 million when the fund first opened for applications in 2022, and grants range from €20,000 to €150,000.

Applications are invited from community safety initiatives as well as groups co-funded with local authorities, NGOs and community organisations working on issues relevant to community safety and youth justice.

Applications are to be made directly to the Department of Justice by **Friday 16th May 2025**. Forms and further information can be found on www.gov.ie/communitysafety.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

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

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

Earlier this year, Wicklow County Council sought expressions of interest for project proposals during the scheme's first phase, resulting in the approval of €694,300 for seven community projects*.

The final application window closed on Friday, 10th January 2025, Wicklow County Council are currently awaiting a decision from the Department of Rural & Community Development on the success of the proposed projects.

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

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

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*CRF 2024 Phase 1 Approved Projects

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

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

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2023

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

	Project Description
Bray Community Centre	Internal works including electrical upgrade, painting, flooring and heating system improvement works
	External works including windows and doors replacement, safe removal of asbestos, exterior painting,
	Other works will include accessible lift, protected stairway works, insulation upgrade, landscaping and signage
Baltinglass Community Park	Riverside Walking Path
	New Playground
	MUGA Refurbishment
Bray Parish Centre (Completed)	Internal works including electrical upgrade, painting and fittings
Wicklow Town Placemaking Project	Refurbishment of Assembly Hall (total area 2,000 sq. ft) to include new heating system, Internal painting, insulation, install 3 phases, refurbish kitchen, toilets and meeting room areas. Make universally accessible

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	Installation of universally accessible outdoor community gym facility along the Murrough, in order to extend upon and complement the existing community facilities present.
	Improvements to the seafront promenade linking Wicklow Harbour to the existing Murrough community facilities and beyond to the Murrough coastal walk.
Arklow Playing Pitch	Groundworks and surfacing works
	Multi use pitch and fencing
	Landscaping
Rathdrum Community Park	Groundworks, Fencing, Gates
	Landscaping, large planters and benches
Greystones Community Park	Boules/pétanque playing ground
	Landscaping and Community Placemaking



County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

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

The Older Peoples Council most recent meeting was held on the 9th of April 2025.

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

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

Wicklow Train Station report is to be finalised and works to begin shortly.

County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance

The next Alliance meeting is the 6th of May 2025. Each stakeholder will give an update on their Programmes.

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

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

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Age Friendly Ireland Committee

A Regional Programme Managers and OPC members training was held in the Woodford Hotel, Carlow on the 28th of March 2025.

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 to.

The programme was launched in Arklow in March 2025 and there was a great turnout for the event.

Access Officer

Training for Access Officer commenced in October 2024.

Comhairle na nÓg

The position has been filled, and meetings are currently underway to get more membership for the group and to discuss topics that are important to the youth.

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 own home for as long as possible.

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

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

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

The HAFH coordinator met with the Blessington Active Retirement on Friday 11th April to tell them all about the programme and to inform them about the services available locally, to help older people to remain living at home for as long as possible.

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Total Number Home Visits Conducted (up to 31st March 2025):

Total Initial Visits	57
Total Additional Visits	34
Total Visits Overall	101
Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit	51



Healthy
Wicklow



Sláintecare.
Healthy
Communities

Healthy Ireland - Healthy Wicklow

Active Communities

Signage for a FitStick trail in Coolafancy Community Field and Shillelagh GAA is being processed by Signiatec Ltd and will be in situ in the next couple of weeks. Appraisal has also been completed on the 2nd April by FitWalk Ireland to include a FitStick trail in Carnew GAA. Funding has also been allocated to facilitate an 8-week couch to parkrun programme which commenced on the 29th April in Shillelagh.

Food Poverty

The West Wicklow Food for Thought Event was held in Donard Community Café on the 2nd April which provided an opportunity for collaboration, interaction and information sharing between voluntary groups and community organisations directly/indirectly supporting families and individuals experiencing food poverty in the West Wicklow area. This was the third and final in the series of Food for Thought Events and a West Wicklow Food Partnership will be formed.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Physical Activity for Health Hub

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Bray is pleased to confirm its collaboration with Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership on the development of a new Physical Activity for Health (PAfH) Hub in Ballywaltrim. Led by Denise O'Shea, PAfH Officer with the Local Sports Partnership, this initiative will serve as a dedicated community-based resource promoting preventative health, physical activity, and chronic disease management. With an initial investment of €15,000 from SHC, the Ballywaltrim hub will support individuals across all life stages to engage in accessible, evidence-based physical activity programmes, aligned with SHC's commitment to reducing health inequalities and addressing the social determinants of health in Bray.

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Feasibility Study

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Bray is pleased to share that the SHC Feasibility Study for the Bray area has now been fully completed. The findings were recently presented to local councillors at the April Bray Municipal District meeting, marking an important milestone in the development of community-based health supports in the area.

Commissioned by Wicklow County Council and delivered by S3 Solutions, the study explored the current landscape of health and wellbeing in Bray, identifying service gaps, community assets, and key opportunities to enhance preventative health infrastructure. It contains a series of actionable recommendations focused on integrated service delivery, improved access, and long-term sustainability.

The next step will be to establish a dedicated steering group to review the study's findings and prioritise tasks and actions. S3 Solutions will be invited to present their recommendations in greater detail at this stage, supporting the development of a shared implementation plan that reflects the needs and strengths of the Bray community.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP Annual Plans 2025 and Annual Performance Review 2024 have been approved. This has allowed Q2 funding to be disseminated to both Programme Implementers namely, Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership.

Wicklow LCDC approved Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership's proposal to grant €2,500 to the CARA (care and repair) project. These funds will be used for job-specific tools, PPE, business equipment, office supplies, maintenance, marketing materials and signage. This will help the CARA project continue to promote and deliver its services to support older people to living independently in their own homes.

Public Participation Network

New staff member Alice McDonnell has joined Wicklow PPN team as Resource Worker (Job-share).

PPN Review: Facilitated meeting held on April 12th of PPN stakeholders including Secretariat members, to review and explore roles, responsibilities and procedures.

Consultations: Part 8 Consultation Former Bank of Ireland Building, Carnew; Part 8 Murrough Masterplan; Declaration of Public Roads – Section 11 Roads Act, 1993; Affordable Housing Survey 2025.

Membership: 502 groups from across the county now members of Wicklow PPN.

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.

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Planning, Economic & Rural Development

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

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

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

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

The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. An online consultation portal was created to present the variation alongside the draft Local Area Plan. The Proposed Variation was on display for 6 weeks from 09 October to 20 November with 11 submissions received. The forward planning team prepared a Chief Executives Report which was issued to the elected members on the 10 of January 2025 for their consideration. The elected members considered the recommendations of the Chief Executives Report and voted to make material modifications to the Variation at a council meeting on the 10 of February 2025. These material modifications were published and placed on the online consultation portal on 03 March 2025 until the 31 March 2025. A total of 8 submissions were received in relation to the proposed material amendments to Variation No. 2 of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. The Forward Planning Team are currently preparing the CE report on these proposed material modifications and it is intended to issue the report to the Elected Members for their consideration well ahead of the 28th of April deadline so that it can be brought to the Ordinary Meeting of the Elected Members on Monday the 12th of May. Please see below for further detail on the process of the Draft Wicklow Town –Rathnew LAP.

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

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

The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Blessington Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. An online consultation portal was created to present the variation alongside the draft Local Area Plan. The Proposed Variation was on display for 6 weeks from 30 October to 11 December with 11 submissions received. The forward planning team prepared a Chief Executives Report on the proposed variation which was issued to the elected members for their consideration on the 31 of January 2025. The elected members have considered the recommendations of the Chief Executives Report and voted to make material modifications to the Variation at a council meeting on the 03 of March 2025. These material modifications will be published and placed on the online consultation portal on 24 March 2025 and will be accepting submissions up to 23 April 2025. Please see below for further detail on the process of the Draft Blessington LAP. The Variation and the Chief Executives Report are available to view here:

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

Proposed Variation No 4 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Greystones / Delgany & Kilcoole Local Planning Framework LPF)

We are currently preparing proposed Variation No. 4 to the WCDP 2022-2028. The purpose of the Variation will be to incorporate the draft and final Greystones /Delgany & Kilcoole Local Planning Framework. This will replace the Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole LAP 2013 - 2019. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the Variation.

LOCAL AREA PLANS (LAP) / LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORKS (LPF)

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

Draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

The draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 was on display for 6 weeks from 09 October to 20 November 2024 with 166 submissions received. The forward planning team prepared a Chief Executives Report which was issued to the elected members on the 10 of January 2025 for their consideration. The recommendations in the Chief Executives Report were considered at the regular council meeting on the 10

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of February 2025. From this meeting, a number of material amendments were proposed to the Draft LAP. These material modifications were published and placed on the online consultation portal on 03 March 2025 until the 31 March 2025. A total of 160 submissions were received in relation to the proposed material amendments of the Draft Plan. The Forward Planning Team are currently preparing the CE report on these proposed material modifications and it is intended to issue this report to the Elected Members for their consideration well ahead of the 28th of April deadline so that it can be brought to the Ordinary Meeting of the Elected Members on Monday the 12th of May. Please see below for further detail on the process of the Draft Wicklow Town –Rathnew LAP. The Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan process, including the Chief Executives Report is available to view here -

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

Blessington Local Area Plan

The draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025 was on display for 6 weeks from 30 October to 11 December 2024 with 253 submissions received. The forward planning team prepared a Chief Executives Report on the draft LAP which was issued to the elected members for their consideration on the 31 of January 2025. The elected members have considered the recommendations of the Chief Executives Report and voted to make material amendments to the draft LAP at a council meeting on the 03 of March 2025. These material amendments will be published and placed on the online consultation portal on 24 March 2025 and will be accepting submissions up to 23 April 2025. The Blessington Local Area Plan process is available to view here -

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

LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORKS (LPF)

The new Planning Act passed into law last year does not make provision for the preparation of 'Local Area Plans' as currently provided for under Section 20 of the 2000 Act. While the Act makes provision for new types of plans, called 'urban area plans', 'priority area plans' and 'coordinated area plans', these can only be prepared where it is an objective of the County Development Plan to prepare such a plan. In the new scheme, the idea is that CDPs will include more extensive 'settlement specific objectives' (which would include zoning) such that only in particular circumstances might one of these new 'local' plans be necessary for a settlement. Once the new section of the Act is commenced, there will not be a provision that allows LAPs that have been commenced, but that are not yet adopted, to complete the adoption process i.e. any stages of LAP making completed to that date will be 'void'. All indications are that the section of the new

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Act dealing with 'plans' will be commenced by the end of Q2 2025 so this change appears to be imminent and would directly impact on the local area plans due to be commenced.

