

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Chief Executive’s Report – October 2025

Contents

Social Development	4
Housing	4
Community	15
Planning, Economic & Rural Development	22
Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity	43
Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery.....	64
Transportation	64
Infrastructure Delivery	73
Emergency Response.....	77
Organisational Development	87
Finance, Water & Information Systems	90
Finance.....	90
Information Systems	95

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

This month:

Wicklow County Council launches €646,000 Community Climate Action Programme

Wicklow County Council has announced the launch of the second round of the Community Climate Action Programme, offering €646,000 in funding to assist community, voluntary, and non-profit groups in delivering local climate and biodiversity projects across the county.

This new round of funding, supported by the Department of Climate, Energy, and the Environment, will provide grants of up to €100,000 per project to support local climate actions aimed at reducing carbon emissions, enhancing biodiversity and building community resilience.

Following the success of the first round, where 19 community groups in Wicklow implemented projects including solar panel installations, energy efficiency upgrades, bike facilities and biodiversity initiatives, this new programme will continue to empower local communities to take meaningful climate action.

Wicklow County Council welcomes Delegation from Netherlands

Wicklow County Council's Town Regeneration Office recently welcomed a delegation from Heerlen, Netherlands, as part of the EU City-to-City Exchange programme. This initiative aims to foster collaboration, share best practices and explore innovative approaches to town regeneration.

The visit, hosted by Wicklow County Council, focused on showcasing recent developments in town centre revitalisation across the county. The Heerlen delegation met with elected officials, town teams and community organisations to discuss strategies for creating vibrant, resilient and inclusive town centres.

During the visit, participants explored key regeneration projects in Wicklow Town and Newtownmountkennedy, highlighting initiatives that balance heritage preservation with modern urban needs. Discussions centred on common challenges faced by towns in both County Wicklow and the Netherlands, including vacant properties, changing retail consumer behaviour, sustainable mobility and community engagement.

The Heerlen delegation shared insights from their successful transformation strategies, including innovative approaches to reusing vacant properties, supporting local enterprises, fostering cultural vibrancy and promoting active involvement of young people in shaping the future of their towns and cities. Both sides agreed that ongoing collaboration could help identify practical solutions to the challenges of town centre renewal.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Social Development

Housing

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

Allocation of Social Housing

	September 2025	September 2024
Wicklow County Council	20	23
Approved Housing Bodies	7	18

Social Housing Applications

	October 2025	September 2024
New applications	88	49
Awaiting further information/EHO report	50	84

Social Housing Stock

	October 2025	September 2024
Tenancies Occupied	5140	4999
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€351,938.38	€336,235.24
Arrears (Including Bray)	€2,677,277.90	€3,018,622.51

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 30/09/2025
Arklow	932
Ashford	392
Aughrim	40
Avoca	38
Ballinaclash	8
Ballyconnell	4
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	127
Barndarrig	11
Blessington	265
Bray 1	36
Bray north	475
Bray south	405
Bray town centre	197
Brittas bay	1
Carnew	70
Conary	3
Coolboy	4
Delgany	217
Donard	14
Dunlavin	29
Enniskerry	51
Glenealy	13
Greystones	308
Kilcoole	51
Kilmacanogue	9
Kiltegan	5
Kirikee	2
Knockananna	3
Lacken	1
Laragh	14
Newcastle	9
Newtownmountkennedy	58
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	60
Rathnew	114
Redcross	2
Roundwood	32
Shillelagh	21

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

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

Rent

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

Housing Needs Assessment 2024 (SSHA 2024)

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

The following actions were taken to complete the HNA 2024:

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

Re-Lets / Voids

MD	Completed in 2025	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	7 (+2)	6 (0)	8 (+3)	10 (+3)	18(-2)
Baltinglass	6 (+1)	5 (-2)	9 (-3)	14(+2)	28 (0)
Bray	23 (+0)	5 (+3)	8 (+3)	10(-8)	25(-21)
Greystones	6 (+3)	9 (+5)	4 (-1)	5 (-1)	15(+2)

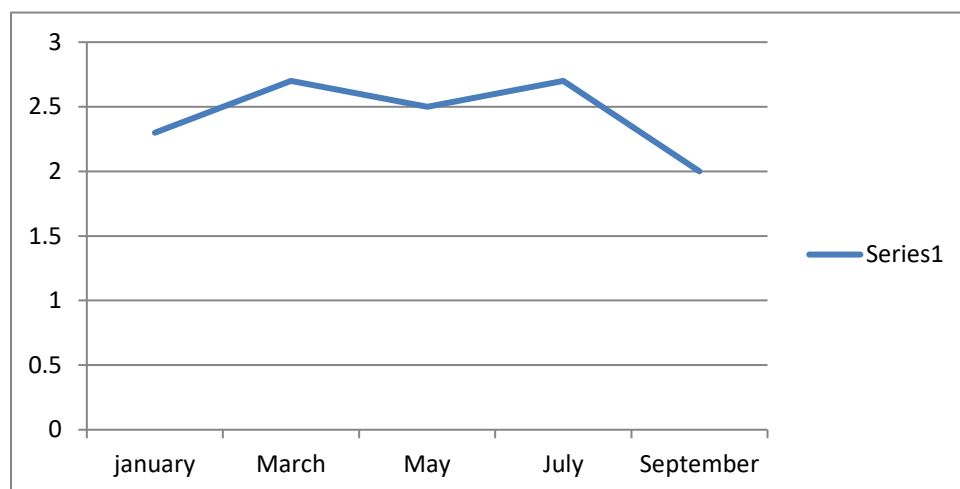
Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Wicklow	19 (+4)	12(+3)	17 (-5)	9(+1)	38 (+1)
2025 Totals	61(+4)	33 (0)	50 (+9)	47(-3)	115 (-21)
2024 Totals	110				
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)	2.5 (+0.2)	Figures in brackets indicate change on last month			

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

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

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



Core Capital Programme

(i) Traveller Accommodation

Scheme	Current Status
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Project complete and tenants expected to occupy October
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Three unit group housing scheme. Part 8 consultation closed 5 th September, CE report October.
Vale Road, Arklow	Part 8 completed

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

(ii) Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

Scheme	Units	Current Status
5A Rednagh Road – Disability house	1	Expected completion Q4 2025
1A Mill Road- Age Friendly	3	Expected completion Q3 2026

(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 September 2025
Houses retrofit	67



Energy Retrofit works completed at Seamount Drive Kilcoole 2025.

Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement

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

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out to end of September
Targeted and complaint inspections	236

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

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

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

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

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

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

Assessment criteria

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

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

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

Areas of delivery below:

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

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

Budget Spend

	2025 Budget	Amount Spent as of September 2025
Grant Funding for Private Housing	3,512,851	2,860,639.96
Grant Funding for Social Housing	1,280,884	€965,000(plus 524,000-2024)

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Grants Received/Processed	216	266	327	281	456	769	494

Local Authority Home Loans up to September 2025

Received	Approved in Principle
38	11

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

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

Housing Acquisitions

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

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



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

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

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

Homeless Services - Homeless Figures for October 2025

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 30/09/2025	Year To Date	As at 30/09/2024
No of New Presentations	16	194	20
No. of Repeat Presentations	5	44	0
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	7	73	6
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	18	197	22
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	5	22	2
No. of Children	18	205	7
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	3	34	2
Family Circumstances	4	64	3
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	3	14	1
Mental Health	0	4	0
Risk of Homelessness	16	153	8
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	2	0
Addiction Issues	3	16	0
DV/DA	0	7	0
Medical Issues	0	4	3
Overcrowding	0	20	3
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	1	5	3
ASB:	0	1	1
Rough Sleeping*	1	15	1
Sofa Surfing*	2	24	0
Staying with Family*	1	34	6
Staying with Friends*	4	27	1

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/09/2025	
Families	16
Adults	28
Children	41
Single individual	13

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/09/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	26	27	23	7	6	3	3	7
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/09/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	24	28	26	3	7	2	2	10

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, 656 households (457 families & 198 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 31st August 2025. (255 homeless cases, 363 prevention cases to date and 38 direct provision). 167 properties were sourced by WCC.

	September 2025	September 2024
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)		
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1338	1373
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation		
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation		

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

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

A report is being undertaken at present to cost the refurbishment of the current rooms with a view to making them all ensuite. More details will be available over the coming months.

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

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.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Community

Pride of Place 2025

The IPB Pride of Place Competition in association with Co-Operation Ireland, often referred to as the Oscars for community groups, celebrates the incredible work being done by community groups all over the island of Ireland, and has grown into the largest competition recognising community development achievements. The upcoming National Awards on the 7th of November will mark the 23rd consecutive year of the awards.

Earlier this year, Wicklow County Council invited expressions of interest from local community groups who wish to be nominated to the 2025 Competition. The following four entries were selected to go forward to the national awards ceremony in November.

1. Population 0–300 – Ballinaclash
2. Community Youth Initiative – Blessington Youth Hub
3. Inclusive Communities – Wicklow Travellers' Group CLG
4. Community Wellbeing Initiative – Coolkenno Community Field

In July, the Pride of Place judges attended each of the four Wicklow entrants for a presentation and site visit to give them the opportunity to showcase their project/group. The judges were in awe of the community spirit and pride that these groups take in their volunteering work around their villages, towns, and our County.

A presentation was made for each of the entries at the respective Municipal District Council meeting in October to acknowledge their hard work and wish them well before the National awards ceremony in November.



Chief Executive's Report – October 2025



Local Enhancement Programme 2025:

Applications completed and funds allocated.

206 Capital Applications paid to date €170,609.00

(6 grants pending awaiting response from applicants)

161 Current Applications paid to date €28,435.00

2 grants pending awaiting response from applicants

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Community Awards Scheme 2025:

Applications completed and funds allocated.

216 community grants paid €73,700.00

4 grants pending awaiting response from Applicants



County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

Sarah McElroy, began her role of Age Friendly Programme Manager, Disability & Inclusion Access Officer and support to Comhairle na nÓg Coordinator mid-July, taking over from Stephanie Lang.

Older People's Council, Executive Committee:

The Executive have met 8 times so far in 2025, plus additional meetings to prepare for the OPC AGM on the 5th September and the upcoming Over 55's Expo event on the 30th October.

- The Age Friendly Expo will showcase age friendly services available in county Wicklow in the Arklow Bay Hotel. It will take place from 11am to 4pm. There will be spaces for 200 participants at this event.

Meetings Held	Future Meetings
January 2025 February 2025 April 2025 May 2025 16 th July (special meeting) 28 th August (special meeting prep for OPC AGM) 11 th September (plus 4 special meetings to prepare for Expo) 10 th October 2025	(plus Expo online special meeting) 10 th December
8 (plus 4 Expo prep meetings)	1 (plus 1 Expo prep meeting)

County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance: The Alliance last met on the 23rd June, with another meeting to be scheduled in November. Plans are in place to strengthen the membership and attendance of this important Senior Management Level

Age Friendly Ireland programme: The South East Age Friendly Programme Managers have met online on the 29th August and met in Kilkenny on the 29th September, to share good practise, ideas and to increase opportunities for collaboration.

Over 55's Climate course: The Age Friendly Programme Manager along with the Climate Action Officer Wicklow County Council are organising a Climate Action Programme which will be run by Jacinta Barrins.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

It will be a six-week programme which will accommodate maximum 40 people and will educate people on Climate Change. This will take place in February and March 2026 in Bray. Promotion of the programme is ongoing among local community groups in the county.

Age Friendly Homes Healthy

Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme Update: Wicklow County Council

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

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

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

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

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



046-924 8899 (Head Office)



healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie

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

Since her appointment to her role in January, Local Coordinator for Wicklow, 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.

Referrals to Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme:

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Scheduled Event for September/October

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

Care & Repair Programme

County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) are in the process of securing funding for this much needed service. The programme is listed as an action the Co. Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2022 – 2027. The Chairperson of the Older Persons' Council (OPC) is in consultation with the CWP. The Age Friendly Homes Coordinator is involved in an advisory capacity. It is anticipated that the programme will be rolled out in Arklow and South Wicklow as soon as this much needed funding is secured

Total Number Home Visits Conducted (Up to 30th September 2025):

Total Initial Visits	152
Total Additional Visits	111
Total Visits Overall	263
Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit	53

Comhairle na nÓg

- Support continued to Cllr. Caroline Winstanley, in preparation for 4th November Comhairle na nÓg youth gathering in the Assembly Hall in Wicklow Town
- Seanad na nÓg - Save the date for Friday 14th November.

Disability & Inclusion

- ▶ **Access Officer queries:** dealing with ongoing queries for support and/or information, linking in with WCC staff including Laura O'Callaghan and externally, as appropriate.
- ▶ The **Sunflower Lanyard** aims to support people with hidden disabilities. This initiative was rolled out in Wicklow County Council. In the last 3 months, there have been over 370 lanyard packs distributed to every library branch in county Wicklow, as well as events held by the Triple A Alliance support group.
- ▶ **Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC)**, in conjunction with Wicklow County Council, launched **Make Way Day** in the Arklow Bay Hotel on 26th September. This served to promote the work of DISC, and to get feedback as to the DISC Wicklow Disability & Inclusion Strategy.
- ▶ **Communication Boards:** the boards for the Playgrounds in Arklow are now in place.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025



Healthy
Wicklow



Sláintecare.
Healthy
Communities

Healthy Ireland - Healthy Wicklow

Active Communities

In collaboration with the HSE, Mental Health Ireland, The Recovery Village and Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership, the Woodlands for Health Programme will continue every Monday throughout October. Walks are all tutor led and planned for Devil's Glen, Djouce Woods and Rathdrum Jubilee Walk.

An 6-week introduction to Badminton will begin on the 23rd October in St Brigid's Community Hall Rathnew.

