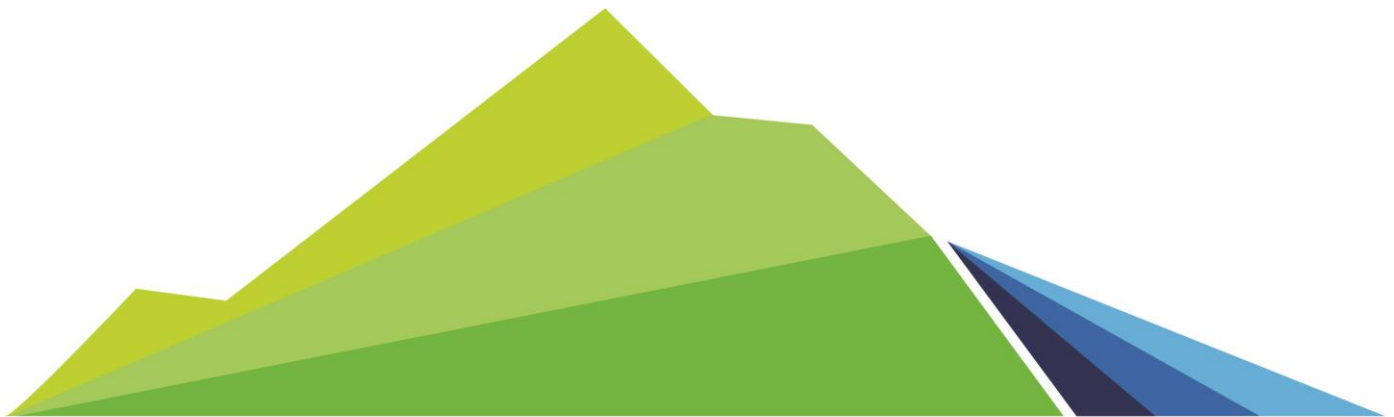




# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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## This month:

**Funding Boost for Wicklow's Built Heritage** - Two projects shortlisted by Wicklow County Council have been successful in their applications and approved for grant allocations of €50,000 each under the Historic Structures Fund 2021 scheme to carry out essential conservation works.

At Russborough House near Blessington, the project will entail the repair and restoration of the original Weir Wall on the estate, a feature dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and located along the N81 road. The restoration of this historic structure will safeguard it for generations to come and importantly, will also allow it to come into public use as part of the upcoming Blessington Greenway.

At Killruddery House, Bray, it is proposed to carry out essential works at the clocktower to arrest the deterioration of stone masonry and iron work. The clocktower, located in the forecourt, houses three rare water powered clocks, one of which was constructed by the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Meath c. 1903-06.

Both Russborough House and Killruddery House are heritage sites of national significance and are key visitor attractions for County Wicklow. These projects will ensure that essential elements of our built heritage are protected and made more resilient so that they can continue to contribute to our heritage tourism offering for generations to come.

**Funding Boost for Archaeology in County Wicklow** - Seven archaeological sites in County Wicklow are set to benefit from a recent funding announcement under the Community Monuments Fund (CMF).

The following projects have been approved for a total funding allocation of €65,000 by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Housing under the CMF 2021:

- Baltinglass Hillforts, an assessment of archaeological significance; Whitfield Graveyard access improvements
- Wicklow Town Community Archaeology Initiative
- Dunganstown Castle conservation advice
- Kilbride archaeological investigations
- Arklow Castle conservation report and the development of Conservation Management Plans for historic graveyards (Ballymacroghue, Mullinacuffe and Whitfield)

**Major Infrastructure Schemes Officially Opened** – The following infrastructure schemes were officially opened, in June:

- Road Realignment at Laragh/Glendalough (R757/R756) in Glendalough
- Road Realignment at Rathdrum/Ballinaclash (R752/R753), in Corballis
- Re-routed and Upgraded St. Kevin's Way trail
- New Pedestrian brink to link the Jubilee Walk and the Avonmore Way trail, over the Avonmore River, in Rathdrum

## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

### 1. Social Housing Support

	May 2021	May 2020
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4,487	4,395
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	273	324
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2,270	1,899
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	16	10
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	29	15

### 2. Allocation of Social Housing

	May 2021	May 2020
Wicklow County Council (including Bray MD)	52	32
Approved Housing Bodies (including Bray MD)	0	1

### 3. Social Housing Stock

	May 2021	May 2021
Tenancies Occupied	4,577	4,463
Total Weekly Rental Accrual	300,041	296,401
Arrears	2,774,792	2,104,192.42

### 4. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Completed	Units	Current Status
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Completed and allocated
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completed and allocated
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated
Whitehall, Baltinglass	34	Completed and allocated
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completed and allocated
Convent Lands	51	Completed and allocated
Urban Villas (FCA Hall), Wicklow Town	8	Completed and allocated
Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue	20	Completed and allocated
Kilmantan Place, Bray	4	Completed and allocated



Carnew Rapid Build	30	Completed and allocated
Total	219	
Schemes on Site	Units	Current Status
Kilbride Lane Bray (Murphy's Lands)	42	23 completed. 19 anticipated Quarter 2 2021
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completed
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completion anticipated Quarter 4 2021
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow	40	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2022
Ard na Greine, Bray RAPID BUILD	31	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2022
Mountainview, NTMK RAPID BUILD	26	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2022
TOTAL	207	
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Avondale Phase 2 RAPID BUILD	20	Site start anticipated Q2 2021
Greenhill Road Wicklow RAPID BUILD	36	Site start anticipated Q2 2021
Sheehan Court, Arklow	7	Site start anticipated Q2 2021
Cedar Court Bray RAPID BUILD	14	Site start anticipated Q3 2021
Three Trouts Greystones RAPID BUILD	40	Site start anticipated Q4 2021
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Site start anticipated Q4 2021
TOTAL	164	

**2021** - It is expected that 25 Part V units will be delivered in 2021 however this is subject to a number of factors including the duration and number of any Covid 19 lockdowns, including the current restrictions and then how quickly the Developers can remobilise and complete units.

The Council nominated a number of Essential sites which included Part V's which are due to be completed shortly. This includes the following Part V units:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Enniskerry	2	Completed end March 2021	WCC
Wicklow	4	Scheduled Q 2 2021	WCC
Greystones	2	Scheduled Q 3 2021	WCC
Wicklow	3	Scheduled Q 3 2021	WCC
Delgany	3	Completed May 2021	WCC
Baltinglass	1	Scheduled Q2 2021	WCC
Dunlavin	4	Scheduled Q 3 2021	WCC
Rathdrum	5	Scheduled Q 3 2021	WCC
Delgany	1	Scheduled Q 3 2021	WCC

**Potential units** - Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for 43 units in Delgany, Bray, Rathnew, Wicklow, Baltinglass, Dunlavin and Enniskerry with delivery ranging from 2021-2023 – This includes the 25 units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 50 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
Ballinaclesh	2	Q2 2021	WCC
Tinahely	2	Completed Q1	WCC
Tinahely	1	Q2 2021	WCC

- Negotiations are ongoing with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Approval has recently been received from the Department in respect of 2 Turnkey units in Baltinglass. Units have not commenced construction.
- Approval received from Dept. for 5 Turnkey units in Tinahely. 2 Purchased in October 2020 2 purchase in Quarter 1 2021 with 1 further unit due in Quarter 2 2021 (listed above).
- 2 further Turnkey units at snagging stage in Ballinaclesh.
- A new call for Turnkey units will be advertised in June
- Approval has recently been received from the Department in respect of 3 Turnkey units in Roundwood. Expected delivery is 2022.
- Approval recently been received from the Department for 13 turnkey units in Rathdrum.

## 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.

- Construction completed on 40 units (including 4 Part V) via CALF Turnkey in Dunlavin.
- Construction ongoing on 28 units in Arklow.
- Acquisition by AHB of 16 Turnkey units via CALF in Baltinglass with a further 48 units (including 4 Part V units and 8 CAS units) to be completed in 2021.
- Construction ongoing on 28 units in Wicklow (including 3 Part V) due for delivery in 2021.

## 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.

## 5. Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

- › Grant funding for private house - €1,952,700 (€726,266.83 spent to date)
- › Grant funding for social house - €1,168,200 (€191,305.19 spent to date)





## Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing and Disability Steering Group is currently preparing the new Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2022-2027.

### Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

During recent works on Casual Vacancies/Relets, the Council fenced large sections of existing social housing gardens this resulted in three infill sites to develop Age Friendly schemes in Greystones. It is proposed to build small A rated units, specifically designed for the older tenant, which will be offered to eligible tenants in the local area, who wish to downsize. The larger property will return to the council for reletting to a family, and the tenant will benefit from being able to remain in their community, in an age friendly designed home with high comfort and low utility costs.

Millbank, Mill Road - Two 2 bed properties	Part 8 advertised
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Part 8 advertised
Carraig Eden - 14 age friendly apartments Kilcoole Health Centre 4 no 2 bed apartments	Architect has completed proposed Part 8 drawings.- stage 2 underway for submission to the Department for approval to go to Part 8 Part 8 drawings almost complete

### Vacant Homes Scheme

There are now 5 CPOs underway on long term vacant houses around the county.

- 30 South Green – went to An Bord Pleanála – no submissions- CPO order confirmed by WCC but property likely to be acquired by agreement.
- 108 Charnwood Bray – oral hearing with ABP likely – possibility of acquiring by agreement also.
- 5 Ashwood Roundwood
- 33 Connolly Street Arklow
- 10 Liam Mellows Avenue Arklow

2 more CPOs of houses within the Wicklow MD have been authorised by the Chief Executive and will be published before the end of June.

Further long term vacant properties have been identified for future batches of CPOs.

### Housing Maintenance - Heating Upgrade Programme

- C. 50 gas and oil boilers have been replaced in Council housing stock in 2021 at a cost of over €100,000
- 54 were replaced in 2020.
- New oil / gas heating has been installed in 20 houses so far this year with a further 10 pending.

### Housing Maintenance - Heating Upgrade Programme

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- New oil / gas heating has been installed in 20 houses so far this year with a further 10 pending.

## 6. Purchase Schemes

### Rebuilding Ireland Homeloan

Received	Approved	Declined	Expired	With HA for FI	Incomplete/ineligible
405	123	159	42	41	40

### 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	May 2021
Applications Received	313	8
Completed	63	2
Declined	208	0
Ongoing	42	42

## 7. Addressing Homelessness

	As at 31/05/21	Year To Date	As at 31/05/2021
<b>No of New Presentations</b>	25	179	53
<b>No. of Repeat Presentations</b>	5	23	0
<b>No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)</b>	11	66	23
<b>No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)</b>	16	129	30
<b>No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)</b>	2	7	0
<b>No. of Children</b>	19	113	43
<b>NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling</b>	6	20	5
<b>Family Circumstances</b>	8	86	26
<b>Leaving Prison/Hospital Care</b>	0	4	1
<b>Mental Health</b>	1	3	0
<b>Risk of Homelessness</b>	4	30	0
<b>Arrears/Loss of Income</b>	1	12	0
<b>Addiction Issues</b>	3	11	3
<b>DV/DA</b>	1	4	5



Medical Issues	0	4	0
Overcrowding	2	10	8
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	3	14	4
ASB:	0	1	1
Rough Sleeping*	2	14	0
Sofa Surfing*	2	20	12
Staying with Family*	7	51	4
Staying with Friends*	2	11	4

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/05/2021	
Families	14
Adults	34
Children	36
Single individual	3

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/05/2021								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	16	19	13	7	4	2	2	1
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/05/2020								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	16	19	17	5	6	1	2	2

## COVID 19 UPDATE

The Homeless Team continues to provide key support by phone, working from both office and home. B&B proprietors currently retained by the Council are continuing to provide emergency accommodation for homeless clients. All Covid 19 protocols are in place in the facilities.

## Self Isolation Units

A number of vacant houses being refurbished for reletting have been kitted out in anticipation of the need for families to self-isolate for the required period from emergency accommodation.



## **Homeless HAP**

The Homeless HAP Placefinder 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, 334 households (254 families & 80 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021. (151 homeless cases, 177 prevention cases to date and 6 direct provision). 108 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 regular transition by the clients to suitable, alternative accommodation.

### **Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow**

Following the advice that Sonas was withdrawing services from Wicklow, the operation of the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow was tendered out to Approved Housing Bodies to operate and manage the facility as a Family Homeless Service. - The successful tenderer to operate the facility is Dublin Simon.

Refurbishment works on the facility are substantially completed and it is anticipated that furnishings and fittings will be complete by 25<sup>th</sup>. June 2021.

