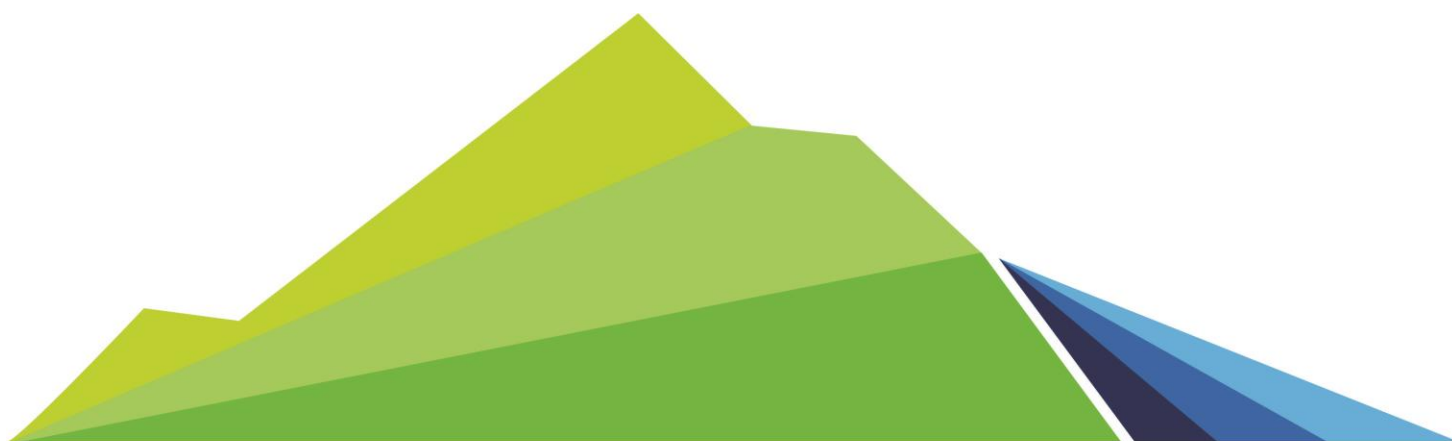


JANUARY 2023



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



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This month:

Launch of Schools Resources by Wicklow County Council's Archives and Local Studies Services

Wicklow County Council Archives and Local Studies services have launched two sets of resources for secondary school teachers and students. These practical and comprehensive resources are designed for both Junior and Senior Cycle levels.

The local studies resource focuses on the junior cycle history Class Based Assessment or CBA while the archives resource supports the Leaving Certificate history Research Study Report, or RSR as it is known.

Both packs consist of guides to the collections of the Wicklow Archives and Local Studies services, guides to the CBA and RSR, as well as digital resources including worksheets, and Powerpoint presentations.

All resources can be found on *Wicklow.ie* and on the community archives website *Our Wicklow Heritage*, which is a collaboration between the heritage, archives and library services of Wicklow County Council and the National Museum of Ireland.

Extension of Community & Voluntary Energy Support Scheme

A number of Wicklow community and other groups are to receive funds under the Government's Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme.

Details of funding to support 180 community and voluntary groups nationwide were announced by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State, Joe O'Brien TD.

Among the successful Wicklow applicants to receive funding are the following groups in County Wicklow:

Ballywaltrim Community Centre Ltd	€1,979
Newtownmountkennedy Community centre	€1,943
Wicklow Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals	€825
Avoca Community Hall Company Ltd	€772
Arklow Cancer Support Ltd	€676
Ashford Development Association CLG	€369

Housing & Community

1. Housing

	December 2022	December 2021
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4501	4499
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	190	246
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2691	2467
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	22	19
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	30	30

Allocation of Social Housing

	December 2021	December 2022
Wicklow County Council	04	03
Approved Housing Bodies	0	50

Social Housing Stock

	December 2022	December 2021
Tenancies occupied	4,802	4,654
Total weekly rental accrual	314,244.98	303,162.86
Arrears	2,836,127.79	2,407,723.57

Vacant dwellings

MD - Jan 2023	Total Vacant
Arklow	16
Baltinglass	26
Bray	34
Greystones	5
Wicklow	30
Totals	111

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completed and allocated
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completed and allocated
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completed and allocated
Sheehan Court Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Schemes on Site	Units	CURRENT STATUS
Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build (Changed to Affordable scheme)	36	Completion anticipated Q1 2023
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2023
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completion anticipated Q3 2023
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completion anticipated Q1 2024
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completion anticipated Q4 2023
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Tender advertised
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Retendered, Contract awarded.
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Stage 2 approval received – Part 8 advertised
Ballynerrin, Wicklow	10	Part 8 received. Site start during Q1 2023
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Stage 2 received. – part 8 ongoing
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5
Burnaby, Greystones	75	PPP Bundle 5
Ballinahinch, Ashford	25	Design stage.

Public Private Partnership.

- We are awaiting a decision on the site at Tinahask in Arklow.

Part V

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	20	18 Delivered, remaining 2 Units Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Rathnew	6	3 Delivered Q1 2022 , 3 Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC

Delgany	3	Scheduled Q2 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	5	Delivered Q3 2022	CALF
Rathdrum	3	Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Kilcoole	3	Delivered Q4 2022	WCC
Greystones/Delgany	60	60 Delivered 2022	CALF
Enniskerry	2	Delivered Q3 2022	WCC
Delgany	4	Delivered Q4 2022	WCC
Delgany	1	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	6	Scheduled Q1/Q2 2023	CALF
Tinahely	1	Delivered Q4 2022	WCC
Greystones	1	Delivered Q4 2022	WCC
Wicklow	6	Delivered Q4 2022	CALF
Ashford	14	Delivered Q4 2022	CALF
Arklow	16	Due for delivery 2023	CALF
Blessington	5	Delivery Due Q1 2023	CALF
Bray	1	Delivery due Q2 2023	CALF

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Bray, Rathnew, Wicklow, Rathdrum, with delivery ranging from 2022-2024. This includes the units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

Turnkey

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Arklow	10	10 Delivered Q2 2022	CALF
Rathnew	10	10 Delivered Q2 2022	WCC
Bray	188	30 Units Delivered Q2-Q3 2022, Remaining units scheduled for delivery.	CALF
Rathdum	13	Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Arklow	40	40 Delivered, 2022	CALF
Arklow	35	Due for delivery 2023	CALF
Blessington	40	Delivery Due Q1 2023	CALF
Greystones	84	Delivered Q4 2022	CALF
Greystones	90	Delivered Q4 2022	CAS
Bray	17	Delivery due Q2 2023	CALF

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

The Approved Housing Bodies are actively pursuing a number of potential CALF projects and are liaising closely with the Council on a regular basis. The members will be kept updated.

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Wicklow County Council is continuing to support acquisitions under the Capital Assistance Scheme with Dublin Simon, Circle Housing, Ark Housing and Peter McVerry Trust.

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands - A preferred proposal has been identified.

Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

- › Grant funding for private house - €1,952,700 (€1,571,899.82 spent to date)
- › Grant funding for social house - €1,168.200 (€729,396.01 spent to date)

124 open applications (some carried over from 2020-2022)

254 approvals (some carried over from 2020 - 2022)

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Grants Received/Processed	249	216	266	327	281	7

Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing and Disability Steering Group has prepared the new draft Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2022-2027.

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road – 2 x 2 bed properties	Contractor on site
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Contractor on site
Carrig Eden - 14 units x 1 bed age friendly units	Part 8 complete commencement of design and build project to begin shortly
Kilcoole Health Centre - 4 no 1 bed apartments	Detailed design complete – stage 3 approval received

Vacant Homes Scheme

There are now 17 CPOs underway on long term vacant houses around the county.

30 South Green, Arklow	House in possession of the Council since March 2022. House will be Vested in Wicklow Co Co with effect from 5 th of December 2022. Dealing pending at Land Registry.
5 Priory Way, Delgany	House in possession of the Council since March 2022. House now Vested in Wicklow Co Co with effect from 12 th of November 2022. Dealing pending at Land Registry.

8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy	House purchased from START Mortgages by agreement. Council tenant now in situ.
5 Ashwood, Roundwood	Confirmed CPO. House now purchased by agreement and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
108 Charnwood, Bray	Oral hearing held by An Bord Pleanála on 17 th August 2021 but no decision yet notified to parties. Still waiting Jan 2023.
10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow	House now in possession of WCC since 8 th of November 2022. Compensation package to be agreed.
33 Connolly Street, Arklow	CPO Confirmed. Purchased by agreement with Receiver. In our possession since 20/5/2022 and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Oral hearing of An Bord Pleanála held on 21 st June. Purchase by agreement with Receiver now complete (in WCC ownership from 24 th of October 2022).
114 Hillside, Greystones	CPO published. Objection lodged. Oral Hearing opened on 20 th of October but adjourned until 26 th Jan 2023 to allow parties to conclude sale by agreement. Deal now agreed.
18 Delgany Glen, Greystones	Oral Hearing did not proceed as house now acquired by agreement from Receiver.
2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town	CPO published. No objections lodged. CPO confirmed 12 th April. Confirmation newspaper ad 26 th April. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry served. House in possession of WCC since 3 rd August 2022. This house will require a Vesting Order – which cannot happen until Feb 2023 at the earliest. Refurbishment work to follow.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	CPO confirmed. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry served. In our possession since 28 th of June. Compensation now agreed. Contracts being exchanged.
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	House now acquired by agreement with Link Financial and in possession of the Council since 25 th of August 2022.
53 South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 st week in April. Objection from owner. Oral Hearing 15 th September 2022. CPO Confirmed by An Bord Pleanála 12 th of October. 8 week period to allow for application to High Court for Judicial Review expired. Notice to Treat served 9 th January 2023.
53A South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 st week in April. Objection from owner. Oral Hearing 16 th September 2022. CPO Confirmed by An Bord Pleanála 12 th of October. 8 week period to allow for application to High Court for Judicial Review. Notice to Treat served 9 th January 2023.
41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry	CPO confirmed. Receiver in contact with Council with a view to purchase by agreement. Our Valuer has inspected the house and has prepared his report – purchase underway.

2 Harbour Road ("Merdenville"), Arklow	CPO published Dec 2022. Negotiations underway with owner.
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Further long term vacant properties are currently being identified for future batches of CPOs.

Affordable Housing

Greenhill Road Affordable Housing Scheme was launched to the public for applications on 09/01/2023. There has been a lot of interest from the public and Wicklow County Council have received over 130 applications for the properties so far. The portal for applications closes on 30/01/2023 and Wicklow County Council will then begin to engage with successful applicants.

There are 36 properties available under the scheme. The Affordable Housing Scheme makes local homes available at a reduced price for first-time buyers, and Fresh Start applicants, whose combined mortgage and deposit will not cover the market price of the newly built home. The breakdown of properties is below.

No. of units	Beds	Type	Story	House Price	Minimum House Purchase Price
6	2 bed	Terrace	2 Storey	€280,000	€222,716
6	2 bed	End Terrace	2 Storey	€290,000	€236,702
16	3 bed	Terrace	2 Storey	€315,000	€252,295
8	3 bed	End Terrace	2 Storey	€330,000	€275,618

Through the scheme, Wicklow County Council takes a percentage equity stake (share of the ownership) in the home equal to the difference between the open market value of the property and the reduced price paid by the purchaser.

Wicklow County Council also received approval for future affordable housing schemes in the county in the past month – one development in Rathnew(44) and another in Baltinglass(22), [These will be provided directly by the developer](#) .

Croí Cónaithe (Towns, Cities and Rural)

This is a new scheme announced by the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Govt in July 2022. Up to €30,000 grant available for houses which are:

- Vacant for more than 2 years.
- Built prior to 1993.
- Within a town or village (rural houses not covered).
- To be used as the applicant's permanent dwelling.

The grant amount can be increased to €50,000 in cases where the building is Dangerous or Structurally Unsound (requires an Engineers Report). Buildings which are currently non-residential (such as vacant commercial units – shops etc) but which the applicant intends to convert to residential use, can also qualify.

It is intended to revitalise towns and villages by addressing vacancy and dereliction. The Croí Cónaithe scheme has been extended in November 2022 to include rural locations also, opening up the scheme to derelict farmhouses ect. There has been a lot of interest in this scheme to date.

Infill Sites

- Blackhills - Two 3 bed semi-detached properties are almost completed and are allocated.
- Knockroe – Two 4 bed fully accessible homes has been tendered and a contractor appointed. To commence before the end of January 2023.