Social Farming

The Healthy Wicklow funding has enabled participants from Sunbeam and Rehabcare to engage in the Social Farming Project throughout October. As part of Social Farming awareness week, placements from the Healthy Wicklow fund are being showcased on Caroline O'Shaughnessy's farm in Arklow on Friday 10th October.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Genio Trust- The Bray Travellers Community Development Group

A new Part-Time Housing Accommodation Officer, Oscar O'Broin, has recently been appointed through the Genio Trust under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. Oscar began his role last week with the Bray Travellers Community Development Group and will focus on supporting Traveller families in the Bray area with housing-related needs, liaising with Wicklow County Council, Bray M.D and local services, and addressing broader social determinants of health such as mental health, addiction, and family wellbeing. His work will play a key role in building stronger connections between the Traveller community and local support systems.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Conference

The Children's Wellbeing Hub in Bray continues to be recognised as an outstanding example of collaboration and community impact under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. I have been invited to give a presentation at the national Sláintecare Healthy Communities Conference on October 21st, alongside Maria Healy, SHC Local Development Officer for Kildare. The presentation will focus on how the Children's Wellbeing Hub was developed, the strong partnership between the Bray Family Resource & Development Project, The Marian Centre, and The Bray Travellers Community Development Group, and the positive outcomes achieved for children and families in the community. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase the power of collaboration and to highlight the meaningful progress being made in disadvantaged communities through initiatives like this one.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

National SICAP showcase event took place in Athlone, October 2nd with Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development, Jerry Buttimer TD. Personal stories, lived experiences and

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

shared initiatives were presented to an audience of over 250 people from Local Development Companies, City and County Councils, Community and Voluntary sector, government departments and national representative organisations. Wicklow's Traveller Shuttleknit project was among the presenting projects.

Public Participation Network:

PPN Membership: 516 Member groups.

PPN Connects: Networking events took place throughout September in Carnew, Tinahely and Blessington libraries which provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the PPN and to allow members connect more freely with each other and the organisation.

Grant Writing and Funding Workshop held 13th September in Laragh. Over 30 attendees learned how to make successful funding applications as well as hearing from representatives of funding streams such as LEADER, WCC grants, and the Community Climate Action Fund. Participants also had the opportunity to network and learn from each other, while funders heard the challenges communities encounter in the funding space.

Annual national PPN Conference will take place in Trim, Co. Meath 16th & 17th October.

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.



The Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 came into effect on April 2nd, 2025, mandating all Local Authorities to establish Local Community Safety Partnerships.

Under the Act, Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSP) have replaced the Joint Policing Committees in each Local Authority area.

Membership of the LCSP will consist of 30 members including representatives from state agencies (HSE, TUSLA, An Garda Síochána), local authority members, and community representatives.

Wicklow's LCSP is currently being formed, with nominations being sought. The finalised list of nominees will be sent to the National Office on the 10th of November, for appointment by the Minister of Justice. Following the appointment of the Partnership members by the Minister, the inaugural meeting of the Partnership will likely be held in late November/early December.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Planning, Economic & Rural Development

LOCAL PLANS

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

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

Variation 5 to the County Development Plan, which is the draft Arklow Local Planning Framework 2025, it is on display from 01 October 2025 to 12 November 2025 with submissions invited. A public information day will be held in Arklow MD Office on the 23 October 2025. See the advert in the link below for more information.

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

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

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

Variation 4 to the County Development Plan which is the draft Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2025 went on display from 09 May 2025 to 20 June 2025 with 88 submissions received. Public information days were held in Kilcoole and Greystones on the 29 May 2025 and 04 June 2025, respectively. The Chief Executive's (CE) Report on the submissions received was issued to the Elected Member in August and following on from this the draft LPF and CE report was considered at the Council meeting 06 October 2025.

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

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

Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

The Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 was adopted at the full Council meeting of 12 May 2025, this plan came into effect on 23 June 2025. The Minister issued a draft Ministerial Direction with

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

regard to the zoning of 3 sites on the 19 of June 2025. The draft Ministerial Direction went on display, with submissions invited from 03 July 2025 to 16 July 2025. The planning authority prepared a Chief Executive report on the submissions received and it was issued to the Minister, OPR, Regional Assembly and the Members on 07 August 2025. The Minister will then decide, in October, whether to issue the direction or not, or to issue it with amendments.

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

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

Blessington Local Area Plan 2025

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

The plan making process and the adopted plan is available here

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

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

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

There is no specific date to publish Bray draft LPF.

Bray - More information can be found here -

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

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) 2022-2028

Proposed Variation No 2

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

Variation No. 2 was made and came into effect on 12 May 2025. The Minister issued a **draft Ministerial Direction** with regard to the zoning of 3 sites. The draft Ministerial Direction went on display, with submissions invited from 03 July 2025 to 16 July 2025. The Chief Executive report on submissions received was issued to the Minister, OPR, Regional Assembly and the Members on **07 August 2025**. The Minister will then decide in October whether to issue the direction or not, or to issue it with amendments. More information is available here - <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans->

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Variation-No-2-to-the-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028

Proposed Variation No 3

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

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

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

Proposed Variation No 4

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

Proposed Variation No 5

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

RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX (RZLT)

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Draft-Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2026/Liable-Land-View-the-DRAFT-RZLT-maps-for-2026>

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

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

The RZLT process has two parts:

1) **Identification and mapping of the land in scope for the tax.** This is undertaken by **local authorities** through the publication of annual draft and annual final maps as outlined above.

2) **Administration of the tax.** This will be undertaken by the **Revenue Commissioners**. Please click the following link for further information: <https://www.revenue.ie/en/property/rzlt/index.aspx>

The following link provides some **general information on the RZLT process** including a short information video: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/RZLT-General-Information>

A **frequently asked questions** document has also been prepared and is available to view here:

Residential Zoned Land Tax — FAQ's:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Portals/0/adam/Documents/5Cn831T6AES8TXmR2C3i4A/Link/RZLT%20FAQs%20Your%20Questions%20Answered.pdf>

VACANT SITE LEVY

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

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

HERITAGE OFFICE

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

Wicklow Heritage Forum: x 4 meetings scheduled for 2025 (Feb/May/Sept and November)

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

- Wicklow Community Archaeology Service (WCAS): One year part time contract in place. Archaeologist working directly with groups at Castletimon, Donard, Delgany and Killougher
- Glendalough Community Excavations: Two week community excavation co-ordinated by UCD
- Wicklow Placenames Project: Project co-ordinator engaged to collate and digitally record minor placenames. Project underway
- Wicklow Heritage Mag : Youth based Heritage guide for Wicklow in production
- Heritage Week: 83 events in County Wicklow 16th-24th August
- Michael Dwyer 200 Programme:
 - Military Road Six episode Podcast series with Irish History Podcasts released May.
 - Memorial Cup football match in Ballinacor 7th June
 - Two Day Heritage Week event 23rd-24th Aug (organised in assoc. with Arklow MD)

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Day 1: seminar in Glenmalur to include the unveiling of a specially commissioned memorial at Drumgoff Bridge.

Day 2: Bus Tour of sites in west Wicklow associated with Dwyer to include a re-enactment performance at Dwyer's Cottage and visits to Glen of Imaal, Dunlavin and Rathdangan.

- Michael Dwyer in Folk Memory Map
- 1798 in County Wicklow Schools Education Pack (re-issue)
- Short promo videos produced
- Recording of conference talks to be uploaded to *Our Wicklow Heritage* website

Michael Dwyer 200 shortlisted by The Heritage Council for National Heritage Week award under theme 'Exploring our Foundations'. Awards event to take place on 17th Oct.

Historic Town Initiative (HTI) Funding: An application under HTI submitted in partnership with Greystones Town Team for 'Retracing Greystones' – A Heritage led Regeneration study focussing on streetscape enhancements on Church Road and options for La Touche Car Park. A funding allocation of €50,000 secured from The Heritage Council. *Myco consultants* engaged. Event held for Heritage Week, Business and Residents surveys underway. Project team workshop planned for 2nd October.

Built Heritage Funds (Architecture): Co-ordination of the annual Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes. BHIS 2025 allocation of €171,000 for Wicklow, awarded to 16 Projects. One successful HSF allocation of €160,000 secured for Russborough House. All projects underway.

BHIS 2026: Scheme for 2026 advertised with application deadline 26th Sept. 30 applications received, assessment to take place over next 4 weeks.

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

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

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

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 30 th September 2025	To 30 th September 2025
Received (Valid)	790	849

A total of 117 valid applications were received during September as follows:

Type of Development	30 th September 2025
Individual Houses	24 (24 Rural)
Housing Developments*	10
Agricultural Structures	07
Commercial	08
Other Developments**	68
Total	117

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

Decisions issued in respect of 92 applications in September 2025

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	01
Individual Houses	01
Other Developments	89
Other Developments Requiring EIA	01
Total	72

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

	30/09/2024	30/09/2025
Total Number of decisions issued	692	711
Total Number of decisions to grant	588	587
% Grant Rate	85%	83%
No of applications withdrawn		12 (8 refer to rural house)

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanála

Strategic Housing Development

ABP-313442-22 – Lands at the former **Heiton Buckley** site on Castle Street, Bray, (139 Units) Members Meeting 10/05/2022, CE report forwarded 22/06/2022 – Oral Hearing held on 18/9/2025.

Strategic Infrastructure Development

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 – due to be decided by 14/5/25

Substitute Consent

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

E-Planning Project

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

For the **month of September 2025**, a total of 116 planning applications were received of which 26.72% were hard copy applications and **73.28% were received online**.

From **1st January 2025 to MONTH 2025** a total of 844 applications were received of which 24.76% were hard copy applications and **75.24% were received online**.

Under the directive of the EU, **S.I. No. 426 of 2025 and S.I. No. 274 of 2025**, European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) (No.2) Regulations 2025 submission of Renewable Energy (RED

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

III) applications have been amended. This process now includes a completeness check of 45 days. In September one RED III application was received.

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

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

- A number of one-off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Change of use to several properties throughout the e.g. commercial building formally Altura Credit Union to a Doctors Surgery/Dentist Surgery in Roundwood
- Construction of 10 No. two storey style houses, 8 No. 3 bedroom semi-detached houses in 4 blocks and 2 detached 4-bedroom houses in Donard
- Several demolitions e.g. Demolition of existing farm structures, adjustments to existing entrance and boundary walls and development of 4 no. 3 storey detached residential units, as well as access lane and provision of public open space in Kilcoole
- Sub-division of site and the construction of a 141 sq.m. detached part single, part two-storey dwelling, together with parking area and associated site works in Enniskerry
- Several conversions and alterations to dwellings throughout the county
- Development of 14 no. residential units in Delgany
- Red III Application - Construction of a solar PV energy development with an operational life of 40 years on three land parcels in townlands of Kilcandra, Kilnamanagh Beg, Ballynagran and Ballinaclogh, Glenealy.

Planning Enforcement

New Files	7
Advisory Letters	25
Warning Letters	7
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	0
Closed	11

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Vacant Sites

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

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

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

TOWN REGENERATION

1.0 Town Teams

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

The formation of the Rathdrum and Baltinglass Town Teams brings the total number of Town Teams in County Wicklow to seven—joining Arklow, Blessington, Greystones, Newtownmountkennedy, and Wicklow.

The Town Regeneration Team is also in the process of establishing a Town Team in Carnew with Kilcoole to follow.

2.0 Town Centre First Masterplans

2.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

The plan identifies opportunity sites (key locations in the town core) for redevelopment.

One such placemaking project is the redevelopment of Market Square. Funding for this initiative was secured under the *Town Centre First Measure 3* suite of supports, enabling the development of plans to transform Market Square into a high-quality public space. Further details on the status of this project are provided in a later section of this report.

2.2 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre First Masterplan

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

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

Three public consultation workshops were held in June, August, and September 2025, during which the community actively engaged and shared valuable insights into their vision for Newtownmountkennedy. The final plan is scheduled to be completed and published in November 2025.

3.0 Town Centre First – Suite of Supports

3.1 Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund – Measure 1

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

Queen's University Belfast was awarded the contract to carry out the Health Checks, and all three public consultations were completed in April and May 2025. The Health Check reports have now been finalised

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

and are being reviewed with the respective Town Teams to explore funding opportunities aimed at addressing the identified areas of weakness.

3.2 Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Support

Two applications have been approved for funding under the Town Centre First – Measure 3 Suite of Supports: one for Blessington and one for Wicklow Town. Both projects were originally required to be completed and all associated claims submitted by 30th September 2025. However, an extension has since been granted, revising the deadline to 14th November 2025.

a) Blessington:

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

Update: Three public consultation workshops were held between August and October 2025, providing the community with an opportunity to actively engage and share their vision for the future of Market Square. The final plan is scheduled to be completed and published in November 2025.

b) Wicklow Town:

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

Update: Three public consultation workshops were held in August, September and October 2025, giving the community an opportunity to fully participate and share their thoughts for enhancing the public lands surrounding the Black Castle. The final plan is scheduled to be completed and published in November 2025.

4.0 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 were originally required to be completed, with all associated claims submitted by 31st October 2025. However, extension requests have been lodged with the Department for each individual project to allow additional time for delivery. The projects are as follows:

- a) **Kirikee, Glenmalure** - Renovation works are planned for the Community Centre, including upgrades to the roof, windows, ceilings, and walls. The consultant originally appointed by the community group

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

to oversee the project was removed due to lack of engagement. A new tender for replacement project consultants was issued in early April, with a new consultant appointed in May 2025. Coordination meetings between the community group and the newly appointed team are ongoing, and the tender for construction works was closed in September. A preferred contractor has been identified and will be formally appointed in October.

- 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, and the tender for the conservation/construction works was closed in September. A preferred contractor has been identified and will be formally appointed in October.
- c) **Wicklow Town – Murrough BMX Pump Track** - This project involves the development of a best-in-class, asphalt-covered pump track suitable for all ages and abilities. **Works commenced in the final week of June and are currently on programme for completion in October 2025.**

5.0 Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) 2025

The HTI is a joint initiative between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Heritage Council. Wicklow County Council has been awarded €50,000 in funding to support the procurement of consultants to develop a heritage-led regeneration plan for Greystones. The Heritage Officer and TRO team are working closely with the Town Team and the appointed consultants to deliver the project. Community workshops have been held since the project began and the final report is to be submitted to the Heritage Council in November 2025 to facilitate the drawdown of funding.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

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

Category 1: Applications for large-scale, ambitious capital projects that are ready to proceed with all necessary planning and consents in place.