The family service envisaged is a 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**

A key focus of Wicklow County Council in addressing homelessness was to identify and provide a high supported, temporary accommodation unit in Bray/North Wicklow to address the accommodation and support needs of a particular homeless cohort. This cohort was identified from the presenting population and those currently known to and accessing homeless services in Bray/North Wicklow.

The acquisition and upgrade of a former nursing home in Bray has completed and the facility opened to clients in October. The facility, operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where there are a number of emergency/cold weather Beds (restricted during Covid) and Supported Temporary Accommodation Beds (STA) There is on site keyworking support linking in with clients.

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.



## Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) approved funding to upgrade the building to provide 35 ensuite bedrooms within the existing building, with associated kitchens and common areas, as well as the upgrade of Fire Protection.

The refurbishment completed in March and the facility is fully operational

## 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. There has been a significant number of move ons from these properties, signalling the success of this model.

## Housing First

Housing First recognises that a stable home provides the basis for recovery in other areas.

Peter McVerry Trust has been appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid East Region and Wicklow County Council is committed to working with them to achieve the targets identified in the programme. Properties will be provided by both Wicklow County Council and Peter McVerry Trust for the programme.

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 6 clients under Housing First. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation.

## 8. Traveller accommodation

### Capital Programme

<b>Ballinteskin – 3 houses</b>	Detailed design stage and tender documents completed, stage 3 with Dept Nov 2020, awaiting approval to go out to tender for a contractor in Q2
<b>Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 4 houses</b>	Approval received for funding from Department, draft design now agreed with the proposed tenants
<b>Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 2 houses</b>	Revised Stage 1 approval received March 2021. Survey of utilities in the area has commenced.
<b>DPG Woodview,</b>	Works nearing completion on this extension
<b>Ballinteskin,</b>	Stage 1 for a disability extension has now gone to Department for approval.

Further inspections on the fire safety on Halting sites were completed by members of the Housing section and the fire brigade in Bray. In addition electrical inspections including the installation of smoke alarms has been rolled out.

### Covid 19 Update

Wicklow County Council has put a number of arrangements in place to provide, among other things, services to previously un-serviced sites which will facilitate better sanitation and social distancing.

Welfare facilities were provided at a number of unauthorised sites.

Three families from unauthorised sites were provided with housing units.

Hygiene packs were distributed to all authorised sites and further facilities provided in March.



## 9. Energy Efficiency

**Solar Panel Carport** - The local energy supply contract has now been signed with Enerpower. The detailed design works for the project are complete, with the procurement process expected to take 8-10 weeks. It is envisaged site works will start in June/July 2021 and last for a duration of 9 weeks.

Energy is to be supplied over a 20 year period at a fixed unit rate

Enerpower are planning on installing additional EV Car Chargers with the system also.

### **Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 1**

Lot 1 88 houses in Bray and Greystones – awaiting determination of Department regarding repointing of properties.

Lot 2 90 houses in Arklow, Wicklow and West Wicklow commenced in December 2020 and all tenants have been contacted in this regard.

### **Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2**

Contractor has commenced on site on 20 properties in Wolfe Tone Square West, Bray, to be completed in late Q2 2021.

Examining properties in West Wicklow/Glenealy for next tender.



## 10. Community, Cultural & Social Development

### Public Sector Awards 2021

The staff in Community, Cultural & Social Development Directorate are delighted to have received the award for 2021 as winner in the category of Excellence In Public Sector Community Services Support Award.

### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

#### St. Kevin's Way

Wicklow County Council in conjunction with Coillte and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, with assistance from the St. Kevin's Way Management committee formally opened the upgrade and re-routed St Kevin's Way trail. This upgraded trail will bring new tourists to the area along with enhancing the walk for locals.

#### Samuel Hayes Bridge

A new pedestrian bridge was officially opened on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 in the Rathdrum area. This new suspension bridge was constructed to link the Jubilee walk and the Avonmore Way trail over the Avonmore River. The bridge is designed to have the look and feel of a walking trail footbridge that is light and transparent.

Wicklow County Council, in conjunction with Coillte and the National Parks and Wildlife Service collaborated on the delivery of this project.

### Community Enhancement Programme 2021

Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is inviting applications from community and voluntary groups and not-for-profit organisations for small scale capital projects that will enhance community facilities for individuals and communities that are impacted by disadvantage.

There are two parts to this funding scheme:

1. Grants up to a maximum of €1,000 for small grassroots community projects that address disadvantage and fulfil the objectives of the LECP.
2. Larger grants greater than €1,000 for projects that can clearly demonstrate that they address disadvantage and fulfil the objectives of the LECP.

Applications for funding can now be made under this Programme to County Wicklow LCDC by 4.00 p.m. on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. Application Forms are available on the Council's website [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) or from Community, Cultural & Social Development, Wicklow County Council, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96 - telephone 0404 20208 or email [cep@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:cep@wicklowcoco.ie)

### County Wicklow Library Service

#### Gazebos and Book Clubs at library Locations

Wicklow County Council Library service have purchased a number of pop up gazebos which will provide a sheltered and identifiable space for some socially distanced events outside during the coming weeks. Ballywaltrim and Bray libraries both seized the opportunity to host their book clubs outside when restrictions were eased.





Ballywaltrim Library Book Club was renewed outdoors on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Library staff Deirdre Flannery and David Forde hosted the event which will take place on a monthly basis outdoors this summer, in the attractive landscaped garden area, and it was here that library staff erected a Gazebo to facilitate the book club meeting outdoors. Socially distanced seating was provided for attendees who eagerly joined the meeting at 1pm. The hour long group discussion was cordial and lively, and centred on discussion points pertinent to the novel as chosen by Deirdre. All attendees were encouraged to give their opinion and the general consensus was that the book was a highly enjoyable, engaging and thought provoking read. At the end of the meeting attendees chose the book for July's book club meeting which will be "The Colour Purple" by Alice Walker. The book club also provided an opportunity for library staff to distribute information leaflets to attendees on library resources available to members such as EBooks and Audio Books. After the meeting ended, attendees entered the library to borrow more reading material and gave really positive feedback to library staff about the book club.

Bray Library hosted their first in-person "Read the Rainbow" book-club session on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of June in the garden, under a gazebo to the front of the library, following five months of Zoom meetings. The group discussed "Fair Play", by Tove Jansson - a clear favourite - and the beautiful Mary Oliver poem "The Gardens", as suggested by book-club member Rosamund.

### **Library Development Plan 2021- 2025 adopted**

Wicklow County Council Library Development Plan 2021-2025 has been proposed and adopted by Wicklow County Council members and will now go to print. The service has come a long journey over the past 20+ years, since Wicklow County Council led the way, by abolishing library membership charges in 1999 (20 years ahead of a national abolition!). Since then, the majority of libraries in the county have either been substantially refurbished, or have been built anew, with a combination of departmental grants and Wicklow County Council funding. Opening hours have more than doubled, as have membership statistics. Wicklow County Council's consistent support was acknowledged at the launch. The opening of the new Wicklow and Rathdrum libraries, at the end of August, will mean that only Aughrim and





Ballywaltrim libraries require attention. These are both addressed in the Development Plan's capital programme.

## Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership has launched a €55,000 Community & Club support scheme. The closing date for applications is the 21<sup>st</sup> July and requests for applications can be emailed to [wicklowisp@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowisp@wicklowcoco.ie).

These support schemes are divided into three areas as outlined below:

- Club Support Scheme – applications will need to demonstrate how they will recruit and retain new members to their activity or club
- Women in Sport Participation Scheme – applications will need to demonstrate how they will recruit and retain women and girls to their club/sport/activity
- COVID 19 Community Support Scheme – This is open to any community groups who provide physical activity opportunities to the community and require COVID related supports to return to activity in a safe way.

## Funding

Wicklow Sports & Recreation partnership have been awarded €78,725 in Dormant account funding for Volunteer Supports, Youth Leadership, Sports Inclusion Disability Projects and Phase 3 of Arklow Community Sports Hub.



## Healthy Ireland

### Shed to Summit Walking Programme

In collaboration with the newly formed Blessington Women's Shed two 5 week "Shed to Summit" Walking Programmes was organised by Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership and funded through Healthy Wicklow. Mountaineering Ireland is carrying out the training which started on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June and will enable the 12 participants the opportunity to experience hill walking in a safe environment.

### Mellow Yoga and Meditation Programme

A 5 week online Mellow Yoga and Meditation Programme commenced on the 24<sup>th</sup> June.

### Healthy Food Made Easy Programme

A 6 week online Healthy Food Made Easy course started on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June. This online community nutrition and cooking Programme has been developed by HSE Dieticians and the 10 participants who have registered will be encouraged to shop for a chosen recipe and cook at the session each week.

### Learn to Cycle Programme



A Learn to Cycle Programme was run in the ASD Unit in Newtownmountkennedy on 16<sup>th</sup> June. This was a fantastic success enabling two participants to cycle for the first time.

## **Keep Well Campaign Update**

With the reporting period imminent for the funding allocated to Wicklow Local Authority and CYPSC the last of the initiatives/programmes are taking place under this stream throughout June. The Wicklow Traveller Group and the Primary Health Care Centre are organising a day for older Travellers in the outdoor activity centre in Tibbradden. There will also be a visit to holy wells and shrines included in the day. Due to the success of the previous initiative, Wicklow Library service has another learn to play the Ukulele Programme running throughout the month.

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

The mid-year review process of this year's SICAP Programme has commenced. Programme implementers had June 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to upload all financial and non-financial data onto the online IRIS system. Wicklow LCDC to review all data and approve the mid-year reports before July 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Age Friendly Initiatives**

Progress is being made on new campaign with Gardaí to publicise Garda register

## **Wicklow Community Call**

The Community Call Helpline continues to operate from 9-5 Monday to Friday. There is a steady number of calls for requests mainly for information, shopping and delivery. The helpline also refers callers to befriending services when appropriate. There is strong evidence that the links have been established between those who need help and volunteers showing which demonstrates the resilience of communities in the county. The Community Response Forum continues to meet fortnightly to co-ordinate the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and address any issues arising.

## **LECP**

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

### **Announcement of Town & Village Funding Scheme to Revitalise Towns and Villages**

Following on from the announcement by Minister Humphreys of the launch of the 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme, Wicklow County Council is delighted to announce that the scheme is open for applications in the county.

The Town and Village Scheme objectives are being refocused to align with commitments within 'Our Rural Future – Rural Development Policy 2021-2025'. The 2021 Scheme will prioritise the objectives of this policy such as tackling vacancy in towns and villages, remote working and supporting town centre living. Other projects which will be welcomed include regeneration projects that support active and vibrant town or village centres, upgrading shopfronts and street facades, and green spaces and parks, etc.

### **The measures that will be supported by the 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme include (but are not limited to):**

- Tackling dereliction in town centres
- Turning vacant properties into remote working and multi-use community spaces
- Investing in town centre living



- Investing in amenities to make town centre living more attractive
- Upgrading and improving shop fronts and streetscapes on Main Streets
- Projects that support and enhance the night time economy and add vibrancy to town centres

### **Grant Levels:**

For the 2021 Scheme, the minimum grant which is available is €20,000. The maximum level of grant funding available is being raised to €500,000 in respect of one application from each Local Authority. A maximum of €250,000 will apply in respect of 2 applications and €100,000 in respect of 4 applications. **2 applications must** be in respect of Towns/Villages that have not previously received funding under the Standard Town & Village Renewal Scheme

### **Project Development Measure:**

A new Project Development Measure (up to €50,000) is being introduced this year. This Measure is being introduced on a trial basis in order to put in place the preparation work needed to progress to a full project.

All relevant guidelines and application forms are available on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie). All queries should be emailed to [townandvillage@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:townandvillage@wicklowcoco.ie)

### **Connected Hubs Fund**

This call is intended to develop and leverage the capacity and quality of **existing remote working facilities & Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)** in support of the National Hub Network initiative. The total indicative funding available for the Connected Hubs Call is €5 million. The fund will provide grants from €10,000, up to €250,000 for multi-hub applications.

Applicants must be BCPs or existing hubs which provide, or will provide, remote working facilities and can demonstrate they have been in operation for 6 months (NB: this 6 months requirement does not apply to BCPs).

Projects funded through this call must be completed before the end of 2021 and applications must demonstrate credible project timelines to this effect or they will be deemed ineligible.

It is a requirement that funded applicants must commit to membership of the National Hub Network for a minimum of 3 years and must also complete the National Hub Survey which is available [here](#)

The application scheme is restricted to existing Remote Working hubs and Broadband Connection Points. These will be contacted by Wicklow County Council and invited to apply.

### **Announcement of the Rural Regeneration Development Fund Category 2**

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, on May 12<sup>th</sup>, announced the third call for Category 2 applications to the €1 billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.