We have the option of adding settlement specific objectives in relation to the towns needing new local plans into the County Development Plan by way of variation. Therefore the new set of local plans will be adopted into the County Development Plan by way of variation. This process provides a very similar plan making process to the former LAP process in that it includes public consultation, CE reports, member's decisions, material amendments etc. The plans that will be prepared will address all of the same issues as LAPs – it will only be the adoption process that will be slightly different. It is intended that the Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole plan will be the first plan to utilise this alternative process.

Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK (LPF) / VARIATION

Pre-draft consultation closed for the new 'Greystones - Delgany' & 'Kilcoole' Plan closed on 31 January 2024 with 115 submissions received. Two well-attended public information days were held in January 2024. All valid submissions have been reviewed and considered. The draft LPF / Variation is currently being prepared and it will go out on public consultation for 6 weeks with submissions invited from everyone. It is hoped that the draft LPF/Variation will commence display in Q2 2025.

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

The Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole Plan pre-draft process and the consultation portal is available to view here -

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

Arklow LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK (LPF) / VARIATION

The pre-draft public consultation stage of the plan ran from 01 March 2024 to 02 April 2024. An online consultation web portal was created for this stage, with submissions invited through the portal. 80 submissions were received. A well-attended public information day was held on 15 March 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. DBFL have also been appointed to complete an ABTA (Area Based Transport Assessment) and prepare an LTP (Local Transport Plan) for Arklow which will underpin the Draft LPF/Variation. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house. It is hoped that the draft LPF/Variation will commence display in Q3 2025.

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

Bray Municipal District (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue) LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK (LPF) / VARIATION

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

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

The current LAP for Bray MD is available to view here

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

RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX (RZLT)

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

The 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>

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Cáin ar Thalamh Criosaithe Cónaithe — Do Cheisteanna Freagartha :

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

RZLT 2025

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

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

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

Submissions to Final 2025 RZLT Maps.

The **final map for 2025** identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2025. Owners of such land may 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. A total of 1 submission was received during the prescribed period. The local authority will communicate in writing with the landowner on its decision on whether to progress with an intended variation to the relevant statutory land use plan by the 30 June 2025. Decisions on rezoning requests cannot be appealed to An Bord Pleanála.

RZLT 2026

The annual draft RZLT maps for 2026 were also 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>

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 make submissions regarding the inclusion of land on this draft map until the **1 April 2025**.

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Click [HERE](#) to see more detail. A total of 7 submissions were received during the prescribed period. These submissions (appropriately redacted) will be published on the local authority website by 11 April 2025. Where a landowner has requested that their lands be excluded from the annual draft map on the basis that it does not meet the criteria for being in scope, or challenges the date from which the said lands on the map met this criteria, the local authority must notify the landowner of its decision no later than the 1 July 2025. A landowner has until 1 August 2025 to appeal the local authority decision to An Bord Pleanála.

VACANT SITE LEVY

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

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

HERITAGE OFFICE

Irish Community Archive Wicklow Network Meeting scheduled for 30th April in Blessington.

County Heritage Plan (CHP): Heritage Council funding allocations announced under County Heritage Plan Fund of €37,500 and Community Archaeology Service €20,000.

New Publication: A Hillfort Through Time excavations at Rathgall Co. Wicklow by Barry Rafferty and Katharina Becker, launched on 25th March. This landmark production represents the results of decades of archaeological research and is supported by Wicklow County Council Heritage Office.

Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture):

- Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2025- an allocation of €175,635 was confirmed for county Wicklow for 17 projects
- Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2025: six project applications were prepared and submitted from County Wicklow to Historic Structure Fund. One allocation of €170,000 secures for Russborough House under HSF.

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 under HTI.

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Community Monuments Fund- CMF. Applications under The Community Monuments Fund 2025 were prepared by Heritage Officer. Five projects were submitted to National Monuments Service, awaiting outcome.

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31 st March 2024	To 31 st March 2025
Received (Valid)	262	243

A total of 100 valid applications were received during March as follows:

Type of Development	31 st March 2025
Individual Houses	18 (17 Rural)
Housing Developments*	06
Agricultural Structures	03
Commercial	07
Other Developments**	66
Total	100

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

Housing Developments – PRR25/60207 – Shankill Property Investments Ltd, 341 dwellings, former Golf Club Lands, Off Ravenswell Road and Dublin Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

PRR25/60230, Heka Developments Limited, 25 dwellings, St Patrick's Road, Marlton Road and Abbey Street, Wicklow Town.

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Decisions issued in respect of 80 applications in March 2025

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	01
Other Developments	78
Other Developments Requiring EIA	01
Total	80

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

	31/03/2024	31/03/2025
Total Number of decisions issued	226	226
Total Number of decisions to grant	194	194
% Grant Rate	86%	86%
No of applications withdrawn		10(6 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

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

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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.

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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

Eplanning has now been in place since 17th April 2023.

For the **month of March 2025**, a total of 91 planning applications were received of which **20.88%** were hard copy applications and **79.12% were received online**.

From **1st January 2025 to 31st March 2025** a total of 227 applications were received of which 22.91% were hard copy applications and **77.09% were received online**.

We have had 13 applications for a variety of Section 254 Licences from 1st January to 31st March.

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

There has been a mix of application types received during the month of March 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
- Extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Part 8 Application

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- Construction of a new dormer style dwelling, alterations to road layout which was previously approved under planning ref. 21/611
- Numerous requests to demolish properties throughout the county
- Construction of 38 dwellings consisting of 8-one-bed and 8-two-bed ground floor apartments, 8-two-bed and 8-three-bed duplexes and 6-two-bed bungalows in Arklow
- Extension of appropriate period of 19/1332 - change of use of part of existing retirement home to two no two storey dwellings with 2 storey rear extension of 77.82 sqm to existing building, demolition of part of single storey in Greystones

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

New Files	5
Advisory Letters	9
Warning Letters	3
Enforcement Notices	0
Legal Files	0
Closed	8

Vacant Sites

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

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

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

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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 is one of 26 towns selected nationally under Phase 2 of the Town Centre First Plan initiative. The town will receive €30,000 in funding to support the development of its own Town Centre First 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 is provided under the Town Centre First Measure 2 Suite of Supports. The plan must be completed, and all associated claims submitted to the Department by 5th September 2025.

Following the establishment of the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team in November 2024, the Town Regeneration Officer (TRO), in collaboration with the Town Team, drafted and issued a tender document for the development of the Town Centre First (TCF) Plan. The contract was awarded to ACT (Accelerating Change Together), and the process of compiling the TCF Plan is now underway.

1.2 Town Centre First – Suite of Supports

1.2.1 Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1

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

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The original deadline for drawing down the funding was set for 15th November 2024. However, an application for an extension was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development and subsequently approved. The revised deadline is now 8th May 2025, providing additional time for these towns to finalise their plans and support the successful formation of their Town Teams. This extension offers a valuable opportunity for further planning and preparation within the communities.

Queen's University Belfast was awarded the contract to carry out the Health Checks and has begun compiling the reports. Public consultations are scheduled to take place in April and May 2025.

1.2.2 Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Support

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

- a) Blessington – Project will create plans to develop a high quality public space in the Market Square. Project will commission professional services to carry out a predevelopment exploration of the Market Square as a de-risking exercise for the construction phase if the project was successful in a later funding application.
- b) Wicklow Town – Project will engage a supplier/contractor to complete a comprehensive design plan aimed at improving of public lands surrounding the Black Castle in Wicklow Town and assessing the structure and condition of the Castle.

The capital funding agreement was returned to the DRCD on 16th September 2024. The *Town Centre First Measure 3* projects must be completed with all associated claims submitted to the DRCD by 30th September 2025. The Town Regeneration Officer has been actively collaborating with the respective Town Teams to prepare tenders for the associated works. The tender for Blessington Market Square was issued on 16th March 2025, with a return date of 16th April 2025. The tender for the Wicklow Town Black Castle Public Grounds is scheduled to be issued in April 2025.

1.3 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

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

- a) **Kirikee, Glenmalure** - Renovation works are planned for the Community Centre, including 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 is scheduled for issue in early April 2025.

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- 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.
- 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. Acceptance agreements have been signed, and the tender process was discussed with the associated Town Team and community. The tender was issued on 16th March 2025, with a return date of 16th April 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 a new Town Team in Newtownmountkennedy was completed in November 2024. Following this, the newly established team held its first meeting in December 2024. This marks an important milestone in the town's efforts to revitalise and develop its town centre as part of the Town Centre First initiative. The formation of the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team brings the total number of Town Teams in County Wicklow to five, joining Arklow, Blessington, Greystones and Wicklow.