Category 2: Provides smaller grant funding to help develop project proposals so they can be submitted for Category 1 funding in future calls.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Blessington RRDF (Category2)

Blessington has been awarded over €1m in Category 2 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 acquisition of a vacant/derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre.

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

Discussions are ongoing with the Department in relation to reinstatement of the fund for vacant property purchase for refurbishment but this is likely to be a category 1 application to RRDF in the future.

Baltinglass RRDF (Category 1)

The original RRDF grant was awarded in 2019. It was a category 1 application and included the cost of works. The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow came in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the necessary technical plans are complete in order for the works to commence. Works on the Public Park and playground are almost completed. Application for further funding on this project was made to the Department on the 7th February 2024. However, the submission was not successful.

The tender documents for the Public Realm works, phase 1 have been prepared. The Consultants are to carry out a Quality Audit on the design, before the Tender Documents can be completed. Design and Tender documents have been submitted to the Department and we await final confirmation from the Department to proceed to tender.

Newtownmountkennedy RRDF

This was a category 2 application. The project is at a standstill over contested issues regarding the design of the public realm. A design will also be informed by the Town Centre First Plan for Newtownmountkennedy.

This project included a possible piece of land being made available for a Public Park. Discussions have taken place with a potential seller, without any progress to date. RRDF funds for this project related to purchase of land only and not upgrade works.

Next step: An update has been provided to the Department in relation to the lack of availability of preferred lands and clarification has been sought on availability of funds going forward.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

(Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, DHLGH)

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

Urban Regeneration Development Fund Call 3

Wicklow will receive €2.5 million to assist long term vacancy and dereliction. Four properties have been chosen (two in Arklow and two in Wicklow). The two properties identified in Wicklow have since had 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.

Contact was made with a landowner in Arklow and one meeting has been held. Meetings will be scheduled with two further owners for sites at Main Street.

A review of other sites at Arklow is underway.

Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004 (Category B)

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

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

Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge – URDF Wic0002 (Category B)

Arising from the ABP decision that an NIS was required, this project has been delayed. The Capital Delivery Team will review the project and discuss further with the Department.

TOURISM

1. WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

In September, the VisitWicklow audiences continued to grow at a steady pace, particularly across Instagram and TikTok. VisitWicklow partnered with electric car brand BYD and sister influencers Laura and Hilary

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Young as they adventured across the county picking up stamps for their Wicklow passports. In general, the content in Sept was highly shareable +68% from the previous period at 1.1k.

September Overview:

- 58,778 cross-profile audience +0.4%
- 235,000 impressions on organic content
- 41,250 views on collaborative content (not including the BYD collaboration)
- 1,139 +67.7% shares
- 5,993 engagements including 260 saves
- Women between the ages of 35–44 have a higher potential to see our content and visit our profiles, the majority of them are living in Dublin

2. ECOTRAIL WICKLOW

The sixth edition of EcoTrail Wicklow took place on the 26th of September. EcoTrail Wicklow is now Ireland's premier trail running with over 1,550 finishers across five distances. Runners from all 32 counties of Ireland made their way to Bray, and more than 50 different nationalities were represented with people travelling from as far as South Africa or Japan. With the continued support from Fáilte Ireland, the event is showcasing Wicklow as a fantastic outdoor activities playground with images travelling all over the world.

3. WICKLOW NATURALLY

Wicklow Naturally, with the support of Wicklow County Council is running the annual OctoberFeast festival throughout the month of October. Now in its fifth year, OctoberFeast showcases the various foods and flavours that are produced here in County Wicklow. Events include local food markets, winery and brewery tours, honey tastings, cooking demos, instore tastings, foraging, nature walks and much more. See full calendar of events at <http://wicklownaturally.ie>

4. WICKLOW GAOL

Wicklow County Council took possession of the keys on the 30th of September. The Gaol is currently closed to allow some urgent remedial works to be carried out based on the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan. The Chamber of Commerce will have access to the Gaol to run a few events around Halloween. Wicklow County Council is in the second stage of tendering to find a Manager to run the Gaol.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

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 to support the implementation of actions contained in the VEMMP. Recent actions include:

- Fáilte Ireland has engaged a Project Manager, KSN, and a consultant, Design ID, to work on key initiatives for the VEMMP. KSN will provide project management for Phase 1 of the VEMMP, while Design ID will design an All-Ability Trail connecting Laragh to the Monastic City and Upper Lake. Work on the trail is contingent on the progress of the Conservation Management Plan and both firms will consult with local stakeholders and community groups.
- 7L Architects have been appointed as the lead consultant for the development of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP), and a support team has been put in place comprising a range of disciplines such as landscape architect, stone conservation expertise and ecological professionals. OPW and National Monuments Services have worked together on the CMP to ensure a collaborative approach is taken and that the heritage of the area is preserved and protected.
- NPWS are progressing with improvements to the Spinc trail (continuing improvements made previously) and Poulanass Waterfall route, following severe storm damage.
- The temporary traffic management arrangements put in place by Wicklow County Council finished at the end of September and were widely welcomed by all stakeholders.
- Wicklow County Council worked with Laragh Tidy Towns to prepare an application under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. This proposal is for the appointment of a consultant to develop an Improvement & Enhancement Plan for Laragh, aiming to re-establish the village's unique identity, boosting its appeal as a destination and fostering pride among residents, tourists, and visitors. Crucially, the plan will safeguard Laragh's future by offering recommendations to mitigate the impacts of increased traffic and footfall, while preserving its cherished amenities. Successful projects have not yet been announced.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. ABBEY GROUNDS, WICKLOW

The Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns project at the Abbey Grounds remains underway. The expected completion timeframe is unchanged, anticipated for later this year

2. SPECIAL PROJECTS

Avondale Business Park: Works are continuing to process the expressions of interest that were received for the Avondale sites.

The GRID: The procurement process for the management and operation of The GRID is ongoing, we continue to receive inquiries for its remaining spaces, and a dedicated promotional website is nearing completion to help drive further interest.

Sites on Mill Road, Greystones: The Law Agent is still engaged in discussions regarding the site's registration with the Property Registration Authority.

Carnew Remote Working Hub: Detailed design works (Phase 2) are currently proceeding as we await the decision on the TVRS Main Stream funding application.

3. OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

The East Coast ORE Network continues its regular schedule of meetings to foster engagement and conduct annual planning. Following a successful meeting in September, the Network will convene again in October to discuss progress on event planning for the November ORE Networking event at the Arklow Bay Hotel.

4. SKILLS STRATEGY

The Skills Taskforce meeting scheduled for September was postponed following an unprecedented power outage. The group remains focused on implementing the Skills Strategy actions and is currently prioritising a review of its 2026 action plan.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO) FOR OCTOBER 2025 MEETING:

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by: - 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 - Market Explorer Grant	22 €671,740 7 €12,500	42 Market Explorer Grant (MEG)	15 2 (MEG) Total: € 308,777
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	54	105	19 – AOMDP 15 – Strategic Retail Master Class. 15- Strategic AI Leadership Workshop 7- Export Development 22 – OMDP = 78
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	145	105	104
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1223	840	682
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	24	20	16

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	443	400	483
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	578	345	398
METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2023/2024	2024/2025	Year to Date 2024-25
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1358	1100	1170

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

Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	17	15	12
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	20	18	16
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	7	15	31
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	N/A	6	3
Energy Efficiency Grant	3	18	5
Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	12	13	13
New Exporters	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2024	2025	2025
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	3	TBC

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

September 2025 Activities:

Various events taking place:

- September 10th, Owner Manager Development Programme. 22 participants ready to begin this 15-week Programme in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy. 30 hours of group training plus 4 1-1 sessions with the trainer, Blaise Brosnan.
- September 16th-18th: LEO Wicklow will be proudly represented at the National Ploughing Championships by Aartha Organics Limited, ensuring Wicklow-based businesses continue to have a strong presence at key national events.
- September 17th, Export Development Programme commencing in Clermont House, 6 in person training modules, over a 12 week period with 1-1 market research, 1-1 export mentoring, and 1 x export potential customer facing meeting confirmed for each attendee.
- September 18th, Green for Business Lunch and Learn, West Wicklow. Businesses invited to come and listen to how taking part in the Green for Business programme can help their companies reduce overhead costs and be more sustainable. One to one business mentoring also available on the day. Taking place in municipal district of Blessington and lunch in Tulfarris.
- September 19th, LEO Wicklow hosted and partnered with East Wicklow Business Network to hold a Doing Business Better Breakfast event with keynote speakers Tanaiste Simon Harris and Sean Gallagher. The event was attended by over 80 local business owners and an overview of LEO Lean / Green and Digital for Business support suite was also provided. Final guest speaker Feargal McKenna of MoneyCube spoke about Pension Auto Enrolment being introduced from January 2025 and the need for employers to prepare for this.

October 2025 Activities:

Various events taking place:

- LEO Wicklow in company of at least 130 female entrepreneurs will be celebrating National Women's Enterprise Day on Thursday 16th October with keynote speaker Kellie Fennell and a panel of speakers who have been supported through the Lean for Business, Green for Business and the Business Expansion Grants.
- Shaping Leadership Skills for Wicklow SME's - 13/10/2025. LEO Wicklow and KWETB are hosting a focus group meeting to discuss leadership and strategic management skills needs with business owners and managers. The results will shape future Management Development Programmes.
- 23 October: Navigating US Tariffs webinar with speaker Brian Murphy of Global Trade Ltd.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The tender for training providers for the next three years has been completed and 15 separate Lots have been awarded. The autumn/winter programme has been published on the LEO website.

Training which took place in September:

- Start Your Own Business
- Digital Marketing Clinics
- A.I. For SME's
- A Laypersons Guide to Income Tax

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Upcoming Training – October:

- Start Your Own Business
- Bookkeeping for SMEs
- Sources of Finance for SMEs
- US Tariffs
- Explore Your New Business Idea
- Cyber Security for SMEs

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

HARBOURS AND PORTS

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

The Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) was issued to CCTV Oversight Board for assessment. The Tender process is complete and once approved the works program will take approx. 1 month. Funding is from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme 2025 (LAMIS). Works to commence in September.

2) Concrete Repairs to East Pier, Wicklow Harbour

Additional funding has been approved under the LAMIS scheme to carry out underwater concrete repairs to fill voids in the East Pier at Wicklow Harbour. A contractor has been appointed, and works are due to commence in September.

3) Storage Units at Arklow Harbour

Fourteen new fisherman's storage units have been completed at Arklow Harbour. Allocation of these units is 80% complete. These units will allow licensed fishing vessels to store equipment quayside, facilitating the removal of the shipping containers currently used for storage.

4) Upgrade to Harbour security gates / entrance Wicklow and Arklow Harbours.

Works are ongoing and due for completion by November.

5) Mara Applications

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

6) Accessibility to Wicklow Harbour Swimming Areas

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

7) Marine area strategy

Consultant has been appointed to advance a harbour development "scoping report" into a marine area strategy. This will involve stakeholder engagement and the drafting of development options for both Arklow and Wicklow Harbours.

Wicklow Harbour Statistics

Month/ Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-25	3	3	0	3	2	1
Feb-25	7	7	0	7	5	2
Mar-25	9	9	0	9	6	3
Apr-25	7	7	0	7	2	5
May-25	5	5	0	5	3	2
Jun-25	9	9	0	9	4	5
Jul-25	5	5	0	5	3	2
Aug-25	4	4	0	4	3	1
Sep-25	5	5	0	5	2	3

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

GENERAL CARGO DATA JAN - SEPTEMBER 2025	
General Cargo/Container	54
Gross Tonnage	124,182

SIZE OF VESSELS BREAKDOWN JAN – SEPTEMBER 2025			
Tonnes		Number of Vessels	Gross Tonnage
Lower Limit	Upper Limit		
1,000	1,999	14	16,522
2,000	2,999	35	91,197
3,000	3,999	5	16,463
			124,182

2025			
Category	Imports	Exports	Total
Forestry products	55,643	11,148	66,791
Metals		27,255	27,255
	55,643	38,403	94,046

CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS



1. Climate Action Week

This year's Climate Action Week aligned with Ireland's forth SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Week which took place from 20 – 28th September. The week seen 32 events take place in the county such as:

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

1 Greystones Climate Action forum – Community Climate Action Plan – Businesses, Sports, Community Groups and public is focus. 5 common themes across all.



2 Mount Lucas Energy Truck



3 Weed Management Memo Day



4 Tidy towns Forum held in An Tairseach, Wicklow Town



Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

5 Greystones Library SDG School calendar awards evening	
5 IKC3 - Climate Innovation Programme Arklow	
6 Composting workshops with Craig Benton	
7 ECO UNESCO workshop on fashion	
8 CCAF information & networking event in Donard	
9 Green for Business Lunch & Learn	
10 NZEB day course to learn about the various aspects of passive house design including insulation and ventilation	

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Future Climate Action Events:

- Greystones MD Sustainable Sports Clubs Event 23rd October
- Youth Climate Conference 25th November
- Greystones Area Climate Action Committee Formation

2. Coastal Erosion:

Interim Reports are expected to be completed in October for the Brittas Bay and Ennereilly Study. An additional Topographic and Bathymetric survey has been completed where further funding was approved from the OPW.

Additionally, a Wave Overtopping study has been completed and the CEMS are progressing.

ECRIPP Project: Wicklow County Council made a submission to the Public Consultation (closed 17.10.25) Greystones North Beach (Funding submitted to OPW. Entire area may be covered by ECRIPP).

