



# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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E N D L E S S   O P P O R T U N I T I E S



## Table of Contents

<b>HOUSING AND COMMUNITY .....</b>	<b>6</b>
1. <b><i>Social Housing Support.....</i></b>	<b>6</b>
2. <b><i>Allocation of Social Housing.....</i></b>	<b>6</b>
3. <b><i>Social Housing Stock .....</i></b>	<b>6</b>
4. <b><i>Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery .....</i></b>	<b>6</b>
5. <b><i>Public Private Partnership.....</i></b>	<b>8</b>
6. <b><i>Home Improvement/Adaptation .....</i></b>	<b>9</b>
7. <b><i>Addressing Homelessness .....</i></b>	<b>11</b>
8. <b><i>Traveller accommodation.....</i></b>	<b>14</b>
9. <b><i>Energy Efficiency.....</i></b>	<b>14</b>
10. <b><i>Community, Cultural &amp; Social Development.....</i></b>	<b>15</b>
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE .....</b>	<b>24</b>
1. <b><i>Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Economic) .....</i></b>	<b>24</b>
Retail.....	24
Town Teams.....	25
Tourism.....	27
Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications.....	30
URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund.....	30
Maritime .....	31
Food and Beverage Strategy .....	33
2. <b><i>Local Enterprise Office.....</i></b>	<b>34</b>
2. <b><i>Planning and Development .....</i></b>	<b>38</b>
County Development Plan Review .....	38
Wicklow Heritage & Biodiversity Office.....	38
Development Management.....	39
Applications lodged with An Bord Pleanála .....	40



<b>3. Environmental Services.....</b>	<b>44</b>
Waste Management .....	44
Climate Action.....	45
Environmental Awareness.....	47
Sustainable Energy Committees .....	48
Control of Dogs .....	48
Dog Licences .....	48
Horses.....	49
Caravan Park.....	49
Burial Grounds.....	49
Harbours and Ports.....	49
Activity at Wicklow Port .....	49
Pollution Control.....	49
Arklow & Avoca Flood Relief Schemes .....	51
<b>5. Transportation, Water &amp; Emergency Services.....</b>	<b>52</b>
Public lighting .....	52
Transportation Statistics (General) .....	53
Parking Income.....	55
Fire Service.....	55
Building Control .....	57
<b>ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>1. HR and Corporate Services.....</b>	<b>58</b>
Recruitment .....	58
Access to Information .....	58
Press Releases.....	59
Register of Electors.....	59
Customer Service Hub .....	59



<b>2. I.C.T.....</b>	<b>60</b>
IT Helpdesk .....	60
Implementation of ePlanning .....	60
GIS & Systems Analysis .....	60
Business Systems/Applications Development .....	60
Customer Service Delivery .....	60
eServices.....	60
COVID-19.....	61
<b>FINANCIAL.....</b>	<b>62</b>
Revenue Account .....	62
Cashflow/Overdraft.....	62
Capital Account.....	62
Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections .....	63
General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2022 .....	63
Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024.....	64
Capital Funded Projects .....	65



## **This month:**

### **Funding for Arklow Municipal District**

Arklow Municipal District was awarded €14,466.25, following a successful application submitted to The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) under the Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation. A new Pirate Ship play unit was purchased and has been installed in Seaview Avenue playground.

Arklow Running Track will be enhanced with extra lighting following receipt of grant of €43,704 awarded under the Sports Capital Equipment Programme. It is the intention of Arklow Municipal District to carry out additional upgrades of the facility when further funding streams become available.

### **Town & Village Renewal Scheme Funding**

Three County Wicklow projects are to benefit from funding of €310,000 under the Government's Town and Village Renewal Scheme as part of Our Rural Future which focuses on initiatives to bring town centres back to life. The three are Wicklow town, Ballinaclesh and Donard.

Funding of €221,000 has been awarded for a project to link Wicklow town centre to the port through its laneways. The aim of the project is to reanimate and revitalise the important links between the harbour, the Main Street and the Market Square while at the same time highlighting Wicklow's heritage.

Ballinaclesh has a vision of developing into a vibrant and attractive village and has been awarded funding of €63,000 to renovate and repurpose the community centre to meet the needs of the community, both present and future and to make sure that the centre is inclusive to people of all abilities. This funding will enable the centre to offer remote working facilities and improved community activities for all.

West Wicklow also benefitted from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Funding is awarded to the Donard community who have identified an opportunity to revitalise their village through developing a coffee shop in the community centre for visitors and residents.