This Fund will support landmark regeneration projects across the country that will breathe new life into rural towns and villages.

This fund is for projects that will drive economic growth and footfall, combat dereliction, regenerate town centre and heritage buildings, develop pedestrian zones and outdoor spaces and make rural towns more attractive places to live, work and raise a family.

There will also be a strong focus on developing remote working facilities such as digital and enterprise communities, as well as e-learning, cultural and community spaces.

The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund is a key component of Our Rural Future – the Government’s ambitious five year policy for Rural Ireland.



The €1 billion Fund is also part of the Department's Rural Development Investment Programme, which is funded under Project Ireland 2040. Projects that will be funded under Category 2 are those that require significant development before they reach the stage of being shovel ready.

The RRDF is being developed and coordinated by an inter-departmental team of Wicklow County Council.

**Goal 2: Promote Active Citizenship and Public Participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making**

### **Age Friendly Programme**

The Age Friendly programme is focusing on the Keep Well Campaign and the Community Call. 500 winter care packs were delivered to those most isolated and vulnerable in the county and were very well received. 17 tablets were delivered to 7 participating nursing homes Wicklow in order to assist residents stay connected. Funding for these was through Age Friendly Ireland and the HSE.

Training for setting up a Befriending service in Arklow has started with two sessions complete.

### **Comhairle na nÓg**

The Comhairle na nÓg, through the Coordinator, are taking part in the COVID-19 Community Response Forum, bringing the perspective of young people to the table. They are also taking part in the Time Machine project which is an intergenerational project.

Funding has been secured from DCYA to continue to support the Comhairle na nÓg. Tablets were purchased for use by the Comhairle in each Municipal District, to help them to keep the youth council going during the COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Wicklow Public Participation Network:**

Membership is now 379 groups. June plenary meeting on "Valuing our Ethnic Minorities" involving local representative groups and compiling submission to National Action Plan Against Racism for Ireland. National structural review of PPNs is currently underway. Online stakeholder survey has been widely circulated.

**Goal 3: Strategic Direction – Develop high quality integrated services, available to all communities, in particular, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups**

### **1. Healthy Wicklow Strategy**

Round 3 of Programme is underway but implementation has slowed down because of COVID-19. An extension to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 has been granted. €30,000 has been allocated to a number of groups under the Healthy Ireland Mental Health Small grants Scheme.

Under the Healthy Ireland Fund, Wicklow County Council has received €67,225 to help with the 'Keep Well' campaign. This is a national campaign, part of the government plan for 'Living with COVID-19' focused on 5 major themes:

- Keeping Active & Being Outdoors – even during winter it is important to help physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Keeping in Contact – staying connected with people and addressing isolation as person-to-person connection is important to our wellbeing
- Switching Off and Being Creative - Switching Off and Being Creative or learning something new, getting back to nature and finding ways to relax



- Eating Well – by nourishing your mind and body we can positively impact our physical and mental wellbeing.
- Minding Your Mood – relaxation, mindfulness and asking for help if needed.  
There have been a number of initiatives under this scheme running since January 2021. They are all coming to an end at present.

### 3. Migrant Integration Strategy

This has been passed by Wicklow County Council and is now in the implementation stage

Goal 4: Develop a vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector

#### Bray Area Partnership (BAP)

Bray Area Partnership has continued to work within its operational area of Bray and north Wicklow to advance social enterprise activity and initiatives. A summary of this work includes:

- As part of SICAP resourced actions, BAP are providing ongoing support, advice and guidance to pre-establishment, early stage and trading social enterprises with respect to structuring; business planning; accessing viability and more sustainable operation etc.
- Planning and information session will be held later in the year, for potential and new social enterprises covering various topics related to day to day business requirements underpinning a sustainable operation.
- Diversifying the range of services provided by an existing managed social enterprise by developing a service range to be made available to older members of the community in the Bray and north Wicklow areas supporting independent living.
- Completing the programme of work under the SEED Initiative that provided training modules and individualised mentoring together with a promotional video production for up to nine local social enterprises.
- Finalising the market research and feasibility study being undertaken to inform the development of a social enterprise having ex-offenders within its workforce.
- Developing a proposal, as a collaborative venture with two other LDCs, seeking funding to implement a six months programme for social enterprises focusing on governance, compliance and sustainable trading.

#### County Wicklow Partnership (CWP)

The Leader Programme 2014 – 2020 programme seen nearly 1 Million invested in Social Enterprise development.

The Training and Mentoring Programmes undertaken as part of that – Rural Youth Climb, Covid 19 Supports for new and existing SE's (Ascend Programme) and the Forest Bathing Training programme will all be completed by end of August 2021 and see nearly 50 participants through their intense programme of entrepreneurial business development training.

This is now starting to bear fruit as new applications are starting to flow in for funding under the transitional LEADER programme from SE's. Further encouraging news is that we now have a strong group of new start up Social Entrepreneurs growing in the County and Wicklow would be considered nationally as having very strong SE activity.

It is envisaged that a new fund from DRCD for new start-up social entrepreneurs will be announced in the next two weeks and so in Wicklow we now have a very strong cohort of trained SE's who would be ideally positioned to apply for funding.



## Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

### 1. 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).

#### Retail

##### Bray Central

Oakmount along with the main contractor of the build are recruiting to attempt to remobilize to full capacity. Oakmount indicated in early June that this could take 4-5 weeks. In excess of 3,000 construction workers have left the state. When the site is back to full capacity then a revised programme of works will be submitted.

#### Town Teams

Town Teams in Arklow, Blessington, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow continue to meet virtually where possible to progress various projects. Activity, particularly engagement with stakeholder groups has been curtailed due to Covid restrictions.

##### Arklow Town Team

Jim Callery WCC gave a presentation to the Town Team members about Arklow town being piloted as Co. Wicklow's Decarbonisation zone. He referenced the Climate Action Plans and the Carbon Budgets that are required to meet these targets. A steering group will be set up to identify specific areas to work on for the project.

An exciting new Tourism Brand was revealed on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June for Arklow followed by the launch of a new visitor website on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June. This project was funded by LEADER through the Arklow Town Team, with support from Arklow Municipal District. The website can be viewed on [www.visitarklow.ie](http://www.visitarklow.ie). The website offers all the information you need for an adventure in Arklow and its surrounding areas. Bunting has been placed around the town with the new Visit Arklow brand.

The Flower Irrigation project on the 19 Arches Bridge has now come to fruition- Going forward, the longest multi arched bridge in Ireland, will be in bloom throughout the summer and winter months with pollinator friendly planters.

Arklow Town Team was awarded €500 from the WCC Community Grants Awards to purchase a new projector. It will be used to project local art on to buildings around the town to support artists. It will also be used to project seasonal themes and environmental awareness projects going forward.



Arklow Town Team, Arklow Chamber of Commerce and Wicklow County Council are fully committed to supporting the local business community in getting back up and running. The following actions have been implemented in Arklow.

- The Flower Baskets have been erected and have brought colour and vibrancy to our town centre.
- A new shop local poster has been designed for the approach roads into the town to encourage people to shop local and support their town. It also promotes Free Weekend Parking that is available in Arklow every Saturday and Sunday.
- Stickers with the Arklow Shop Local Logo have been distributed to the businesses to place in their shop windows.
- Public spaces will be enhanced with the provision of new planters and benches that have been purchased for the Main Street. Additional bins have also been purchased.

Keep an eye out for a new Treasure Trail coming to Arklow soon. The Trail will be an enjoyable way to explore your local area.

## **Bray Town Team / Bray Town Recovery Team**

It was agreed by the Members of Bray Municipal District in May that a Town Recovery Team be formed. This would supercede the existing Town Reopening Committee in operation since 2020. One of the tasks on reopening has been to ensure that Bray is positioned to welcome back visitors in a safe manner. The town website [bray.ie](http://bray.ie) has been refreshed completely and now offers a more enhanced web experience, from improved content & navigation to search functionality.

[Bray.ie](http://bray.ie)'s new-look website and its comprehensive communications strategy aims to increase engagement with our online audience and ultimately convert them into potential visitors: <https://www.bray.ie/bray-ie-gets-a-new-look-website/>.

Other initiatives like: [#ShopLocalFirst](#), [Splash into summer & make a break for Bray](#) and [Unity in the community](#) campaigns continue to be a strong focus for us now and throughout 2021.

## **Blessington Town Team**

- Temporary changes to the town centre are being introduced to make it safer and more spacious for pedestrians to facilitate social distancing.
- Flower boxes, baskets and planters will be erected throughout the town in conjunction with Baltinglass Municipal District, Blessington Town Team, The Tidy Town volunteers and local business owners.





- Plans are in place to hold a community road show in the town which will bring community groups together with a strong united message of promoting the local community and positive mental health.
- Support Local First marketing campaign is being implemented communicating a strong united message that Blessington is open for business. The support local campaign will be run over 3 months, July, August and September

## Blessington Inner Relief Road

Design consultants DBFL have been appointed to project manage the works.

The section 85 has been agreed between Wicklow and Kildare County Councils and has now to go before both Councils for approval.

## **Greystones 2020**

Greystones 2020 are in the process of forming a company and renaming as Greystones Town Team. Company Directors, Secretary and Members are currently being appointed and Greystones 2020 will be formally dissolved once the new CLG is in place.

In the meantime the interim Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are working with a number of committees and working groups which are progressing a range of projects and are also reaching out to the local community to strengthen the membership of the new town team.

## **Wicklow Town Team**

The Town Team met on the 9<sup>th</sup> June. A joint campaign with Wicklow Town Team, Wicklow MD and Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce has been re-launched to support and promote the businesses through “Shop Local – Support Wicklow” campaign.

Preparation for the installation of the awnings at Market Square is underway. The Market Square is the ideal location to provide a year round outdoor dining weatherproofed facility as it will capture and benefit the maximum hospitality business in the town.

Following delays and covid-19 restrictions the Backlighting project has now re-commenced and St. Patrick’s Church is completed with civil works underway on a number of the other sites.

The Town Team have identified the Assembly Hall as the most suitable building for consideration for the Youth Theatre.





## **TOWN RE-OPENING COMMITTEES**

Following the success of the Bray Re-opening Committee, Wicklow County Council proposed the establishment of re-opening committees in each Municipal District – the purpose of these committees is to support businesses as they re-open and to encourage members of the community to support local business. Membership of the Re-Opening Committees consists of the MD Cathaoirleach (Chair), MD Manager, MD Administrator, MD Engineer, Chair of the Town Team, Representative of the Chamber of Commerce and An Garda Síochána.

A plenary town re-opening meeting has been held in Arklow, Wicklow, Greystones and Blessington. The meetings considered the actions being taken by each of the Municipal Districts to enhance the re-opening of our towns and gained valuable input from An Garda Síochána and representatives of the business community. A campaign in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office featured in all editions of the Wicklow People to encourage people to continue to shop local and support local businesses as they reopen.

## **Outdoor Dining**

Application fees for use of public footpaths or spaces by local businesses during COVID-19 are being waived by Wicklow County Council for a further period to the end of December 2021. The Council is anxious to assist and support businesses in the recovery period arising out of the pandemic. One of the measures that the Council is keen to support in the recovery is the use of public footpaths and/or public space for local businesses which may require the use of these spaces, particularly as outdoor seating areas while restrictions are ongoing. The Council is advising businesses that such activity can be permitted by our Planning Department under a Section 254 licence. The application form and further information is available on the Wicklow County Council website: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Planning-Applications/Apply-for-Planning/Licence-Application-Section-254>

Applications for funding under the Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business Scheme opened on the 12<sup>th</sup> April and will remain open until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Failte Ireland in partnership with local authorities across the country is working to assist town centre hospitality businesses to increase their outdoor seating capacity while providing a safe environment for shoppers and diners. The key aim of the scheme is to provide support to individual hospitality and tourism businesses towards the cost of equipment to provide additional outdoor seating and facilitate individual businesses to increase their outdoor dining capacity for the summer of 2021.



In order to place furniture in public places, applicants must firstly have applied for and been granted a Section 254 licence by Wicklow County Council. The Section 254 licence fee has been waived for table and chair street furniture applications in 2021.

## **Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme and Urban Animation Scheme**

Faite Ireland has launched two new funding schemes for local authorities to enhance the outdoor dining experience in the county and to animate the urban areas in towns. Two applications were submitted for Arklow and Wicklow under the Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme. Wicklow Municipal District in collaboration with the Town Team also made an application under the Urban Animation Scheme.

## **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 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 Tourism Implementation Group has been established to oversee these actions and drive all sectors towards helping Wicklow achieve the target of **€200m in tourism revenue by 2023**.