3. Community Climate Action Programme:

Community Climate Action Programme (Phase 1): Building Low Carbon Sustainable Communities

€646,000 was allocated to County Wicklow under the Community Climate Action Programme under phase 1. This allocation supports a variety of community organisations covering themes such as energy, waste, biodiversity, recycling and active travel. Many groups are still in the delivery stage of the programme.

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

Phase 2 will launch on the 20th October under the same framework as Phase 1 with similar amounts available to each local authority.

Spongeworks EU horizon programme:

Wicklow County Council in partnership with the Wicklow Uplands Council, the East Wicklow Rivers Trust and LAWPRO have been selected to participate in an EU horizon programme called Spongeworks. Each participating region will work on strategy to develop and scale sponge measures – Nature based Solutions that help retain water, reduce flood or drought risk and restore ecosystems. Wicklow's project explores restoring the upper Aughrim River's capacity to slow water flow.

Spongeworks kick off meeting held in Toulouse 23-27 September – Our Biodiversity Officer and Climate Action Officer were in attendance.



Community Climate Innovation Programme with IKC3 team:

The IKC3 Community Climate Innovation Training course with Trinity College and Munster Technical University for Arklow Decarbonisation Zone held its second in person workshop in Arklow. 28 people have signed up for the course.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030

The development of the Biodiversity Action Plan is supported by the Biodiversity Forum. Public Consultation has been completed where 22 submissions have been received. A SEA Screening is underway and the CE Report is under preparation.

Steps remaining to be taken include:

- Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening
- Review submissions and prepare draft CE Report
- Final amendments and plan approval
- Translation of the plan
- Illustration and design
- Meeting BWG to finalise BAP
- Launch BAP.

Planned for October

- ReFarm project continuing to be completed.
- Citizen science programme to be completed.
- Brittas Habitat management works to be completed
- All annual reporting for Heritage council and NPWS to be completed

Environment Awareness:

Textile initiatives continue to be supported and rolled out in Co. Wicklow. A number of successful workshops and events supported by the Anti Dumping Initiative through WERLA included

- Clothes swaps in Arklow Arts Centre and Baltinglass Library (see below)
- Baltinglass Clothes Swap held in Baltinglass Library and in partnership with Tearman Gardens
- Textile Upcycling workshops held in Arklow Arts Centre (see below)
- Social media campaign highlighting the need to reduce waste, engage in repair and loan initiatives was delivered during World Textile Week.

These workshops were well attended and workshops heavily subscribed to indicating a growing awareness and need to support and engage in our Circular Economy at a local level.



Upcycled 'Tote Bags' & Clothes Swaps meet Communal Gardens for Climate Action Week

During Climate Action Week, complimenting Wicklow's Tree planting Grant, composting and leaf mold workshops were held. Leaf cages suitable for leaf Mold production and tools were funded.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025



Enniskerry Tidy Towns with Craig Bention 'Master Composter'

Tree Planting Grant 2025

36 applications were received in 2025. This is double the amount received in previous years. Applications came from a variety of groups from tidy towns, community groups, resident associations, scout and schools groups. There has been a significant amount of increase in fruit trees applications.

LITTER/WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Litter/Waste Statistics up to end of September 2025

9		
CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025		
No. of Complaints Created	163	
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	104	
No of Litter Fines Issued	41	
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	9	
No. of Warning Letters Issued	5	
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	16	
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1	
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	10	
Bulky Waste Collection and Estate Clean Ups	5	
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	17	
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	3	3 cases were listed for mention under the Litter Pollution Act during the month of September
No of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	5	In one case, Wicklow County Council withdrew the summons having been satisfied that the defendant was now compliant with Waste Tyre regulations. A second case was listed before the courts in relation to the matter of financial settlement having been previously found guilty of the mismanagement of waste. The 3 remaining cases were listed for mention with court hearing scheduled for later dates
Income - Litter	€3,805.00	CCTV was installed at bring bank locations which led to an increase in the number of litter fines issued during the month
Income- Waste Management	€3,400.00	

DOG LICENCES

September 2025 - 416no. dog licences were purchased.

At a recent conference Wicklow County Council received a special mention for the increase in their sales of dog licences. This is attributed to the ongoing patrolling by the Dog Wardens of local estates and areas.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

LIFEGUARDS / BLUE FLAG SEASON / BEACHES

The Blue Flag season officially ended on the 15th of September 2025. The lifeguards finished their season at Brittas Bay North and South and Greystones South beaches. Bathing water sampling finished also in September. Excellent water results were obtained throughout the period of 1st June – 15th September. As the summer season has ended, as and from 1st October entrance into the carparks at Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South are now free.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Pollution Control Statistics up to end of September 2025

1) **Pollution Response & Investigation**

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

2) **Ambient Air Monitoring**

- 0 Inspection of Ambient Air Monitoring Station

3) **Private Water Supplies**

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

4) **Bathing Water**

- 7 Bathing Waters were monitored and had excellent quality.
- Bray South, Greystones Cove, Greystones South, Silver Strand, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga.
- The bathing monitoring has finished with the closure of the official bathing water season for 2025.
- The public consultation on the identification (designation) of existing and new bathing waters in County Wicklow and length of the bathing season is now closed

5) **Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme**

- 2 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 20 Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.

6) **Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations**

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

7) **Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026**

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared.
- 0 Engagement activities undertaken.
- 0 Inspection of domestic waste water treatment systems was carried out to confirm compliance with an advisory notice.
- 3 Inspection of domestic waste water treatment systems was carried out to confirm compliance with an advisory notice.
- 0 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems related to grant application in High Status Catchments were carried out.

8) **Good Agricultural Practice Inspections**

- 25 Inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

- 1 Follow-up inspection of a non-compliant farm carried out.
- 6 Sewage sludge nutrient management plan applications to land reviewed.

9) Well Grants

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

10) Petrol Vapour Recovery

- 0 Installation inspected
- 0 Installation issued with Certificate of Testing
- 0 Stage 1b applications assessed
- 0 Stage 1b Installations (petrol vapour recovery during tanker delivery) Inspections.

11) Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 0 Inspections of Vehicle Refinisher installations carried out.
- 0 Certificates of compliance issued to Vehicle Refinisher installations.
- 0 Letters issued to Vehicle Refinisher Installations.
- 0 Certificate of compliance issued to Dry Cleaner installation.
- 0 Dry cleaner installations inspected.
- 0 Paint retailer inspections for compliant products.

12) Smokeless Coal Regulations

- 23 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.
- 19 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.
- 4 Follow-up inspections of non-compliant sites.

13) Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

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

14) Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

- 39 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.

15) Planning & Development

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

CEMETERIES

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Published Death Notices Data

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	2025
Total	158	114	118	92	90	94	107	96	92	961
WCC	59	47	44	41	37	35	46	35	39	383
Cremation	49	45	37	26	26	28	26	30	26	293
Other	50	22	37	25	27	31	35	31	27	285

Percentage Breakdown YTD (Year to Date)

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

OUTDOOR RECREATION

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

The table below the status of current projects funded under ORIS being progressed during 2025 - 2026

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion
OR221WW02	Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	Established Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk Task Force. Updates from Task Force.	Extension granted by DRCD.
OR221WW01	Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. Project works to be reviewed with Bennett Engineering to meet budget.	In progress. Extension requested
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW03	Coolkenno Equestrian Trail	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners pending their planning permission process, which is not resolved yet.	In progress. Extension requested
ORIS 2022 M3 OR322WW01	Roundwood Recreation Area	BMX pump track bike area works commencing in October. Running routes planned. Middle section repairs to Vartry Trails are almost complete.	In progress. Extension requested

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 amounted to **€858,780**.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

The table below is a list of remaining projects funded under ORIS 2023 being progressed during 2025 – 2026

RIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion
ORPDM23WW02	<i>Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan</i>	Feasibility project to provide a work plan to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. Tender awarded and plan being drafted.	Extension granted to 31/12/25
OR123WW01	<i>Hollywood Natural Play Area</i>	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Play area specification being prepared.	31/10/25
OR123WW06	<i>Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way</i>	Signage replacement along an 18km route. Discussions ongoing with WUC and Roundwood community group on final signage design and content. Signage supplier contract due.	In progress. Extension requested
OR223WW01	<i>Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure</i>	Car park upgrade works completed and fencing being completed during October.	30/06/2026
OR223WW02	<i>Three Trouts Bridge, Delgany</i>	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the route.	30/06/2026
OR223WW03	<i>Tinahely New Loop Trail</i>	Additional spur to loop walks on a 10km route to Tinahely village.	30/06/2026

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

Applications for DRCDG's 2024 ORIS funding round were submitted during March 2025. Wicklow Co Co 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.

Five projects with total funding of €207,300 have been approved for Wicklow County Council to implement around the County, one Project Development Measure and four Measure 1 projects:

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

Further announcements in respect of measure 2 and 3 will be make in the coming months

Outdoor Recreation Strategy (2025-2029)

The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2025-2029, reviewed by the County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee, was approved by the Elected members of Wicklow County Council on the 6th of October 2025. This Strategy will inform the development and management of outdoor recreation in the County.

LIBRARY SERVICE

Library Buildings – Roof Repairs and Conservation Works

Essential roof repairs are scheduled to take place at the historic Dunlavin Market House Library over the coming weeks. These works are necessary to protect and preserve the much-loved mid-18th century granite building, which continues to serve as a vital community resource.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

The project, which is expected to take approximately six weeks, will involve the erection of scaffolding and the full replacement of the existing roof slates with traditional blue Bangor slates, chosen to reflect the building's original character and architectural heritage. Once completed, the repairs will provide a warmer, drier, and more comfortable environment for library users and staff alike. Every effort will be made to minimise disruption during the works, and the library will remain open wherever possible.

Similar conservation work was recently completed at the Bray Carnegie Library on Eglinton Road, where the roofing project has now been successfully concluded. Dunlavin is the next priority in terms of urgency.

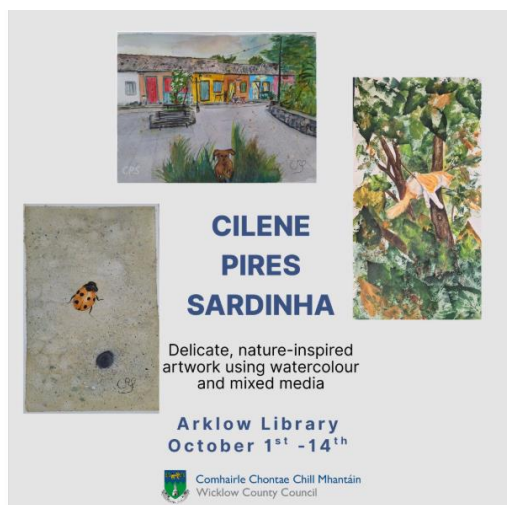
Arklow Library

Children's Events: These weekly children's activities foster early literacy and encourage creative play including

Toddler Storytime & Craft, Baby Sing-Along Sessions, Arts and Crafts Activity Station, Chess Club and the popular **Lego Club** promoting **STEM** skills and collaborative play.

Adult Events: October at Arklow Library caters to literary, artistic, social, and educational interests: *Cilene Pires Sardinha* is an Art Exhibition running 1st to 14th October. Delicate, nature-inspired artwork using watercolour and mixed media. Some literary activities include the **Wednesday Book Club, Young Adult Book Club, Thursday Book Club** and the **Writers Group** meet biweekly on Tuesdays at 6:30pm

There are many regular educational & social Programs including the **Irish Language Classes** with Séadna Mac Seoin, as well as **Ciorcal Comhrá** an Irish Conversation Circle, the **English Conversation Group, Chess Club, Knitters' Group, the social group. All Kinds of Amazing** and **Tuatha** a Male Carers Support Group. There is a course of **DigiLit Classes** and an **Adult carers arts & crafts group**.



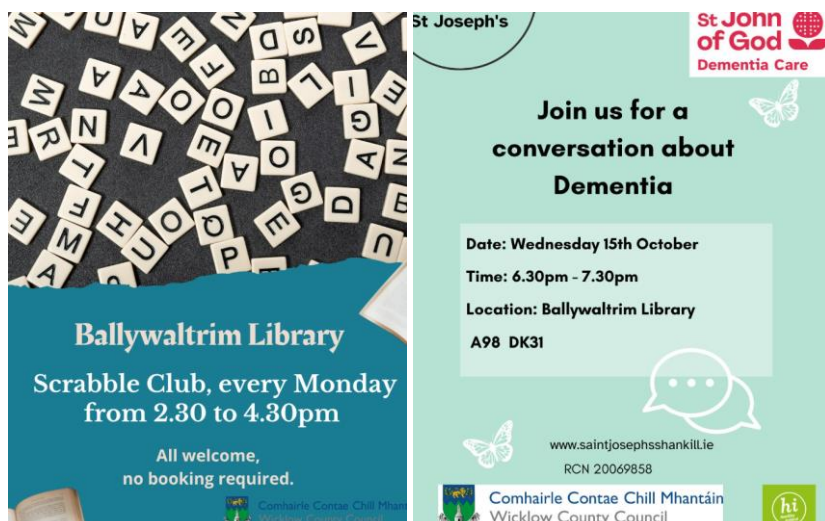
Ballywaltrim Library

Children's Events: Ballywaltrim weekly activities and events that promote early learning and creativity including local **School Visits with Bray School Project** (7 classes) and **St. Fergal's Primary School** (8 classes). The weekly **Tummy Time for Babies, STEM Free Play, Storytime** and **Marino Special School Visit**. The book display this month reflects **World Space Week**, also with themed bookmarks, and colouring sheets distributed to local schools, **Halloween Arts & Crafts, Spooky Storytime**, and a **Halloween Dress-Up day**.

Adult Events: There are a variety of regular and supportive programmes for learning, creativity, and wellbeing for adults too like the regular **Knitting Group, Quilting Group, Age Action Computer Classes, Rehab Care Book Club, Daytime & Evening Book Clubs** and the **Tovertafel Table** an Interactive sensory table available for adults with additional needs.