Housing Maintenance - Heating Upgrade Programme

The adopted budget for 2022 is €236,000 and due to the significant increase in cost of new installations, only 19 houses will be done in 2022. 17 of those installations were complete as of 11th of October.

Housing Maintenance – Boiler servicing & safety checking campaign

The focus now is on servicing and safety checking of 1416 Oil and 2269 Gas boilers around the county. Contractors are reporting **access rates as low as 60%** which is surprising given the current “Cost of Living” crisis with high fuel costs. It is in tenants’ interests to ensure that they provide access to contractors to service and safety check boilers. Oil boilers in particular will consume more fuel if soot build up is not removed at the annual service. Also important checks and replacement of components such as fuel hoses are carried out on oil boilers which prevents expensive loss of fuel and environmental damage which is extremely expensive to clean up. All new boilers fitted now are condensing boilers which have higher thermal efficiency and use less fuel.

Local Authority Home loans up to December 2022

Received	Approved in principle
80	30

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	December 2022
Applications Received	388	0
Completed	97	2
Declined	268	0
Ongoing	23	23

Homeless figures for December 2022

Addressing Homelessness			
	At 31/12/2022	Year To Date	At 31/12/2021
No of New Presentations	16	413	13
No. of Repeat Presentations	0	17	3
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	5	182	7
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	11	230	9
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	0	15	0

No. of Children	11	335	12
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	6	150	4
Family Circumstances	8	139	6
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	0	9	0
Mental Health	1	13	0
Risk of Homelessness	1	28	1
Arrears/Loss of Income	1	12	0
Addiction Issues	1	21	3
DV/DA	0	34	0
Medical Issues	0	6	0
Overcrowding	1	15	0
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	3	53	2
ASB:	1	7	0
Rough Sleeping*	1	11	1
Sofa Surfing*	1	44	1
Staying with Family*	4	69	2
Staying with Friends*	0	19	4

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/12/2022	
Families	20
Adults	35
Children	55
Single individual	1

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/12/2022								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	21	26	21	3	8	3	3	4
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/12/2021								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	15	18	9	7	5	0	3	1

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, 422 households (309 families & 108 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 31th December 2022. (181 homeless cases, 232 prevention cases to date and 9 direct provision). 127 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

There are 11 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon, with continuing transition by the clients to suitable, alternative accommodation.

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

Dublin Simon has been engaged by Wicklow County Council to operate and manage the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow as a Family Homeless Service. The building comprises of 3 x 1 bed units 2 x 2 bed units and 2 x 3 bed units - All of the apartments in the hub are now occupied with plans to move 2 families to more permanent accommodation in the near future thus freeing up accommodation for families experiencing or in danger of homelessness

It is envisaged that families will avail of the service for circa 6 month STA (Supported Temporary Accommodation) with key working support to enable family's 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, incorporates a service model where 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

The facility providing 35 ensuite bedrooms with associated kitchens and common areas is fully operational. Wicklow County Council have made arrangements to 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 Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients.

A homeless outreach service is now being rolled out in Bray

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 to achieve 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 12 clients under Housing First and it is hoped that 1 further allocation will take place before the end of January 2023. 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 one bed units in suitable locations with easy access to services etc.

Traveller accommodation

A mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019 - 2024 has been completed and submitted to the Traveller Accommodation Unit.

Capital Programme

Ballintreskin – 3 houses	Contractor on site
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 4 houses	Approval received for funding from Department, – Part V111 approved detailed design and tender documents complete - stage 3 application response still awaited
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 2 houses	Due to change in the family circumstances – site selection will need to be reconsidered..
Ballintreskin Extension	Completed.

Fire safety on Halting sites has commenced on most of the traveller sites, will be completed shortly.

Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

Commenced works on all 71 properties given approval for energy efficiency fabric upgrade works in 2022

Ukrainian Response

- As of 12th January the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 1,418 (although we know that there are considerably more in the County)

This number is broken down as follows –

- Arklow MD 223 No.
- Baltinglass MD 284 No.

- Bray MD 621 No.
 - Greystones MD 155 No.
 - Wicklow MD 135 No.
-
- WCC are currently assessing all Displaced Ukrainians persons in the County in order to identify their accommodation needs as well linking them in with all the relevant services and supports within the community.
 - WCC are working through a list of pledged properties within the County and matching families accordingly. As of the 12th January we will have housed 159 number displaced Ukrainian people. Larger buildings and vacant units are also being identified and explored as potential options for medium to long term accommodation.
 - A new National Vacant Home call lead by Local Authorities has been launched, and is currently in place for a property to be pledged directly to Wicklow County Council offerahome@wicklowcoco.ie
 - The Community Reponse Forum continues to meet on a fortnightly basis

2. Community

Age Friendly Ireland

County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027

The final draft of the new Age Friendly Strategy 2023- 2027, was adopted by the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance, at its last meeting in December, and presented to the elected representatives at the Wicklow Council Meeting, for consideration in January 2023. The full strategy document will be published in late January. A formal launch event will be held to raise awareness of the new strategy, action plan and encourage participation in the wider Older People's Council, for Wicklow residents aged over 55.

Older Person's Council

The Older People's Council Executive will hold its next meeting in February 2023.

TrioBikes for Community Care



Wicklow County Council purchased two triobikes, with funding from the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, to be deployed to two community care centres for the use of older people in their care and vulnerable older adults with limited mobility, for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Service Level Agreements (SLAs) have been issued to Baltinglass Community Hospital and Carnew Community Care Centre for use of the triobikes. The triobikes will be delivered as soon as SLAs are signed, and insurance cover confirmed.

Services, County Wicklow Libraries Services, Healthy Ireland, Local Sports Partnership, County Wicklow Partnership, Bray Area Partnership, and also the Public Participation Network.

Minister Simon Harris met with the staff at the information stands before addressing the audience on from the stage. Senator Pat Casey, Age Friendly Ambassador for County Wicklow, Cllr Pat Kennedy and Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, WCC also attended the event.

County Wicklow Library Service

Join Your Library this January



Wicklow County Council Library service is encouraging everyone in the county to join the library and make use of all the free resources only accessible with a current library card. This campaign launched in early January with a shout out on local and social media to highlight the fact that the library goes far beyond books alone and provides something for everyone, such as author visits, story times, art, music and cultural events, talks on a range of topics, watch a film, play games and enjoy a host of other activities completely free-of-charge.

Currently there are two choices of library card: the traditional card and also the My First Library Card for young children.

The library is now running a competition in secondary schools to get a brand-new card designed for young adults. Information will be sent to all secondary school art departments this week to encourage teens to get their submissions in.

Glorious Goddesses at Bray Library



Dr Karen Ward, author of Goddesses of Ireland ancient wisdom for modern women and the companion children's book Glorious Goddesses of Ancient Ireland is delighted to come to the Library to bring alive the myths and legends of Celtic Goddess and Matron Saint of Ireland Brigid as we celebrate her special new national holiday. Her phenomenal attributes are as relevant and available to us today as when she graced the land of Ireland many moons ago. All are welcome to join us on Monday 30th January in this entertaining and informative session from 11am.

A very exciting children's workshop in conjunction with Celebrating Brigid has also been organised in Bray Library. This will be held on Monday the 28th of January and will be facilitated by illustrator Paula McGloin. This is suitable for children aged 10 plus.

Weaving with Wicklow Willow

Join Aoife Patterson of Wicklow Willow on Monday 30th of January in Ballywaltrim Library as part of our Warm Wicklow Welcome programme of events and activities. Aoife will teach the basic technique and approach to making a willow woven heart. This workshop is for adults only.

Author Visits



Ballywaltrim Library presents

Andrea Mara

Reading & audience Q&A

21st January 3.00pm

Booking essential

Wicklow County Council Library Service is delighted to welcome three different authors to visit libraries in January. These events promise to be a wonderful social and literary gathering and bound to be of great interest to readers around the county.

On Friday January 20th at 7 pm, Claire Keegan and Kathleen Murray will be in conversation at Carnew Library, the two authors will be in Arklow library on Saturday 28th January at 3 pm. The events will include both authors reading from their recent work and plenty of audience engagement.

Best selling author Andrea Mara will be in Ballywaltrim Library on Saturday 21st January at 3 pm. Andrea will be reading from her latest book *Hide and Seek* and this will be followed by questions and answers from the audience.

Art Workshops for Adults



Continuing with the Warm Winter Welcome theme, creative painting and printing workshops for adults have been organised for adults only. These sessions will be facilitated by Susie Fortune and will run from January to March in various library settings around the county. Geli plate printmaking, mixed media and painted papers collage, Indian Print Tote Bag and beginner watercolour painting are among the offers. Participants will complete a piece of work to take home for hanging in pride of place. All materials will be provided.

Story Trails on the move



Wicklow County Council Library service in conjunction with Creative Ireland are delighted to be rolling out Story Trails as a new and exciting amenity in various locations around the county. There will be four trails in the initial rollout and they will be based in Baltinglass, Roundwood, Greystones and Rathdrum; the idea being to rotate these trails between locations. Over the last few months, work has been underway to bring a Story Trail to the Vartry Walk. Wicklow County Council Library Service is delighted to announce that Chris Judge's 'The Snow Beast' story is now in place. The picture books are featured on 16 panels- each page numbered for easy following and all four are the work of author Chris Judge. Young and old will enjoy reading these stories while out and about.

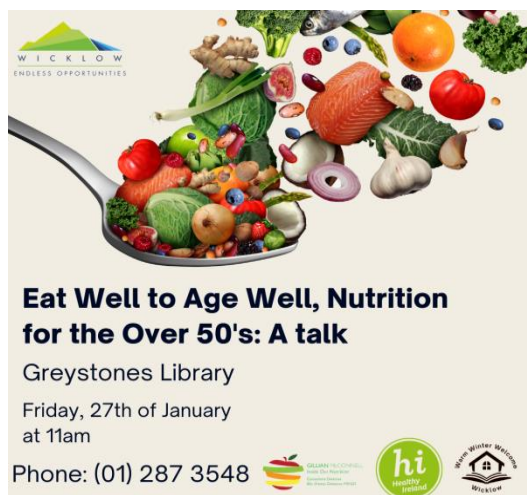
St Brigid's Day Crosses – Hand's on workshop for Adults



Michael Fortune of folklore.ie will be in Rathdrum and Wicklow Town Libraries on Saturday the 28th of January for a free workshop where participants will be making St. Brigid's Day Crosses. This is a hands-on workshop, where attendees will make different styles of Irish crosses with one of Ireland's leading folklorists and folk educators.

Alongside the making, Michael will informally chat and introduce the group to St. Brigid's Day customs and traditions found all over Ireland and chat about the different regional styles and designs. Materials will be provided and this is a must for anyone with an interest in St. Brigid and the Coming of Spring.

Eating Well to Age Well



Join Dietician Gillian McConnell in Greystones Library for a *Healthy Ireland at your Library* talk on 'Eating Well to Age Well, Nutrition for the Over 50's' on Friday January 27th at 11am.

As people get older, the types and amounts of food eaten can change. In order to keep eating well to support older age, registered Dietitian Gillian McConnell will translate the latest science on aging, nutrition and exercise into simple actionable steps. Topics covered will include important nutrients like protein, calcium and vitamin D. Also heart, gut and bone health will be covered with plenty of practical take home tips that can be put into everyday living.

Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Units Visit Libraries

The IHF Mobile Health Unit travels around Ireland offering free heart health checks. Wicklow County Library Service as part of *Healthy Ireland at Your Library* have organised for the mobile unit to visit a number of libraries in the county. Expert nurses on board will check your blood pressure and pulse and provide you with advice to help boost your heart health. The unit will be parked outside each library location and all are welcome to avail of this important and valuable offer.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

SICAP Ukrainian budgets 2023 for Co. Wicklow recently announced as follows: Bray Area Partnership to cover Bray & Greystones MD Areas €166,127. Co. Wicklow Partnership to cover Wicklow, Arklow and Baltinglass MD Areas €137,321. This funding will enable the employment of support workers and cover programme/project costs.

SICAP Annual Plans 2023 for Wicklow will be submitted to Wicklow LCDC on January 13th for evaluation. These will also be assessed by Pobal. Final approval date Feb. 28th.