### **Wicklow welcomes Dutch Ambassador**

Wicklow County Council welcomed the Dutch Ambassador to Ireland, His Excellency, Adriaan Palm, to Wicklow town on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

The visit by the Ambassador was in conjunction with a trade delegation of leading Dutch maritime companies who are visiting Ireland in order to identify trade, investment and collaboration opportunities within the Irish offshore wind sector. The delegation has a particular focus on bottom-fixed offshore wind and port development, making County Wicklow an ideal location for their visit.

The delegation received a number of presentations in Wicklow County Council focusing on a case study of Codling Windpark and the Transformation Wicklow Port before departing for Tinakilly House Hotel where they were treated to a Wicklow Naturally drinks reception, with all refreshments prepared using locally produced food and beverages.



## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

### 1. Social Housing Support

	February 2022	February 2021
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4515	4461
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	238	2778
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2491	2204
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	19	15
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	31	26

### 2. Allocation of Social Housing

	February 2022	February 2021
Wicklow County Council	21	42
Approved Housing Bodies	3	01

### 3. Social Housing Stock

	February 2022	February 2021
Tenancies occupied	4,659	4,563
Total weekly rental accrual	305,498.46	300,020.72
Arrears	2,695,018.42	2,736,545.38

### 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
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completed and allocated
Kilbride Court (Bray)	42	Completed and allocated
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and being allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completed, allocations ongoing
Total	376	
<b>Schemes on Site</b>	<b>units</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completion anticipated April 2022
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completion anticipated Quarter 2 2022
Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build	36	Completion anticipated Q3 2022
Sheehan Court Design & Build	7	Completion anticipated Q3 2022
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completion anticipated Q4 2022
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completion anticipated Q3 2023
TOTAL	149	
<b>Pipeline Schemes</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Part 8 in progress
Three Trouts Greystones Design & Build	41	Site start anticipated Q3 2022
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Site start anticipated Q2 2022
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Site start anticipated Q2 2022
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Preparing stage 2 application.
Ballynerrin, Wicklow	10	Single stage with department.
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Part 8 March meeting.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Stage 1 approval received, stage 2 application prepared.
Rehills, Bray	80	Masterplan ongoing
TOTAL	388	



## 5. Public Private Partnership.

Following a request from the Department of Housing, the following sites have been submitted for consideration for inclusion in future bundles:

- Burnaby, Greystones
- Rehills, Bray.
- Tinahask, Arklow.

### Part V

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	20	Scheduled phased Q2-Q4	CALF
Rathnew	6	3 Delivered Q1 2022	WCC
Wicklow Town	4	Scheduled Q1 2022	WCC
Delgany	3	Scheduled Q3 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Scheduled Q1 2022	WCC
Kilcoole	3	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Enniskerry	2	Scheduled Q2 2022	WCC
Delgany	4	Scheduled Q2 2022	WCC
Delgany	1	Scheduled Q1 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Scheduled Q4 2022	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 53 units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

### Turnkey

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Arklow	13	Scheduled Q2 2022	CALF
Rathnew	10	4 Delivered Q1 2022	WCC
Bray	188	Scheduled Q2-Q4	CALF
Rathdrum	13	Scheduled Q4	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Arklow	39	Scheduled Q2-Q4	CALF

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





## Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

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

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

## 6. Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

- › Grant funding for private house - €1,952,700 (2021 budget) (€299,655.31 spent to date)
- › Grant funding for social house - €1,168,200 (2021 budget) (€111,855.24 spent to date)

### Private Houses

Open Applications 115 (some carried over from 2021, approvals not included in this figure)

Approved applications 162 (some carried over from 2021)

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

The Housing and Disability Steering Group has prepared the new draft Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2022-2027. The National Housing Strategy for Disable People 2022 – 2027 will be launched in mid-January 2022

### Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road - Two 2 bed properties	Detailed design complete – tender documents finalised about to go out to tender
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Detailed design complete – tender documents finalised to go out to tender
Carraig Eden - 14 age friendly 1 bed apartments	Part 8 complete – CE report underway
Kilcoole Health Centre 4 no 1 bed apartments	Detailed design underway.

### Vacant Homes Scheme

There are now 15 CPOs underway on long term vacant houses around the county.



## Oral Hearings

- 108 Charnwood, Bray – Determination by An Bord Pleanála was due on 30<sup>th</sup> November following oral hearing on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021. ABP subsequently informed the Council that a decision would be further delayed and as of 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 no decision had been reached.
- 6 Ashleigh, Ashford – objection submitted to An Bord Pleanála – Oral Hearing now deferred and may not be required as Purchase by agreement with Receiver underway.
- Negotiations are also ongoing to purchase some of the houses currently under CPO, by agreement. Purchase of 1 further vacant house should close by end of March and 2 more in April 2022.