There are also some **Once-Off Events** open to all such as the **Stop October** (HSE Initiative) Talk by Karen from the local HSE and a **Dementia Awareness Talk** by St. John of God Care, Shankill, for **Social Inclusion Week**.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025



Baltinglass Library:

Baltinglass Library has a programme for October, featuring film, reading, creativity, and community learning for both adults and children.

Children's Events: Celebrating Children's Book Festival with interactive storytime and creativity: **Storytime** - Tuesday 8th October & **Storytime & Halloween Craft Session** – Tuesday 21st October (Children's Book Festival event)

Adult Events - Regular sessions supporting creativity, connection, and digital literacy:

- **Enda's Film Club** – Film screening every Friday morning
- **Creative Writing Group** – Monthly meeting held on Saturday 4th October
- **Conversational English Group** – Weekly on Tuesday evenings
- **Baltinglass Film Club** – Screening of *Kes* on Tuesday 28th October
- **DigiLit Sessions** – Digital literacy workshops every Wednesday afternoon
- **InSync and KARE** – Ongoing group sessions continue every Monday and Wednesday respectively

Blessington Library:

Children's events:

For 2nd Year students in the Blessington Community College there will be an **Anti-bullying workshop** and facilitators **Rachel Drew** and **Katie Fu** will deliver two different events as part of **Bedtime at your library initiative**.

Adult events: Community groups using the library include *Blessington Local History Society* and monthly school visits from our local primary and secondary schools. The regular adult events include the **Languages groups:** Spanish, Italian, Irish and English groups, the **Neuro-divergent parent group** which meets monthly and this month a special **Halloween break** Chess Tournament. **Digital Skills** classes and **Media Literacy Workshops** will help those trying to navigate the online world.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025



DigiLit
Digital Skills @ Your Library

DIGITAL SKILLS

Have become essential skills in many aspects of our daily lives.

Would you like some help with a new phone or finding your way around the online world?

Blessington Library

10am – 12pm for 6 weeks.
Every Wednesday starting 1st Oct

Please contact the library to express your interest.

Tel: 045 891740 or email
blessingtonlib@wicklowcoco.ie

This project is a collaboration between Wicklow County Council Library Service and Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board

Skills For Life

Media Literacy workshops

- Blessington Library :Thursday 23rd October, 2pm –4pm
- Wicklow Library : Friday 24th October, 10am–12pm

Contact relevant library branch to book a place

Questions to ask...



Why am I getting this information?

Where is this information coming from?

How do we know if a headline is real or fake?

How do we know who to trust online?

How do we know if what we read or hear is true?

Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council

Skills For Life

Bray Library:

Children's events: Popular and regular events continue with the Toddler Storytime, Afternoon Storytime Tuesdays 3pm, the children's book club and film club, the Comic Clubs and Afterschool, Teens. Younger kids can enjoy the STEAM Saturday with *Magaforms* construction play.

Adult events: Resistance Training – Once again proving to be very popular - 4 weeks ending 17th. Harp mediation is back by popular demand, Saturdays 4th and 11th. More music with a Harp recital by Comhaltas Bray Harp Ensemble on National Harp day 18th at 11am. The Polling Station on Friday the 24th for the presidential election. The book clubs continue with the Crime and Literary Fiction Clubs meeting monthly and the **Bray Reads** pick this month is *Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel (Science Fiction)

Recycled Halloween Crafting

@ Bray Library

Make ghostly garlands using recycled newspapers, in honour of Climate Action Week (and Spooky Season!)



Friday 17th October @ 3pm–4pm

Suitable for ages 5 and up. No booking needed.

Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council

Carnew:

Carnew Library hold's its book club meeting on the 2nd Monday of every month and have the local National School and Secondary school visiting on a weekly basis. This month's book-display is themed for *Climate action week* and the sensory room is used continuously throughout the month.

Enniskerry Library:

Children's events: There will be an interactive musical experience for children with a **Harp Session with Aisling Ennis** on Saturday 18th October and **Seasonal & Thematic Displays include** *World Space Week* and *Grandparents' Day*.

Adult Events: For adults there are creative sessions, author talks, and language conversation groups including the **Spanish and French Conversation Groups**, an **Author Talk with Tony Canavan** on his latest book *Our Troubles*, a

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

collection of short stories about growing up in Northern Ireland during the Trouble, a **Book Launch with local resident Kevin Warner** for his latest book on walks in Enniskerry and surrounding areas, part of the Shaking Bog Festival and an **Adult Book Binding Workshop**.

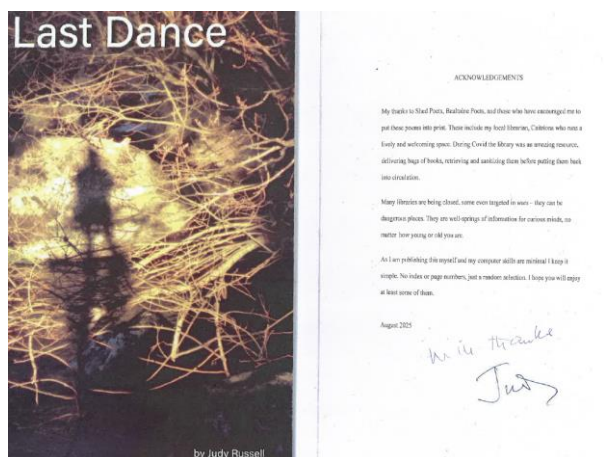


Image: Poetry book - mention of thanks to Enniskerry Library

Tinahely Library: Tinahely Library presents a vibrant October programme for children, supporting early literacy, music appreciation, and creative engagement. Highlights include weekly Baby & Toddler Storytime sessions every Wednesday morning. The month also features a special live music performance with the Comhaltas Tinahely Children's Music School Concert on Saturday 18th October.

Adult Events: For adult audiences, Tinahely Library continues to foster a love of reading and community connection through its regular programmes. The **Adult Book Club** met on Wednesday 1st October to discuss their latest read in a friendly, welcoming environment.

Greystones Library

Children's Events: Greystones Library offers a lively and creative programme for children this October, combining **STEM** learning, storytelling, and seasonal themes. Events include a **Young Engineers Bricks Challenge** workshop for 8–12 year olds as part of **Maths Week**. For **Space Week** there will be a special **Junior Book Display** showcases books that inspire curiosity about space and science.

Adult Events: Adults can enjoy a variety of enriching opportunities throughout the month. **DigiLit digital literacy classes** have begun, supporting skill-building and lifelong learning. As part of the **Skills for Life** programme, members of the **Greystones Creative Writers** group will read from their own work, developed during a workshop led by author **Eilish Fisher**. The popular **Artists in Conversation** series also continues, celebrating local talent and creativity.

Community & Cultural Events: A **Harp Recital** by **Eibhlís Ní Ríordáin** will mark **National Harp Day** and Community wellbeing was also supported through monthly **Zumba Classes**. The library welcomed the **Irish Rail Public Consultation** event, offering residents the chance to learn more about the DART & Coastal South Project. Meanwhile, the **Greystones Players** are using library space for rehearsals ahead of their upcoming performance at the **Whale Theatre**, highlighting strong local arts partnerships.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025



Wicklow Library

Children's Events: Highlights at Wicklow Library include a **Special Storytime** with **Garda Niall Kennedy** on Friday 11th October and an energetic **Reading & Drawing Workshop** with author **Alan Nolan** for a 4th class group on 2nd October.

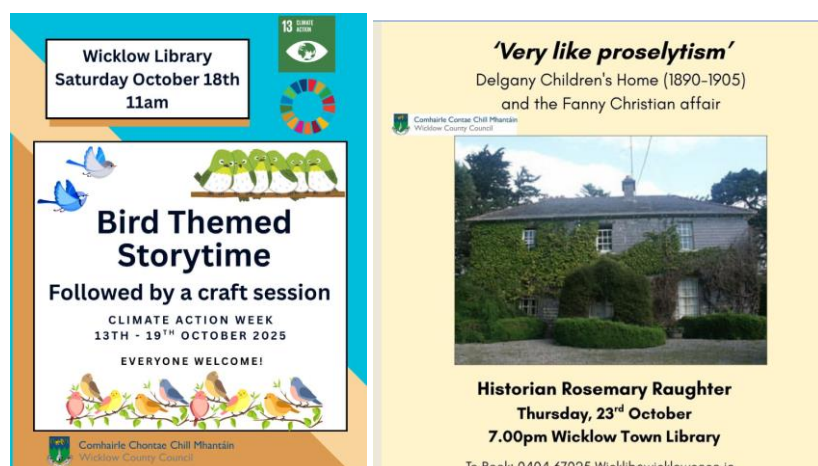
Weekly activities for younger children continue throughout the month, including **Baby Rhyme Time**, **Comhrá agus Ceol**, and **Storytime** sessions. The **Children's and YA Book Clubs** and the **Teen Writing Group** are continuing to grow in membership. **Primary school class visits** are ongoing.

Adult Events: Adults can enjoy a mix of educational and cultural programming. **Library tours and archive sessions** are running throughout the month in partnership with the Local Studies department and County Archives, including visits from **Dominican College TY students**. A **Media Literacy Workshop** was held on Thursday 24th October in collaboration with **KWETB**, while the **HSE** are hosting **pulmonary and diabetes health education sessions**.

Community consultation also continues via **Public Participation Network** and **Studio Idir** sessions, with a focus on plans for the **redevelopment of the Black Castle site**.

Exhibitions: The library hosts the **St. Catherine's School Annual Student Showcase**, on display throughout October, celebrating student creativity and visual arts.

Special Event – Local History Talks Launch: October marks the launch of the **2025/26 Local History Talks Programme** with a compelling lecture by **Rosemary Raughter** titled *"Very like proselytism: Delgany Children's Home (1890–1905) and the Fanny Christian Affair"*, held on Thursday 23rd October at 7:00pm. This talk explores a complex and controversial chapter of Wicklow's history, reaching from Delgany to Dublin's Monto district, and set the tone for a new season of historical reflection and community learning.



Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Climate Action Week:

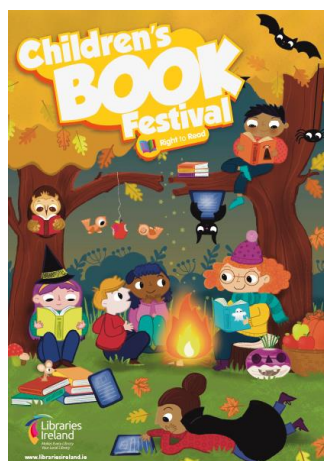


Ireland's 9th Climate Action Week takes place from Monday 13th – Sunday 19th of October. This annual event coordinated by An Taisce on behalf of the Department of Climate, Energy and Environment is Ireland's largest pop-up climate festival. Wicklow County Council Library Services will be supporting Climate Action Week with events happening in branches across the county.

Library events:

- **Blessington Library** are hosting a Learn How to Use a Sewing Machine Class with Barbara from Green Thread, for boys and girls aged 13+ on **Wednesday 15th of October, 1:30-3:30pm**.
- **Bray Library** are holding an afterschool crafting session for children aged 5+ on **Friday 17th October 3-4pm** with staff member Eva using re-cycled materials.
- A **Halloween Children's Costume Swap Shop** is taking place in **Ballywaltrim Library** on **Saturday 18th of October, 10:00am -1:00pm**. Barbara from Green Thread will be available on the day to help with minor alterations. More than 100 attendees showed up for the same **Halloween Costume swap** (SDG) promoting sustainability on October 12th in **Greystones Library**.
- A **Bird -Themed Storytime** will take place at **Wicklow Town Library** on **Saturday, October 18th, 11am**. Followed by a fun craft session – perfect for little nature lovers!
- In **Enniskerry Library** the SDG Junior Book Club are going to read books on Climate Change for their next book club meeting.
- **Arklow Library** will have a **Community Climate Action Programme** – Thursday 9th October, 6:00–8:00pm. For kids there is a **Climate Action themed Toddler Storytime** with arts and crafts on **Wednesday 15th October at 10am**. And a **Climate Action themed Arts & Crafts** session on **Saturday 18th, between 11am and 1pm**. **All welcome**.
- **Rathdrum Library's** weekly Nursery Rhyme and Storytime will also be celebrating Climate action week with stories about recycling, nature walks and a good place for insects to live! **Friday 17th of October, 10am**.
- **Tuesday 14th October Greystones Library** hosts classes from the local St. David's secondary school who will attend two SDG talks: "Fashion Focus" & "Food for Future".
- **Thursday October 16th the Greystones Library** hosts a Craft Supply Exchange event where craft items can be exchanged and re-used, promoting sustainability. 6-8pm.
- **Thursday October 16th Greystones Library** have a class from Delgany National School attending a Bio-economy workshop.

Children's Book Festival



Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

October is **Children's Book Festival month**, with a special focus on story times and other reading related activities for children, families and invited school groups.

The aims of the National Children's Book Festival are:

- To encourage children to enjoy the experience of reading and support their reading development.
- To provide activities and events in collaboration with writers/illustrators/storytellers
- To promote children's books and stories
- To increase engagement with families and schools and to attract new audiences.

This year, Children's Book Festival is delivered in collaboration with the **Discover Irish Children's Books campaign**, which aims to highlight and celebrate Irish Children's Books and Authors.

Under The *Right to Read Action Plan for 2025* Wicklow Libraries are organising events of many forms, including, author visits, storytelling, Storytime's, Book Clinics for book recommendations, creative writing workshops, arts & crafts, tummy time, Magic Table, children's book clubs, treasure hunts with prizes, book review competitions, or other reading events delivered by library staff.