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

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 April 2025 to progress these works.

1.5.2 Baltinglass RRDF

The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow came in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the necessary technical plans are complete in order for the works to commence. Works on the Public Park and playground are almost completed. Application for further funding on this project was made to the Department on the 7th February

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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 Q2 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.

TOURISM

1. SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

The initial work on the social media accounts was spent managing the community, re-sharing content and reviewing collaborations. A lot of content creators engage with the VisitWicklow profiles and there is a lot of scope in developing collaborations over the coming weeks and months. Overall, reach and engagement is up on all platforms with sharp increase following the 'Sauvons les Kevin' event.

2 'SAUVONS LES KEVINS' OPPORTUNITY

Wicklow County Council in partnership with Tourism Ireland helped launch a new documentary about the name Kevin and the story behind the French 1990's boom of new-born Kevin name bearers! French TV

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station 'Paris Premiere' launched the documentary 'Save the Kevin' in Paris, to an audience of more than 200 Kevin's and to an extensive team of French and international media. Wicklow enjoyed extensive exposure through the week and was promoted through both 'Paris Premiere' and Tourism Ireland's France social media accounts.

1. WICKLOW TRAILS APP

The new Wicklow Trails App was heavily incorporated on the visitwicklow.ie website. All trails listed on the website have been updated to link up to the information on the new app. The App was launched through social media using some of the outdoor videos created last year.

2. MEITHEAL 2025

Wicklow County Council was present at this year's Meitheal event organised by Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland. This event attracted a large number of overseas tour operators who met with Irish tourism providers. Many Wicklow businesses were present on the day including Powerscourt Gardens, Tulfarris, Russborough House and Avondale.

3. TOURISM NETWORKING AND WORKSHOP EVENT

Wicklow County Council is hosting its Annual Tourism Industry Networking Event on Tuesday 29th April 2025 commencing at 9am. The morning event will take place at Tulfarris Hotel in West Wicklow and will include a number of updates, guest speakers, networking opportunities, a workshop followed by a light lunch. This year, special focus is given to Screen Tourism and guest speaker Liz Steele from Tourism Northern Ireland will present some of the actions taken to attract and retain visitors on the back of series such as Game of Thrones and Derry Girls. After lunch an optional tour of Russborough will take place.

4. WICKLOW HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL APPLICATION

Wicklow County Council was successful in their bid to apply for funding under the 'Ireland, Home of Halloween Destination Development (Pilot) Scheme'. If their application is successful, County Wicklow will be one of the five national hubs of the Samhain festivities in Ireland offering tremendous promotional opportunities to the domestic and international audiences.

5. 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

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to support the implementation of actions contained in the VEMMP. Updates shared at the recent Local Advisory Group meeting include:

- Fáilte Ireland has appointed DESIGN ID as consultants to design an All Ability Trail connecting Laragh to the Monastic City and Upper Lake. They will carry out full consultation with all stakeholders, local community and landowners, in conjunction with the Local Advisory Group.
- Fáilte Ireland has also appointed KSN Project Management to provide key Project Management Services to assist in the delivery of Phase 1 of the VEMMP over the next two years. These consultants will work closely with the Glendalough Partnership partners and the Local Advisory Group, to provide additional support, and consistency across actions being delivered.
- The National Monuments Service and the OPW have collaborated in preparing a brief for a Conservation Management Plan to advise on the delivery of the VEMMP. A consultant is due to be appointed imminently.
- All consultants will meet to co-ordinate aspects of their work which impact on others and will provide an update to the Glendalough Partnership.
- Wicklow County Council have arranged for traffic management, additional temporary parking and VMS signage for Summer 2025 in order to maintain a flow of traffic through Laragh and to the various car parks. This will be supplemented by a social media campaign encouraging drivers to park responsibly and respectfully.
- NPWS, working with Coillte, have secured funding for phase 3 of the Spinc upgrade. This will build on the improvements made in 2024 in removing boardwalk and replacing with aggregate trails.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

The Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns project at the Abbey Grounds remains ongoing, with completion still expected for later this year.

2. Special Projects

The GRID: The GRID (Greystones Regional Innovation District) continues to operate, with several companies occupying office space. Fit out works are ongoing and a comprehensive marketing plan to promote unoccupied spaces is underway.

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

Carnew Remote Working Hub: Consultation for Part 8 planning approval remains open until 12 noon on Monday 22nd April, 2025. The Town and Village Renewal Scheme for 2025 are now open and an application is currently being prepared to seek additional funding to enable us to move forward with the next stage of the project.

Marketing Plan: The #ChooseWicklow campaign continues its planned run until April 2025, maintaining its regular schedule of weekly social media posts

3. Offshore Renewable Energy

The ORE Network continues regular meetings for offshore renewable energy company engagement, networking, and annual planning. Their next scheduled meeting is planned for 13th May 2025.

4. Skills Strategy

The skills taskforce remains actively engaged in implementing the actions outlined in the Wicklow Skills Strategy. Their next scheduled meeting is planned for 15th May 2025.

5. Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow Naturally was nominated for the Irish Restaurant Awards 2025 under Local Food Hero for Wicklow. The nomination celebrated Santina Kennedy who has been working as Wicklow Naturally's coordinator since the start of the network.

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

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LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO) FOR MARCH 2025 MEETING:

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral 			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME)	22 €671,740 7 €12,500	42 TAME Is discontinued. New support: Market Explorer Grant	5 €96,484.5
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
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	145	105	65
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1223	840	300
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	24	20	8
METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
Number of new clients added to database.	443	400	121

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*Criteria have been amended for this metric			
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	578	345	119

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	3

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2024	2025	Year to Date 2025
Trading Online Vouchers	124	Nil TOV are discontinued	Nil

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	0
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	20	18	4
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	7	15	17
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	N/A	6	0
Energy Efficiency Grant	3	18	1
Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025

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No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	12	13	7
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

March 2025 Activities:

As part of Local Enterprise Week 2025, several key events took place in Wicklow:

Monday, March 3rd

- Focus on Export: Prepare Your Business for Customs – A full-day workshop designed to help businesses navigate the complexities of importing and exporting. One-to-One Business Advice for Start-Ups – Evening consultations offering expert guidance for entrepreneurs.

Tuesday, March 4th

- One-to-One Business Advice for Start-Ups – Personalized morning sessions offering tailored support for new business ventures.

Wednesday, March 5th

- Eliminate Waste & Increase Profits: A LEAN Breakfast – A workshop focusing on implementing LEAN principles to improve efficiency and profitability. 30 attendees.

Thursday, March 6th

- One-to-One Business Advice for Start-Ups – Strategic morning advisory sessions for aspiring entrepreneurs.
- Start Your Own Business Course – A comprehensive evening program covering the essentials of starting and managing a successful business.

Friday, March 7th

- Digital Marketing Advice – One-on-one consultations with marketing expert Aisling Hurley, helping businesses refine their online presence.
- Network Ireland Wicklow International Women's Day Celebration – A themed event focusing on Wealth, Wisdom, and Wellness, featuring prominent speakers sharing insights on female entrepreneurship

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April/May 2025 Activities:

Various events taking place:

- **14th April - Food Academy**

Food Academy is aimed at those in the early to mid-stages of developing a food or drink business that have already developed a product, trialled it in the marketplace & are looking to scale up and grow their business.

- **25th April - National Ploughing Championship**

The Network of Local Enterprise Offices are now inviting any clients interested in availing the opportunity to display their business in the National Ploughing Championship this stand to apply by 25th of April.

- **2nd May - Tariffs, Trade & Tactics: What Every Business Needs to Know About Mitigating Risk**

A morning briefing with global trade expert Brian Murphy, as he breaks down the impact of the US tariffs on Wicklow Businesses and provides insights on tackling a volatile international market.

- **26th May - Strategic Retail Masterclass: Wicklow Retail Leaders – Unlocking Growth Together**

The aim of the course is to empower local retailers with the tools, strategies, and collaborative mind-set needed to grow stronger together, through unified branding, smart digital marketing, and data-driven decision making.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

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

Training which took place in March:

- Focus on Export, 3 March, in partnership with LEO Kildare. 13 participants.
- **LEAN Breakfast: Eliminate Waste & Increase Profit on Wednesday, 5th March 2025.**
- Start Up Business Advice Clinics running throughout Local Enterprise Week
- 6th March: Chat GPT Training
- 6th March: Start Your Own Business
- 7th March: Digital Marketing Advice Clinics

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- 12th March: Bookkeeping Using Excel (1)
- 18th March: Start Your Own Business
- 26th March: Bookkeeping Using Excel (2)

Upcoming April Events:

- 16th April: A Layman's Guide to VAT and Income Tax (1)
- 23rd April: A Layman's Guide to VAT and Income Tax (2)
- 28th April: Chat GPT/AI Training for marketing
- 30th April: Start Your Own Business

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Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

1) Climate & Biodiversity Action and Environment Awareness

- **Wicklow SuDS Policy and Developer Guidance:** The Elected Members adopted our new Sustainable Drainage Systems Policy and Development Guidance document in April's Ordinary meeting. Additionally, the council are part of a SuDS Regional working group including Fingal CoCo, SDCC, DLR CoCo, Meath CoCo, Kildare CoCo, LAW Pro and Waterways Ireland which met on 21st March 2025 to inspect various Nature Based SuDs Systems in South Dublin County Council.



- **Coastal Erosion:** The council and the OPW are seeking a Coastal Erosion Management Study for Greystones North Beach to be fully considered under agreement with Irish Rail as part of the ECRIPP project.
- **Wicklow's Dark Sky Reserve:** Wicklow Uplands Council, the NPWS and the council are seeking to develop a Dark Sky Reserve. An area has been selected which includes two thirds of the national park as the core of the reserve with a 700 KM squared buffer zone to the east, west and south. The towns of Roundwood, Laragh and Aughrim would be the most significant settlements in the reserve.