Both Partnerships also currently undertaking Annual Performance Review of SICAP programme 2022. This will be an ongoing process in conjunction with LCDC and Pobal over coming weeks.

Public Participation Network (PPN):

Current membership: 404 community groups. Wicklow PPN welcomed 26 new groups in 2022. A list of all member groups is available on website.

Consultations: Census 2027 Consultation; Climate Change in Rural Ireland: Older People's Perspectives; Beach Audit of Co. Wicklow Coastline; Shelamere Offshore Wind Farm Foreshore Licence Application; Garden Bird Survey; Government Policy Framework for the Participation of Children & Young People in Decision Making; Strategy for National Parks & Wildlife Service 2023 – 2025; Social Enterprise Policy Consultation; Exploring energy decision-making.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: Circular Economy Innovation Grant; Hospital Saturday Fund; Built Heritage Conservation Grant; Community Water Development Fund; Community Monument Fund; Community Enhancement Scheme; Creative Ireland Project; European Green Deal funding; Musical Capital Scheme.

See www.countywicklowppn.ie for further information on above or email info@countywicklowppn.ie

Community Support Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme 2022

The 2022 Community Support Fund was launched in November 2022 with an allocation of €308,834 for Wicklow. This scheme is administered through the LCDC. The Scheme has been advertised via the local press, website and PPN. Application forms are available on www.wicklow.ie or email cep@wicklowcoco.ie The closing date for receipt of applications is 4.00 p.m. on Friday 31st March 2023.

Community Awards Scheme 2023

As part of its commitment to supporting local community development, Wicklow County Council operates an annual Community Awards Scheme. The fund for 2023 will be available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area. The maximum grant is €500 for small projects and group running costs. Only one application per organisation will be considered.

The Scheme has been advertised via the local press, website and PPN. The application form is available on Wicklow County Council's website www.Wicklow.ie or email ccsdadmin@wicklowcoco.ie The closing date for receipt of applications is 4.00 p.m. on Friday 24th February 2023.



A projected submission for Healthy Ireland Funding is due on the 27th January 2023 for the period 2023 – 2025 to Pobal.

This has involved collaboration and consultations with key partners and stakeholders across the County to identify and prioritise two performance indicators based on the Healthy Ireland Outcome Framework Indicator Set.

The two performance indicators chosen and the projected projects under each are as follows:

1. Increase in individual's level of positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality Index

Active Community project in two different areas of disadvantage as per the Pobal deprivation index i.e. Carnew/Shillelagh/Tinahely and Rathnew
Wicklow Traveller Group project which will focus on improving the overall health and wellbeing of the Traveller community in Wicklow

2. Decrease in % of those at risk of poverty & basic deprivation

Food Poverty project across the County

LECP

Goal 1 - Develop community capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development

Successful Town and Village Projects – Announced December 2022

Measure	Location	Funding Amount
T&V Marketing Campaign	County-wide	€50,000
T&V Project Development Measure	Carnew	€50,000
T&V Project Development Measure	Kiltegan	€50,000
T&V	Kilcoole	€250,000
T&V	Ashford	€114,300
T&V	Blessington	€36,000
T&V Streetscape	Newtownmountkennedy	€100,000

ORIS Projects Funded - 2022

Blessington Greenway	Enhancement of trails within Russborough House	€178,380
Glenmalure	Glenmalure community riverside walk and recreation area – upgrade existing trail	€119,790
Coolkenno	Construction of equestrian trail	€198,000
Roundwood	Roundwood Recreation area – bike hub, bridge, signage, promotion	€495,000

Goal 2 - Promote active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making

PPN	Event – ‘Falling Through the Cracks – Hidden Poverty in Co. Wicklow (an online conversation) – Report available on request Full Activity Report for PPN 2022 available on request
Comhairle na nÓg	Comhairle na nÓg Youth Summit 2022 held in November Three priority areas chosen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health • Drugs • Cost of Living
Older Persons Council	Wicklow Older person’s Annual Council & Seminar 2022 County Wicklow Older Persons Strategy (Draft) adopted by Wicklow County Council January 2023

Goal 3- Develop high quality integrated services available to all communities, in particular, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups

Draft Food Poverty Report will be completed by end 2022 and launched 2023

Development of new LECP

Workshops, focus groups and general consultations are now complete. We are now starting the next phase, of putting together the framework.

Economic Development, Planning, and Infrastructure

1. Economic Development

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Economic)

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). LECPs detail how Local Authorities will support economic and community development in their areas.

The next Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2029 will set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of County Wicklow, both directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

Wicklow County Council has appointed a team of consultants from People and Place to assist with the preparation of the LECP. The timeline for completion of the Plan is end of 2023.

5 High Level Goals have been identified incorporating both Community and Economic Development. The Economic Development unit has been engaging with the business community and government and local agencies to help identify priorities for the County over the lifetime of the plan. 3 focused workshops have taken place, i.e. Community, Environment and Enterprise and Economic Development. The workshops were well attended and the feedback is being compiled across the three areas. The consultants engaged by Wicklow County Council, People and Places have collated the feedback and will revert to the Council in order to refine the goals and objectives.

Retail

Bray Central

The transfer of Title took place on 28th October 2022. Since then two restaurants and the car park with 250 spaces have opened. Oakmount continue to engage with prospective anchor tenants. The title for Bray Central has now fully transferred to the developer and Wicklow County Council has no further involvement.

Town Teams

Under the Government policy, Town Centres First, the establishment of Town Teams is encouraged and we are likely to see more Town Teams in situ over the coming years.

Town Teams in Wicklow have been operating since 2016. Wicklow County Council appointed Mr Allen McAdam of MCA Consulting to conduct a review of the Town Teams in early 2022. The result of the review was presented to the elected members at the October meeting of Wicklow County Council.

The review is currently being presented to the Town Teams and it is proposed to have a plenary session with all Town Teams early in 2023 when the TRO is in place.

Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington has been awarded funding of €100,000 to develop a Master Plan for the town under the Town Centre First policy. This will also allow plans for projects identified as part of the drive to become e-Greenway ready to be advanced.

This initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future – the Government’s ambitious five-year strategy designed to reimagine and revitalise rural Ireland. It is also linked to the Government’s Housing for All strategy and a key component of the Town Centre First policy.

Wicklow County Council will work closely with local community groups, retailers and members of the Town Team in devising and delivering on the objectives of the Masterplan building on the very comprehensive Health Check carried out by Future Analytics.

Blessington Town Team

The next meeting of the Town Teams is scheduled to take place on 2nd February, 2022 to discuss projects going forward.

Arklow Town Team

Arklow Municipal District in conjunction with Arklow and District Chamber of Commerce, Arklow Traders, Arklow Town Teams and Arklow Christmas Festival Committee hosted the launch of the Parade Ground on Sunday 11th December. The aim of the event was to showcase the newly refurbished Parade Ground and the town, to increase footfall for the traders and to encourage people to support local businesses.

Arklow Town Team hosted a very successful Nollaig na MBan fundraiser event in the Woodenbridge Hotel on Sunday 8th January 2023. Over 180 ladies attended the event. The funds raised will go to the Arklow Community First Responders. A huge thanks to all those who donated and sponsored prizes for the event.

The Harbour to Headwaters – River Tourism project has come to fruition and is due to be launched in March. The exciting Biodiversity Trail includes 14 locations across the region from the Harbour in Arklow right up along the river catchment to the Headwaters of Glenmalure, you can find information panels specific to each of those points on the River network.

Wicklow Town Team

The Town Team now feels that the Pilgrim Way to Glendalough as opposed to the Ballyguile Walk represents a better walking option.

There is a small amount of work to be carried out by Elmore and The ESB to complete the Backlighting of the Historical Sites in Wicklow Town.

Greystones Town Team

The Greystones Train Station project is almost complete with the last component of a history board installation. Separately a new panel with supporters and donors to the station makeover was also scheduled to be erected in December.

The Sensory Garden situated in Burnaby Park Greystones won an award in the “ULI Excellence in Place”. The Sensory Garden was opened in 2021 and the project was a collaboration between Wicklow County Council and Greystones Tidy Towns.

Tourism

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

The strategy sets out a number of challenging but achievable priorities along with a series of detailed actions to be implemented over the next 5 years. The strategy will be reviewed in 2023 with a view to developing a new strategy taking account of the changes in tourism post Covid 19 and the focus on sustainable tourism.

The Key Priorities are:

1. Develop New Accommodation
2. Develop Key Towns as Visitor Hubs
3. Develop a Masterplan for Glendalough
4. Grow Thematic Experiences
5. Market our County by Developing A Common Narrative

A tender will be published in Q1 of 2023 for a new Tourism Strategy to replace the current Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022.

New Year’s Resolutions Challenge

Early in the New Year, we ran a campaign suggesting visitors to sign up to an outdoor challenge in Wicklow. Challenges include Outdoor Pursuit Events such as Quest Glendalough, the Wicklow 200 cycling challenge, or EcoTrail

Wicklow. Suggestions also included Walking the Wicklow Way or using the Wicklow Passport to Cycle or Walk around Wicklow and collect the various stamps.

Top Things to See & Do in Wicklow

Our promotional initiatives for 2023 include developing compelling narrative and content to package and promote Wicklow destinations and themed activities. These include giving focus to towns and villages as well as themes such as walks and outdoor activities, family entertainment, foods, heritage, film and more. This month the focus is on Wicklow Town and we have created a blog listing the top things to see & do in the town, which include the Wicklow Jail, Heritage Trail, Black Castle, Cliff Walk, shopping and eateries.

Wicklow Passport Itinerary

Following from the previous initiative, we are proposing an itinerary for the Wicklow Passport that would invite visitors to Wicklow Town, to use the Wicklow Passport to discover the various things to see and do near Wicklow Town. The Itinerary starts in Wicklow town and goes to Ashford, Rathdrum, Avoca, Redcross & Brittas Bay.

Tourism Ireland Meetings

On Monday the 16th of January, Tourism Ireland organised its annual Marketing Plans Launch and Overseas Business Exchange in Dublin. Wicklow Tourism was present to promote our destination and products to representatives from France, the UK, Germany, Spain, Italy, the USA, Canada and more. The Wicklow Passport initiative was extremely well received, as well as the EcoTrail, giving the various markets more opportunities to talk about Wicklow.

EcoTrail Wicklow launching a new 8km Race and Failte Ireland Support.

Following popular demand, EcoTrail Wicklow has launched a new 8km route to attract people that want to start their journey to Trail Running. This more accessible race will be held around Bray Head, and start at 2pm from Bray Seafront. This should enhance even further the popularity of the event.

EcoTrail Wicklow was also given the opportunity to apply for funding for the 2023 event. If successful, this funding will be dedicated to further promote the event and Wicklow as a fantastic outdoor activities playground.

Wicklow County Campus Masterplan

The Wicklow County Campus Masterplan will focus on developing Wicklow County Campus as a Centre of Excellence in Enterprise, Education, and Innovation in County Wicklow. Wicklow County Council will use the Masterplan to act as a catalyst for economic development in the county and attract investment and further development.

A first meeting has been held between Wicklow County Council and the project team, which consists of MOLA Architects as project leader, supported by a team consisting of a Transport Engineer, Landscape Architect, Ecologist, and a Quantity Surveyor.

Stage 1 – Data Collection and Analysis has begun and will be completed by early March. The project is expected to be complete early in Q3 of 2023.

Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

The purchase of the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow completed in August and it is intended that the space will be enhanced and redeveloped into the Abbey Gardens and Event Space, through Destination Towns funding provided by Fáilte Ireland. The Parochial House has been retained by St. Laurence O'Toole Diocesan Trust and a separate entrance way will be provided as part of the redevelopment.

The redevelopment will include converting the existing Coach House for use as a Café / Retail / Exhibition space and public toilets, installing a natural amphitheatre arrangement to provide for public performance events, a new pedestrian access, pathways for improved accessibility, and public seating.

Following the Archaeological dig in the Abbey Grounds and the discovery of medieval remains on the site other options will now have to be considered for the redevelopment of the Abbey Grounds. The target for completion of this project is Q3 2023.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

Fáilte Ireland, in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the Office of Public Works (OPW), the National Monuments Service (NMS), and Wicklow County Council commissioned Consarc Design Group with a multidisciplinary team to deliver a Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan for Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park and Visitor Orientation Recommendations for Co. Wicklow.