Library events include:

- **Arklow Library:** Author Eilish Fisher will host a writing workshop for a local primary school class on Monday 13th October at 10:00am.
- **Ballywaltrim Library:** There will be a month-long book display and a Create Your Own Monster drawing workshop with author Alan Nolan.
- **Baltinglass:** A special Storytime & Halloween Craft Session – Tuesday 21st October.
- **Blessington Library:** Children's authors Sarah Webb and Sadhbh Devlin will visit Blessington Library for the Children Book Festival.
- **Bray Library:** Ravenswell primary school are visiting for a special event with artist Natasha Mac A Bhaird.
- **Enniskerry Library:** **Author visit** with Lucy Murphy with readings for local primary schools.
- **Greystones Library:** Children can partake in a fun-filled Comedy & Storytelling Workshop with comedian Aideen McQueen. Tinahely Library: Author visit with John Newman on the 15th of October for an engaging reading session with local school children.
- **Wicklow Library:** As part of the Children's Book Festival, Librarian Loretta will be visiting seven local Early Learning Centres, sharing storytimes with nearly 200 children and promoting the library's services.

WICKLOW SPORTS & RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

Chronic Condition Programmes

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Woodland for Health	The Recovery Village, Newcastle Hospital	8 th September	17 th November	16	HSE Seed Funding
Recover Strong with Cancer	Shoreline Leisure Bray	3 rd September	10 th December	10	Sláintecare HC Funding

HSE Programmes

Programme	Venue	Start Date	No. of Weeks	No. of Attendees	Funding
Yoga with the Simon Community	Bray	23 rd September	4	5	HSE Grant Aid Funding

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Up Coming Programmes for People with Chronic Conditions

- **Chair Pilates for Residents of Blessington Day Care:** In collaboration with the physiotherapy team at Blessington HSE, this programme will run from Monday, 6th October to 4th November, taking place in The Coimín Centre. Funded by HSE Seed Funding.
- **Activator Poles Taster:** Greystones Activate Retirement Group, 31st October. Funded by Age & Opportunity

Inclusive Swim programme for ASD/Special Classes in Schools- CYPSC Funding

Glenart College Arklow have started a 6 week swimming programme on Thursday 2nd October in Coral Leisure Arklow. There are 10 students attending.

Physical Activity Sessions for ASD/Special Classes in Schools – CYPSC

LSP tutor Jackie Kinch is facilitating an 8-week programme of physical activity and fundamental movements skills in the ASD classes in Scoil Naomh Iosaf Baltinglass and Tinahely NS in October and November.

Upcoming Inclusive Programmes

- Inclusive Gym Teen Taster session on Thursday 16th October in Coral Leisure Wicklow and Thursday 30th October in Coral Leisure Arklow on

Training & Education

Activity	Venue	Date
Autism in Sport	Online	13 th October 2025
Safeguarding 1	Online	15 th October 2025

Completed ESF+ Programmes

Grand Hotel – Table Tennis Bat & Chat

A 4 week block of 2 sessions per week was ran for residents of the Grand Hotel between Monday 15th September and Monday 6th October. The sessions were facilitated by Table Tennis Ireland providing introduction sessions, educating the residents on the basic skills and rules of Table Tennis for the first 3 weeks, before a competition on the 4th week. There were 2 sessions ran each week, one for children under 17 and one for adults over 17. There were 8 children and 12 adults.

Ongoing ESF+ Programmes

In Sync – Co-Design Programme

An ongoing project with a Youth at Risk group, called In Sync in Blessington began on Thursday evenings began on 11th September. There are 19 young people in the group. The group has been working to find gaps in physical activity opportunities for young people in the Blessington area, and will work to combat this, by designing a creative an inclusive project to increase the opportunity for young people to take part in Sport and Physical activity. The early brainstorming sessions have indicated an interest in volleyball as a potential option to begin working on.

Wicklow Traveller Network – Active Age Womens Group – Co-Design Programme

Monday 13th October was the first session with the Active Age Woemsn group from the Wicklow Traveller Newtork, of a Co-Designed programme. We will work together with the women, to design a programme tailored to their interests and needs to get the womens more physically active, as there is a growing concern around their lack of physical activity. The first session indicated an interest an aqua aerobics and chronic pain management programme due to a high level of arthirtis in the group.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Upcoming ESF+ Programmes

Kippure – Table Tennis Bat & Chat

Similar to the Bat and Chat programme ran in the Grand Hotel, we are linking with Kippure to provide the same opportunity, to introduce table Tennis to the community. There has been an expressed interest in Table Tennis amongst some children within the Blessington Community, so we are aiming to work alongside the community hall and local people to provide a socially inclusive Table Tennis opportunity for people in the Blessington community, and those residing in Kippure and the Avon.

ARCHIVES & GENEALOGY SERVICE

Wicklow County Archives Service

Digitisation programme

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

Extra funding for Archives

Work continues on the digitisation of the Labourers Cottages Ledgers dating from the 1880s to the 1920s, supported by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport.

Michael Dwyer 200 in Heritage Week Awards

The Michael Dwyer 200 project, marking the bicentenary of the death of famous Wicklow leader has been nominated for a National Heritage Week award in the Exploring Our Foundations category.

Collections

Our Lady's Girls National School has donated their school records to the County Archives.

School visits

The County Archives and Local Studies services welcomed the Transition Year pupils of the Dominican College Wicklow on a visit this month, and a selection from both collections was displayed and discussed with the students.

ARTS OFFICE

- Three strategic projects awarded by Wicklow County Council for the development of new artistic work were premiered in Mermaid Arts Centre. These projects had a value of €45,000.00 and were supported as a joint investment by the Arts Council and Wicklow County Council as part of our Artist Development supports. The artists were Eoin O'Malley, Maia Nunes and Izumi Kimura and their respective collaborators.
- Artist Training and Capacity Building took place in Baltinglass to support artists, and the community apply to the new Community Creative Activation Fund as part of Creative Places Baltinglass.
- The Arts Office applied for annual revenue funding from the Arts Council for 2026, increasing the request for investment to Wicklow County Council by 20%. The total funds awarded to WCC in 2025 was 100,000.00.
- The Wicklow Music Teaching Residency is a partnership between the Wicklow Arts Office and Music Network. In September 2025, County Wicklow residents aged 55 and over were invited to express their interest in participation.
- This year's participants will receive tuition from the Skylark Trio, comprising of renowned musicians; Tim Doyle (concertina/fiddle), Patrick Stefan Groenland (guitar) and Claire Sherry (fiddle/banjo/mandolin).
- The progress is being monitored and recorded with a study to conclude at the end of the project in March 2026.
- The project will be based at Wicklow County Campus, Clermont House, Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow. The closing date for applications is 20 October 2025, at 2pm.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

- InHand Festival, an immersive, hands-on exploration of ancient heritage skills took place on 18th-21st September. It was held at Greenan Maze.
- The goal was to bring together experts, passionate learners, and the community to research and revitalize the craftsmanship that has been handed down through generations, shaping our daily lives. The panel of experts facilitated workshops around rethinking traditional practices and fostering new ideas that connect the past with the future.
- Wicklow County Council's Culture Team is planning a meeting in Arklow on Tuesday 21st October to explore the presentation of the Arklow Area Plan Mapping and to develop place-based programmes and partnerships.
- Arklow Cultural Mapping Exercise is to build a profile of Arklow which combines information on the socio-economic profile of the town together with specific objectives of the Culture Team services work programmes with the key output being identifying areas of shared interest across these work areas that would create a foundation for future planning of creative development and engagement.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (13/10/2025) outstanding stands at **264 – 1.66%** of total stock of 15,951. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we have ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults, and progress has been made to repair long standing faults. A large number of faults also require civil works or infrastructure installations to undertake the repair; a number of these faults have been completed, and others are currently in progress. 164 lighting faults were attended in September, while 156 faults were logged during the same period; see below for breakdown by MD.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Faults Reported (September)	37	22	34	21	42	156
Faults Attended (September)	41	34	38	16	35	164
No Supply						0
Access Issues (Attend)	2	1	8	1	2	14
Cable Fault (Attend)			4		1	5
Civils	3		14	3	6	26
Council Approval	1			2		3
ESB Interface Required						0
ESB Notified	12	32	16	11	18	89
ESB Required		5	3	2	1	11
Knock Down (Attended)						0
Materials required						0
On Hold		1	8	1	2	12
Submitted	22	11	28	7	15	83
TMR	2	1	3	1	3	10
Tree Cutting Required	1		7	3		11
Grand Total	43	51	91	31	48	264
Percentage Not Working	1.35%	2.10%	2.65%	1.04%	1.23%	1.66%
No. of Lamps	3184	2425	3433	2994	3915	15951
Percentage of Total Lamps	20%	15%	22%	19%	25%	100%

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The retrofitting of lanterns has commenced in all MDs with c. 1,280 lanterns upgraded to date (24/09/2025).

Road Schedule

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

Speed Limits

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

Transportation Statistics

	Total 2023	Total 2024	Total 2025	August 2025	September 2025
Solicitors Queries	1026	1014	960	116	110
Road closure applications	42	50	51	2	0
Road Opening licences	1956	1254	1390	138	159
Abnormal Load applications	54	50	33	2	11

National Roads, Greenways and Projects

Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website www.n11m11.ie 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 Phase 2 Options Selection Report was published on 10th April 2025, Wicklow County Council are seeking to appoint Technical Consultants to aid in the delivery of scheme through Phase 3 and 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines.

On 15th May 2025 tender submissions were invited from participants of the Framework for Technical Consultancy Services. The final date for receipt of tender submissions was extended to 25th July 2025.

The tender assessment board met on 7th August 2025 to complete the tender evaluation. The tender assessment report was submitted on 8th August 2025 for approval by TII. Once TII approval is received then the letters of intent will be issued to notify the successful and unsuccessful tenderers. A 14 day stand still period will follow, after which a letter of acceptance can be issued to the successful tenderer. The Phase 3 design work is expected to commence thereafter and could take up to two years to complete.

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

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

Construction of the noise attenuation fencing commenced on site on Tuesday 16th September 2025 and is nearing completion.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

N11 Junction 12 Road Safety Improvement Scheme

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

N11 Kilpedder 'Rat-Run' Road Safety Improvement Scheme

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

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

N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities

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

- The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe commenced construction work in April 2025. Commissioning is expected early in 2026.
- The Bus Park & Ride at Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in March 2025. Construction is expected to commence in 2026.
- The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) is being progressed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office. Target lodgement to An Coimisiún Pleanála is expected Q4 2025/Q1 2026.

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

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

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

The Phase 2 Options Selection work is currently progressing under TII's Project Management Guidelines. A non-statutory Public Display event on the Route Options was held in Baltinglass, on 27th March 2024. A second non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred option was held in Jan and Feb 2025.

The public display documents are available to view on the project website www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie.

The Phase 2 Gate Review Statement was submitted to TII in July 2025 with approval received on 30th September 2025. The Publication of the Preferred Option will follow. The project team are currently progressing at Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation).

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

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) was approved by TII in November 2023. The Design Report (Phase 3) was approved by TII in April 2024. The Part 8 statutory process (Phase 4) commenced on the 28th March 2024 with the period for submissions by interested parties ending on the 14th May 2024. At the May 2024 meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District the Elected Members voted to approve the Chief Executive's recommendation for the scheme to proceed. The Detailed Design and Contract Documents (Phase 5) were completed in advance of the publication of a Tender in March 2025 for the procurement of a contractor for construction. Tenders were received on 17th April 2025. Following the tender assessment process, a Tender Award Request was issued to TII on 16th May 2025. TII approved the awarding of the contract on 4th June 2025. The construction contractor was appointed and commenced in July 2025. The current programmed completion date is Jan 2026.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Park & Ride/Share at Hollywood

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

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

N81 Blessington Gateway Project

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

N81 Baltinglass South Gateway Project

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

Active Travel Updates

Projects that have been recently completed

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, including all remaining accommodations works.



Ballyguilemore Footpath

Kilcoole Road Footpath (Greystones MD)

The provision of a new footpath along the R761 Kilcoole Road between Lott Lane and Knockroe. Construction of the new footpath is now complete, along with all associated accommodation works.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

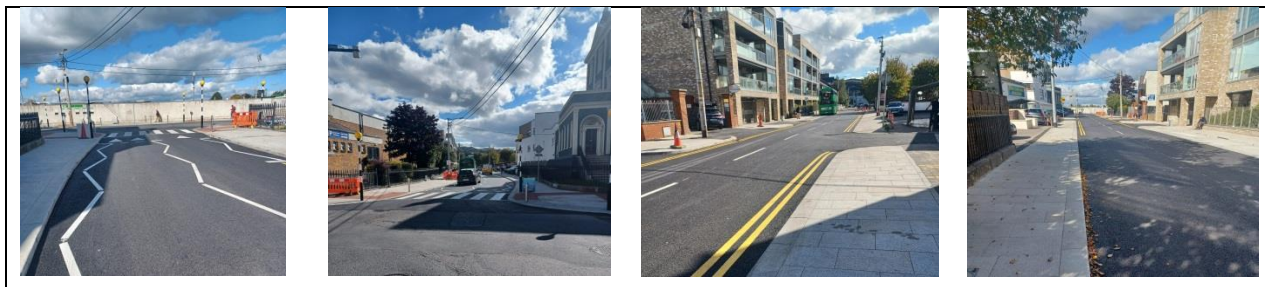


Kilcoole Road Footpath

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. Official Launch held on the 17th September 2025.



Bray Transport Interchange

Wicklow Station Pedestrian and Cycle Link (Wicklow MD)

New pedestrian and cycle bridge to be provided at Wicklow Train Station, linking Station Road to the Port Access Road. Bus and vehicle set down to be provided along with cycle parking. The acquisition of lands on northern side of rail line has been completed. Archaeological Testing completed. Detail design work to continue.

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

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

New footbridges and alterations to the road to make provision for cyclists. A tender assessment has been completed for the appointment of a consultant to progress the scheme through Phases 3 to 7. Contract has been awarded to Atkins. Project kick off meeting to be arranged in October.

Baltinglass Bridge Active Travel Scheme (Baltinglass MD)

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. Atkins have been appointed as consultant for the scheme. The Options Assessment Phase is ongoing with all of the background surveys now complete.