2) Community Climate Action Programme:

- **Strand 1 Building Low Carbon Sustainable Communities:** €643,000 has been allocated to 20 Projects under the Community Climate Action Programme. This allocation supports a variety of community organisations in areas such as energy, waste, biodiversity and active travel. Drawdown as of end of March 2025 is as follows:

GROUP	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PROGRESS
Wicklow Town Team / SEC	Insulation of walls/roof parochial community centre	31,851.26	In progress
Kilcoole Mens Shed / Tidy Towns / Biodiversity Group	Dispersed orchard	4,365.67	In progress

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Signal Arts Centre	Insulation of walls/ceiling of community arts centre	22,700.00	In progress
Wicklow Town Team / SEC	Heating control upgrade	13,088.82	In progress
Donard Community Enterprises CLG	Insulation of community centre walls/roof	36,547.00	In progress
Rathnew Community Centre	Installation of solar PV array on community centre	12,300.00	In progress
Arklow Tidy Towns	Community water harvesting unit		



Arklow Tidy Towns Community Rain Harvesting

- Communal Gardening:** A communal gardening networking event was held on April the 12th in Clermont Campus. Twenty-four representatives from groups attended the event. A review on what is currently happening was presented along with some guidance on governance. Donal Mc Cormack from Community Gardens Ireland gave a talk. Three of the existing community gardens gave a brief description of their projects to the group. A discussion was undertaken to discuss the support needed by groups. Access to sites remains the primary issue for some groups. Participants expressed an interest in meeting again and visiting some of the projects around the county.



Clermont Community Gardening Event

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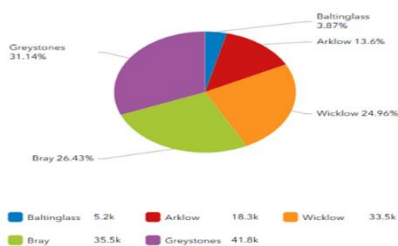
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- **Sustainable Energy Communities:** SEAI are producing a case study on the Arklow Sustainable Energy Community insulation meitheal project. As part of the process a video was shot in Arklow to record how the project was delivered and its impact.
- **Greystones Climate Action Forum:** Representatives from various community and sports groups gathered for Greystones Climate Action Forum which included the areas of Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole, Killincarrig, Newcastle, and Newtown Mount Kennedy. The Forum heard various presentations targeted at the community working together toward achieving a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.

3) Actions Monitoring Reduction of Carbon

- As a part of monitoring data for carbon and energy savings, the Climate Action Team have calculated the carbon reduction for the council fleet, the public lighting, and for the housing retrofit programmes.

Carbon Emission Across Municipal Districts (MDs)



- **Circular Economy:** Our Litter Management Plan has gone out for public consultation. This open consultation period is due to close on the 25th April.

4) Biodiversity Projects

- **Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030:** The development of the Biodiversity Action Plan is supported by the Biodiversity Forum. The Actions are currently under review and the report is being drafted. Steps remaining to be taken include:
 - Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening
 - Translation of the draft plan
 - Public consultation on the draft plan
 - Final amendments and plan approval
 - Illustration and design
 - Launch of the Plan
- **Wicklow Youth Biodiversity Conference:** Over 200 secondary school students from various secondary schools attended Wicklow's inaugural Youth Biodiversity Conference, held at Blessington Community College on Wednesday, 2nd April. The event was organised by a student Environment Council committee of eighteen students ranging from first to fifth year with support from their teachers

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and Wicklow County Council. A key goal of the Youth Biodiversity Conference was to amplify the voices of young people in Wicklow, empowering them to speak out about the climate and biodiversity emergency. The student environment council carefully chose the main topics with the intention of inspiring attendees to become lifelong advocates for a sustainable future.



- **National Biodiversity Week 2025:** Planning is underway for events that will be led and supported by Wicklow County Council to celebrate National Biodiversity Week 16th – 25th May. An events programme should be finalised and promoted in mid-late April.

5) Environment Awareness

- **Sustainable Development and Tidy Main Street/Tidy Estates Awards:** ceremony held March 11th. Over 60 awards handed out including award to Greystones Tidy Towns for the County Gold medal and the Endeavour award to Annacurragh Tidy Towns.



- **National Tree Week** was celebrated from Sunday, 9th March, to Sunday, 15th March. Over 1000 saplings delivered throughout Wicklow to tidy Towns, biodiversity groups, schools and residential associations. This was supplemented with fruit tree pruning demonstrations and a social media campaign covering best practice on tree and fruit tree care and maintenance tips.

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- As part of the **An Taisce Green Schools programme**, 14 Green flags renewal visits were completed.
- As part of the **Wool in School programme** 15 spinning demonstrations were delivered. Some schools have initiated knitting & crochet as a result of this programme. Great links back to farming and natural fibres.
- The pilot **textile upcycling initiative** at Curtlestown National School, Enniskerry was completed. Excellent feedback from the school was received. Students had the opportunity to learn how to make their own bunting, how to stitch, learnt more about the role of charity shops and textile upcycling. See feedback from pupils of Curtlestown NS:

Harbours and Ports

CCTV and Access Control: Civil and electrical works are now completed, and tenders for the main CCTV and Access Control supplier/installer are currently being assessed to put in place improved CCTV and access control systems in Wicklow and Arklow harbours.

Bed-levelling at Wicklow Harbour: Bed-levelling works are currently taking place at Wicklow Harbour to ensure water depths in the main shipping channel are maintained. The works are expected to be completed by end of April. Work is taking place during falling (ebb) tides and there may be increased water turbidity in the harbour during the works.

New Outdoor Showers at Wicklow Harbour: Two new outdoor showers have been installed next to the lifeguard hut at Wicklow Harbour and are now open for use.

Harbour Stats Wicklow Harbour:

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

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Litter/Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created	147
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	139
No of Litter Fines Issued	5
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	4
No. of Warning Letters Issued	1
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	12
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	6
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	21
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	11
No of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	5
Income - Litter	€300.00
Income- Waste Management	€2,300.00

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 12 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 6 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 4 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 0 Noise pollution complaints closed.
- 0 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Air pollution complaints closed.

Private Water Supplies

- 38 Regulated Private Water Supplies scheduled in Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for March.
- 2 Regulated Private Water Supplies scheduled in Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for March were not accessible.
- 30 Private Water Supplies were monitored and available results were compliant.
- 6 Private Water Supplies were monitored and available results were non-compliant for pH.
- 1 Boil water notice was lifted after remedial action and compliant results obtained.

Bathing Water

- 7 Bathing Waters were identified as per Bathing Regulations and monitoring calendar for the bathing season prepared:
- Bray South, Greystones Cove, Greystones South, Silver Strand, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga.

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- 7 Other bathing waters will also be monitored:
- South of Bray Harbour (Bray North), Kilcoole, Wicklow Harbour, Murrough, Travalahawk, Arklow South and Arklow Cove.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 7 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 57 Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 0 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.
- 3 Investigative river samples taken

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared.
- 15 Engagement activities undertaken.
- 15 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems were carried out.
- 9 domestic waste water treatment systems were found compliant.
- 6 domestic waste water treatment systems were found non-compliant and were issued advisory notices.
- 2 inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems and were found compliant with advisory notice.

Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

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

Well Grants

- 16 New Water Grant application received
- 0 New Well granted
- 12 New Pumps granted
- 17 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 16 inspections in advance/completion of works

Petrol Vapour Recovery

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

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 0 Dry cleaner installations inspected.

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- 0 inspections of vehicle refinishers carried out.
- 1 Paint retailer inspections for compliant products.

Smokeless Coal Regulations

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

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

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

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

- 4 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.

Planning & Development

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

Control of Dogs

Dog Licences: During the month of March 2025, a total of 794 dog licences were purchased, this being 759 yearly and 35 lifetime. A total of 365 (or 46%) licences were purchased online.

XL Bully's: A total of 50 Certificate of Exemption have issued so far in County Wicklow to the owners of XL Bully dogs.

Horses: During the month of March one horse was seized on behalf of Wicklow County Council. This horse was subsequently returned to its owner after 13 days. Two horses which had been collected on the 31st December 2024 and had not been reclaimed were rehomed during March 2025.

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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 Tigroney 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 has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd. (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender documents for the project. The detailed design is ongoing. Site Investigation has been carried out and awaiting final report. Archaeological Investigations in the river channel will be carried out in 2025. This will inform the process of removing old wrecks from the riverbed in advance of dredging.

Wicklow Arts Office

Creative Ireland Programme: The Sing In Wicklow Awards Scheme 2025 applications have been assessed and Letters of Offer are being despatched to successful applicants. The aim of the 'Sing in Wicklow Award' is to support choirs across the county in participating in workshops and competitions, fostering inter-choir collaborations, and facilitating performances, peer learning, networking and member recruitment.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2025: The planning and development of a programme of events to take place across County Wicklow for this year's Cruinniú na nÓg is underway. Cruinniú na nÓg is the National Day of Creativity for children and young people

Arts Programme: Applications to The Artist Coaching and Mentorship development Scheme have been assessed and Letters of Offer will shortly be dispatched to successful applicants. This programme is designed to cater for a range of artists at different career stages, successful applicants will work individually with four experienced coaches from the arts and cultural sector.

Wicklow Short Film Award Scheme: The submission window for this scheme has now closed and the application assessment process will commence on 30th April. The purpose of the award is to support Wicklow filmmakers to make high-quality, original films in the county. The scheme is funded by Wicklow County Council and The Arts Council and supported by Clermont Screen Hub.