The Consultants have presented the Draft Plan to the Councillors and the consultation period will run from 11th November, 2022 until 18th January, 2023. Following the completion of the consultation period, the final plan will be produced taking account of the feedback received.

Outdoor Performance Space

The letter of Contract Award for design Consultants issued to the successful tenderer on the 30th March. The successful tenderer is Vincent Hannon Architects. Meetings have taken place with Strand Road residents, Royal Marine Terrace and Martello Terrace. Site meetings have taken place with the Design Team, Council officials and representatives from the Mermaid Theatre where the different canopy options were discussed. The project team continue to consult with experts

in this industry on the different styles of canopy options available. When the final design is agreed drawings will be prepared and presented to the Members prior to commencing the Part 8 process.

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

Blessington has been awarded just over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). This will be used for a major regeneration of Blessington Town Centre and related projects. It will be utilised for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway. This strategic funding along with the planned completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road and the funding for the Blessington Lakes eGreenway will help achieve Wicklow County Council's long-term vision for Blessington and enhance Blessington as a place to visit. Combined with the proposals for developing a Masterplan for Blessington, this project will add to the quality of life of the entire community by optimising digital connectivity, supporting employment and skills and enhancing the public realm in line with the objectives that underpin "Our Rural Future" Ireland's Rural Development policy.

The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow have come in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and an application for additional funding has been submitted to the DRCD.

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Part 1 of the Arklow URDF Project involved the refurbishment of the Courthouse and the development of an Enterprise Space in the former Town Council offices which is now complete. Part 2 of the project the public realm works are nearing completion.

Bray Harbour Improvements

A public consultation/information day took place at the Town Hall on the 6th December, which was followed by a presentation by RPS on the feasibility study to the elected members. Information boards with visual images remained on public display at the Civic offices for the rest of the week. The submissions following the public engagements will be assembled and included with the tender documents for the appointment of consultants for the detailed design, planning and construction stage of the project.

Land Management

Wicklow County Council Economic Development Unit are progressing the acquisition of Enterprise Space in Greystones from Cairn.

A tender will be published in January 2023 to appoint a property consultant to take a Council owned site on the Mill Road, Greystones to market, one of the priorities for this site is the development of a hotel.

Offshore Renewable Energy

The area of offshore renewable energy is rapidly evolving. Due to the number of projects proposed off the coast of Wicklow it is important that the County engages with the process to enable the community of Wicklow to benefit from the opportunities arising while mitigating against any likely impacts that any offshore renewable project will have.

Key milestones have been:

1. The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme Consultation. Wicklow County Council made a submission strongly supporting the case for the funds created as a result of the offshore renewable energy projects to be managed and distributed locally rather than centrally.
2. The adoption of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021 aimed at harnessing Ireland's offshore wind potential while protecting our marine environment.
3. The Marine Area Consent process is now open for relevant projects, it should be noted that the Arklow Bank Wind Farm, which is Ireland's first offshore wind farm, is at an advanced stage of planning and has been operating under an earlier consent regime. SSE has recently announced its intention to apply for a larger more ambitious project under the new MAC scheme.
4. An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission to SSE Renewables to develop the onshore grid infrastructure necessary to connect the 800MW Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park.
5. Codling Windpark has submitted their Marine Area Consent application, this is a very significant milestone in the development of Ireland's largest offshore windfarm.
6. Shelmalere Offshore Windfarm (DP Energy Iberdola) has completed consultation on its EIAR
7. Bord na Mona Ocean Winds Réalt na Mara Offshore Windfarm has delivered a number of community engagement clinics and is seeking to further engage with the local authority.
8. Energia is hosting monthly information clinics in Wexford and South Wicklow in respect of the South Irish Sea Project

The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (ORESS) Auction is due to open in January 2023. The Community Benefit Fund associated with the ORESS Auction will be significant. The Draft Terms and Conditions of the ORESS scheme have been published. The outcome of the auction will be known in Q2 2023.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Funding of €175,000 has been secured via the LEADER Food Programme for a Food and Beverage Co-ordinator role for Wicklow Naturally CLG and for the supply of event costs for the period 2021 - 2023 in support of Wicklow Naturally's Promotional Activities Plan. Wicklow Naturally will contribute 5% from subscriptions and it is proposed that Wicklow County Council will contribute €35,000 over the two year life of the project.

Wicklow County Council recently appointed James Burke Associates (JBA) to carry out a review of The Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy 2019-2021 and to develop an Action Plan going forward. The new Plan will build on the original Plan but will also focus on Climate Action and development of the Food Incubation Hub and on Food Poverty. A meeting was held in December with James Burke to discuss and review outputs from the stakeholder meeting, to review progress on original goals and actions and to agree steps to final action plan

Skills Taskforce for County Wicklow

The Skills Taskforce is now up and running and has members representing the Film, Food and Renewables sectors. A new Request for Tender for a Skills Audit and Strategy will be published in January 2023

Broadband Connection Points (BCP) and Remote Working Hubs

A tender will be published in Q1 of 2023 for the development of a marketing plan for all present and future Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) and Remote Working Hubs in County Wicklow, following a grant of €50,000.00 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme from the Department of Rural and Community Development for this purpose.

Local Enterprise Office

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
	2021	2022	2022
Grants Approved (number/ value)			-28/ €748,180
- Measure 1	- 33/ €641,745	- Meet Demand	
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 4 / €6,594	- Meet Demand	-8/ €12,829.95
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
	2021	2022	2022
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	77	64	42
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	105	75	99
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	994	900	510
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	10	8

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Number of new clients added to database	849	750	498

*Criteria have been amended for this metric			
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor and Brexit 1-1	530	500	467

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2020/2021	2022/2023	Year to Date 22-23
No. of Secondary Student Participants	953	1000	1138

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Number of Applications	Programme review	Programme review	Programme review

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Trading Online Vouchers	135 Total value: € 279,127.40	50 Depending on budget and demand	67 €138,464

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	8	11	11

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	7	11	15

DECEMBER 2022 Activities

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

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Autumn/Winter business skills training programme is complete. The Spring/Summer programme has been published on the LEO website. Courses are open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow. A wide range of courses are on offer from January through to June.

Recently held courses include

- Digital Marketing Clinics (30th Nov)
- Essential Idea Exploration (7th December)

2. Planning

Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Wicklow County Council made a new County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 (CDP) on Monday 12th September 2022. The new plan is in effect as of 23 October 2022 other than those elements that have been the subject of the draft Ministerial Direction. The draft Direction went on public display from 03 November 2022 to 16 November 2022, 14 submissions were received. The draft Direction was discussed at the full County Council meeting of 05 December 2022 and a Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received was issued to the OPR and the Minister on 13 December 2022. The OPR are currently considering the Chief Executive's report together with any submissions made and will make a further recommendation to the Minister (January 2023), regarding whether the Direction is to be issued with or without minor amendments, or not issued. Where the Minister is in agreement with the further recommendation, they may issue the final direction.

Healthy Placemaking, Climate Change and Economic Opportunity are the three overarching cross-cutting themes that inform and shape all aspects of the new plan. The plan also includes the Core Strategy and the Settlement Strategy for the County.

- This plan also includes new **Town Plans** for the following settlements:- Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, Ashford, Aughrim, Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely, Avoca, Donard, Newcastle, Roundwood, Shillelagh and Laragh-Glendalough.
- This plan is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), an Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as well as a number of other important appendices.
- As part of the making of the new County Development Plan, the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and the Schedule of Tree Preservations Orders have been amended, including the making of additions, deletions and amendments to existing entries. The RPS is included in Appendix 4 of the published County Development Plan. Owners and occupiers of relevant structures have received a separate written notification with regard to this.
- The plan is available to view and download on <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Stage-7>

Local Area Plans

Work has commenced on the preparation on three new LAPs for Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole, Wicklow Town & Rathnew and Blessington. The team are at the data gathering and surveying stage, and are currently consulting with all internal departments and state agencies. It is intended to start pre-draft plan public consultation in Q2 2023.

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for these LAPs and they have commenced their preliminary work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

Residential Zoned Land Tax

This is a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes, and which will in time replace the Vacant Site Levy, was enacted as a part of the Finance Act 2021, as referred to in Circular NRUP 06/2021 of 22 December 2021. The aim of the tax is to activate and bring forward the development of housing on lands which are suitably zoned and serviced, as indicated on maps that have been prepared and published by local authorities for their respective functional areas. These maps were published on Wicklow County Councils website on 01 November 2022. The legislation also sets out certain lands which are to be excluded from the scope of the tax. The tax measure is intended to encourage activation of existing planning permissions on lands which are identified as being in scope and to incentivise owners of suitable lands without planning permission to commence the process of engagement with Planning Authorities.

While residential zonings which include existing dwellings are to be included on the map(s), where connected or able to be connected to services, permanently occupied residential premises which are liable for Local Property Tax will not be liable for the tax.

The Minister has issued guidelines under Section 28 of the PDA to provide guidance to planning authorities in the preparation and publication of maps to identify lands in the scope for this new RZLT.

The 'in scope' maps went on display on 01 November 2022, with submissions invited up to 01 January 2023. Advertisements were placed in local papers and on the local radio station as well as Wicklow County Council social media. 75 submissions have been received and all submissions have been published on the Wicklow County Council website.

More information can be found online at the following link <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax>

Wicklow Heritage & Biodiversity Office

Climate Action: Biodiversity Actions/ Activities

Wicklow Barn Owl Project – Over 50 confirmed sightings of Barn Owls for county Wicklow, have now been recorded as part of this project, co-funded with The Heritage Council. This represents a significant increase from 3 at the start of the project in 2022. Over 170 potential sites for future nesting boxes have been identified through public engagement and boxes are being installed by local NPWS staff on suitable interior and exterior locations on an ongoing basis. A Wicklow Barn Owl calendar for 2023 has been produced and is being distributed free of charge.

Conservation Management Plans for WCC owned land at Bray Head and Wicklow Head: Heritage Office liaising with MD staff and ALCNature (ecological consultants). Drafts in progress.

Climate Action (Built Heritage - Archaeology):

Community Archaeology Service for County Wicklow

Allocation received through County Heritage Plan Fund from the Heritage Council and WCC for appointment of a part time community archaeology service. A programme is currently underway by De Faoite Archaeology and managed by the Heritage Officer. Part of the programme entails the survey of medieval ecclesiastical sites in Wicklow through a recording template specially developed by the WCC GIS officer.

Community Monuments Fund (CMF) : Seven CMF projects were successfully completed and drawdowns made by end of 2022. A new scheme, CMF 2023 has been announced by National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government. The CMF is being co-ordinated on behalf of Wicklow County Council by the Heritage Office. The CMF 2023 was advertised in December with an application deadline of 27th Jan 2023. The fund is open to private landowners, community groups, public authorities and other custodians of archaeological heritage.

Climate Action (Built Heritage – Architecture):

Conservation Management Plan for Clermont: Consultants 7L appointed as part of multi-disciplinary team to provide conservation management advice for natural, built and cultural heritage at Clermont House and campus. Report in draft form.

Protected Structures Grants: Applications are currently invited under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage underway. Closing date for applications 27th Jan 2023.

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31 st December 2022	To 31 st December 2021	% difference
Received (Valid)	1207	1365	-13%

A total of 140 valid applications were received during December as follows:

Type of Development	31 st December 2022 Number Received
Individual Houses	32 (20 refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	05
Agricultural Structures	02
Commercial	08

Other Developments**	93
Total	140

* Large housing development

PRR22/1387, AH Ardale Construction Ltd, 49 residential units, Vale Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow

**Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger sign post, 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 52 applications in December,

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	03 (All refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	49
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
Total	52

Decisions issued between January to December 2022, in comparison to the same period for 2021:

	31/12/2021	30/12/2022
Total Number of decisions issued	1119	1036
Total Number of decisions to grant	962	856
% Grant Rate	83%	86%
No of applications withdrawn		6 (4 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

ABP-312652-22, Kilgarron Hill, Parknasilloge, Enniskerry (219 Units), Members meeting 1/3/2022, CE report to be forwarded to ABP by 31/3/2022, Granted 13/10/22

ABP-312020-21, Lands at Bray Head House (179 Units) Members meeting 7/12, CE report forwarded 26/1/22, Granted 23/3.