Greystones Pathfinder (Greystones MD)

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

• Phase 1 – Charlesland Dual Carriageway Roundabout Upgrade Works –

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



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

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

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

Construction phase has commenced July 1st for the school zone, new cycle tracks, two new crossing locations, upgraded junction works and SuDs measures. Construction is ongoing with schedule for substantial completion in October.



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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Engineer and Consultant to review park 'n' stride area and the crossing required on R755. A draft of the one-way system for the church car park and grounds where drops off are currently taking place has been provided. Meeting held with the designer to review progress and expedite project. Updated preliminary design has been issued from the designer. Meeting had with school management, Parents Council and An Taisce to review designs and scope given the layout and confined space to work with. The school are looking to review the options for a school street to trial for the current church car park. New guidance issued for school street. Review design in light of school street option for car park and review scope on the public roads areas for upgraded foot path and crossing point.

Convent Road Active Travel Scheme (Greystones MD)

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on Convent Road, Delgany. A presentation was provided to GMD Elected Members at the July meeting – approval was received to progress the preferred option through the Part 8 process. Some further consultation has taken place with Delgany Community Council and the NTA regarding the proposed design layout for the scheme. An alternative design proposal has been agreed between all parties, and this will be presented to elected members in the November Meeting, prior to progressing to the Public Consultation phase.



Convent Road 3D Visualisation

Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme (Greystones MD)

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on the R761 Kindlestown Lower Road, with new Public Lighting, and Public Realm improvements in Killincarrig Village. The Detailed Design phase is ongoing. Construction works will not commence in 2025 as it would conflict with the diversion route that is currently in place for the Chapel Road Scheme. Expected start date is Q2 2026.

Blessington Main Street to Deerpark

WCC reviewing design changes at the school and the new proposed shared areas connecting to Main St now the Greenway is not proceeding

Delgany Village Accessibility Scheme – Mill Road (Greystones MD)

The provision of new and improved pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure along Church Road, Delgany. The Scheme is at Phase 5 – Detailed Design and Procurement. Works are currently on hold due to lack of resources.

2025 Budget Allocation – New Projects

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Meeting with School and District Engineer has taken place. The school zone (NTA Project) is planned to be progressed with the Brittas footpath project. Consultant appointed. The project will be managed by the Wicklow Municipal District. An Taisce have circulated the delivery plan to the school. Preparation of the preliminary design under review following ecological surveys.

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Meeting with School and District Engineer took place in March. Traffic Count and Speed Surveys have been completed. An Taisce preparing delivery plan

- **Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry**

Provision of footpath along Scalp Road, Enniskerry. Topographical survey is complete.

- **Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely**

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

- **Kiltegan Road Pedestrian Crossing, Baltinglass**

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

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

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

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

- **Redford Park Junction, Greystones**

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

- **Cycle Facilities Wicklow**

Provision of secure cycle parking at Wicklow County Council offices. Tender to be advertised for cycle parking unit.

- **Donard Footpath & Pedestrian Crossing**

Provision of footpath link between town centre and Donard Daycare Centre. Due to landowner difficulties project unlikely to proceed to construction.

Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work completed at Redcross and Ballinaclash Bridge.

Work commenced at Ballyteigue Bridge.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Winter Maintenance

The season began on Monday 13th October. There have been 0 call outs to date.

The fleet has been prepared, and new vehicles are expected from suppliers in the coming weeks.

Machinery Yard

The process for switching the fleet over to fuel cards has commenced.

Circle K are the framework suppliers, and an initial group of 30 vehicles is moving to this in the coming weeks.

Parking Income

January to September 2025

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	784,070.81
Greystones Municipal District	262,045.82
Wicklow Municipal District	371,166.02
Arklow Municipal District	204,028.16
Parking Permits	86,918.33
Parking Fines	501,148.80
Wicklow County Council Total	2,209,377.94

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing Information as of 30th September 2025

Aldborough Manor Baltinglass - 11 Houses

- All sales closed as at 31/03/2025

Murrough View Greenhill Road – 36 Houses

- All sales closed as at 30/06/2025

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

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

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

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

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

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

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

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

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

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

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

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

Energy Efficiency upgrades to Council Stock

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

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

Monastery Grove Was Nominated for LAMA award 2024.

Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2025:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivered Q1 2025	CALF
Bray	3	Delivery due Q4 2025	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q3 2026	CALF
Delgany	2	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Rathnew	36	32 Delivered Q2 – Q3 2025, remainder due Q4 2025	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q4 2025	WCC
Rathnew	3	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q4 2025	WCC
Baltinglass	9	Delivery due Q4 2025 to Q1 2026	WCC
Delgany	10	6 Delivered Q2, remainder due Q4 2025	WCC
Bray	3	Delivery due Q4 2025	CALF
Roundwood	2	Delivered Q2 2025	WCC
Delgany	2	Delivery due Q4 2025	WCC

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Dunlavin	18	Delivery due Q4 2025 to Q2 2026	WCC
Wicklow	15	4 delivered Q3 2025. Remainder due Q4 2025 to Q1 2026	WCC
Roundwood	2	Delivery due Q4 2025	CALF
Rathdrum	14	Delivery due Q4 2025 to Q1 2026	CALF
Rathnew	15	Delivery due Q4 2025	CALF
Wicklow	13	Delivery due Q4 2025	CALF

Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2025:

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

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

Vacant Homes Scheme

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

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

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

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

There are 2 types of Grants available:

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

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

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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

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

Number of Applications to date	264
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants to date	35
Applications Approved in Principle to date	135
Number of Applications paid to date	51
Value of 51 Grants paid out to date	€2,759,280.48
Applications withdrawn/Rejected to date	43

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Emergency Response

Operational Fire Statistics September 2025

There were **120 incidents** attended during the month of September 2025. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **145 occasions** including **11** 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 September 2025 **was unchanged on the preceding month August 2025 (145 mobilisations)**. There was significant increase in RTCs (+19 mobilisations), an increase in alarm activations (+ 8 mobilisations) while there was a decrease in fires in buildings (-12 mobilisations), and maliciously set outdoor fires (-21 mobilisations).

- Alarm Activations (24 incidents) represented 17% of all activity in the month of September; it represented 21% of all activity in Bray and 33% of all activity in Wicklow Town.
- Bonfires (24 incidents) represented 17% of all activity across the month; it represented 32% of activity in Bray and 39% of activity in Greystones.
- Ambulance Assists (10 incidents) represented 7% of activity in the county; it represented 17% of activity in Wicklow Town.
- These three categories of incident represented 61% of mobilisations in Bray, 52% of mobilisations in Greystones and 58% of mobilisations in Wicklow Town.

Operational activity for the month of September 2025 **decreased by 8% (-10 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2024** (September 2024, 155 mobilisations which was an unusually quiet period). There was an increase in RTCs and other road based incidents (+18 mobilisations) but there was a decrease in malicious outdoor fires (-19 mobilisations).

Year to date, compared with 2024 has seen an increase in fires in buildings (+25 mobilisations), RTCs (+46 mobilisations), gorse fires (+52 mobilisations), mobilisations in other counties (+21 mobilisations) and malicious fires in urban areas (+48 mobilisations).

Incidents in County Kildare (8-incidents total, examples below):

- 01/09/2025 Blessington crew assisted crews from Tallaght at an RTC involving a car and a bus at the Monread Business Park, Naas.
- 11/09/2025 Blessington and Dunlavin crews attended an RTC involving two cars in Naas town centre.
- 14/09/2025 Dunlavin crew supported crews from Athy at an RTC involving a truck in the ditch at Mullamast.
- 15/09/2025 Blessington crew supported crews from Newbridge at an RTC involving a fallen tree on a car at Mullacash.
- 17/09/2025 Blessington crew supported crews from Naas at an RTC involving two cars at Cromwellstown.
- 17/09/2025 Dunlavin crew supported crews from Naas and Newbridge at an RTC involving an overturned car at Sunnyhill.

Incidents in County Wexford (2-incidents total, examples below):

- 28/09/2025 Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey at an RTC involving a single car at Curragh Wood, Inch.
- 29/09/2025 Carnew crew attended a tractor on fire at Rossminoge, Craanford.

Training / Activity

- Just 1 Life Campaign (Road Safety) 24/05/2025 Hugh Connolly presented to 200 Students from East Wicklow.
- 4 x One-Day Confined Space Refresher Courses took place in Wicklow Town.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

- 1 x Five Day QQI Pump Operator course took place in Bray for with 12 learners from across the county.
- 1 x Two week QQI Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers course started in Hackettstown on 29th September for recruits that joined the service within the past year.

Fire Prevention Statistics September 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	13	0	7	0	4
Revised FSCs	0	0	0	0	0
FSC 7-Day Notice	4	0	0	0	5
Regularisation FSCs	1	0	0	0	0
Total	18	0	7	0	9
Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
DACs	11	0	0	0	12
Revised DACs	1	0	0	0	0
Dispensations / Relaxations	1	1	0	0	0
Total	13	1	0	0	12

36 planning files were referred to the Chief Fire Officer for comment. Observations were made on 25 files received.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	0	0	0	0	0
Circuit	17	21	0	53	52
Dangerous Substances Act	0	0	0	0	0
Explosive Act	1	1	0	0	0

Building Control Statistics September 2025

Commencement Notices for September 2025:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 41

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

Submission Statistics

- 60 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 63 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 26 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 6 with Compliance Documentation (23%)

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

- 17 are Opt Out (65%)
 - 2 Without Compliance Documentation (8%)
- 1 Seven Day Notice (4%)
- 27 Valid Commencement Notices
- 36 new build residential units
- 17 domestic extensions
- 4 Non Res new builds
- 2 Invalidated CNs from September

Certificates of Completion processed in September 2025

- 31 New No. of CCC submitted
- 14 Required Revised Information
- 33 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 114 new Residential units & 24 Apartments
- 2 Non Res. Builds

Submission Statistics

- 33 No. Validated CCCs related to;
 - 3 no. CCCs submitted in August
 - 29 no. CCCs submitted in September

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

36 new residential houses, 17 residential extensions and 4 Non-res buildings were notified to LA for Commencement & 114 newly residential units with an additional 24 apartments & 2 non-residential units were for completion submitted, assessed and validated in September. In September, 2 BCMS submissions were invalidated.

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

Building Control continued with multiple site inspections in September to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 5 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests remained high in September for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 63% of Commencement Notice submissions & 45% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. Revised information requests are issued to nominated role holders of submissions when compliance with Building Regs has not been demonstrated.

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

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

In September, BC attended a Part B Fire Safety Course, a NBCO CPD Day on Certificate of Compliance on Completion Certificates, BC Eastern Region Quarterly meeting & carried out joint inspections with NBCO of sites in Wicklow.

Civil Defence September 2025

On Saturday 13th Sep, our volunteers attended the Emergency Services Day in Greystones, showcasing the wide range of skills and equipment Civil Defence brings to support our community.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

From Search and Rescue, Drone searching capability to our medical response and specialist equipment, it was a fantastic opportunity to meet the public and stand alongside our colleagues in the [@rnli_wicklow](#), [@greystoneswicklowcoastguard](#), [@wicklow.fireservice](#), [@gardainsta](#), [@greystones_cfr](#), [@poseidon.lifesavingclub](#), [@wicklowrapidresponse](#), [@nationalambulanceservice](#)



Saturday 20th Sep we joined the national celebrations marking 75 years of Civil Defence in Ireland.

At the ceremony, our Civil Defence Officer and Director of Service alongside a number of Wicklow volunteers were honoured to receive 75th Anniversary medals, presented by Minister for Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD.

It was a proud moment to stand with our colleagues from across the country and recognise the incredible contribution Civil Defence volunteers have made to communities for three-quarters of a century.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

A huge congratulations to all who received medals and a heartfelt thank you to every volunteer, past and present, who continues to make Civil Defence such an important part of Irish community life.

[#CivilDefence75](#) [#WicklowVolunteers](#) [#CommunitySupport](#) [#CivilDefenceIreland](#) [#ProudToServe](#)



Our Wicklow Civil Defence crews were proud to assist Dublin & Wicklow Mountain Rescue on the annual Art O'Neill Challenge — a tough night-time endurance event through the mountains.

A big thank you as well to our colleagues from Kilkenny and Laois Civil Defence, who travelled to support us on the ground.

The teamwork across units made a real difference in keeping participants safe throughout the event.

Huge credit to all the volunteers who gave their time and skills — another great example of inter-agency cooperation in action!

[#CivilDefence](#) [#WicklowVolunteers](#) [#ArtONeillChallenge](#) [#MountainRescue](#) [#Teamwork](#) [#CivilDefenceIreland](#) [#Team](#) [#Wicklow](#) [#EMS](#) [#Firstaid](#) [#Running](#) [#Community](#)

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025



Wicklow Civil Defence hosted a joint training exercise in Flood Water Response with our colleagues from Laois, Kilkenny, and Carlow Civil Defence.

The weekend focused on building skills, teamwork, and readiness to respond when we are called.

A special thank you goes to all the instructors for sharing their expertise, and to every volunteer who took part — particularly the crews who came out to provide operational support and keep the exercise running smoothly throughout the day.

Working and training together helps us build more resilience for when the calls come in and our counties are called together.