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Wicklow County Library Service

Wicklow Libraries saw a busy start to the year, with impressive engagement across all services during the first quarter of 2025.

- Library visits reached 155,335, reflecting the continued importance of our library spaces as welcoming, accessible hubs for the community.
- Library branch issues totalled 110,113, showing that physical books and resources remain a key part of our service.
- BorrowBox loans amounted to 90,626, inclusive of e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-press, highlighting strong and growing use of our digital offerings.

These figures underline the value of libraries in providing a blend of in-person and digital access to reading, learning, and connection throughout County Wicklow.



Library Programme Highlights

- **Spring into Storytime:** The Wicklow Libraries ran a range of free events across April including Storytime sessions, arts and crafts activities, and family-friendly movie afternoons—all designed to encourage a love of reading and creativity in children.

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- Little Library at Bedtime:** Initiative launched in April alongside Spring Into Storytime as part of the national First 5 Strategy, in collaboration with public libraries and the LGMA. The goal is to encourage families with children aged 0–4 to visit their local library, start a bedtime reading routine, and register their children for a library card. Each family received a free bedtime storybook, a purple library card wallet, and a bedtime reading tips leaflet for parents and guardians.



- Healthy Ireland at your Libaray HIAYL:** The following took place across March:

Branch	Activity	Numbers attending
Blessington	Movement & Creative Mindfulness	14 children
Bray	Strength & Conditioning for beginners	32 Adults
Bray	Resistance Training	32 Adults
Wicklow Town	Boxercise for Beginners	15 Adults
Wicklow Town	Chair Yoga	71 Adults

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Chair Yoga in Wicklow Town is very popular and these sessions had a waiting list. In addition, David Medcalf from the Bray People did a feature on the Resistance Training Group David participated in a session and generated a lot of publicity for the library and Healthy Ireland. It was very positive and led to a lot of contact from the public interested in participating in any upcoming classes.



- **The Road to the Fleadh 2025:** April saw the return of this popular event, during which students from Wicklow Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann branches will once again perform in several of their local libraries — and even on the mobile library — to celebrate the Wicklow Fleadh.
- **Local History Exhibition at Wicklow Library:** Wicklow Library Local History Service once again partnered with Coláiste Chill Mhantáin to present The Past in My Place, an exhibition of second-year history students' CBA projects. The exhibition showcased both the rich history of County Wicklow and the diverse cultural heritage of the students. With over 40 displays, topics range from local Wicklow history to stories from as far away as Fuqing, an ancient city in eastern China. The exhibition ran from Friday, 4 April to Monday, 28 April.



- **Greystones Library:** Greystones Library offered a wide range of events and services in April that promote well-being, learning, and community engagement including a free Baby & Child Sleep Clinic and Mindful Moments. It also expanded its Library of Things collection this month with the addition of

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boules, available for short loan. In addition, the new Arabic Conversation Group began on Tuesday, 29 April, and will continue every Tuesday at 10am.



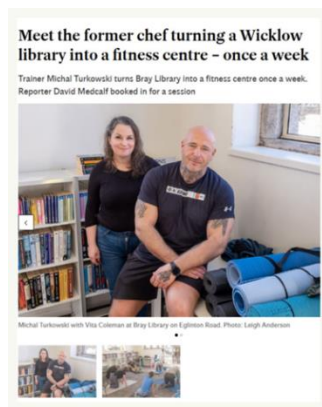
- **Blessington Library:** Blessington Library continues to support learning and community engagement through a range of regular events. The Spanish Conversation Sessions take place every second Monday while the Children's Chess Club runs every Friday. Both events are part of Blessington Library's ongoing commitment to providing inclusive, skill-building opportunities for the community.



- **Bray Library:** Personal trainer Michal Turkowski led a series of Resistance Training classes in the library. His story and his work in Bray Library were recently featured in the Wicklow People.

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Bray Library also hosted an evening of Indian Classical Vocal music on Thursday, 10 April at 7pm, featuring renowned artists Aparna Gurav and Milind Gurav, accompanied by the talented Santhosh Narayan on harmonium.



- **Showcase Saturdays:** Wicklow County Council Library Service has launched a new way to highlight all the great services and resources the library has to offer. On selected Saturdays throughout the year, library branches will set aside 30 minutes to run a Showcase Saturday event. The very first Showcase Saturday took place in Blessington Library on Saturday 26th of April. Each Showcase Saturday will be promoted on Social Media and in branch.

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Archives & Genealogy Service

- **Digitisation programme:** County Archives were successful in securing funding for the digitisation of the Shillelagh Board of Guardians collection through the Heritage Council Stewardship Fund 2025. The Wicklow and Arklow Harbour Commissioners minute books are now digitised and will be available on Wicklow.ie shortly.
- **Outreach activities:** Presentation given to the Rathdrum Historical Society on the John Tate's Charity project and collection. Arklow Street Preachers special project – publication and exhibition now with Wordwell publishers for completion.
- **Collections management:** Arranging and cataloguing of the County Archives business archives is completed and will be available on Wicklow.ie shortly. Cataloguing of local authority collections continues with Old Age Pension records commencing 1908, Labourers Cottages registers from 1899 and Vehicle Registers from 1904.
- **Conservation:** The next volume in our Wicklow Corporation collection is currently out for repair and conservation, covering dates 1710-1762 and will be digitised on completion.

Outdoor Recreation

1) Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme Funding 2024

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.

Applications for DRCD's 2024 ORIS funding round were submitted during March 2025 for Project Development Measures (PDM) as well as projects under Measure 1, 2 and 3. Funding allocations for this period have increased for Measure 1 projects, which are now up to €40,000 each. Wicklow County Council has 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.

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2) Ongoing Projects to be completed

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

Project Name	Brief description	Completion
<i>Wicklow Coast Project</i>	The Wicklow Coast ORIS project is nearing completion, with a timetable of events and a list of providers available on the www.visitwicklow.ie/blueway page. Pending signage installation, the following works have been completed: <u>Greystones</u> – Accessible boardwalk installed South Beach. <u>Brittas Bay</u> – Accessible toilet, upgraded toilets, new larger water tank and new outdoor shower facilities. Car parking painting and tidy up. <u>Wicklow Town</u> Harbour- path and toilet facilities upgraded. Groundworks carried out and two new outdoor showers installed. <u>Arklow</u> – New path completed replacing boardwalk at South Beach. Planters with shrubs installed along the Roadstone site fence by car park. Licence Agreement and MOU finalised with Roadstone, landowner, with new facilities installed at the Cove consisting of a changing screen with seating area, bike shelter and lifeguard hut.	30/04/2025
<i>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</i>	Meeting took place of the Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk Task Force. Substantial work needed to repair sections of the original route and alternative routes need to be assessed. A tender process is underway to contract consultants on a feasibility study and advise on short, medium and long term solutions. Timelines depend on the solutions proposed and the co-operation of relevant stakeholders, including landowners. Funding will be required to complete all works.	Extension granted by DRCD.
<i>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</i>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Steel contractor is pricing new design following info from trial holes, must meet budget before tender process commences.	In progress. Extension granted.
<i>The Sugar Loaf Repair (Images above)</i>	Stone Pitching by hand and path building completed on Shoulder to Cone section. V-Ditches dug for water management on lower sections and cross drains installed on the family area. 22 native tree planting in progress adjacent to trail and spruce trees removal. 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 nearing completion.	30/04/2025

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<i>Coolkenno Equestrian Trail</i>	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners pending their planning permission process.	In progress
<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. Bike area designed and works commenced. Running routes planned.	31/05/2025

3) 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**.

Project Name	Brief description	Completion
<i>Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan</i>	Recreation plan for the area with a Feasibility study in progress. Draft plan received.	30/06/2025
<i>Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan</i>	Feasibility project to provide a realistic work plan with budget and time frame designed to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. Bray MD meeting at the end of April to finalise specification.	30/06/2025
<i>Hollywood Natural Play Area</i>	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Play Equipment area works due to commence. Licence agreement signed with Coillte. Play area at design stage. RFQ preparation.	31/10/2025
<i>Wicklow Way (Glencree River) Re-surface</i>	200m of new trail construction and 800m of surface dressing.	Completed
<i>Knockree Bridge</i>	Knockree bridge replacement at the Glencree brook on the Wicklow Way, between Ballyreagh and Onagh Bridge. Access to bridge drainage and resurfacing being completed during April.	30/05/2025
<i>Knockamunnion-Stranahely Bridges</i>	Replacement of 2 bridges and additional drainage works between them over a track of some 200m. Work plan being prepared.	31/10/2025
<i>Three Wells and Cushbawn Link</i>	8m of surfacing on Three Wells crossing and 270m of surfacing on the looped upper trail. Works completed and signed off.	31/10/2025

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<i>Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way</i>	Signage replacement along an 18km route is in progress.	31/10/2025
<i>Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure</i>	Enhancing parking, trail specification underway with RFQ in progress. Tenders received and awarded. Works to begin at the end of April.	30/06/2026
<i>Three Trouts Bridge, Delgany</i>	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the route. Project spec to be discussed at meeting with new engineer at the end of April.	30/06/2026
<i>Tinahely New Loop Trail</i>	Additional spur to loop walks on a 10km route to Tinahely village. Design and landowner agreement in progress.	30/06/2026

4) 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 mission of the County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee is to bring people closer to the outdoors, valuing their experiences, the outdoor recreation environment and securing the economic value required to sustain and grow outdoor recreation in our county. The next meeting will take place in May with a site visit to one of the outdoor recreation projects.

The Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2025-2029 is currently being prepared by the County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee. This will inform the development and management of outdoor recreation in the County.



ORIS 2022 – Measure 2 Project - OR222WW02 - Glenmalure Recreation Area – Completed

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ORIS 2022 – Measure 3 Project - OR322WW01-Roundwood Recreation Area – Mostly completed



ORIS 2023 – Measure 1 Project - OR123WW03-Knockree Bridge - Completed



ORIS 2023 – Measure 1 Project - OR123WW02 - Wicklow Way Resurface – Completed

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New facilities installed at The Cove, Arklow with lifeguard hut moved from South Beach to the swimming area at the Cove.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Chronic Condition Programmes

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Strength & Balance	HD Fitness, Blessington	4 th April	8	10	HSE Seed Funding
Strength & Balance	Mel Rawl Fitness, Wicklow Town	30 th April	8	10	HSE Seed Funding
Bray Mobility Programme	Bray Seafront	15 th April	8	10	HSE Seed Funding

HSE Programmes

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Beginner Fitness Programme	St. Kevin's Hall, Carnew	17 th April	8	10	HSE Grant Aid Funding
Activator Poles Taster	Baltinglass	25 th April	1	12	HSE Grant Aid Funding

Training and Education

Activity	Venue	Date
Safeguarding 1	Online	22 nd April 2025
Boccia Leader Training	Arus Lorcaín Parish Centre Arklow	11 th April 2025
Sports First Aid	Arklow	26 th April 2025

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Women Try Tennis Blessington

The Women Try Tennis programme in Blessington finished on 16th April after running for five weeks. A total of 18 women took part, using the new Blessington Tennis Courts. Feedback from participants has been very positive, with strong interest in continuing. Subject to tutor availability, a summer series is being considered. One of the tennis nets was damaged due to vandalism during the programme. We are working with Blessington Municipal District to have it replaced. The programme clearly met a local

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Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (18/03/2025) outstanding stands at **470 – 2.98%** of total stock of 15,792.

Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults. A large number of faults also require civil works to undertake the repair, these faults require considerable planning.

317 lighting faults were attended in February, while 244 faults were logged during the same period.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
No Supply		1	6	1		8
Access Issues (Attend)	3	1	7	4	3	18
Cable Fault (Attend)	1		3			4
Civils	15					15
Council Approval	3				1	4
ESB Interface required	1		8			9
ESB Required	14	40	16	16	27	113
Knock Down (Attended)			3	1		4
Materials required		2	1		2	5
On Hold	4	2	7	3	5	21
Submitted	31	41	89	42	33	236
TMR	4		16		5	25
Tree Cutting Required			6	1	1	8
Grand Total	76	87	162	68	77	470
Percentage Not Working	2.39%	3.59%	4.77%	2.31%	2.00%	2.98%
No. of Lamps	3178	2425	3393	2938	3858	15792
Percentage of Total Lamps	20.12%	15.36%	21.49%	18.60%	24.43%	100%
Faults Reported (February)	57	55	60	28	44	244
Faults Attended (February)	114	71	54	15	63	317

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

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

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Speed Limits

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

Road Schedule

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

Transportation Statistics

	Total 2023	Total 2024	Total 2025	February 2025	March 2025
Solicitors Queries	1026	1014	261	87	82
Road closure applications	42	50	22	9	4
Road Opening licences	1956	1254	413	121	157
Abnormal Load applications	54	50	13	6	4

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 10 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. 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.

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

The procurement of a contractor for the construction of the Noise mitigation fence is currently being completed by TII in conjunction with WCC. A start date is yet to be confirmed.

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N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

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

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

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

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

The Phase 2 Options Selection work is currently progressing under TII's Project Management Guidelines. A non-statutory Public Display event on the Route Options took place in the Inis Fail Germaines, Main Street, Baltinglass, on Wednesday 27th March 2024. The public display documents are available to view on the project website www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie. The period for submissions ended on Friday 26th April 2024. A second non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred options commenced on the 30th January 2025 with a display event in Germaines in Baltinglass. Submissions and observations were accepted up until 12:00 noon on 27th February 2025

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

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

Park & Ride/Share at Hollywood

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

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

N81 Blessington Gateway Project

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

N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities

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

The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in November 2023. Land acquisition and tendering was carried out during 2024 and construction work is expected to commence during Q2 of 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.

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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 with NPWS in March to review the impacts of the scheme on Tomnafinnoge Wood which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Blessington Inner Relief Road

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

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

The main construction contract works are currently under way with Coffey Ltd the main contractor. A road closure is currently underway on the first phase of the works. The CPO Notice to Treat was issued on all landowners in October 2023 and Notice of Entry issued in November 2024 with the CPO fully confirmed in January 2025. Discussions between Wicklow Roads Project staff and landowners are ongoing. A Wicklow County Council appointed valuer is engaging with valuers and homeowners as part of the CPO process.

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Phase 2 Route Options are currently being developed by Wicklow County Councils consultant Atkins Realis within the preferred coastal route corridor. Site visits to review options for an inland route, to avoid the Special Area of Conservation (SAC), are currently underway and will be complete by April 2025.

Blessington eGreenway

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

Kilmacanogue to Bray Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme

TII have instructed Wicklow County Council to issue tender documents for design services for the development of the Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme. These documents are currently being completed and will be ready to issue for tender in late April 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. Remaining accommodation works have commenced and a contractor has been appointed to complete the stonework wall at a residential property. The remaining work is scheduled to be completed in May.

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Ballyguilemore



Arklow South

Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

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

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Front of school implementation works are completed.

New pedestrian crossing and footpath civil upgrade works are completed on Church Lane. Construction completed including new boundary lines and treatments, lighting, automated gates, ramp, cycle parking, retaining wall and CCTV. The permeability link was opened to students on Friday 28th March. The official opening is to be arranged in the coming weeks.

Scoil Nioclais Naofa

New One



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

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

Kilcoole Road Footpath (Greystones MD)

Footpath to be constructed linking Greystones to Kilcoole. Construction works have been completed on the new boundary wall at Barna Cottage. Footpath preparation works have commenced and a tender has been advertised for the footpath surfacing scope of works. The works are scheduled to be completed in May.

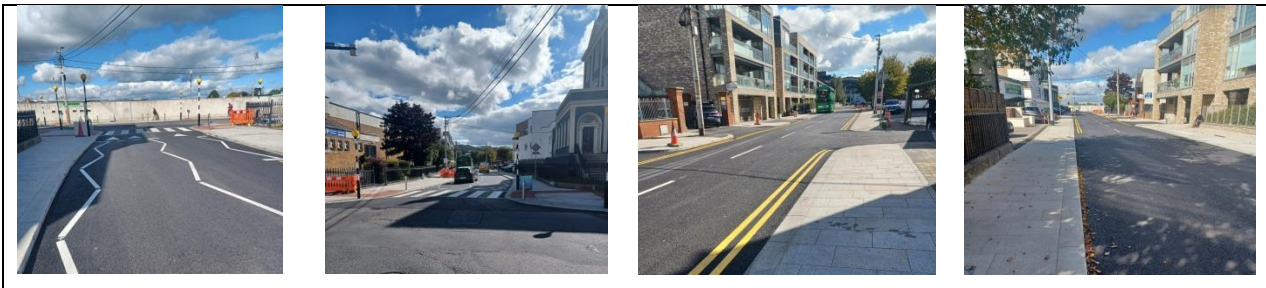
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Project Updates

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.



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. The project scope has been revised. Design to focus on pedestrian and cycle improvements between the town centre and Train Station. Preliminary Design issued to NTA and comments received. Traffic modelling of the 3 junctions completed. Tender advertised for Consultants to manage the project through Phases 4 to 7. Tenders have been assessed and a Letters of Notification issued.

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

New footbridges and alterations to the road to make provision for cyclists. Tender documents have been prepared for the appointment of a new Consultant to progress the scheme from Phase 3 to Phase 7. Consultants Brief has been issued to the NTA for approval. Tender to be advertised in April.

Baltinglass Bridge Active Travel Scheme (Baltinglass MD)

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. The tender period has concluded for the appointment of a Technical Consultant to progress the scheme through Phases 2 to 4. A total of 5 tender submissions were received. The Tender Assessment has been completed and it is intended to award the contract to the most economically advantageous tenderer, Atkins, subject to NTA approval.

Greystones Pathfinder (Greystones MD)

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to Greystones Train Station. The spine route extends from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Centre

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

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

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- **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. Tender advertised for Consultants to manage the project through Phases 4 to 7. Tenders have been assessed and a Letters of Notification issued.

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

Provide improvements on Blacklion Manor Road to make the area safer for school children. These works aim to encourage more children to walk and cycle to school. Section 38 consultation process has closed with 5 submissions received. Section 38 report is being prepared following consultation.

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.

2025 Budget Allocation - New Projects

From the NTA Budget Allocation for 2025 the following project proposals will be 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 is planned to be progressed with the Brittas footpath project. Project will be managed by the NTA.

SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird

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

Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry.

Provision of footpath along Scalp Road, Enniskerry. A topographical survey is to be carried out to help determine the extent of works required. Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely New Zebra / Controlled Crossing and upgraded footpath to link Kilcommon National School to Residential Areas.

Kiltegan Road Pedestrian Crossing, Baltinglass

New Zebra Pedestrian Crossing and footpath extension at Baltinglass GAA Club Grounds to link to residential areas.

Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Arklow

Construction of 150m footpath and pedestrian crossing linking to the GAA Club.

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Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work commenced on 2 new bridges (Shankill and Georges) in February.

Work completed at Spinans Bridge.

Winter Maintenance

Salting continues under WM Plan.