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

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

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

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

Strategic Infrastructure Development

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

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

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for proposed development primarily comprising of the provision of a new 110 KV substation with Gas Insulator Switchgear (GIS) technology and two 110kV underground transmission cables (connecting to existing 220kV overhead lines to the northwest of the proposed substation) along with associated and ancillary works at Bogland, Kish, Cooladangan, Ballintombay, Ballyroonaun and Ballynattin, Co. Wicklow – PA submission submitted to ABP 10/1/23.

Substitute Consent

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for the remainder of the development on lands at Ashford, Co. Wicklow - ABP-312283-21 refers.

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, bunded oil storage tanks, diesel generator container & electrical substation (all totalling circa 376sqm) The application is accompanied by a remedial EIAR and remedial NIS. Lands at Ballinabarney North & Bolagh Lower, Redcorss, Co. Wicklow.

E-Planning Project

The commencement of the roll out of the ePlanning system is scheduled in Wicklow for Q1 2023.

The project will include the following elements:

- Standardised naming/structure of all documentation in Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála.
- Web Portal through which all electronic planning applications and all correspondence regarding same would pass.
- All submissions can be made on-line for both planning application and part VIII applications.
- Fees will be paid online by means of card payment or EFT.
- Part VIII applications for all Local Authorities would be submitted and stored centrally.
- Referrals to all prescribed bodies and the receipt of their submissions would be electronic.
- Electronic transfer of planning files to An Bord Pleanála following an appeal.

The e-Planning system will provide a better service to the public. It will allow agents to build their applications before submission, and will reduce the printing, copying and scanning of documentation. It will also facilitate electronic interaction between Local Authorities, An Bord Pleanála and prescribed bodies.

Planning Enforcement

New Files	1
Advisory Letters	4
Warning Letters	3
Enforcement Notices	0
Legal Files	0
Closed	3

Vacant Sites

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
Arklow	7
Baltinglass	1
Bray	4
Greystones	3
Wicklow	8

03 sites on appeal to ABP – Section 9 (Notice of Entry)

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

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Wicklow	1
Baltinglass	1

Short-Term Letting

Applications for Registration received in 2022	42
Complaints received in December 2022	0
Warning letter issued in December 2022	0
Enforcement Notices issued in December 2022	0
Legal proceedings in December 2022	0
Files under investigation in December 2022	55

The recent Government strategy 'Housing for All' has announced new regulations in this regard, with revised regulatory controls requiring the registration of short term and holiday lets with Failte Ireland. Responsibility for enforcement with the new registration requirements will lie with the Residential Tenancies Board, the Local Authority will continue to address illegal or unauthorised structures or changes of use.

3. Environment

Waste Management

Litter/Waste Enforcement

No. of complaints created	68	
No. of cases closed, resolved or completed	303	
No. of Litter Fines issued	11	
No. of Waste Management files opened	1	
No. of Warning Letters issued	1	
No. of Abandoned Cars Notices issued	6	
No. of Burning Applications granted	14	
No. of Temporary Signs granted	1	
No. of Notices issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	3	
No. of Notices issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	0	
No. of Notices issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	1	
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	0	
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	35	
No. of cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	2	Both paid the litter fine on the day of court hearing so case not proceeded with.
No. of cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	2	2 in for mention
Income-Litter	€600.00	
Income-Waste Management	€500.00	

Climate Action

Climate Action Plan 2023 – Securing Our Future

The Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP23) is the second annual update to Ireland's Climate Action 2019. This plan is the first to be prepared under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, and following the introduction, in 2022, of economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. The latest revision of the plan was launched on 21st December 2022 and the supplementary Annex of Actions will be published Q1 2023.

The Climate Action Plan follows the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2021, which commits Ireland to a legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050, and a reduction of 51% by 2030. These targets are a key pillar of the Programme for Government.

This latest revision of the plan separates the Local Authorities from other Public Sector Bodies as they have such a key role in the delivery of both climate mitigation and adaptation. Local Authorities are required to prepare a Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LA CAP), specifying the adaptation and mitigation measures to be adopted by the LA. All LA CAPs are due to be submitted to the DECC no later than March 2024 and they are to be updated every 5 years.

Wicklow Climate Action Plan

Wicklow County Council has commenced the Advance Planning Stage of the development of Wicklow's Climate Action Plan and KPMG have been appointed to carry out a Baseline Emissions Inventory and a Climate Change Risk Assessment, both of which will form the basis for the LA CAP.

Mid-East Energy Unit

The Mid East Energy Unit was launched on 8th December 2023. The three local authorities of Wicklow, Meath, and Kildare County Councils came together to address their combined climate mitigation ambitions through the formation of this Energy Unit. The Mid East Energy Unit has been created under the SEAI Pathfinder Support programme to assist the three Councils with resource capability and capital funding support. The Energy Unit will progress and deliver agreed public sector energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects in the region of the three Local Authorities. Wicklow County Council is the lead authority of the Unit and, in partnership with Kildare and Meath County Councils and the SEAI, will work with the support of CODEMA to deliver on the Pathfinder Programme over the next three years.

The recruitment process for the positions of the Regional Energy Manager and the Energy Officer is in progress.

Bicycle Parking

Work has commenced to identify suitable locations to install bicycle parking at public buildings, car parks and amenities.

New posts for the Climate Action Team

The following posts have been advertised and the recruitment process is ongoing:

- Community Climate Action Officer
- Biodiversity Officer
- Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer
- Climate Action Coordinator
- Climate Action Officer
- Regional Energy Manager
- Energy Officer

EV Charge Point (EVCP) Infrastructure

Wicklow County Council is collaborating with Easy Go to build on the existing EVCP infrastructure in the County. Municipal District Engineers will work with Easy Go to identify suitable locations for installations.

The Green Team are working on a number of initiatives:

- Eco friendly cleaning products for our buildings
 - Weekly key information notices are being circulated to all staff as part of the Reduce Your Use Campaign
- Several members of the Green Team have completed Green Team training and are now working on the development of an action plan for the coming year.

Conservation Management Plans

Work is continuing on the development of Conservation Management Plans for Bray Head, Wicklow Head and Clermont Campus.

Environmental Awareness

The annual Christmas decoration competition for primary schools was run with the challenge being to create a decoration from junk. Prizes were awarded to 20 pupils from schools across the county at County Buildings by the Chief Executive and Leas Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council. Beyond the Trees vouchers were given as prizes.

A Christmas campaign was undertaken to promote better waste management practice and promote use of our recycling services over Christmas.

A sensor activated audio messaging campaign was used at several locations to remind people to keep bottle bank sites clean.

After assessing proposals from three bike schemes Bolt were selected as the preferred service provider to operate an ebike rental scheme in Bray. Work is ongoing on an agreement with Bolt to cover the partnership with Wicklow County Council and to select sites for parking stations. It is hoped to have the service operational by Spring 2023. The scheme will commence as a 12 month pilot.

An application submitted to the Regional Waste Management Office for funding to work with Wicklow Naturally to look at better waste segregation practice in the food sector and waste prevention for the sector has been successful. One initiative will be promotion of a deposit return scheme for coffee shops. Training will also be provided on waste segregation and waste prevention.

Wicklow is participating in the Rubbish Film festival with Create Schools based in Clermont. The schools participation is funded by Wicklow County Council. Five schools have registered for the project.

Funding is being provided for five schools in the county to get training on setting up composting in school. The funding will include materials and tools for building and operating the composting sites.

Sustainable Energy Committees

Wicklow County Council is working with the Energy Team, Dunleer and several Wicklow SECs to identify householders looking to retrofit their homes and work with them guiding them through the process from start to finish. 28 households signed an expression of interest.

Greystones SEC is leading on a solar meitheal project which aims to group householders looking to install solar panels on their properties together as one project with the aim of getting a better price while also help to ensure all household get a quality installation. Several SECs are participating.

Claims have been submitted for funding of the Blessington and Enniskerry energy master plans with grants to cover costs paid by SEAI

Work is near completion on the Energy Map Plans, EMPs for High Park. In Arklow survey work is being undertaken.

A new application for an Energy Master Plan has been received from Carnew Community Care.

Newtownmountkenedy, Blessington, Glenmalure, Greystones, Enniskerry, Wicklow and Laragh have also completed Energy Master Plans.

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- Water pollution complaints investigated and 1 closed.
- 3 Noise pollution complaints investigated and 1 closed.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 9 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 8 Rivers monitored involving 17 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Drinking Water Regulations – Non-exempted Private Supplies

- 2 Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored.
- 2 Boil Water Notice was lifted in consultation with the HSE after remedial action was taken by the proprietor.

Planning & Development

- 6 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerned agricultural, commercial and forestry development.

Well Grants

- 7 Number of New Applications
- 3 Number of New Wells Granted
- 10 Number of New Pumps Granted
- 13 Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) Granted
- 16 Number of Inspections in advance/after works

Dog Licences

209 dog reminders were sent out in December 2022.

A total of 242 licences were purchased in December, of which 223 were annual licences and 19 lifetime licences. 124 (56%) of all licences purchased were purchased on line through Licences.ie.

Harbours and Ports

Wicklow Harbour – Cargo Movements

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-22	5	4	1	6	4	2
Feb-22	5	6	0	6	5	1
Mar-22	11	8	3	14	10	4
Apr-22	9	9	0	9	7	2
May-22	8	8	0	8	7	1
Jun-22	7	5	2	9	7	2
Jul-22	10	8	2	12	9	3
Aug-22	8	6	2	10	7	3
Sep-22	9	8	1	10	8	2
Oct-22	6	5	1	7	6	1
Nov-22	8	7	1	9	6	3
Dec-22	6	5	1	7	4	3
2022 Total	92	79	14	107	80	27

Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Transportation

Public lighting

For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults. Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **466 – 3.06%** Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attend)	1	1	10	1	1	14
Cable Fault (Attend)		1	7		2	10
ESB Required (Attended)	7	3	5	8	9	32
Knock Down (Attended)						0
Materials required	1	1				2
No Supply	1	1	1	3	2	8
On Hold		3	6		4	13
Submitted	41	57	111	103	58	370
TMR	3	5	3			11
Tree cutting required	2	1		1	2	6
Grand Total	56	73	143	116	78	466
Percentage Not Working	1.90%	3.04%	4.29%	4.17%	2.13%	3.06%

Date	12/12/2022	19/12/2022	09/01/2023	16/01/2023
Access Issues (Attended)	20	21	14	14
Cable Fault (Attended)	3	9	10	10
ESB Req (Attended)	32	32	32	32
Knock Down (Attended)	0	0	0	0
Materials required	2	2	2	2
No Supply	10	8	8	8
On Hold	23	22	13	13
Submitted	331	332	333	370
TMR	11	11	11	11
Tree Cutting Req.	7	7	6	6
TOTAL	439	444	429	466
PERCENTAGE NOT WORKING	2.89%	2.92%	2.82%	3.06%

Speed Limits

The public consultation period for the Speed Limit Review was completed on 25th November. 257 submissions were received, relating to c. 325 differing aspects. Meetings with each Municipal District were undertaken in December to discuss the public consultation and finalise details. Reminder was given to each District that the special speed limits must be set in accordance with the “Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland”. Where a limit is set not in accordance with the Guidelines, the DOS of TWES must appeal as per the recently introduced “Speed Limits Appeal Procedure”. This appeal process is also open to members of the public. It is currently intended to present the special speed limit bye-laws at the February Council meeting.

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) Update:

KLS ASD Joint venture are the works contractor for the PLEEP contract. Initial surveys of existing networks to begin in Jan 2023 once all insurances and bonds have been agreed by the PLEEP team.

Survey works of our network are programmed to start in July 2023. Installation works to begin Jan 2024 based on current programme. All dates subject to change.

Transportation Statistics

	Total 2020	Total 2021	Total 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Solicitors Queries	842	923	838	75	53
Road closure applications	23	53	78	2	7
Road Opening licences	1279	1575	1414	113	92
Abnormal Load applications	33	54	60	8	2

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

A non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred option commenced on 28th November 2022. A two-day public consultation event took place in the Glenview Hotel on the 28th and 29th November 2022. Submissions were accepted up until 22nd December 2022.

The Option Assessment and appraisal process has identified that bus priority measures are preferred within the following sections of the corridor:

- Sub-Scheme A northbound and southbound – Loughlinstown Roundabout to Junction 6 (Bray / Fassaroe)
- Sub-Scheme C northbound only – Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) to Junction 8 (Glenview)

The viability of delivering bus priority within Sub-Scheme B will be further examined to identify the optimum solution to meet the project objectives. This work is expected to build upon the analysis undertaken to date on the N11/M11 BPIS and J4 to J14 Scheme.