### **Wicklow Passport:**

- Sales of Wicklow Passport have exceeded 1500
- Promotion of the Passport continues on social media, supported by video and extensive imagery.
- Work continues on developing the network of Wicklow Passport resellers with focus on Bray, Enniskerry, Glendalough, Greystones.
- A series of promotional itineraries and tours around the Wicklow Passport are being planned. The first tour focusses on South West Wicklow and includes Carnew, Shillelagh, Baltinglass, Donard and Tinahely.



## **Tracks & Trails Show**

Wicklow featured on the Tracks and Trails show broadcasted on RTE, providing national exposure for the county. The Wicklow episode was presented by Pól Conghaile and showcased the Bray to Sugarloaf trail as well as the Tinahely trails.

## **New VisitWicklow.ie Website:**

Wicklow County Tourism Alliance is currently developing strong editorial content for the website to help showcase and promote the various Wicklow Themes. Themes worked on include Wicklow Walks, Cycling in Wicklow, Wicklow Family Activities, Wicklow Gardens, Wicklow Foods and Flavours, etc. while communications are also ongoing with the members to update and enhance the information on the site.

## **Wicklow Outdoors:**

The digitisation of the Wicklow Trails is underway with the aim to help visitors to choose and follow any of the Wicklow walks. Each walk is to include the following information: GPS start/finish location, Google Maps track, GPX download, Runmap app link and printable PDF.

## **EcoTrail Wicklow**

- EcoTrail Wicklow is set to take place on 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.
- Registrations have reopened and there are currently around 1400 people signed up split between 4 distances and races on the day.

## **Celtic Routes Project:**

Funding of €1,917,770 for the second phase of the Celtic Routes tourism project has been secured for Ireland / Wales's tourist project, Celtic Routes. This is a partnership project between Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire County Councils and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority in Wales and Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford City and County Councils in Ireland. It is a branded collection of tourism experiences encouraging travelers to visit Ireland and Wales to discover the Celtic spirit by suggesting immersive and authentic experiences in West Wales and South East Ireland. A toolkit is available for businesses and destinations with guidance and ideas about how they can create their own Celtic experiences and contribute to the success of the project.

The Celtic Route Partnership project has released an online platform to access the database of imagery that has been produced over the past year. The imagery has been used to support the extensive promotional campaign that is undergoing, including high quality and high resolution photos and videos.



**Accommodation:** The County Wicklow Accommodation working group are progressing with planning the next steps in order to develop a prospectus aimed at tourism providers to invest in County Wicklow.

**Destination Town Funding:** An application to Failte Ireland on behalf of Wicklow Town was made in respect of Destination Town Funding and funding has been awarded to develop visitor amenities in the Abbey Grounds. Mosart, a local architect team who specialise in architecture, landscape and urban design, have been appointed to design the Abbey Grounds project with a view to increasing visitor numbers to Wicklow while maintaining this important oasis at the heart of Wicklow town.

### **Ireland - County by County**

Wicklow featured in a recently launched 'Ireland - County by County' travel series which will be extensively aired throughout the US television network. Featuring 10 counties, this exciting new television showcase the best of Ireland county by county to television audience's right across the United States. The Wicklow episode follows Ciara Whelan as she discovers the incredible paintings at Russborough House; takes some unusual furry friends for a walk; hikes in the spectacular Glendalough National Park; enjoys some Wicklow Naturally produce at the stunning Killruddery House, and much more. Ciara also becomes a Wicklow Ambassador as she collects the various stamps for her Wicklow Passport.

### **Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study**

The first round of consultation has been completed and was positively received, with over 170 individuals having participated in the Zoom sessions to date and a similar number of surveys returned. Issues raised during those sessions include congestion at key sites, security, car parking and visitor services, signage, availability of maps showing all the trails and routes, issues with local access, rewilding, erosion and degradation of the environment.

The consultants are preparing the draft masterplan and this will be presented to the Steering Committee (the various government agencies) at the end of June.

In the short term additional car parking has been provided at Laragh and Pier Gates Luggala, an electronic traffic management system (ITS) is to be introduced and the toilets at the Council owned car park are to be upgraded.



The improved junction with R757 and R756, where the Glendalough road meets the Wicklow Gap, was officially opened on 15<sup>th</sup> June and has proven successful in accommodating vehicle movements and improving safety in the area, especially for larger vehicles.

In 2020 a **Tourism Recovery Taskforce** was established by Failte Ireland – this Taskforce is chaired by the Chief Executive and Brian O'Flynn of Ireland's Ancient East

4 key objectives have been agreed:

Project 1: Wicklow Outdoors

Project 2: Wicklow Passport

Project 3: Family Market

Project 4: New Wicklow Experiences - maximising the potential of Wicklow Naturally to link food experiences with the outdoors and adventure experiences and emerging film tourism opportunities.

**Covid 19:** Failte Ireland, Wicklow County Council, LEO Wicklow are providing a range of supports and advice for tourism providers and are following all advice and guidelines set out by NPHET and the Government.

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

There are currently three 2018 URDF projects underway; Arklow Historic Town Core, Wicklow Library and Fitzwilliam Square and the Bray Public Transport Bridge.

Wicklow County Council's most recent RRDF applications in respect of Rathdrum and the Mountain Rescue HQ at Roundwood were unsuccessful.

The call for Category 2 has just opened. It is proposed to submit the following 3 applications:

**Shillelagh/Carnew/Tinahely:** developing the villages for the eventual arrival of the Greenway – purchasing some of the old station buildings linking in with the Tinahely Trails and other tourist venues including the Tinahely Farm shop and the Orchard Farm

**Kilcoole/Newtown:** connected communities building on placemaking and linking to the green route proposal.

**Blessington:** redeveloping and resubmitting the proposal to design and develop the Square for when the N81 is re-routed and to make the town greenway ready to be able to cater for the large influx of visitors expected.

A call for Category 1 (shovel ready) proposals is to be made later in 2021. It is proposed to submit the following projects:

1. Rathdrum



2. Newtownmountkennedy
3. A Food Incubation Hub

These projects will be developed over the year to bring them to a stage where they are ready to be submitted.

## **Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration**

Funding of €7.14m has been announced for the Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration Project from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and this funding has the capacity to unlock the great potential of Bray Harbour and surrounding area. The harbour, its piers and adjacent lands are a major asset for Bray and this funding will facilitate an integrated scheme to develop the harbour and associated public realm works to provide a vibrant waterfront area with excellent connectivity between the promenade, the town centre the Dublin Road area and beyond.

Work is ongoing to further develop the unsuccessful applications for Wicklow and Arklow Harbours. A meeting with the Department of Housing URDF has been requested for feedback on the previous applications.

## **Maritime**

### **Maritime Strategic Review for County Wicklow**

The Strategic Review authored by Gavin Doherty Associates has identified ways in which the economic base of County Wicklow can be strengthened through its ports and harbours and has formulated recommendation for Wicklow County Council. The review was endorsed by the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC in March 2020.

Key Recommendations:

- To maximise the Offshore Wind Opportunity
- To investigate the feasibility of a new harbour facility at Wicklow
- Aquaculture Support
- Marketing Strategy for County Wicklow as a Coastal Tourist Destination

The Strategic Review is at the core of the applications made under Climate Action and URDF funding.

### **Offshore Wind Energy**

Seven Offshore Projects have been designated Relevant Projects by the government and are in line to receive a valid grid connection offer. Six of these projects are in the Irish Sea with four off the coast of Wicklow:



- Dublin Array RWE (2 projects Bray and Kish Banks)
- Codling Wind Park Fred Olsen/EDF (2 projects, Codling I and Codling II)

The Development of the designated Relevant Projects is dependent on the enactment of the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill, 2020 expected in 2021.

## **Arklow Bank**

SSE Renewables has submitted a planning application to An Bord Pleanála for the development of the landfall for two offshore export circuits underground high voltage connections, a new substation and transmission compound. A 220kV overhead power line connection from Shelton Abbey to the transmission network.

SSER is planning to make its application to Wicklow County Council in respect of the O&M base at Arklow within the coming weeks.

## **Codling Wind Park**

The Codling Wind Park has published its Onshore Infrastructure Scoping Report which covers the land based elements of the Codling Wind Park project, such as the point at which the cables will come ashore (landfall), the routing of onshore cabling and any electricity substation(s) that may be required to connect the project to the national grid. It also describes how the operations and maintenance base for the project, which will be located at a port along the east coast, may be considered in the EIA.

**Dublin Array** has completed a non-statutory public consultation process

## **Key Milestones**

- The anticipated enactment of the Marine Planning and Development Bill
- The Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) Auction whereby the companies bid for a grid connection ( expected 2021)

The estimated value of each of the above projects is between €1 and €2 billion. In addition to the benefits provided to the community, including investment, employment, training and skills development, and the opportunity to develop Wicklow as a Centre of Excellence for Offshore Wind Energy, a mandatory Community Benefit Fund must be provided by all RESS projects . This will be of significant value for the County Wicklow community.



Council officials are engaging with Enterprise Ireland and the educational bodies with regard to developing a business cluster and skills and training requirements.

### **Maritime Business Development Group**

The next Maritime Business Development Group meeting will take place over the summer. Due to Covid restrictions this meeting will be held remotely.

### **Food and Beverage Strategy**

County Wicklow Partnership have advertised through Etenders for a Food and Beverage Co-ordinator role for Wicklow Naturally and a tender for the supply of event costs for the period 2021 - 2023 in support of Wicklow Naturally's Promotional Activities Plan. Funding of €220,000 will be applied for via the LEADER Food Programme for both tenders. If successful, funding of 75% will be awarded, Wicklow Naturally will contribute 10% from subscriptions and it is hoped that Wicklow County Council will contribute €50,000 over a two year period.

A large number of events in the calendar such as Bloom and the National Ploughing Championships have been cancelled; it is proposed to run October Feast again this year with a mix of virtual and "in person" events. This event was run virtually in 2020 and had a good participation rate.





## 2. Local Enterprise Office

LEO Objectives
<p>To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.</li> <li>- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.</li> <li>- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.</li> <li>- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.</li> <li>- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland</li> <li>- Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral</li> </ul>

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2020	2021	2021
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 27/€663,778.00 - 3/€3,850	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	-21/ €409,624 -2 / €3.150 (to date)
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
	2020	2021	2021
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	64	60	43
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	75	75	59
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	1542	1000	537
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	12	5



<b>METRICS: Business Advice &amp; Mentoring</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	1302	100	444
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	803	600	307 (including Brexit mentoring)

<b>METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
No. of Secondary Student Participants	962	1000	962

<b>METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Year to Date 2021</b>
Number of Applications	Programme review	Programme review	Programme review

<b>Trading Online Voucher</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	
<b>No of Trading Online Vouchers approved</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Year to Date 2021</b>
Trading Online Vouchers	430	70	97

<b>Lean For Micro Project</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	8	11	9

<b>Microfinance Ireland</b>	<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	21	23	5



## June 2021 Activities

- ✦ The June Network of Entrepreneurial Women network meeting took place via Zoom
- ✦ Two Wicklow clients accepted onto the Hi-Start Programme for high calibre start-ups seeking investment from VCs and business angels
- ✦ The 'Stimuls' and 'Green for Micro' consultancy programmes have commenced, offering expert guidance to approximately 50 growing LEO client businesses in 2021
- ✦ The LEO is continuing to help clients work through their customs queries with one to one advice monthly Customs Clinics ongoing with a dedicated advisor helping companies adapt to new regulations following Brexit.
- ✦ There continues to be a high level of demand for business advice clinics which are currently being run remotely. Additional Clinics are being provided to ensure that demand is being met.
- ✦ Weekly newsletter is circulated to clients on supports, training courses, events and other relevant information.
- ✦ Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- ✦ Applications for the Trading Online Voucher Scheme continue to be submitted with 97 approved to date for 2021. The grant has now reverted to 50% from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.
- ✦ The LEO national #LookforLocal campaign has kicked off with 5 webinars in partnership with Google Digital Garage to assist businesses in maximising their online sales capacity. In addition LEO Wicklow are running an online advertising campaign to support re-opening of businesses.

## Training

The Spring Summer 2021 training programme is nearing completion.

### Courses that have taken place in the last month include:

- ✦ Digital Marketing Clinics taking place on 1<sup>st</sup> June for 7 businesses.
- ✦ Customs Mentoring sessions scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> June for 7 client companies.
- ✦ Energising Retail through re-opening on 27<sup>th</sup> May.
- ✦ Telling Your Food Story (Tips on free PR, food styling & photography)
- ✦ Support & Information for Starting a Business in Ireland

### Upcoming courses include the following:-

- ✦ Customs Mentoring sessions scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> July for 7 client companies.