Replenishing of salt stocks with 1200 tonnes was undertaken in January-February.

Oct 14 to 31 - 0 treatments

Nov 1 to 21 - 1 single and 2 double treatments

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

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

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

Feb 14th to March 19th – 5 single treatments

Machinery Yard

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

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

1 new truck tractor unit delivered in February. Emergency replacement of damaged truck.

Fuel card framework procurement has commenced.

Parking Income

January to March 2025

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	240,269.19
Greystones Municipal District	82,440.43
Wicklow Municipal District	117,891.16
Arklow Municipal District	64,060.68
Parking Permits	35,308.33
Parking Fines	155,559.50
Wicklow County Council Total	695,529.29

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Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing information correct as of 31st March 2025

Murrough View, Greenhill Road, Wicklow Town - 36 Houses

- 35 sold
- Final unit now allocated

Aldbrough Manor, Baltinglass - 11 Houses

- Sales Closed - 7
- Awaiting closing date on remaining 4 units

St. Ernan's, Rathnew - 44 dwellings

- Sales Closed - 5
- Contributions paid, awaiting close - 24
- Allocated, processing/awaiting documents - 15

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

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed and allocated
Greenhills Road (Affordable)	36	Completed and sold
Schemes on Site	Units	Current Status
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Final snagging underway
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completed
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2025
Merrymeeing Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
1A Mill Road	3	Completion expected Q1 2026
5A Rednagh Road	1	Completion expected March 2025
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Tender assessment underway, contractor expected to be appointed March 2025
Fassaroe, Bray	13	Contractor commenced on site.
Burgage More Blessington PPP	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Site clearance commenced
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor commenced on site.
Rehills, Bray	193	PPP dropped the scheme due to high projected costs, WCC reconsidering the viability of this scheme
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Stage 1 funding application received

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Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	14	Design Stage
Burnaby, Greystones PPP	272	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Ballinahinch Ashford	19	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Tinahask, Arklow	75	Detailed design and tender docs underway
Tinahask PPP, Arklow	128	PPP Bundle 6 continuing
Sheephouse Arklow	48	Design Stage
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Detailed design and tender docs underway
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 completion date April 2025
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Three group housing scheme. Final layout agreed with department/families. Social house layout is being finalised for the rest of the site. Part 8 to be advertised Q2 2025.
Vale Road Arklow – 2 Units	Preliminary Design Stage/Pre- Part 8

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

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

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

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

Energy Efficiency upgrades to Council Stock

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

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

Monastery Grove Was Nominated for LAMA award 2024.

Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2025:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivered Q1 2025	CALF
Bray	3	Delivery due Q2 2025	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q3 2025	CALF
Delgany	2	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC

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Rathnew	36	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Rathnew	3	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Baltinglass	9	Delivery due Q2 to Q4 2025	WCC
Delgany	10	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Bray	3	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC
Roundwood	2	Delivery due Q2 2025	WCC

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 D

The following Turnkey units are due during 2025:

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

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

Infill Sites/ Age Friendly/ Disability Units

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

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Vacant Homes Scheme

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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

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

Number of Applications	212
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants.	24
Applications Approved in Principle	100
Number of Applications paid.	41
Value of 41 Grants paid out.	€2,324,592.69
Applications pending execution of Legal Deed of Charge/Payment.	9
Applications withdrawn/Rejected.	45

Serviced Sites – Kilcommon, Tinahely,

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

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Emergency Response

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics March 2025

There were **131 incidents** attended during the month of March 2025. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **154 occasions** including **8** 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 March 2025 **increased by 54% (+54 mobilisations) on the preceding month February 2025 (100 mobilisations)**. There was an increase in mobilisations to gorse fires (+19), bonfires and other malicious urban fires (+15), vehicle fires (+11) and good intent false alarms (+7). Gorse fires represented 13% of all callouts.

Operational activity for the month of March 2025 **increased by 29% (plus 35 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2024** (March 2024, 119 mobilisations). There was an increase in mobilisations to gorse fires (+20), domestic fires (+12) and vehicle fires (+7), there was a decrease in mobilisations to RTCs (-10).

Incidents in County Kildare (7-incidents total):

- 03/03/2025 Baltinglass attended a chimney fire at Grangeford, Moone.
- 05/03/2025 Baltinglass crew supported by crew from Carlow Town attended an RTC at Colstown, Castledermot involving a single car roll over.
- 09/03/2025 Blessington crew attended a tree on fire at Glending forest.
- 16/03/2025 Blessington crew supported crews from Newbridge and Naas at an Industrial fire at Naas racecourse.
- 16/03/2025 Dunlavin crew supported a crew from Athy at Crookstown Business Park, Ballytore.
- 17/03/2025 Dunlavin crew attended an alarm activation at Giltown, Kilcullen.
- 28/03/2025 Dunlavin crew attended a gorse fire at Killgowan.

Incidents in County Wexford (1-incidents total):

- 22/03/2025 Carnew crew supported a crew from Bunclody at an RTC involving a car and a tractor at Knocknalour, Bunclody.

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Fire Prevention Statistics March 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	10	0	7	0	6
Revised FSCs	8	0	0	0	1
FSC 7-Day Notice	1	0	1	0	3
Regularisation FSCs	1	0	0	0	0
DACs	9	0	2	0	17
Revised DACs	0	0	0	0	0
Dispensations / Relaxations	0	0	0	0	0

Building Control

Commencement Notices for March 2025:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 38

- 8 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 16 Opt Out Declarations
- 12 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 2 Seven Day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 42 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 73 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 28 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 7 with Compliance Documentation (25%)
 - 12 are Opt Out (43%)
 - 7 Without Compliance Documentation (25%)
 - 2 Seven Day Notice (7%)

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- 23 Valid Commencement Notices
- 14 new build residential Units and additional 15 Extensions
- 4 Non Res new builds
- 3 Invalidated CNs from March

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

- 20 New No. of CCC submitted
- 19 Required Revised Information
- 24 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 109 new Residential units and 22 additional apartments
- 0 Non Res. Builds

Submission Statistics

24 No. Validated CCCs related to;

16 no. CCCs submitted in March 2025

8 no. CCCs submitted in February 2025

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

14 new residential houses and 15 Extensions were notified to LA for Commencement & 109 newly completed residential units with an additional 22 apartment were submitted, assessed and validated in March. In March, 3 BCMS submissions were invalidated.

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

Building Control continued with site inspections in March to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 2 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests remained high in March for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 73% of Commencement Notice submissions & 95% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. Revised information requests are issued to nominated role holders of submissions when compliance with Building Regs has not been demonstrated.

Opt Out submissions are both extensions and single unit dwellings, generally from BCMS users who are unfamiliar with both BCMS and Building Regulations which leads to Building Control resources being directed to resolving both administration and technical issues with Opt-Out Submissions.

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

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

In March, Building Control staff attended both the Regional Building Control Quarterly meeting in South Dublin Council and the Annual Building Control Conference in Cork.

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Civil Defence

Civil Defence volunteers from Wicklow attended Food Safety and You Level 2 training held in Dublin Civil Defence HQ in Cherry Orchard. This course is important for our volunteers who may be preparing food in emergency situations.

Our in house Missing Person Search Instructors delivered a Missing Person Search Responders Course to some of our volunteers over the weekend of the 22nd & 23rd of March. These are vital skills required for assisting Gardaí in searching for missing persons.



Wicklow County Council, as part of a European consortium, supported Ireland's first EU MODEX Exercise on 26th March 2025, in County Wicklow. Wicklow Civil Defence alongside colleagues from Dublin and Kildare assisted Wicklow Fire Service during the exercise. Wicklow Civil Defence provided drone and technical support on Turlough Hill, live drone footage was streamed to both the Onsite Coordination Centre in the Brockagh Centre Laragh and, also into the Regional Coordination Centre in Wicklow County Council this helps with situational awareness. With over 70 fire fighters simulating wildland firefighting for the day our catering unit from Kildare provide hot meals prepared and deliver onsite on Turlough Hill. Demonstrating the ability to establish a temporary rest centre and mass fatality body holding facility, Dublin Civil Defence displayed this equipment in Wicklow fire station and Roundwood GAA hall.

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Top Line Data

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	11
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1474
Of which are children	450

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2025	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	22
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	137
Total number of sessions with single adults	62
Total number of sessions with couples	3
Total number of sessions with families	64

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LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for March

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	8
No. of Individuals	18
No. of Couples	3
No. of Families	20
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	3
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	6
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	0
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	19
No. of International Protection Applicants	31
No. with Refugee Status	3
No. with Subsidiary Protection	0
No. with Permission to Remain	1
No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	7

Integration Supports – Key Enablers

In Session Support	Incidence
Accommodation	7
Community/Family	0
Culture/Religion	2
Education/Training	6
Employment	7
Events	0
Finance	0
Health	8
Language Support	6
Legal/Justice/Civic	3
Transportation	0
Other	9

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Follow up Support	Incidence
Accommodation	3
Community/Family	3
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	8
Employment	11
Events	2
Finance	4
Health	13
Language Support	2
Legal/Justice/Civic	3
Transportation	0
Other	15

Over all Support February	
Emails sent for Clinic work	60
Emails Received	238
Emails Sent	215
Contacts with stakeholders	12
Referrals	7

Ukrainian Response

As of the end of March 2025, there are 935 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 DCEDIY is as follows:

- Arklow MD: 54
- Baltinglass MD: 138
- Bray MD: 550
- Greystones MD: 99
- Wicklow MD: 94

Note: These figures do not contain details of BOTP clients placed in accommodation providers by any other bodies separate to DCEDIY. Therefore, the total in any accommodation provider may not reflect the total number of BOTP clients in that establishment.