The Options Selection Report is being finalised following the completion of the public consultation and consideration of the submissions received. The final Options Selection Report is expected to be published in 2023

The public consultation information is available to view on the BPIS project website www.n11m11bpis.ie. This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment for the 7 no residential properties to the east of the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The draft report concluded that the change in junction layout does not change the noise levels at nearby properties when compared to the previous layout. However, when road traffic speeds are increased to 100km/h along the N11, noise levels were elevated at the nearest noise sensitive locations by up to 4.5 dB Lden. This would cause a potentially significant impact to the receptors along the N11. Following on from this report, feasible noise mitigation measures are now being investigated. Progress on the design and construction of noise mitigation measures is subject to funding being allocated.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The tenders for the Per Cent Art Feature are being procured by the Arts Officer. A Design & Delivery Competition for new public sculpture closed on e-tenders on 23rd November 2022.

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

Following completion of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Phase 1 feasibility studies (N81 Four Studies – Feasibility Report), Wicklow County Council will now look to progress the following two projects:

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

Wicklow County Council are assessing tenders received from Technical Advisors to undertake planning and design services under TII Project Management Guideline Phases 2 to 4 (inclusive). It is expected to complete the appointment of Technical Advisors and commence Phase 2 early in 2023.

N81 Pavement Capital Works

Resurfacing works of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove is expected to be carried out in 2023.

N81 Capital Maintenance

Resurfacing work at Monaspick and Annalecky were completed in May 2022. Drainage works at Mullycagh and Tinode were completed during October 2022.

N81 Fencing Retrofit

The contract for the fencing was completed in November 2022.

N81 Invasive Species Removal

Annual treatment completed in September 2022.

N81 Bus Stop at Hollywood

Following comments received from TII, further work is being undertaken to look at the proposal in more detail. The scope of the study has been extended to consider possible improvements for vulnerable road users at the junction. TII have provided funding for this further study.

Bridge Rehab Works:

The Bridge crew to commenced re-building a section of damaged parapet at Coates Bridge. On completion a VRS is to be installed at this location due to repeated bridge strikes.

Removal of vegetation is to be carried out on a number of bridges around the County to ascertain their condition. Pointing and repairs are to be carried out on their review.

DDTAS approval for Bridge Rehab works to be finalised by Fed 2023.

Machinery Yard:

Working with the WCC Climate team in relation to installing EV chargers across the County alongside a commercial operator. Proposed locations have been agreed with MD staff but are subject to change depending on ESB Network supply at the proposed location.

A review of contract details to take place at the end of Jan with all involved.

These additional EV chargers, alongside the EV chargers installed in 6 WCC depots across the County would leave the EV infrastructure in Wicklow in a really good place.

From this, WCC would hope to replace some of its existing fleet with Electric Vehicles in 2023. We have seen from EV trials that WCC daily operations would be affected if the EV charging infrastructure is not in place.

We will be looking at replacing some of the larger pick-up fleet also in 2023.

We are currently looking to trial HVO (Hydrated Vegetable Oil) in some vehicles, as a substitute to diesel. HVO has a much lower CO2 footprint than diesel, but it is currently more expensive to buy.

Working with Pro-Works and a number of other LAs on a Fleet Maintenance system for the Machinery Yard, as part of compliance with RSA regulations. Progressing with the Pro Works system in order to reduce number of systems being used.

Arklow Public Realm

Parade Ground Public Realm works have substantially been completed, snagging of the project is underway. Traffic on Main Street is now open to two-way traffic.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

The route options continue to be revisited for a few sections of the proposed greenway route with updated ecological surveys just having been completed on those sections. The role of independent agronomist has been appointed; the Agronomist's details have been communicated to Landowners in December.

Baltinglass Town Centre Plan

Wicklow County Council has conducted the procurement process for a contractor and submitted the Tender Report and recommendation. Additional funding is required over and above the original allocation and reports have been prepared to aid those discussions. Award of contract is to be undertaken once approvals have been obtained.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

Currently detailed design along with the preparation of associated documents including the preparation of the CPO documentation is ongoing to allow the scheme to proceed to statutory approval. As the project may impact on the Poulaphuca SPA, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required to be prepared. Statutory approval will be sought from An Bord Pleanála.

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

Consultants continue to proceed with the detailed design with the preparation of the tender documents. Notices to Treat will be issued within the coming weeks, which will commence the formal discussions on compensation.

Redford Junction

Work has commenced in the preparation of detailed design and the preparation of tender documents to allow the project to proceed to construction.

Winter Maintenance

The winter maintenance season commenced on the 15th of October 2022 and will continue until the end of April 2023. In December it was an extremely cold month and consequently salting of routes occurred on 22 days in the last month with 269 individual routes salted. Some routes were salted up to three times in the same 24-hour period. (Up to and including the 1st of January 2023).

SUMMARY OF SEASON TO DATE (Up to 01/01/2023)	
No. of Weeks Completed to date (out of 28 weeks)	11
No. of Days Completed	77
Total number of salting nights	24
Percentage no. of Nights when salting occurred	31.17%
Total number of routes salted	282
Total estimate tonnage used	1248.2

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Wicklow County Council has just recently appointed consultants to this project, an inception meeting between the Council and the Consultants will take place in the coming weeks. The consultant will be tasked with carrying out detailed environmental surveys and develop and bring forward the project to statutory approval stage.

Blessington eGreenway

Planning documents under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act were lodged with An Bord Pleanála with the end date - 4th March 2022. No update has been received yet from An Bord Pleanála on a likely decision date. It is still anticipated that an oral hearing will be required by ABP before any decision is made.

Active Travel Updates

Completed Projects

Herbert Road (Bray MD)

Approx. 400m of pedestrian footpath to connect the end of the existing footpath on Herbert Road to the pedestrian footbridge on the N11. Pedestrians coming from the Bray direction now have uninterrupted pedestrian facilities on the bus stops located on the R-117.

Footpath Improvements Rathluain, Dunlavin (Baltinglass MD)

Provision of 62m footpath linkage along the L-8336 between Dunlavin Town and Rathluain Housing Estate.

Ongoing Projects

Glenart pedestrian link (Arklow MD)

Pedestrian accessibility link improvements at the rear of the Woodlands housing development located between Lamberton and Glenart. The works will involve the construction of a pedestrian access ramp and the installation of public lighting along the scheme. Works began in January and will take approximately 4 weeks.

Arklow Transport Study (Arklow MD)

A transport strategy for the Arklow area which will provide a strategic framework for the development of better integrated and more legible transport services. It will also identify specific priorities for the development of public transport, walking, cycling and road facilities. Public consultation commenced this week on the Consultation Hub, with submissions open until Monday 30th January.

Footpath Improvements Deputy's Pass, Glenealy (Arklow MD)

This scheme will provide 511m of upgraded footpaths with public lighting along the R-752 between Deputy's Pass and Glenealy Railway Bridge. Works are progressing well and should be completed by the end of January.

Ashford to New Developments footpath (Wicklow MD)

Improve pedestrian facilities along the R-764 by widening the footpath and upgrading the public lighting. Works have commenced on the project and are progressing well. The retaining wall should be fully completed before Christmas, and the stonework facing of the wall began in January 2023. We anticipate that the project will be substantially completed by the end of March 2023.

Kilpedder to Willow Grove Rapid Deployment Scheme (Greystones MD)

Construction of approx. 960m of new and upgraded footpaths with public lighting, along the L-5406 between Kilpedder to Willow Grove. Works are progressing well, with the footpaths completed. Public lighting to be installed.

Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme (Greystones MD)

Part 8 documents were presented to members who approved the advertising of the scheme. Submissions can be made up until Monday 30th January. These works will provide improved pedestrian facilities and public realm improvements in the village and will take place along the R761 Lower Kindlestown Road and Carrig/Castle Villas Road. The enhancement scheme will include a signalised junction, new footpaths, new zebra crossing, improved junction layouts and footpaths, a cycle climbing lane, a loading bay in front of commercial properties and realignment of road carriageway.

Bellevue Junction Improvement works in Delgany. (Greystones MD)

Upgrading of the junction of the R-762 and Bellevue Hill. The project will improve pedestrian accessibility and safety and enhance village centre aesthetics by widening and landscaping the paved pedestrian areas, upgrading public transport facilities, undergrounding services and upgrading public lighting. Works have commenced on site and we anticipate that they will take approximately 4 months to complete.

Dunlavin Footpath Improvements (Baltinglass MD)

Construction of approx. 150m of footpath with public lighting, drainage and fencing along the R-412 between the town and Dunlavin Soccer Club. Works are substantially completed, with the ESB due to complete the public lighting.

Footpath Improvements Valley Heights, Carnew (Baltinglass MD)

This scheme will provide 161m of upgraded footpaths (including public lighting) along the L-72274 between Valley Heights Housing Estate and Carnew National School. Works are currently ongoing.

Safe Routes to Schools – St. Kevin's National School Greystones and Hillside Estate (Greystones MD)

Consultation currently ongoing with the residents of the Hillside Estate, in relation to the possibility of providing a new pedestrian access point, consisting of a footpath and ramped access, from the estate onto Church Lane. This would enhance the limited permeability offered from the estate of Hillside and improve access to the school and other local amenities for all. Submissions will close on Monday 23rd January.

Fire Service

January 2023

Operational Fire Statistics December 2022

	Total stations	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Balinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Call sign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	10	2	3	3	2						
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	24	5	5	2	2	1	3	3	2		1
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	0										
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	0										
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	3			1		1				1	
One Station Mobilised											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	26	10	6	4		2	3		1		
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	1			1							
Fire Chimney	11	3	1	3		2			1	1	
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	13	5	4	3					1		
Fire Vehicle	3				2				1		
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1	1									
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	15	8	1	2			1		3		
Garda Assist	2				1		1				
Electrical Incident	3	1	1		1						
Gas Leak	1			1							
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	1	2									
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	0										

Lock In / Lock Out	1	1									
False Alarm – Good Intent	2	1	1								
Malicious False Alarm	2	1	1								
Mobilised into other County	9					3	2	2	1	1	
Times Stations mobilised	129	40	23	20	8	9	10	5	10	3	1

There were **111 incidents** attended during the month of December 2022. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **129 occasions** including 9 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 December **decreased by 7% (9 mobilisations) on the preceding month** November 2022: 138 mobilisations). This was mainly due to a reduction in RTCs (down from 31 mobilisations to 24), fallen trees (down from 5 to 1) and vehicle fires on motorways (down from 8 mobilisations to 0). There was an increase in alarm activations (up from 16 to 26) and chimney fires (up from 3 to 11).

Operational activity for the month of December 2022 **was down 21% (36 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2021** (December 2021: 165 mobilisations). When compared year on year decreases occurred in mobilisations due to fallen trees (down from 17 to 1), flooding incidents (down from 11 to 0), RTCs (mobilisations down from 36 to 24), chimney fires (down from 16 to 11). There was an increase in alarm activations (up from 14 to 26) and small malicious fires (up from 8 to 13).

Sample Incidents (December 2022)

- 09/12/2022 Blessington and Dunlavin crews attended a 2-car RTC in Lackan village. One car roll-over, one patient in care of ambulance service.
- 10/12/2022 Wicklow Town and Rathdrum crews attended a domestic fire in Wilton Manor. Firefighters in breathing apparatus entered the house to extinguish a significant fire.
- 10/12/2022 Wicklow Town and Rathdrum crews attended an extensive domestic fire on Saint Patrick's Road.
- 11/12/2022 Dunlavin crew supported by crews from Blessington and Naas were alerted to a helicopter crash at Kennycourt, Brannockstown, County Kildare. The fire was extinguished, there was 1 fatality. The scene was handed over to Gardaí and Air Accident Investigation Unit.
- 16/12/2022 Rathdrum and Tinahely crews attended a roll over RTC at Macreddin village, other vehicles were in difficulty due to black ice.
- 17/12/2022 Baltinglass and Dunlavin crews attended a 2 car RTC near Tuckmill, one person trapped.
- 23/12/2022 Bray and Greystones crews attended an RTC involving a double decker bus with 30 passengers which left the road at Windgates. Driver was the only person treated by ambulance personnel.
- 24/12/2022 Baltinglass and Dunlavin crews attended a fatal RTC at Mullycagh on the N81.