## 3. Planning and Development

### County Development Plan Review

Notice to review the current County Development Plan 2016 - 2022 and prepare a new County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 was given on the 6th November 2019. Closing date for submissions was Friday 10th January 2020. 156 submissions were received.

All of the submissions are available to view on the website:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-PlansStrategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2021-2027/IssuesPaper>

The First Chief Executive's Report was issued to the Elected Members on Friday 12th June 2020. This Report forms part of the statutory procedure for the review of the existing plan and the preparation of the new plan. Its purpose is to report on the outcome of the statutory consultation process and to set out the Chief Executive's opinion on the issues raised in the submissions received.

The report is available to view on the website:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-RegionalCounty-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2021-2027/Stage-2>

The Proposed Draft County Development Plan was issued to the members on 16th March 2021 - The proposed draft shall be deemed to be the draft development plan, unless, within 8 weeks of the submission of the draft development to the Members, the Planning Authority, by resolution, amends that draft development plan. At Council meetings held on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May, the Members voted to amend the proposed draft plan.

The draft Plan as amended by the Members and associated environmental reports has gone on public display on the 4<sup>th</sup> June for 12 weeks. The Draft Plan and associated documents will be available to view and download from the consultation portal from Friday 04 June 2021 to Monday 16 August 2021. Submissions or observations regarding the Draft Plan and the associated Environmental Report will be invited from the public and interested bodies.



## Wicklow Heritage & Biodiversity Office

- Community Monument Fund (CMF). Notification received on 16<sup>th</sup> June from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage of a total funding of €65,000 for Wicklow archaeology projects under the CMF2021. The following seven projects have been approved; Baltinglass Hillforts, an assessment of archaeological significance; Whitfield Graveyard access improvements; Wicklow Town Community Archaeology Initiative; Dunganstown Castle conservation advice, Kilbride archaeological investigations, Arklow Castle conservation report and the development of Conservation Management Plans for historic graveyards (Ballymacrohugh, Mullinacuffe and Whitfield). Projects co-ordinated by Heritage Officer.
- Biodiversity Awareness programme: Two talks by Wicklow nature authors scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> July. 'Spring into Nature' programme running Feb – May, includes the production and free distribution of publications (Wicklow Wildlife posters and Gardening for Wildlife booklets and other Wicklow habitat guides) and the hosting of free nature themed zoom evening talks (supported by the Healthy Ireland programme)
- Funding allocations confirmed on 14<sup>th</sup> May for Wicklow Biodiversity Action (€29,950) under the National Biodiversity Action Plan fund by 26<sup>th</sup> March. Three actions approved to improve conservation management of council owned properties at Brittas Bay, selected historic graveyards and at Kilmacanogue marsh.
- National Biodiversity Week 15<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May; Wicklow Rivers – Ecology and Connectivity online event held on 18<sup>th</sup> May to highlight current and upcoming Wicklow County Council activities in partnership with Inland Fisheries Ireland and East Wicklow Rivers Trust regarding biodiversity enhancement in river systems. 20<sup>th</sup> May lunchtime workshop held on Summer Wildflowers and citizen science with National Biodiversity Data Centre.
- Wicklow Swift Project underway: co-ordinator in place to liaise with groups, nest boxes to be distributed to suitable locations
- Our Wicklow Heritage: 'Daoine agus Áit – Connecting our communities' postcard project underway in partnership with National Museum of Ireland, Clare and Galway county council's heritage offices.
- County Heritage Plan allocations received from The Heritage Council for the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan actions in 2021. Wicklow Heritage Forum Meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> May.
- Protected Structures Grants: Two successful projects announced for funding in county Wicklow Historic Structure Fund (HSF); ; Killruddery Clocktower repairs approved for €50,000 and Conservation works to the 'weir' at Russborough House approved for €50,000. Projects allocated under BHIS, total allocation for county of €72,000. Works underway

## Planning Applications

A total of 154 valid applications were received during May these include applications as follows:

Type of Development	Number Received
Individual Houses	31 (29 refer to rural house applications)
Housing Developments*	06
Agricultural Structures	05
Commercial	13
Other Developments**	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>

\* Large hsg Development

PRR 21/334 Papaver Ltd, 26 no. dwellings, Killmacullagh, Main Street, Newtownmountkennedy  
 PPR 21/553 Karidon Developments Ltd, 19 no. dwellings, Melwood, Kindlestown Upper, Delgay  
 PPR 21/606, Larry Brennan, 14 no. dwellings, Claren House, Killarney Road, Bray

\*\*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 104 applications in May, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	02
Individual Houses	26 (22 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	76
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>

In relation to decisions issued between January to May 2020, in comparison to the same period for 2021, the details are as follows:

	31/05/2020	31/05/2021
Total Number of decisions issued	296	459
Total Number of decisions to grant	256	401
% Grant Rate	86%	87%

### No. of Applications withdrawn

May 10 ( 09 refer to rural house applications)

\*Withdrawals may not have been lodged in the month of May.Applications lodged with An Bord Pleanala



## Strategic Housing Development

ABP-307230-20, Ballinalea, Ashford (122 Units) – Members meeting 23/3, CE submitted to Bord 19/4.

ABP-310078-21, Cookstown, Enniskerry (165 Units) Members meeting 11/5, CE Report due by 24/6.

## 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, Killiniskysuff, Templerainy, Coolboy, Kilbride, Shelton Abbey, Ballyrairie Lower and Ballyrairie Middle, in Co. Wicklow.

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

## Planning Enforcement

- New Files 17
- Advisory Letters 15
- Warning Letters 15
- Enforcement Notices 03
- Legal files 01
- Closed 12

## Court Cases:

High Court – one case listed for mention has been adjourned to July to fix date.

## Vacant Sites

- 23 no. sites on the Register.
- 08 Section 15 Notices
- 04 Sites on appeal to Valuation Tribunal
- €5,594.17 received in May



## **Derelict Sites**

02 No. of sites on Register

### **Short Term Letting:**

The short term letting team is in place.

- 21 Applications for Registration received in 2021.
- Total received to date: 59(20 from 2019 and 18 from 2020 and 21 from 2021)
- Total files from 2019 is 27.
- Total files from 2020 is 69.
- Total files from 2021 is 43.
- 3 complaints received in 2020
- 2 complaints received in 2021.
- 13 warning letters issued
- 2 enforcement notices issued
- 1 legal proceedings
- 4 properties from 2019 being investigated at present.
- 38 properties from 2020 being investigated at present.
- 13 properties from 2021 being investigated at present.
- UD files created from 2020 in 2021 is 8.
- UD files created from 2021 is 5.



## 4. Environmental Services

### Waste Management

	<b>01.01.21 – 31.05.21</b>
No. of Complaints Opened	1090
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	1140
No. of Litter Fines Issued	121
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	19
No. of Warning Letters Issued	16
No. of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	40
No. of Burning Applications Granted	54
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices Issued	5
No. of Annual Monitoring Charges 2021	29
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	36
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	2
No. of files taken to Court re: Waste Management Issues and Unpaid Litter Fines.	15
Income- Litter	€13,865.00
Income – Waste Management	€32,291.23

### Recycling Centres

A review of all of the Recycling Centres in line with the National Review document recently published on the DECC website is underway to assess how these Civic Amenities are operating with respect to both the service provided and VFM



Bray Recycling Centre will be diesel free in the coming weeks as the old diesel forklift has been replaced by an electric one and the diesel generator has been replaced by an increase in the power supply to the centre from the mains.

Expressions of interest are being sought to run the charity shop in Bray Recycling Centre - emphasis will be on charities that offer circular economy activities such as furniture upcycling and paint recycling.

## Whitestown Remediation Project

Wicklow County Council has employed Fehily Timoney & Company to advise on the remediation of the site at Whitestown, in accordance with the judgments of Mr. Justice Humphreys

- Draft remediation plan was lodged with Brownfield restoration Ireland Limited (BRIL) on 27<sup>th</sup> November.
- Following the receipt of submissions from a number of prescribed bodies, the High Court instructed WCC to incorporate the requests contained in the submissions into the draft plan and to commence surveys required for an Appropriate Assessment.
- Quotes have been received from surveyors and the required habitat surveys, agreed with the NPWS, will commence in July.

## Climate Action

### Priority Action items:

EV Chargers will be installed at the area office in Blessington in the coming weeks. The charging point at Shoreline Greystones has been delayed on health and safety grounds due to the operation of the Vaccination Centre. The charging point at Main Street Blessington has also been delayed due to lead in time for a new ESB connection.

A tree Policy is being drawn up for the County. UCD Landscape architecture department has been appointed to co-ordinate the tree management policy for Wicklow County Council - a draft policy document has been received and is currently being reviewed and this will be out for public consultation in the coming weeks

A Foamstream machine was purchased from Furlong Equipment Ltd. and following a delay due to COVID restrictions, training was held in Bray MD. Bray MD await the delivery of a trailer to transport the machine safely but have used it for weed killing in the Bray Cemetery and in a playground. It has also been used for cleaning purposes at the public toilets at Bray Seafront. Feedback from staff has been positive and we will continue to monitor its use and success.

The roll out of the Climate Action Awareness national training programme has commenced and training will continue online for all staff throughout 2021.

## Energy

BEC 1121 application as set out below have been approved and with the support of 3 Counties Energy agency all projects are being progressed. .

Location	Project
Clermont	Heating Controls
	PV Panel
Wicklow Town Hall	PV Panel
	Lighting Upgrade
	Windows/Doors Upgrade
Bray Civic Offices	PV Panel
	Heating Controls
	Lighting Upgrade
Bray Depot	PV Panel
	Lighting Upgrade
Tinahely Area Office and Fire Station	Lighting Upgrade
	Insulation Upgrade
	Insulation Upgrade
	PV Panel
Greystones Library	Lighting Upgrade
	Windows/Doors Upgrade
Arklow Fire Station	Insulation Upgrade (attic)
	Lighting Upgrade
	Insulation Upgrade (walls)
Coral LC Wicklow	Heat Pump Upgrade
County Buildings	BMS
	Windows/Doors Upgrade
7 No. EV Chargers.	EV Chargers - Double Socket

## Sustainable Energy Committees

Covid 19 restrictions interrupted progress of Sustainable Energy Committees. Grant amended deadlines have been agreed with SEAI to allow for the continuation and completion of Energy Map Plans, EMPs for Newtownmountkennedy, Greystones/Delgany, Wicklow and Blessington. Desktop work only has been undertaken in the last few months.

Glenmalure has completed its EMP. The committee is now focused on identifying projects to implement.

Laragh Energy Master Plan is also complete and has been presented to the Community. Once a final review is completed by the committee the grant will be processed.



A new application for a grant to undertake an Energy Master Plan was submitted by Enniskerry SEC. The grant application has been processed and a grant agreement signed between Wicklow County Council and SEAI.

A new SEC group was formed in Arklow in April. Work is progressing on an application for an EMP.

## **Decarbonisation Zone**

Research was undertaken in April on the selection of a decarbonisation zone. The largest town in each municipal district was assessed on potential for decarbonisation themes and actions. Laragh and Glemalure were also assessed as they both have active SEC groups. A submission was also received by Newtown 2050 to consider a combined zone incorporating nine towns. This application was assessed looking at the for core towns of Newtownmountkennedy, Kilcoole, Kilpedder and Newcastle.

Arklow was selected as the pilot decarbonisation zone. The proposal was submitted to the DECC at the end of April.

Work has commenced with the town. A meeting was held with the municipal district and the Town Team. Support has been given to the Arklow SEC group to help gather data. A place making training is proposed for summer to create a shared vision for the town. WCC were not successful in our application for funding for place making consultant through Re-Imagine Place with The Irish Architects Foundation. Work is ongoing on a tender to appoint a consultant. The Key actions of this appointment will include establishing a baseline for carbon emissions in the town, researching projects and their funding source and developing an Implementation Plan before the end of 2021.

## **Environmental Awareness**

Work was undertaken on planning the Relove Fashion competition for the next school year with plans to launch it this month. A web based portal is being developed for entries to increase the interaction with schools via technology and make the process easier in in managing a multi- local authority participation.

A Transition Year Climate Action programme to guide schools on engaging students in action at local level is being developed. Partners in the project are Kildare, Meath and Louth local authorities and the CARO office. The programme contains modules on Energy, Active Travel, Biodiversity, the Circular Economy, Water, Rivers, Food, Trees, Advocacy, Business and Air Quality. A first draft has been prepared. We are currently exploring opportunities to link up with the GAA Future Leaders programme.