[#CivilDefence](#) [#FloodResponse](#) [#Teamwork](#) [#WicklowVolunteers](#) [#CivilDefenceIreland](#) [#StrongerTogether](#)

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025



LAIT WICKLOW
 Foireann Udaráis Aitiúil um Imeascad
 Local Authority Integration Team

Top Line Data

Totals per Municipal District (in Department run emergency accommodation only)			
MD	IPAS	Ukrainian Response	Total
Arklow	35	51	86
Baltinglass	650	37	687
Bray	235	577	812
Greystones	0	115	115
Wicklow	379	80	459
Total	1,299	863	2162

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	10
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1,299
Of which are children	392

IPAS Totals per MD	
Arklow	35
Baltinglass	650
Bray	235
Greystones	0
Wicklow	379

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2025	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	86
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	635
Total number of sessions with single adults	350
Total number of sessions with couples	17
Total number of sessions with families	231

LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for September

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	9
No. of Individuals	81
No. of Couples	0
No. of Families	25
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	7
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	42
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	27
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	27
No. of International Protection Applicants	102
No. Persons with Status	4
No. of BOTPs	0
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	21

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Integration Supports – Key Enablers

In Session Support	Incidence
Accommodation	1
Community/Family	20
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	28
Employment/Enterprise	42
Events	8
Finance/Welfare	29
Health/Wellbeing	57
Language/Communication	7
Legal/Justice/Civic	28
Transportation	6
Miscellaneous	22

Follow up Support	Incidence
Accommodation	0
Community/Family	43
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	30
Employment/Enterprise	9
Events	6
Finance/Welfare	20
Health/Wellbeing	26
Language/Communication	5
Legal/Justice/Civic	52
Transportation	0
Miscellaneous	1

Overall Support August	
Emails sent for Clinic work	312
Emails Received	299
Emails Sent	373
Contacts with stakeholders	73
Referrals	21

Ukrainian Response

As of the end of September 2025, there are **863** Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the county.

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

- Arklow MD: **51**
- Baltinglass MD: **37**
- Bray MD: **580**
- Greystones MD: **115**
- Wicklow MD: **80**

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

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

The [Absence Protocol for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in State Funded Accommodation](#) has been updated in September 2025.

Changes relating to accessing accommodation

People who arrived in Ireland before March 2024, and who are not already in State-contracted commercial accommodation, will no longer be eligible to take up new State-contracted commercial accommodation.

This means that people who may have been in accommodation but have since left cannot avail of a second offer of State-contracted commercial accommodation. This also applies to people who arrived before March 2024 and who may not have availed of State-contracted commercial accommodation to date.

This does not impact people who are currently in State-contracted commercial accommodation, if you remain in it. It does not affect people who arrived after March 2024, for whom accommodation is provided for a period of 90 days.

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Organisational Development

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in September 2025:

- Shortlisting Clerical Officer
- Interviews Electrical Inspector
- Final Interviews Staff Officer
- Interviews Clerk of Works
- Interviews Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025
Managerial/Administrative	333	343	356	365
Professional/Technical	146	147	150	144
Outdoor	252	250	246	245
Temporary/Seasonal	68	66	95	96
Non DoHPLG	5	2	2	2
Total	804	808	849	852

Freedom of Information

September 2025: 11	September 2024: 12
January – September 2025: 79	January – September 2024: 101

Ombudsman Requests

September 2025: 0	September 2024: 4
January – September 2025: 24	January – September 2024: 16

Press Releases

September 2025 – 9

Register of Electors

With the Presidential Election Polling Day taking place on Friday 24th October 2025, online applications via www.checktheregister.ie were processed and added to the Balancing List. The closing date for applications was Tuesday 7th October and 1747 electors were added to the Balancing List Register. The Franchise Team also continue to process applications which were minor in nature such as updating contact details etc. and are preparing the Postal and Special Voters List for use by the Returning Officer.

Work has commenced on the next phase of works on the migration to a national database of Register of Electors. Phase 2 of this works is approximately 50% complete. The Franchise team will commence testing a trial version of the National Database in mid-November 2025 along with 3 other local authorities

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Customer Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	9,843	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,850
No. of Customer Service Emails received	3,271	Revenue Transactions	1,688
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	88	Housing Counter Visits	n/a

Energy Office

WCC appointed a new energy officer on 8th September, Ben Mangan took up the role as Wicklow County Council's Energy Officer.

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

Projects Completed in 2024/2025;

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

Ongoing energy monitoring and verification of projects completed in 2024/2025 to verify energy savings.

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

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

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

SEAI Pathfinder Funding 2025

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

Other ongoing projects

District Heating Feasibility Study – Arklow Decarbonised Zone

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Mid-East Energy Unit

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Finance, Water & Information Systems

Finance

Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30 SEPTEMBER 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	47,380,858	56,316,634	84%	(49,686,596)	(59,446,038)	84%	(2,305,738)
Road Transport & Safety	19,385,182	26,329,169	74%	(14,017,203)	(18,925,016)	74%	5,367,979
Water Services	3,427,913	4,633,084	74%	(4,070,981)	(5,554,021)	73%	(643,068)
Development Management	12,745,317	16,414,646	78%	(7,146,897)	(9,859,576)	72%	5,598,420
Environmental Services	14,205,752	17,038,883	83%	(4,231,828)	(5,011,509)	84%	9,973,924
Recreation and Amenity	7,585,150	10,003,906	76%	(1,053,179)	(1,151,712)	91%	6,531,971
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,725,923	2,393,346	72%	(563,997)	(1,103,228)	51%	1,161,926
Miscellaneous Services	7,322,890	9,487,115	77%	(12,326,638)	(16,490,485)	75%	(5,003,748)
Central Management Charges	19,001,993	25,473,897	75%	(703,352)	(1,050,000)	67%	18,298,641
Local Government Fund				(12,900,352)	(17,200,469)	75%	(12,900,352)
Commercial Rates				(24,692,124)	(32,448,626)	76%	(24,692,124)
	132,780,978	168,090,680	79.0%	(131,393,146)	(168,240,680)	78.1%	1,387,831

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements daily and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1 September to 30 September 2025.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2025	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/09/2025
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,210,356	57,745,573	(47,407,053)	(356,500)	22,192,375
Road Transport & Safety	(36,985,832)	12,275,762	(7,030,506)	(399,514)	(32,140,091)
Water Services	(6,760,795)	810,814	(229,934)	(90,000)	(6,269,915)
Development Management	(58,018,087)	12,453,376	(3,495,591)	(493,066)	(49,553,368)
Environmental Services	4,260,881	6,112,363	(3,987,785)	(384,842)	6,000,617
Recreation and Amenity	1,466,601	3,306,933	(1,728,077)	(322,910)	2,722,546
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,069,769)	253,619	(380)	(283,798)	(2,100,328)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,918,102)	2,555,707	(547,358)	2,692,997	(6,216,755)
	(96,814,747)	95,514,146	(64,426,684)	362,367	(65,364,919)

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2025	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/09/2025	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,064,245	32,925,644	(15,558)	0	121,396	35,852,936	(28,177,546)	7,675,389	768,025	80%
Rents & Annuities	3,310,655	13,957,608	0	2,117	0	17,270,380	(14,347,998)	2,922,382	0	83%
Housing Loans	513,181	1,838,452	0	0	0	2,351,633	(1,855,520)	496,114	0	79%

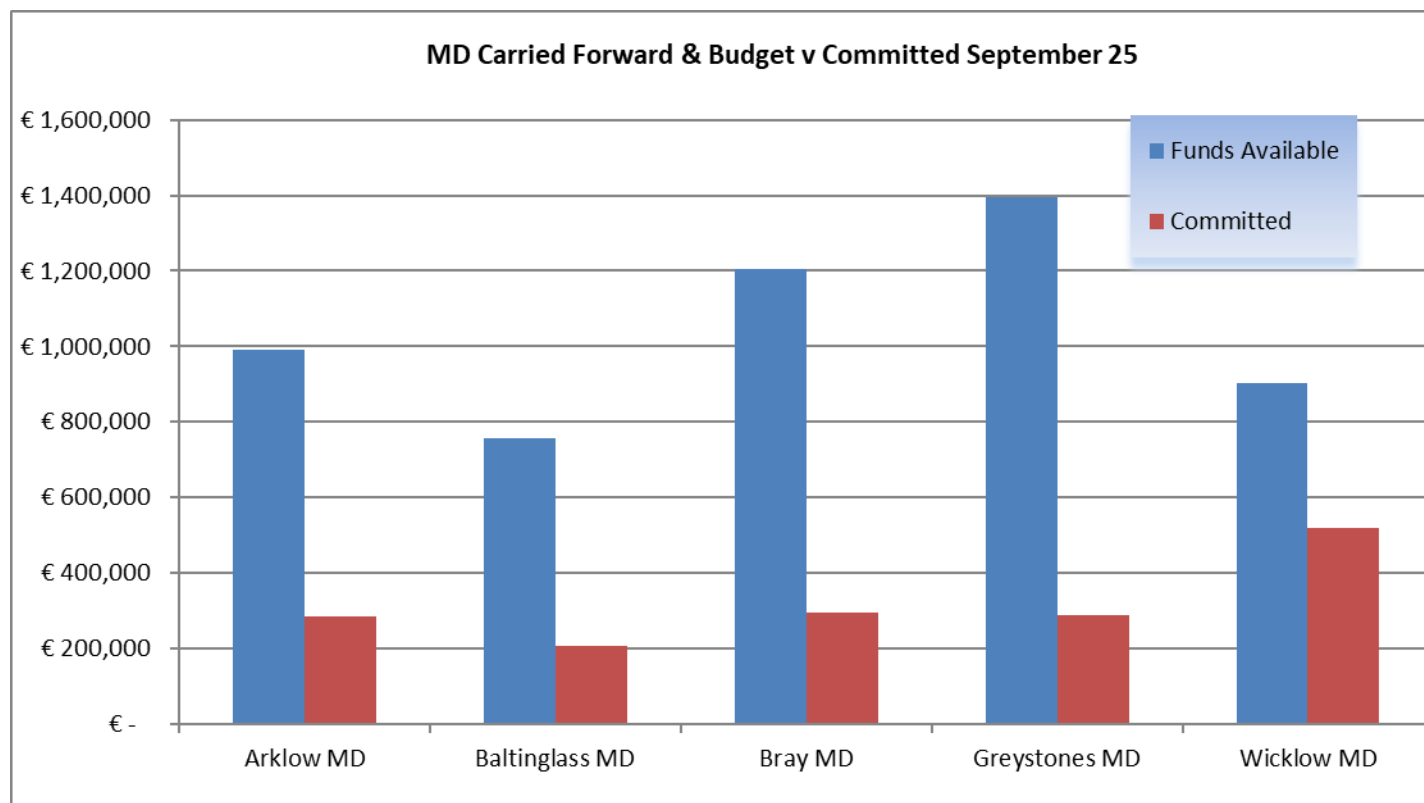
NB: The collection percentages are below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2025

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

Municipal District	C/F from 2024	Adopted Budget 2025	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	399,545	591,804	991,349	286,289	705,059
Baltinglass MD	228,948	527,124	756,072	206,983	549,090
Bray MD	512,742	691,048	1,203,790	294,744	909,045
Greystones MD	873,886	521,458	1,395,344	287,758	1,107,586
Wicklow MD	374,922	529,443	904,365	520,129	384,236
Total	2,390,042	2,860,877	5,250,920	1,595,903	3,655,017

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025



Capital Investment Programme 2025-2027

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

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Capital Funded Projects

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
NRGF	Blessington Greenway	€15,000,000	€0
URDF	Arklow Historic Town Core	€3,134,684	€783,671
URDF	Wicklow Town - Library and Fitzwilliam Square	7,034,879	€2,407,470
URDF	Bray Public Transport Bridge	€8,600,000	€1,000,000
URDF	Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration	€9,520,000	€2,380,000
RRDF 2019	Blueprint for Baltinglass	€3,566,968	€891,742
RRDF 2020	Placemaking Newtownmountkennedy	€477,000	€119,250
REDF	Wicklow County Campus - Content Creation Hub	€4,500,000	€2,700,000
REISS (REDF)	Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation and Innovation Centre	€249,500	€49,900
Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns	Abbey Grounds Wicklow Town	€1,000,000	€500,000
Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Scheme	Market Square Wicklow Town	€119,000	€19,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Greystones CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Blessington CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
WCC	Mill Road, Greystones Masterplan	€50,000	€50,000
Sports Capital Programme	Charlesland All Weather Pitch Refurbishment	€52,500	€2,750
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Wicklow	€68,759	€20,628
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Arklow	€28,999	€8,700
Sports Capital Programme	Arklow Running Track	€62,434	€18,730
Sports Capital Programme	Dr. Ryan Park	€45,320	€13,596
LSSIS	Wicklow Swimming Pool	€2,443,654	€1,579,477
LSSIS	Charlesland Running Track	€411,674	€123,502
Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2022	Wicklow Libraries	€26,500	€2,650
T&V 2018	Blessington	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2018	Wicklow	€150,000	€30,000
T&V 2019	Dunlavin	€26,216	€2,623
T&V 2019	Coolkenno	€30,000	€3,000
T&V 2019	Aughrim	€119,500	€17,925
T&V 2019	Redcross	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2019	Delgany	€37,000	€3,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Bundled	€28,000	€2,800
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Dunlavin	€4,950	€495
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Roundwood	€40,000	€4,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

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

Chief Executive's Report – October 2025

Information Systems

Operations

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

GIS & Systems Analysis

- **Sustainable Communities Report – Blessington**
Work was completed on a series of maps showing the range of services available in Blessington, including schools, health services, transport links, and recreational facilities. These maps will help provide a clear picture of community needs and support future planning. The information forms part of the wider Sustainable Communities Report.
- **Residential and Population Analysis**
A detailed review of housing and population targets was carried out across all county settlements. This helps to create a reliable baseline for planning future housing needs. The work ensures that development is balanced and aligned with community requirements.
- **Arklow Local Area Plan Consultation Hub**
The new online Consultation Hub for the Arklow Local Area Plan has gone live. This platform makes it easier for the public to engage with the planning process and share feedback. Automated tools are in place to ensure responses are gathered efficiently and reported accurately.
- **Environment GIS**
Flood zoning maps were updated using the latest datasets from the County Development Plan. These updates improve the accuracy of flood risk mapping. The information will support environmental assessments and responsible development decisions.
- **Fire Service Planning**
Work is underway to carry out a population density study for each fire station in the county. This will help ensure that fire services are well matched to local needs. The study will also compare fire station boundaries with national population data to highlight any service gaps.

Infrastructure

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