Incidents in County Kildare (4-incidents, 5 mobilisations):

- 01/12/2022 Dunlavin crew attended alarm activation in Grange Beg.
- 11/12/2022 Dunlavin and Blessington crews supported by crew from Naas attended helicopter crash near Brannockstown (see above).
- 24/12/2022 Blessington crew supported crews from Newbridge and Dublin Fire Brigade at an RTC at Junction 9 on the M7.
- 26/12/2022 Baltinglass crew were alerted to farm machinery on fire in a barn in Castledermot.

Incidents in County Wexford (4-incidents):

- 02/12/2022 Carnew crew were mobilised to alarm activation in Craanford.
- 03/12/2022 Arklow crew were alerted to alarm activation in Coolgreaney.
- 15/12/2022 Arklow crew were alerted to alarm activation in Coolgreaney.

- 21/12/2022 Arklow crew were alerted to support Gorey crew at a domestic house fire in Scarnagh, fire in bathroom.

General

- Fire-fighter and Officer Development/Progression** - Wicklow Fire Service delivered an NDFEM accredited "Managing Fire Services Incidents" Module 1 Course in Hacketstown 5th to 9th December. 4 firefighters from Wicklow participated and successful passed the course.
- Training and Maintenance Scheduling 2023** – the following plans were developed during December to assist operational planning for 2023:
 - Vehicle Servicing and Testing Schedule
 - Weekly training night "Drill Books" for each station
 - Training Calendars for Wicklow Fire Service and the Bray Training Centre
- Recruitment** - Permission was sought and approval granted by LASNTG to hold a QQI accredited Firefighting Skills Course (Recruits) in February.
- Development of the App for Breathing Apparatus Training courses nationally** - Development and use of the Mobile App developed by Wicklow Fire Service for firefighter training has continued with all Initial Breathing Apparatus courses nationally now conducted using the App. It is expected that the use of the App will be expanded to include all Fire Service courses administered by LASNTG.

Fire Prevention Statistics December 2022

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	10		11		9
Regularisation Certificates	1		1	2	2
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	6	2	7		5

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 8 planning files during the month of December 2022. The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 6 of these files.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	7	7			7
Circuit					
Dangerous Substances Act					
Explosive Act	4			4	

Building Control Statistics December 2022

Commencement Notices for December 2022:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 19

- 8 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 7 Opt Out Declarations
- 3 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 1 Seven-day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 37 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 90 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 17 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 8 are Compliance Documentation (47%)
 - 7 are Opt Out (41%)
 - 2 Without Compliance Documentation (12%)
 - 0 Seven Day Notice (0%)
- 12 Valid Commencement Notices
- 96 new build residential Units
- Invalidated CNs for December = 1

• Certificates of Completion processed in December 2022

- 10 New No. of CCC submitted
- 5 Required Revised Information
- 12 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 41 new residential units & 80 Apartments & duplexes validated

Submission Statistics

13 No. Validated CCCs related to:

- 10 No CCCs submitted in December 2022
- 2 No CCCs submitted in November 2022
- 1 No CCCs submitted in October 2022

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Building Control continues to experience high construction activity & completion of units in December 2022. 96 new residential units in were notified to LA for Commencement. 41 newly completed residential units and 80 new apartment units were submitted, assessed and validated in December.

Building Control continued with site inspection in December to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 4 No. Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests were extremely high in December for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 90% of Commencement Notice submissions & 50% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. It should be further noted that some Opt Out Submissions are requiring 2 to 3 Revised information requests which results in submissions being assessed 2 to 3 times to ensure compliance prior to commencement.

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. NBC&MSO Quarterly Newsletter dated September 2022 has requested LA's to focus resources on compliance with Building Regulations in Opt Out Submissions, Wicklow Building Control continue to perform rigorous assessment of submissions at commencement stage and onsite presence during constructions. These methods remain the best way to promote compliance with Building Regs.

Civil Defence

Callout & Assists

- Assisting Kildare Civil Defence with a Missing Person Search in Athy on the river Barrow with Emily and Drone Support.
- Supported the Local Authority Environmental Directorate, Waste Management Department with Drone Support for site survey on the Avoca landfill.
- Assisting Wicklow Gardaí with a Missing Person Search in Kiloughter, Wicklow.
- Assisting Wicklow Hospice at the Beehive with a charity event (half marathon race).
- Provide ongoing support to the HSE in Shoreline Leisure with the supply of a backup generator for Vaccine refrigerators.
- Setup of an emergency rest centre in Arklow community centre, Civil Defence volunteers provide 24hr presence and assistance and the Arklow rest centre managed by Wicklow County Council. 4th April – 31st May
- Provided first Aid & safety cover for the darkness into light event in Baltinglass, assisting the event organisers and AGS.
- Civil Defence Volunteers continue to assist Dublin Civil Defence in the Ballyogan Rest Centre on a daily basis; responsibilities include providing First Aid cover for the Displaced People of Ukraine, also assisting with the intake of DPs with site familiarisation.
- Provided a static display at the annual Local Emergency Services Community Display and Information Day at Greystones Harbour, each of the local services display their equipment encouraging members of the public to ask questions on what each service can do.
- Civil Defence Volunteers were tasked to break down the Arklow Rest Centre and removing all equipment from the Coral Leisure Centre.
- Wicklow Civil Defence assisted Dublin Civil Defence for the Eagles concert in the Aviva Stadium on Friday the 24-06-2022, providing first aid and safety cover.
- Wicklow Civil Defence was invited to attend the Tinahely Show on the August bank holiday Monday to display their equipment and engage with the public at this year's show.
- Wicklow Civil Defence assisted Dublin Civil Defence for the Westlife concerts in the Aviva Stadium on Friday & Saturday the 8th & 9th of July, providing first aid and safety cover.
- First Aid Cover was provided for a local drama group staged a re-enactment pageant for the public outside Coollattin House.
- Wicklow CD was asked to provide First Aid cover for the Swift Irish Offshore Rowing Championships; the event was spread over two days.
- AGS requested the assistance of Civil Defence to assist in the search for a missing person in Blessington, assistance received from Dublin and Kildare Civil Defence
- Wicklow Civil Defence took part in the Emergency Services charity run from Greystones marina to Bray seafront (10k). This was in aid of the Purple House Cancer Support charity.

- Provided first aid and safety cover for Wicklow County Councils Sport & Recreation Partnership Teams free community event on the Seafront in Bray. The event consisted of a 3km Neon Fun Run and a Sunset Skate.
- Wicklow Civil Defence took part in a local Emergency Services Community Display in Newcastle GAA Club.
- Provided first aid and Safety cover for Schools from around Wicklow town and surrounding areas that came together to raise awareness around mental health for youth by completing 2.5km walk at the Murrough.
- Wicklow Fire Service was host to the international seminar on civil protection in the Glenview Hotel. Civil Defence volunteers assisted with the transporting of delegates to and from Dublin Airport and the Glenview Hotel, also providing transport throughout the delegates stay in Ireland.
- In association with Barretstown, Wicklow Civil Defence provided first aid and safety cover for the Boo for Barretstown fundraising family fancy dress walk. The event was held on the grounds of Russborough House in Blessington
- In conjunction with the Department of Defence and the Environment Protection Agency, Civil Defence held their National Radiation exercise. Soil and grass samples were collected from two locations in county Wicklow.
- Volunteers attend the Covid 19 medal presentation by the Minister of Defence Mr. Simon Coveney in Croke Park
- DCD requested assistance for the Ireland V Fiji Rugby match in the Aviva Stadium on Saturday the 12-11-2022 providing First Aid and safety cover.
- Assisting Arklow Gardaí with a Missing Person Search in Arklow, Wicklow.
- Assisted the District of Public Health Manager for Wicklow to gain access to patients in remote areas in the Wicklow mountains with 4x4s.

Gardaí	Local Authority	Fire Service	HSE	Charity	Other
3	5	1	2	5	11

Training

- 1 First Aid Instructor – Recognition of prior learning
- 1 People Handling Instructor upskilled
- 4 Volunteers recertified First Aid Responder.
- 19 attended recertification in Manual Handling
- 33 Volunteers recertified Community First Response
- 2 practitioners privileged to practice as Emergency Medical Technicians.
- 2 practitioners complete training on the LMS platform to upskill to the 2021 CPGs
- 1 practitioner attended People Handling Responder Course with the help for Dublin Civil Defence.
- 1 Search Responder Instructor qualified
- 7 Volunteers complete Search Responder course
- 16 Volunteers attend the Life Jacket Emergency Services (LJES) Course
- 2 Drone pilots complete flight test successfully achieving the Specific Category Certificate
- 1 attend upskilling in Swift Water Flood Responder with Wexford CD
- 28 Drivers have successfully complete driver training attending the SWORD course (Severe weather off road driving) in preparation for any adverse weather.
- 1 CDO attend Swift Water Flood manager in Roscrea
- 1 CDO attend Designated Liaison Person training in Roscrea
- 4 Volunteers attend PST Course in Cork (personal survival techniques)

Recruitment

- 30 enquires were received during 2021, an open information evening was held in mid-November inviting these people to attend, 17 people confirmed attendance with 15 showing up. 12 people have expressed interest in membership.

- Induction course commenced on the 1st March with the 10 members starting the process of membership

Equipment

- Additional remote area lighting purchased to assist with night time tasking
- Reintroduction of the Whaly flood boat to assist with the EMILY Sonar platform operations
- Grant aid received from DOD for the procurement of a new vehicle.
- Disposal of vehicle (Ambulance) by end-of-life certificate.
- The EMILY Sonar platform receive upgrades to the CPU allowing for the GPS to be calibrated to GMT
- Parachute fitted the Matrice M210 (Drone) as it exceeds 4kg. This is required depending on the area of operation and airspace being entered.
- Letter received from the DOD regarding mullion lifejacket issued by the Department in 2011. These have now reached their end of life (10 years) are now to be disposed. DOD issued replacement lifejackets.
- Installation of dishwasher in the training centre to reduce the amount of paper cups used, also helping reduce the amount of unnecessary waste.
- Additional 6 Digital UHF handheld radios and charging station secured through the department, this will assist on operations and duties with enhanced team communication.
- New racking in the garage has increased the capacity to safely store equipment making it easier to locate and maintain equipment.
- New lockers installed in training facility to allow safe storage of volunteer are equipment and uniform.
- Replacement helmets procured to replace helmets reaching end of life.
- Upgrades headlight sourced to assist with night time operations.
- Upgrade of AV equipment in training facility to improve instructional training and learner experience.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	998,713
Greystones Municipal District	282,555
Wicklow Municipal District	387,990
Arklow Municipal District	229,170
Parking Permits	76,505
Parking Fines	340,406
Wicklow County Council	2,315,339

Organisational Development & Financial Matters

1. HR & Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in December 2022:

- Sub-Station Fire Officer
- Staff Officer (End of November into early December)

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022
Managerial/Administrative	303	298	301	296
Professional/Technical	117	116	126	131
Outdoor	273	264	262	260
Temporary/Seasonal	44	69 (Increase due to Lifeguards)	37	33
Non DOHPLG	6	6	5	4
Total	743	753	731	724

Access to Information

Freedom of Information Requests

December 2022: 7	December 2021: 7
Jan - December 2022: 85	Jan - December 2021: 94

Ombudsman Requests

December 2022: 1	December 2021: 1
January - December 2022: 26	January - December 2021: 36

Press Releases

December 2022 – 15

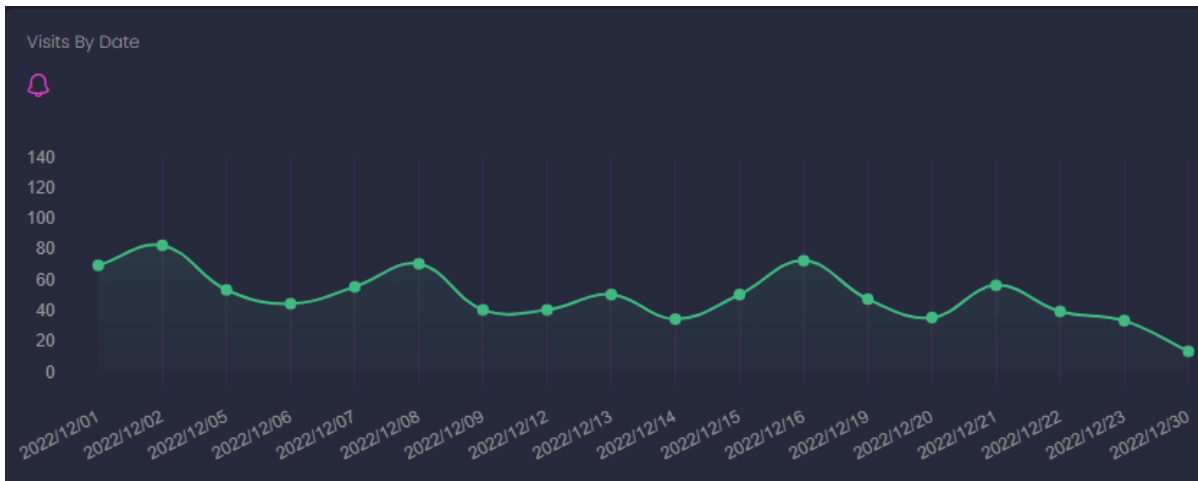
Register of Electors

Online applications via www.checktheregister.ie have plateaued since the media campaign finished at the end of 2022. The Franchise staff continue to participate in the Electoral Change Network, Working Group and will attend upcoming workshops in the LGMA.