An application for funding under the Anti-dumping initiative was submitted for a Bikes for Africa project. This years project if funded will involve a permanent storage container for bikes suitable for reuse by school students in Africa. The storage unit will be place in Arklow recycling centre with bikes then transported to Shelton Abbey open prison for repair before sending them to Africa. This project is a collaboration with the Rotary Clubs of Bray and Wicklow.

Wicklow County Council is working with eight other local authorities to develop a series of short videos on dog fouling for use on social media. The campaign will include six animated video each of which shows the impact dog fouling has on others using a variety of scenarios. We will seek matching gifs which can be shared by residents associations more easily on Whats app groups and will serve as reminders of the main campaign. Quotes are currently being sought for the project.



A motion sensed audio device campaign is currently being used on rotation in popular dog walking locations to remind dog walker to pick up after their dog. New solar powered LED signage is being purchased to test out in the five municipal districts. Rolls of bags have been purchased to be distributed to dog walkers as a means of engaging them in conversation about dog fouling.

The EPA put out a call for projects under the Local Authority Prevention Network, LAPN. An application for funding was submitted by Wicklow County Council. The project applied for is to develop composting solutions for the management of the high levels of grass production which must be lifted when green space is being managed for pollinators. This project will help to facilitate Wicklow County Council's commitment to designate spaces for pollinators.

Several projects were funded under the Anti-litter grant. Two were focused on schools. The first one providing a toolkit with storybooks, classroom activities and equipment to vary out litter picks in ten schools. Workshops on the theme of Leave No Trace were provided for 12 schools.

Green Flag renewal visits, virtual meetings and talks, virtual tours of the recycling centre have been undertaken since schools reopened. Numbers applying for the Green flag in 2021 are well down with nine schools to date confirming renewal.

National Spring Clean has had its busiest year to date with request coming in for clean-up kit from the beginning of the year. There is increased volunteer activity. The campaign has recently been extended for the summer month with funding to An Taisce by the DECC. The DECC is currently undertaking a consultation with local authorities prior to launching a new Anti-litter Infrastructure capital support scheme which aims to address increasing litter levels generated by outdoor dining. Data and information is being gathered from the municipal districts to respond to a request for information from the DECC.

## Beaches

### Blue Flag Beaches

Wicklow County Council has retained their 4 Blue Flags at beaches at Bray South Promenade, Greystones, Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South. Beach bye-laws are in place for these Blue Flag Beaches from 1st June 2021.

### Brittas Bay Carparks

Carparks in both Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South are now open for the summer season and charging is now in force. Bin collections are in place and toilet facilities are open.

### Lifeguards

The bathing season runs from 1st of June to the 15th September as do Lifeguard Patrols. Lifeguards have been appointed and will commence shortly. There will be lifeguards in Bray, Greystones, Wicklow Harbour, Brittas Bay North and South and Arklow.

### Caravan Parks

The majority of the caravan parks are up and running for the season, one park is not opening as it is currently for sale and another is not open as it is just for pull-ins and the majority are visitors from abroad.

## Control of Dogs

### Dog Licences

Reminders continue to be issued for all registered dogs in County Wicklow. A total of 239 licences were issued/renewed in May. These reminders would have been sent out in April. The Dog Wardens now have the facility to check is a dog licences and this may encourage people to licence their dogs when the Dog Wardens are in the area.

## Burial Grounds

Wicklow County Council has developed a columbarium wall at Springfield Cemetery, Killarney Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The development consists of two double sided walls with 96 niches on each side giving a total of 384 niches. Each side consists of 8 rows of 12 niches with each niche capable of accommodating 2 urns.

The Environment Section of Wicklow County Council is inviting expressions of interest from suitably qualified individuals or companies in respect of the operation of specific elements of the Columbarium Wall at Springfield Cemetery, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

The following are the elements of the contract for which we are seeking Expressions of Interest.

- a) Opening and closing of individual niches in the columbarium wall
- b) Interment of urns in the columbarium wall either immediately following a service in the cemetery or by arrangement with the owner of niche interment rights
- c) Inscription of individual plates / niche doors and installation of the plate following inscription

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## Harbours and Ports

### Activity at Wicklow Port for April

2020	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import or Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan	3	3	0	3		
Feb	4	4	0	4		
Mar	9	8	1	10		
April	9	8	1	10		

2021	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import or Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan	9	9	0	9	7	2
Feb	9	9	0	9	7	2
Mar	11	11	0	9	9	2
April	11	11	0	11	8	3
May	8	8	0	8	8	0

5 Marine notices issued during May 2021

## 2021 Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme

Wicklow County Council has received the following allocation from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine DAFM for 2021 under the Harbour Development and Marine & Leisure Programmes.

### Harbour Development Programme

Location	Funding Allocation	Total Estimated Project Value	Project Name/Description
Arklow	45,000	60,000	Repair and replacement of fendering at Arklow Harbour
Wicklow	52,500	70,000	Repaving section of quay and associated improvements at South Quay, Wicklow
Arklow	33,750	45,000	Ladder replacement programme at Arklow Harbour

### Marine & Leisure Programme

Location	Funding Allocation	Total Estimated Project Value	Project Name/Description
Arklow	26,250	35,000	Upgrading of slipway at the inner dock in order to improve accessibility/safety
Greystones	24,000	32,000	Safety, accessibility and amenity works at Public Harbour, Greystones
Wicklow	22,500	30,000	Repairs and safety measures at the Slipways, Wicklow Harbour

## Pollution Control

### Bathing Water Monitoring Programme

The pre-season samples were taken on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

The Identified Bathing Waters were excellent: South Promenade, Greystones South, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South, Silver Strand and Clogga.

The Non-Identified Bathing waters were excellent and good: South of Bray Harbour, Kilcoole, The Murrough, Wicklow Harbour(2), Arklow South, The Cove Greystones (good) and The Cove Arklow.

The streams that flow on the beaches at Brittas North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga are unsuitable for bathing (i.e. paddling and playing), because they can have poor microbiological quality particularly for the period of 3 days after heavy rainfall.

Wicklow County Council are asking people who swim at beaches, lakes and rivers to tell them if they think they should maintain existing designated bathing waters designations or give a new official bathing area designation to areas that are commonly used for swimming, but not identified at the moment. The period for receipt of submissions via is opened until 17<sup>th</sup> June.



## **Pollution Response & Investigation**

- 14 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 4 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 2 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.

## **Private Water Supplies**

Of the 14 Private water supplies monitored and were found compliant with parametric values.

## **Deco Paints and Solvent Regulations**

- 1 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installation was issued certificate of compliance.
- 3 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installations were inspected.

## **Petrol Vapour Regulations**

- 1 Petrol Filling Station issued certificate of installation.
- 3 Petrol Filling Station were inspected.

## **Air Quality Monitoring**

A new air quality monitoring station was installed in Greystones in June 2021. This monitor was installed as part of the Environmental Protection Agency programme to extend ambient air monitoring network in the Country. This is the second air quality monitoring station in addition to the existing station in Bray. Both stations will monitor for the presence of particulate matter PM 2.5 which is indicative of emissions from solid fuel burning and diesel engines. The civil and electrical works were conducted by the Council.

## **Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme**

- 12 Lakes monitored involving for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 34 Rivers monitored involving 91 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

## **Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plan**

- 5 Catchment activity/engagements/consultations were undertaken.
- Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring
- 36 River/Lake samples taken and analysed upstream and downstream of discharges of public wastewater treatment plants

## **Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2021**

- 3 inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems were carried out and found compliant.
- Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer
- 5 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and found compliant.





- 4 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and found non-compliant and requested to take corrective action.
- 2 licensed wastewater discharges to sewers were monitored and found compliant.

## Planning & Development

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

## Well Grants

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| • Number of New Applications                    | 11 |
| • Number of New Wells Granted                   | 3  |
| • Number of New Pumps Granted                   | 8  |
| • Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.)Granted | 24 |
| • Number of Inspections in advance/after works  | 26 |

## Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

The Office of Public Works (OPW) and Wicklow County Council have commissioned Byrne Looby PH McCarthy (BLP) and Arup to undertake engineering and environmental studies respectively to assess and develop a viable, cost effective and sustainable Flood Relief Scheme for the Avoca River, Arklow.

The process of identifying a preferred scheme to address fluvial and coastal flooding in Arklow includes a detailed assessment of a range of flood risk management measures to determine their technical, economic, social and environmental viability.

Following a detailed scheme options assessment process, the series of measures that will make up the emerging preferred flood relief scheme for the Avoca River, Arklow have now been identified.

A number of changes in design were implemented, taking into account outcomes from consultation.

An update presentation was given to Arklow District Members on 10th of March 2021 and a Public Information Session was completed (12th - 26th March 2021) and the Project Team have responded to the Public's comments

The Compulsory Purchase Order was signed by the Chief Executive and nominated member on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2021,

The Environmental Impact Statement and application to An Bord Pleanala was submitted to An Bord Pleanala on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2021.

## 5. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

### Public Lighting

	5th May 2021	10th May 2021	17th May 2021	24th May 2021	31st May 2021
Access Issues (Attended)	16	17	20	23	21
Cable Fault (Attend)	2	2	2	2	1
ESB Required (Attended)	26	27	30	30	31
Knock Down (Attended)	3	3	3	3	3
Materials required	4	4	4	4	4
No Supply	3	3	3	4	4
On Hold	17	20	15	15	15
Submitted	141	119	91	95	115
Traffic Management Required	10	9	10	10	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>203</b>
Percentage of lights not working	<b>1.49%</b>	<b>1.37%</b>	<b>1.19%</b>	<b>1.25%</b>	<b>1.35%</b>

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	3	2	9	2	5	21
Cable Fault (Attend)					1	1
ESB Required (Attended)	13	3	5	2	8	31
Knock Down (Attended)		1	1		1	3
Materials required	1	1	1		1	4
No Supply		1		2	1	4
On Hold	2		3	8	2	15
Submitted	4	37	42	21	11	115
TMR	1		1	2	5	9
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>Percentage Not Working</b>	<b>0.82%</b>	<b>1.90%</b>	<b>1.88%</b>	<b>1.35%</b>	<b>0.98%</b>	<b>1.36%</b>

## Transportation Statistics (General)

	Total 2020	Running total 2021	April 2021	May 2021
Solicitors Queries	842	374	72	98
Road Closure Applications	23	12	0	5
Road Opening Licences	1279	776	122	130
Abnormal Load Applications	33	16	4	3

### M11/N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The scheme design consultants ARUP continue to progress the assessment of the emerging preferred corridor under TII Project Management Guidelines and expect to announce the preferred option in the coming weeks. This will bring the scheme to the close of Stage 3 of Phase 2 Option Selection. A Public Consultation on the Preferred Corridor will be held through a Virtual Interactive Platform. The project team and the Land Liaison team are responding to queries from the public and are continuing to meet virtually with the public and any interested groups. Contact to both the liaison and project team can be made through the project website and also [dmforde@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:dmforde@wicklowcoco.ie) and [n11m11@arup.com](mailto:n11m11@arup.com)

Environmental Surveys are continuing on site, with field walkover surveys including Bat, Barn Owl, Hydro Surveys, Breeding Birds, to name but a few. Updates on the surveys that are being undertaken can be found on the project website [www.n11m11.ie](http://www.n11m11.ie).

### M11/N11 Interim Bus Priority Project

Wicklow County Council received approval from TII to progress the scheme to Phase 2 (Options Selection) and Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) of the TII Project Management Guidelines. Arup are progressing the scheme in Phase 2 and development of Bus Corridor Options along the N11. The Interim Bus Scheme will be co-ordinated by Wicklow County Council and will be supported by a Project Management team from Regional National Roads Office based in Kildare. This scheme will run separately to the main N11/M11 scheme in order to promote an earlier delivery timeframe.

### N11 Kilmacanogue Parallel Service Road

The majority of Phase 1 works in the median are complete and Phase 2 works along the hard-shoulder/verge are currently under construction.

The reinforced concrete base for Gantry 03 is complete and the construction of the Gantry 02 base is ongoing.

Accommodation works are progressing. Footpath construction is complete throughout Phase 2.

The foul sewer rising main diversion (between junction 7 and Kilmacanogue) has commenced and is ongoing.

The construction of the concrete plinths to delineate the service road from the mainline traffic will commence following the switch to Phase 3 that is planned for June 2021.



## N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The Knockroe Bend scheme is complete. Some defect remediation works are due to be carried out by the contractor on the road surfacing.

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

Following the completion of the Phase 1 (Feasibility Report) for the N81 Tuckmill Lower, Hangman's Bend, Whitestown Lower and Irishtown West projects (the 'N81 Four Studies'), Wicklow County Council has requested approval from TII to progress the scheme to Phase 2 (Route Selection) in accordance with the TII Project Management Guidelines (PMG).