UCTAT (*Ukrainian Crisis Temporary Accommodation Team*) | DCEDIY (*Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth*) stated the relocation of BOTPs from all state contracted accommodation has been temporarily paused.

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Organisational Development (HR & Corporate)

The following interviews were held in March 2025:

- Interviews Executive Librarian
- Interviews Library Staff Officer
- Interviews Administrative Officer
- Interviews Lifeguards
- Interviews Temporary Senior Executive Engineer

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025
Managerial/Administrative	337	334	333	343
Professional/Technical	146	146	146	147
Outdoor	259	255	252	250
Temporary/Seasonal	87	91	68	66
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	2
Total	834	831	804	808

*** Decrease in Non DoHPLG as Veterinary function has transferred to the Department of Agriculture**

Freedom of Information

March 2025: 5	March 2024: 8
January – March 2025: 15	January – March 2024: 50

Ombudsman Requests

March 2025: 1	March 2024: 3
January – March 2025: 10	January – March 2024: 6

Press Releases

March 2025 – 15

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Register of Electors

Online applications via www.checktheregister.ie continue to be received and processed daily. The franchise team continue to process applications which were minor in nature such as updating contact details etc. and any applications received after the closing date. A large amount of returned polling cards were received after the General Election and work is commencing in establishing to contact these electors to ascertain if they are still resident or if they wish to register at a new address.

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

Customer Service Innovation Hub:

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2025 – March			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	7,607	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,871
No. of Customer Service Emails received	1,459	Revenue Transactions	1,535
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	103	Housing Counter Visits	Not Available

Energy

Projects Completed in 2024;

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

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

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

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

SEAI Pathfinder Funding 2025

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

Other ongoing projects

District Heating Feasibility Study – Arklow Decarbonised Zone

Mid-East Energy Unit

- First EPC project for Kildare CoCo gone to tender (competitive dialogue stage)
- Installing sub heat meters in leisure centres to inform EPC process

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Finance, Water & Information Systems

Finance

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MARCH 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	12,614,548	56,316,634	22%	(13,006,200)	(59,446,038)	22%	(391,652)
Road Transport & Safety	3,392,736	26,329,169	13%	(1,278,007)	(18,925,016)	7%	2,114,729
Water Services	1,218,378	4,633,084	26%	(1,540,510)	(5,554,021)	28%	(322,132)
Development Management	3,859,407	16,414,646	24%	(2,343,670)	(9,859,576)	24%	1,515,737
Environmental Services	4,023,480	17,038,883	24%	(891,191)	(5,011,509)	18%	3,132,289
Recreation and Amenity	2,041,274	10,003,906	20%	(214,507)	(1,151,712)	19%	1,826,768
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	447,243	2,393,346	19%	(186,019)	(1,103,228)	17%	261,224
Miscellaneous Services	2,090,455	9,487,115	22%	(3,804,874)	(16,490,485)	23%	(1,714,419)
Central Management Charges	6,243,789	25,473,897	25%	(229,288)	(1,050,000)	22%	6,014,501
Local Government Fund				(4,300,117)	(17,200,469)	25%	(4,300,117)
Commercial Rates				(8,173,385)	(32,448,626)	25%	(8,173,385)
	35,931,311	168,090,680	21%	(35,967,768)	(168,240,680)	21%	(36,457)

Cashflow/Overdraft

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

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st MARCH 2025					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2025	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/03/2025
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,210,356	12,094,909	(5,068,771)	0	19,236,494
Road Transport & Safety	(36,985,832)	2,073,113	(400,242)	0	(35,312,961)
Water Services	(6,760,795)	102,006	(12,644)	0	(6,671,432)
Development Management	(58,018,087)	10,664,218	(3,404,731)	0	(50,758,600)
Environmental Services	4,260,881	2,052,044	(636,928)	0	5,675,997
Recreation and Amenity	1,466,601	1,070,659	(697,333)	0	1,839,927
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,069,769)	70,562	(380)	0	(1,999,587)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,918,102)	234,943	(610)	2,390,043	(8,293,726)
	(96,814,747)	28,362,454	(10,221,638)	2,390,043	(76,283,888)

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Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31st MARCH 2025										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2025	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/03/2025	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,064,245	32,693,538	0	0	0	35,757,784	(9,102,663)	26,655,121	937,693	26%
Rents & Annuities	3,310,655	4,618,089	0	0	0	7,928,744	(4,687,548)	3,241,195	0	59%
Housing Loans	513,181	605,109	0	0	0	1,118,290	(626,697)	491,593	0	56%

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.

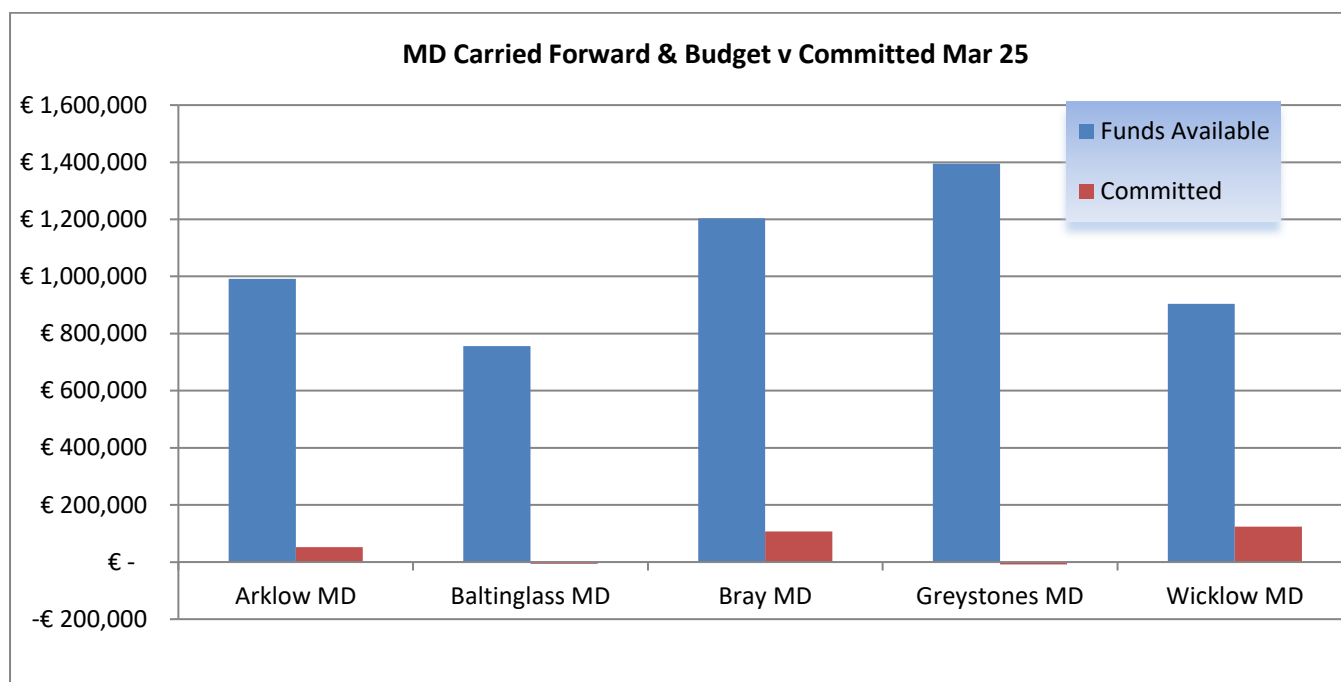
General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2025

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 14th 2024 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% generated circa €1.3m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the 5 Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2025 is set out below:

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	52,770	938,579
Baltinglass MD	228,949	527,124	756,073	- 6,131	762,204
Bray MD	512,742	691,048	1,203,790	106,749	1,097,040
Greystones MD	873,886	521,458	1,395,344	- 8,785	1,404,129
Wicklow MD	374,922	529,443	904,365	123,610	780,755
Total	2,390,043	2,860,877	5,250,921	268,213	4,982,708

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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

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Capital Funded Projects

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

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

Wicklow County Council

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I.C.T.

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

- **SWEMS Inter-County Exercise** – Wicklow GIS will support the Fire Service in a training exercise that involves multiple counties, using the SWEMS (Severe Weather Emergency Management System) platform. This training helps emergency services coordinate better during major incidents such as storms and flooding.
- **Bluesky Data Processing**- We processed detailed land contour data for the Arklow and Environs area, which will inform the development of the upcoming Local Area Plan. This information supports sustainable development by giving planners a clear picture of the natural landscape and elevation.
- **National Tree Map** - We extracted detailed data on tree points, crowns, and canopies in the Arklow and Environs area. This will be used in the Local Area Plan to help manage and protect green spaces and support biodiversity in future planning.
- **Residential & Population Analysis** - In anticipation of new housing targets from the National Planning Framework (NPF), we created a new ArcGIS workspace with detailed data layers for every settlement in the county. This includes housing data, electricity and water infrastructure, helping planners to assess and update the county's housing strategy accurately.
- **Nutrient Management Plans** - We updated several planning and environmental applications in our Environment Viewer to reflect changes in nutrient management plans. This supports sustainable agriculture and environmental protection by tracking how nutrients are managed across different sites.
- **Blessington Consultation Hub** - We developed a reporting template to summarise public submissions received during the Blessington consultation process. This helps ensure that community feedback is clearly presented and taken into account in the planning process.
- **Consolidated Record of Protected Structures Project** - This national project aims to create a consistent data format for all records of protected structures across Ireland. It involves re-organising existing digital records from local authorities to match a new national schema developed by the National Built Heritage Service (NBHS), helping ensure better preservation and planning for heritage buildings.

Infrastructure

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