Customer Service Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2022 - December			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	6,421	Motor Taxation	119
No. of Emails	1,015	Revenue Transactions (includes phone payments)	1,431
Elected Members Representations	102	Social Housing Applications	27
CRM Cases	81		

Total in person visits for December 2022 – 900



2. I.C.T.

Blended Working

The IT Department continue to plan and support the additional business needs required by implementation of Blended Working:

- Blended model for return-to-work arrangements
- Remote Working Requirements for staff of Wicklow County Council
- Government Networks
- Phone Systems
- Call Conferencing
- Communications and awareness

System updates

Continuedly sourcing and implementing new processes and systems to improve end user experience while adhering to industry best practice.

IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 33 tickets a day this month, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is continuing.

GIS & Systems Analysis

- Review of submissions for the RZLT has commenced and are currently being mapped on the RZLT interactive map.
- A Barn Owl spatial management application is currently in development to record sightings and the distribution of Barn Owls within the county
- Development of an online consultation hub has commenced. The Hub will be used to engage with the public on several topics from up-and-coming Local Area Plans.
- Migration of the primary County Development Plan datasets to Ireland's Open Data Portal has started.
- A data gathering exercise has begun for Wicklow's Climate Change Risk Assessment Report in conjunction with KPMG.

Customer Service Delivery

- Support for the Customer Service Innovation Hub is ongoing. The Customer Service project requires a high level of IT collaboration with both hardware and software elements integrated into the Hub.
- Work continues with the business process mapping and DPIA's are being carried out for each process as it arises.

- Avaya IP Office Phone System has been modified to integrate the Avaya Contact Centre Select Hardware Appliance and software. This has led to greater integration with call reporting systems and has improved customer service delivery.

eServices

Wicklow.ie – pageviews from June 1st, 2021, to May 31st, 2022, were 1,240,168 This is a decrease in unique pageviews of 17% compared the same period the previous year.

- Social media accounts – followers to date
 - o Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 11,107 followers. This is an increase of 36 followers or .3% on the previous month.
 - o Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 7703 followers. This is an increase of 21 followers or .3% on the previous month.
 - o Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 2843 followers. This is an increase of 35 followers or 1.25% on the previous month.
- The Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie continues to feature in enhanced consultation campaigns. These have included–
 - o Redford Junction Part 8
 - o County Wicklow Disability, Inclusion and Access Strategy
 - o Draft Customer Action Plan
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month.
 - o #KeepWell
 - o #OutdoorsForEveryone

3. Finance

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure 2022	Adopted Full Year Budget 2022	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income 2022	Adopted Full Year Budget 2022	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	35,327,994	34,438,754	103%	(40,248,928)	(39,943,965)	101%	(4,920,934)
Road Transport & Safety	24,868,107	24,760,830	100%	(17,611,253)	(17,903,866)	98%	7,256,854
Water Services	5,401,239	5,394,788	100%	(6,225,754)	(6,561,262)	95%	(824,515)
Development Management	13,441,251	12,355,595	109%	(7,958,114)	(6,872,547)	116%	5,483,137
Environmental Services	12,745,269	12,130,078	105%	(2,127,486)	(2,083,134)	102%	10,617,782
Recreation and Amenity	10,628,833	8,498,513	125%	(3,310,348)	(1,148,299)	288%	7,318,485
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,442,603	1,566,840	92%	(754,040)	(809,228)	93%	688,563
Miscellaneous Services	10,636,673	10,846,102	98%	(12,189,428)	(9,033,954)	135%	(1,552,755)
Central Management Charges	21,398,748	20,213,476	106%	(1,139,703)	(1,000,000)	114%	20,259,044
Local Government Fund				(13,068,907)	(13,068,907)	100%	(13,068,907)
Pension Levy				0	0		0
Commercial Rates				(31,564,398)	(31,929,814)	99%	(31,564,398)
	135,890,716	130,204,976	104%	(136,198,361)	(130,354,976)	104%	(307,644)

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st December 2022 to 31st December 2022.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2022	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/12/2022
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	13,706,643	114,607,723	(104,812,124)	(296,000)	23,206,242
Road Transport & Safety	(35,706,853)	15,240,490	(6,853,028)	270,798	(27,048,593)
Water Services	(10,436,363)	296,862	(965,981)	(52,500)	(11,157,982)
Development Management	(25,225,375)	4,956,062	(10,998,610)	(3,266,617)	(34,534,540)
Environmental Services	743,438	4,519,270	(3,899,583)	(466,875)	896,251
Recreation and Amenity	446,620	3,164,788	(1,541,867)	(348,512)	1,721,030
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,443,763)	86,303	(6,000)	(296,250)	(1,659,710)
Miscellaneous Services	(18,825,824)	3,944,482	(7,120,773)	(1,235,438)	(23,237,553)
	(76,741,477)	146,815,979	(136,197,965)	(5,691,393)	(71,814,856)

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2022	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/11/2022	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	6,342,375	31,565,918	(94,966)	(992,388)	(1,676,389)	35,144,549	(28,734,818)	6,409,732	1,314,265	85%
Rents & Annuities	2,837,526	17,521,722	0	(21,118)	0	20,338,130	(17,036,279)	3,301,851	0	84%
Housing Loans	446,170	2,339,488	0	0	0	2,785,658	(2,338,296)	447,362	0	84%

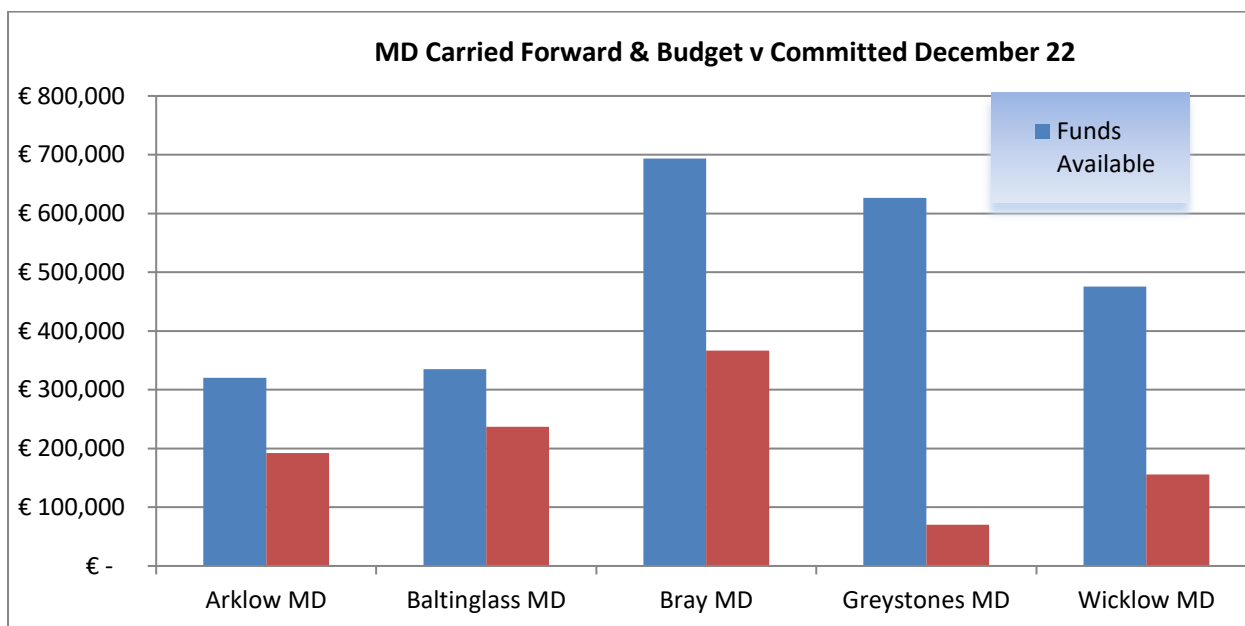
General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2022

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on July 27th 2021 to raise the LPT basic rate by 6% resulted in an additional €1,043,460 in the Revenue Budget for 2022. This money was ring-fenced for Discretionary Funding in the Municipal Districts. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2022 (excluded additional Bray MD parking income) is set out below:

Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	3,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	31,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	7,000	9,500	10,000	13,000	67,500
Christmas Festival	20,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	80,000
Festivals / Other	5,000	4,000	32,000	10,000	5,000	56,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Discretionary Funding	195,649	195,649	260,865	195,649	195,649	1,043,460
Total	256,649	221,649	334,365	233,649	241,649	1,287,960

Municipal District carried forward allocation and budget '22 and expenditure for 2022 is as follows:

Municipal District	C/F from 2021	Adopted Budget 2022	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	63,471	256,649	320,120	192,469	127,651
Baltinglass MD	113,456	221,649	335,105	236,987	98,118
Bray MD	262,229	431,254	693,483	366,367	327,116
Greystones MD	393,074	233,649	626,723	70,252	556,471
Wicklow MD	233,989	241,649	475,638	155,592	320,046
Total	1,066,219	1,384,850	2,451,069	1,021,666	1,429,403



Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024

The Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024 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 March 21st 2022. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL	Dev Charges ¹	Loan	Grant Aid ²	Other ³	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	107,820,000	104,427,500	107,603,750	319,851,250	-	26,000,000	288,594,000	5,257,250	319,851,250
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	24,647,487	29,100,107	16,356,902	70,104,496	14,713,521	7,795,000	42,632,508	4,963,467	70,104,496
WATER SERVICES	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	-	-	300,000	-	300,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	6,550,000	10,178,000	5,962,000	22,690,000	2,897,800	2,000,000	9,627,200	8,165,000	22,690,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	2,920,000	10,850,000	28,550,000	42,320,000	-	-	32,060,000	10,260,000	42,320,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	11,281,823	22,079,000	12,091,000	45,451,823	9,525,870	-	35,025,953	900,000	45,451,823
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	5,150,000	16,900,000	30,682,946	52,732,946	4,585,368	-	41,647,210	6,500,368	52,732,946
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	200,000	200,000	200,000	600,000	-	-	-	600,000	600,000
OVERALL TOTAL	158,669,310	193,834,607	201,546,598	554,050,515	31,722,559	35,795,000	449,886,871	36,646,085	554,050,515

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	€3,500,000	€2,000,000
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
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	€190,700	€38,140
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	€554,820	€55,482
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	€1,646,052	€493,816
LSSIS	Charlesland Running Track	€411,674	€123,502
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
Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2022	Wicklow Libraries	€26,500	€2,650
	Sub-Total	€56,705,032	€11,312,089

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
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)	Ballinacash	€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	Ballinacash	€70,000	€7,000
T&V 2021	Donard	€29,000	€2,900
T&V 2021	Wicklow	€245,931	€24,593
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	€50,000	€5,000
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	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Ballyboy Equestrian Trail	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Glen Turn Cliff Walk	€33,300	€3,600
ORIS 2022 M1	Miners Way	€28,000	€2,800
ORIS 2022 M1	Red Kite Loop	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	West Wicklow Access Points	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Wicklow Uplands	€33,000	€3,300
REISS (REDF)	Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation and Innovation Centre	€249,500	€49,900
	Total to date	€59,816,421	€11,670,872