## N81 Pavement Capital Works

TII have allocated funding to resurface circa 4km south of Blessington.

The tender process for these works has been completed and a contractor has been appointed.

The works are scheduled for completion over the summer months.

## N81 Capital Maintenance

TII have provided an allocation for resurfacing works from Ballinacrow Upper to Saundersgrove Hill and at Hollywood Lower.

The tender process for these works has been completed and a contractor has been appointed.

The works are scheduled for completion over the summer months

## Sustainable Transportation Measures Grant Schemes

Bray Strand Road Cycle Route – Construction works are progressing with drainage works substantially complete and paving works 80% complete. Works will commence on road surfacing in July. The works are expected to be complete by the end of July.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway – RPS Consultants are drafting the NIS and planning documents for submission to An Bord Pleanála which is planned for August.

Bray Dart Interchange – Atkins Consulting Engineers are carrying out Detail Design for the project. Site investigation works and topographic surveys have been completed.

Bus Priority in Little Bray – DBFL Consulting Engineers has been appointed Consultants for the Project and has commenced work on the Concept Development and Option Selection Stage.

Arklow Transport Study - DBFL Consulting Engineers has been appointed Consultants for the Project and have commenced work on the Baseline Report.

Southern Cross Road Improvement Scheme – Barry Transportation have commenced works on the Options Selection for the project.



## Safe Routes to School Programme

The NYA Green-schools scheme received applications from 932 Schools nationally for funding under the Safe Routes to School programme. 24 of who are located in County Wicklow. Three schools have been selected for Round 1 of the Safe Routes to School programme in County Wicklow. They are:

- SS Michael and Peter Junior School, Arklow
- St Kevin's National School, Greystones
- St. John's S.N.S., Arklow

It is the intention of the NTA and Green-Schools to continue to work with each Local Authority and schools that applied over the coming years, subject to funding.

NTA Active Travel 2021 – There are 13 schemes listed under the Active Travel 2021 programme with overall funding allocation of €1.517M. Gateway approval submissions have been made to the NTA for 5 of the schemes with further submissions anticipated during May 2021. Construction Works on three of the schemes are ongoing . Additional outdoor funding applications were submitted before end of May 2021.

## Laragh/Glendalough Junction -

The recently completed realignment at Laragh/Glendalough (R757/R756) in the townland of Glendalough was officially opened on June 15<sup>th</sup>

Glendalough attracts over 1 million visitors annually and is renowned for its dramatic landscape valley, lakes and 6th century churches, round tower, monastic settlement, graveyard and the high crosses located on site.

The Glendalough Junction is situated on the main access route from the village of Laragh to the national heritage site of Glendalough and it is located on the sightseeing route which travels through the Wicklow Mountains, at the intersection of the R756 and the R757.

The existing 'Y' junction was deemed unsuitable for many traffic movements and the road was realigned to create a T-junction to accommodate larger vehicles including buses and cars that bring tourists to the National Heritage site of Glendalough.

Wicklow County Council would like to thank the Department of Transport for providing funding to facilitate this safety improvement project and also the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and National Parks and Wildlife. The completion of this T-junction will improve the visibility and legibility of the junction, providing a safer transport route on this key piece of infrastructure. Road safety audit to be completed.



Drone footage Glendalough Junction (photo credit Robert Kelly, WCC)

Ballinaclash Junction: Recently completed road realignment at Rathdrum/Ballinaclash (R752/R753) in the townland of Corballis was officially opened on Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup>

This realigned road will be used especially by supporters attending matches at the GAA grounds in Aughrim.

There are a substantial number of vehicles using this road, and in 2019 the annual average daily traffic turning at this junction was 3,309, with 20 per cent of those being HGV's.

Wicklow County Council would like to thank the Department of Transport for providing funding for this scheme with special thanks also to the landowner who facilitated this safety improvement project.

The completion of this realignment will improve the visibility and legibility of the junction, providing a safer transport route on this key piece of infrastructure. Road safety audit to be completed.





Drone footage Ballinaclash Junction (photo credit Robert Kelly, WCC)

**Parking Income**

<b>Parking Income by Municipal District</b>	<b>EURO</b>
Bray Municipal District	<b>230,233</b>
Greystones Municipal District	<b>71,233</b>
Wicklow Municipal District	<b>66,922</b>
Arklow Municipal District	<b>40,216</b>
Parking Permits	<b>24,425</b>
Parking Fines	<b>117,290</b>
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	<b>550,319</b>

# JUNE 2021



## Fire Service

### Operational Fire Statistics May 2021

	TOTAL	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Call sign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
<b>Two Stations Mobilised</b>											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	2			1	1						
Fire Domestic	16	1	2	3	4	1	2*	1		1	1
Fire Caravan	2			1	1						
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	21	4	4	5	4	1	1**	1	1		
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	0										
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	3	1	1	1							
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	2	1	1								
Fire Alarm or CO <sub>2</sub> Activation	13	3	8	2							
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	10	3		3	2		1	1			
Fire Chimney	1		1								
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	13	5		2		6					
Fire Vehicle	1		1								
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1	1									
Ambulance Assist	9	3	2	1	2		1				
Garda Assist	3	1	1	1							
Electrical Incident	0										
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	1					1					
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	0										
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	0										
False Alarm – Good Intent	0										
Malicious False Alarm	0										
<b>Mobilised into other County</b>	<b>2</b>										
<b>Times Stations mobilised</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

\* Blessington were supported by Naas Fire Crews at domestic fire on 22<sup>nd</sup> May

\*\* Blessington were supported by Naas Fire Crews at an RTC on 26<sup>th</sup> May

There were **77 incidents** attended during the month of May 2021. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **100 occasions** including 2 incidents in other counties. On 1 occasion during the month an Incident Commander requested an additional crew above what has been predetermined for the incident type to deal with the incident, a fire in an industrial unit that required a Hydraulic Platform and additional firefighters.





Operational activity for the month of May **was down 37% on the preceding month** (April 2021 – 159 mobilisations). This is accounted for mainly by a significant decrease in gorse fires (down from 47 to 10) and reduction in small fires set maliciously (down from 27 to 13).

Operational activity for the month of May 2021 **was down 25% on the equivalent month in 2020** (May 2020 – 133 mobilisations). This is also accounted for mainly by a significant decrease in gorse fires (down from 49 to 10) and a reduction in small fires set maliciously (down from 25 to 13).

## Sample Incidents

- 11/05/2021 Arklow fire crew supported by Wicklow Town crew attended a 2-car RTC on the M11 at Junction 20. Two casualties assisted by ambulance service.
- 12/05/2021 Greystones responded to an industrial fire at Downs, Drummin West. They were supported by crews from Bray and Wicklow Town. The fire was fought through the night and was confined to a single unit in a row of commercial buildings.
- 14/05/2021 Wicklow Town crew used specialist rescue equipment and training to safely lower a casualty with a broken leg from a roof at Church Street, Wicklow Town.
- 26/05/2021 Blessington Fire Crew supported by colleagues from Naas attended a 2-car RTC. The roof of one car was removed to access casualties.

## Incidents mobilised outside County Wicklow:

### Kildare (1-incident):

- 12/05/21 Blessington Crew supported Newbridge Fire Station and a crew from DFB Tallaght at a single car RTC at Eadestown, County Kildare. The car was on its roof with an elderly male patient.

### Wexford (6-incident)

- 16/05/21 Carnew Crew assisted Bunclody Fire Station at a domestic house fire at Ballyroebuck, County Wexford.

## General

On 7<sup>th</sup> May Greystones Fire Crew were alerted to assist the Ambulance Service at Blacklion. The Fire Crew were first on the scene and found a collapsed patient with no pulse or breathing. The defibrillator from the appliance was used to resuscitate the patient who made a full recovery.

2 x 2 Day Breathing Apparatus Refreshers took place May. This is mandatory national training, 24 firefighters attended.

Cork City Fire Brigade delivered a 2-week Breathing Apparatus Instructors course in Bray accredited by the NDFEM.

An instructor from Wicklow Fire Service assisted with the delivery of a Fire-Fighting Skills course for Air Corps firefighters in Baldonnel.

An instructor from Wicklow Fire Service assisted with the delivery of a Compressed Air Foam course in Cappoquin for Waterford Fire Service.



The Wildland Fire Jeep based in Tinahely visited each station to demonstrate its capability and to receive feedback to finalise its design.

## Fire Prevention Statistics May 2021

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	11		3		8
Regularisation Certificates	1			2	1
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	9				3

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District	1				
Circuit					
Dangerous Substances Act					
Explosive Act					

## Commencement Notices for May 2021:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 60

- 17 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 33 Opt Out Declarations
- 6 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 4 Seven day Notice

## Submission Statistics

- 55 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 68 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 41 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
  - 16 are Compliance Documentation (39%)
  - 19 are Opt Out (46%)
  - 3 Without Compliance Documentation (7%)



3 Seven Day Notice (7%)

- 51 Valid Commencement Notices
- 301 new build residential Units (235 of which are one off houses)
  - Invalidated CNs for May = 1
- **Certificates of Completion processed in May 2021**
  - 9 New No. of CCC submitted
  - 11 No. Validated
  - 0 No. Invalid

### **Submission Statistics**

11 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 1 No CCCs submitted in February 2021
- 1 No CCCs submitted in March 2021
- 6 No CCC submitted in April 2021
- 3 No CCC submitted in May 2021

2 Revised Info Requests (May submissions)

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

## Organisational Development and Financial Matters

### 1. HR and Corporate Services

#### Recruitment

The following interviews were held in May:

- Senior Executive Librarian
- Temporary Executive Solicitor
- Graduate Engineer
- Assistant Engineer
- Craftworker Fitter

#### Employee Numbers

	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021
<b>Managerial/ Administrative</b>	294	293	292	296
<b>Professional/Technical</b>	104	105	108	123
<b>Outdoor</b>	320	324	323	268
<b>Temporary/ Seasonal</b>	55	31 (reduction relates to lifeguards)	31	51
<b>Non DOHPLG</b>	8	8	8	8
<b>Total</b>	781	761	762	746

	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020 292
<b>Managerial/ Administrative</b>	272	280	285	105
<b>Professional/Technical</b>	98	103	102	321
<b>Outdoor</b>	318	318	318	62
<b>Temporary/ Seasonal</b>	88	6	62	8
<b>Non DOHPLG</b>	8	8	8	788
<b>Total</b>	784	771	775	

(Excludes figures for Fire-fighters)



## Access to Information

### F.O.I. Requests

May 2021: 6	May 2020: 7
January – May 2021: 34	January – May 2020: 40

### Ombudsman Requests

May 2021	4
January to May 2021	8

May 2020	2
January to May 2020	14

## Press Releases

May 2021 – 15 Press Releases

## Register of Electors

The 2021/2022 Live Register was published on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 in line with statutory regulations. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 Emergency we are limited in the number of areas we can distribute the Register to. The Register is available for inspection in each of the Municipal District Offices and at the Customer Service Hub in County Buildings. The Political Extract was generated and issued to all Council Members, TD's and Senator via email. The total number of Electors on the 2021/2022 Live Register of Electors is 102,346 and there are 206 polling stations in Wicklow.

The Franchise staff will continue to strive for excellence on the Register of Electors database. We are continuing to accept applications from 18 year olds and new residents moving into the county in the event that an electoral event occurs and there is a requirement for a Supplement Register. We will continue to make contact with new housing developments and urban areas where new developments are coming on stream in an effort to get new residents register. The Special Voters list has been issued to each of the Nursing Homes in the County which we are now updating with new residents.

We will continue to work on areas where there is a lack of Eircodes and dates of birth. Wicklow Co Co are now one of the lead authorities in Eircode coverage on their register with over 99% of the electorate having an Eircode attached to their Register of Electors entry. We are continuing to assist the LGMA in their exercise to have other Local Authorities achieve similar Eircode coverage on their own Register of Electors.

We have an ongoing social media presence encouraging electors to use [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) to check that they are registered to vote. It is hoped that once Covid restrictions are lifted that we will be in a position to establish voter registration days in schools, shopping centres and libraries.

## Communication

Communication has been a vital tool in our organisation, especially over the challenging last few months. Due to the need for us all to maintain social distancing alternative methods of holding and administrating meetings had to be introduced. Various technologies such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom and Cisco WebEx have been tested and deployed throughout the organisation, depending on the business need.



Our key objective is to ensure that there is clear, consistent and appropriate communication between Wicklow County Council and all Staff. Communication has been delivered through Microsoft Teams and other technologies such as Zoom, as well as our traditional methods, such as e-mail and text alerts.

Wicklow County Council supported LGBTQ community during the month of June, by flying the Pride flags at our County Building, Municipal districts and our libraries throughout Wicklow. Wicklow County Council continues to support and promote positive inclusion of all while working to create a better understanding and acceptance of the diversity in our community.

## #YourCouncilDay 2021

This year's #YourCouncilDay 2021 will take place on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of July**.

Your Council Day gives us the opportunity to showcase the fantastic work and achievements that have taken place here in Wicklow. This year, Your Council Day will have a particular focus on the people behind the essential services, and the role they play in the social and economic recovery of the country post-pandemic. Your Council Day will be an opportunity to talk about the value of the work those working in local authorities do.

The campaign will be staged primarily on social media channels and we want to encourage all hootsuite users to post content throughout the day using the hashtag **#YourCouncilDay**.

Content can include projects & schemes carried out throughout Wicklow, promoting all types of initiatives such as Street widening; Blue flag beaches; litter campaigns; library facilities; our lifeguards; supporting National campaigns etc..... The List is ENDLESS! Start to think now about the kind of content you might post on the day. Please start gathering images, video, stories, etc. The campaign will be focused on local authority staff, so content can include photos of staff working in the Community providing all the vital services to Wicklow.

Your support and cooperation is vital to make the most of this opportunity to promote the Staff and Services of Wicklow County Council

## Customer Service Innovation Hub

2021 - Quarter 1			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	43,053	Motor Taxation	1,019
No. of Emails	6,200	Revenue	479
No. of Elected Members	451	Housing	9
CRM Cases	2,052	Social Housing Applications	301



## 2. I.C.T.

### Response to COVID19

The IT Department continue to support all the systems setup to respond to the additional business needs arising from the response to COVID19:

- Small Business Assistance Scheme – Support for applications and backend systems integration continues.
- Community Call Helpline remains in place with support to the helpline staff
- Remote Working Requirements for staff of Wicklow County Council
- Blended model for return-to-work arrangements
- Government Networks
- Phone Systems
- Call Conferencing
- Communications and awareness
- Laptops procured and configured to support remote working for key staff in vital business areas.
- Remote working licencing has increased in all business areas with ~300 WCC users now having the facility to work remotely using a combination of Citrix and Cisco.

### IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 30 tickets a day, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is underway.

### Domain Migration

- Server migration is progressing along planned schedule.

### GIS & Data Collection Systems

- Online consultation portal for the County Development Plan CDP 2021 – 2027 has gone live and is available to view in County Buildings and online.
- Testing of an Eircode validator has commenced with integration into several applications.
- Data quality and cleansing procedures are now being carried out on Draft Datasets with a view to create an online portal of the maps.
- Training is continuing and additional features have been added to the GIS Departmental Viewers and Editors.
- Parallel projects in Housing, Roads and Environmental Services departments are on-going and integration to CRM and GIS systems have being developed and rolled out.
- Development of CRM System automation continues. The month of May saw the roll out of new automation software in Arklow Municipal District, Baltinglass Municipal District, and the Environment Section. The latest software developments have focused on improving remote working capabilities for Environmental Enforcement Officers and roads crews.
- Development of CRM System automation continues.



## Customer Service Delivery

- Support for the Customer Service Innovation Hub is ongoing with further improvements and enhancements implemented. 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 April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, were 1,496,147. This indicates an increase in pageviews of 14.49% compared the same period last year, the introduction of new Cookie Preferences in October under Data Protection had seen a small reduction in pageview statistics, but this has started to flatten out since the end of October.

- Social media accounts – followers to date
  - Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 9604 followers. This is an increase of 200 followers or 2% on the previous month.
  - Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 7,221 followers. This is an increase of 115 followers or 1.5% on the previous month.
  - Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 2,215 followers. This is an increase of 89 followers or 4.2% on the previous month.
- The Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie continues to feature in enhanced consultation campaigns. These have included–
  - Part 8 Age Friendly Semi-Detached Houses 12 Mill Bank, Killincarrig, Greystones
  - Part 8 Age Friendly Detached Houses 10 Castlevillas, Killincarrig, Greystones
  - Part 8 – site located at junction of Upper Dargle Road and Sutton Road, Bray
  - Part 8 - Enniskerry Village Renewal
  - Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Businesses
  - Designation of Bathing Waters
- The Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie continues to feature in enhanced consultation campaigns. These have included–
  - Part 8 Age Friendly Semi-Detached Houses 12 Mill Bank Killincarrig Greystones
  - Part 8 Age Friendly Detached Houses 10 Castlevillas Killincarrig Greystones
  - Part 8 – site located at junction of Upper Dargle Road and Sutton Road, Bray
  - Part 8 - Enniskerry Village Renewal
  - Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Businesses
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month.
  - #KeepWell
  - #OutdoorsForEveryone
  - #CommunityCall



## FINANCIAL

### Revenue Account

REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MAY 2021							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	10,341,931	28,035,818	37%	(12,039,162)	(33,580,464)	36%	(1,697,231)
Road Transport & Safety	6,535,909	22,299,168	29%	(3,270,735)	(15,497,938)	21%	3,265,174
Water Services	2,061,076	5,823,666	35%	(2,280,324)	(6,857,035)	33%	(219,248)
Development Management	5,874,829	11,471,622	51%	(4,070,208)	(6,226,652)	65%	1,804,620
Environmental Services	4,952,340	11,897,222	42%	(730,009)	(2,069,370)	35%	4,222,331
Recreation and Amenity	2,820,581	7,946,046	35%	(399,239)	(882,197)	45%	2,421,342
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	545,780	1,496,632	36%	(223,729)	(834,228)	27%	322,051
Miscellaneous Services	6,448,852	10,447,823	62%	(5,655,412)	(7,747,758)	73%	793,440
Central Management Charges	7,918,093	19,212,563	41%	(416,749)	(1,000,000)	42%	7,501,344
Local Government Fund				(5,002,874)	(12,006,898)	42%	(5,002,874)
Pension Levy				0	0		0
Commercial Rates				(13,360,811)	(32,078,021)	42%	(13,360,811)
	<b>47,499,391</b>	<b>118,630,560</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>(47,449,251)</b>	<b>(118,780,561)</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>50,139</b>

### Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST MAY 2021					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2021	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/05/2021
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	17,611,344	19,684,051	(21,431,755)	(178,250)	15,685,390
Road Transport & Safety	(44,050,309)	3,790,745	(4,323,072)	(63,167)	(44,645,802)
Water Services	(11,018,071)	117,819	(623,950)	(5,000)	(11,529,202)
Development Management	(8,802,936)	380,516	(191,658)	(250,000)	(8,864,078)
Environmental Services	1,504,016	279,043	(645,972)	(140,210)	996,877
Recreation and Amenity	(1,312,600)	784,018	(1,508,950)	(59,250)	(2,096,782)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,234,386)	15,436	0	(39,493)	(1,258,444)
Miscellaneous Services	(16,085,971)	1,485,906	(1,257,366)	623,304	(15,234,128)
	<b>(63,388,913)</b>	<b>26,537,533</b>	<b>(29,982,723)</b>	<b>(112,066)</b>	<b>(66,946,169)</b>



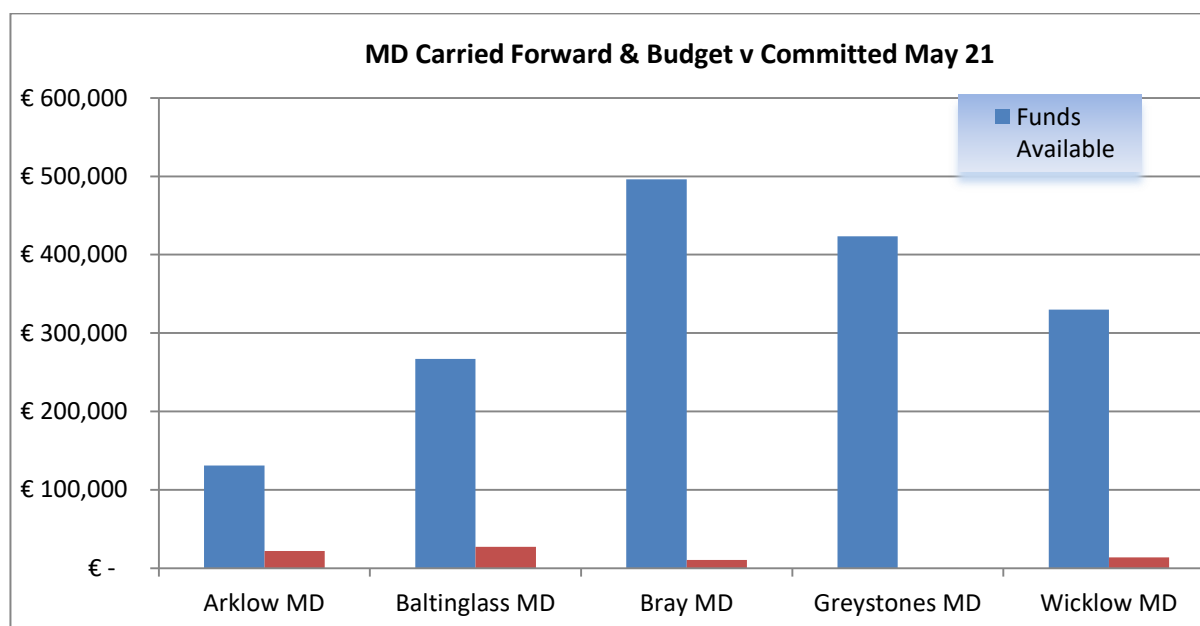
## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST MAY 2021										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2021	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/05/2021	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	8,194,672	32,065,945	(4,567)	0	(2,391,921)	37,864,129	(13,072,334)	24,791,796	2,086,005	37%
Rents & Annuities	2,735,687	7,045,090	0	(23,154)	0	9,757,623	(6,574,131)	3,183,492	0	67%
Housing Loans	446,214	826,628	0	0	0	1,272,843	(848,488)	424,355	0	67%

**Nine Month Rates Waiver:** A waiver of commercial rates was applied to specified businesses in April for the first quarter of 2021. This 3-month waiver has modified criteria and accordingly is a separate, standalone waiver scheme to the previous 2020 scheme. This waiver is being extended to cover the second and third quarters of 2021 and will be applied in due course. There is no application process required for this scheme. Wicklow County Council will automatically apply a 100% credit in lieu of commercial rates for the quarter periods to eligible properties.

## General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2021

The Discretionary Funding allocation for 2021 was decreased in line with the 2021 LPT rate reduction. The 2021 funding provision consists of mainly General Municipal Allocations used to support local groups and initiative etc. There was no public realm funding allocated this year, however unspent monies in this area from 2020 have been made available to Municipal Districts in 2021. The Level 5 Covid restrictions on construction which were in place up to May 4<sup>th</sup> prevented any public realm works being carried out up to that date.





Municipal District	C/F from 2020	Adopted Budget 2021	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	76,907	54,000	130,907	21,878	109,029
Baltinglass MD	245,041	22,000	267,041	27,231	239,810
Bray MD	433,456	62,500	495,956	10,442	485,514
Greystones MD	392,553	31,000	423,553	80	423,473
Wicklow MD	296,693	33,000	329,693	13,601	316,092
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,444,650</b>	<b>202,500</b>	<b>1,647,150</b>	<b>73,231</b>	<b>1,573,919</b>

## Capital Investment Programme 2020-2022

The Capital Investment Programme 2021-2023 for Wicklow County Council which details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was approved by the Members at the Council meeting of March 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.

The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL	Dev Charges <sup>1</sup>	Loan	Grant Aid <sup>2</sup>	Other <sup>3</sup>	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	149,460,000	148,060,000	147,760,000	445,280,000		30,000,000	360,740,000	54,540,000	445,280,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	33,009,134	16,435,578	14,227,500	63,672,212	11,045,290	7,795,000	41,907,749	2,924,173	63,672,212
WATER SERVICES	150,000	150,000	150,000	450,000			450,000		450,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	2,340,000	8,178,000	6,300,000	16,818,000	1,097,800	-	10,114,200	5,606,000	16,818,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	1,250,000	4,010,000	11,775,000	17,035,000			16,210,000	825,000	17,035,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	4,583,594	25,749,891	17,823,000	48,156,485	9,439,775	-	37,696,710	1,020,000	48,156,485
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	1,150,000	25,320,000	27,062,946	53,532,946	4,647,869		43,837,209	5,047,869	53,532,946
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	1,950,000	2,200,000	2,200,000	6,350,000			2,325,000	4,025,000	6,350,000
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>193,892,728</b>	<b>230,103,469</b>	<b>227,298,446</b>	<b>651,294,643</b>	<b>26,230,734</b>	<b>37,795,000</b>	<b>513,280,868</b>	<b>73,988,042</b>	<b>651,294,643</b>