CPOs in relation to the following houses were published in March:

- 88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town
- 18 Delgany Glen, Greystones
- 114 Hillside, Greystones
- 2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town

2 Notices to Treat and subsequently 2 Notices of Entry have been served in relation to long term vacant houses where the CPOs were confirmed in 2021 – the Council will be taking possession of these houses in the last week of March 2022.

8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy (subject of CPO in May 2021) was purchased from Start Mortgages just before Christmas 2021 and its refurbishment is due to be completed in late April 2022.

Further long-term vacant properties have been identified for future batches of CPOs. 3 more CPOs will be published in the last week of March/first week of April.

Further reports relating to Co Wicklow on [www.vacanthomes.ie](http://www.vacanthomes.ie) were received in March. Most of these did not contain any information that could identify the property in question and the rest are already known to us and are being investigated.

## Infill Sites

- Blackhills - Two 3 bed semi-detached properties are currently being constructed
- Knockroe – a revised stage 2 application has been submitted to the department for 2 x 4 bedroomed fully accessible units

## Housing Maintenance - Heating Upgrade Programme

The 1<sup>st</sup> round of Gas & Oil heating offer letters for 2022 was sent out in January and 3<sup>rd</sup> round offers are being issued week starting 21<sup>st</sup> March. The adopted budget for 2022 is €236,000. Gas & oil boiler maintenance contracts are due for renewal and have now been procured through [www.Supplygov.ie](http://www.Supplygov.ie) Emerging from the procurement process there have been significant increases in the cost of boiler servicing – in the range 12 to 23%, Similar increases will apply to boiler repair and replacement costs.

## Rebuilding Ireland Homeloans 2022

Received	Approved in principle
11	4

## 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	February 2022
Applications Received	350	5
Completed	88	2
Declined	234	0
Ongoing	28	28

## Homeless figures for February 2022

## 7. Addressing Homelessness

	As at 28/02/2022	Year To Date	As at 28/02/2021
<b>No of New Presentations</b>	17	43	34
<b>No. of Repeat Presentations</b>	0	10	5
<b>No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)</b>	7	26	14
<b>No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)</b>	7	22	23
<b>No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)</b>	3	4	2
<b>No. of Children</b>	11	48	21
<b>NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling</b>	2	13	2
<b>Family Circumstances</b>	7	15	18
<b>Leaving Prison/Hospital Care</b>	0	1	1
<b>Mental Health</b>	0	0	1
<b>Risk of Homelessness</b>	3	8	4
<b>Arrears/Loss of Income</b>	0	0	1
<b>Addiction Issues</b>	1	3	3
<b>DV/DA</b>	2	6	0
<b>Medical Issues</b>	1	1	1



Overcrowding	0	1	3
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	2	6	6
ASB:	1	2	0
Rough Sleeping*	0	0	3
Sofa Surfing*	5	8	3
Staying with Family*	1	9	13
Staying with Friends*	3	5	4

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 28/02/2022	
Families	19
Adults	35
Children	49
Single individual	1

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 28/02/2022								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	15	17	16	6	4	2	1	1
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 28/02/2021								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	16	17	15	5	3	2	3	3

## COVID 19

The Homeless Team continues to provide key support by phone and email - Bed and Breakfast properties currently retained by Wicklow County Council are continuing to provide emergency accommodation for homeless clients –All Covid 19 protocols are in place in these facilities

## Homeless HAP

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;



- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 383 households (285 families & 98 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> March, 2022. (166 homeless cases, 209 prevention cases to date and 8 direct provision). 118 properties were sourced by WCC.

### **Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies**

#### **Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow**

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

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

Dublin Simon have been engaged by Wicklow County Council to operate and manage the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow as a Family Homeless Service. The building comprises of 3 x 1 bed units 2 x 2 bed units and 2 x 3 bed units - Refurbishment works and snagging are now complete. Assessments are underway for the first 3 families who will be accommodated in the hub.

It is envisaged that families will avail of the service for circa 6month 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.

San Remo opened to clients in October 2020. 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 key working 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 facility is fully operational. Wicklow County Council are making arrangements with the AHB to run an in-reach service with the clients in the service to support them as they continue their journey into more permanent accommodation.

#### **Other Homeless Supported Accommodation**



Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. There continues to be a 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 9 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>Ballinteston – 3 houses</b>	All residents who were on the proposed site have been rehoused.. Final approval to construction has been submitted to the department
<b>Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 4 houses</b>	Approval received for funding from Department, – Part V111 approved detailed design underway
<b>Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 2 houses</b>	Revised Stage 1 approval received March 2021. Survey of utilities in the area complete, preliminary design underway.
<b>Ballinteston,</b>	Stage 1 for a disability extension has now been approved – discussions underway with tenant regarding decanting of Bay.

Fire safety on Halting sites were completed by members of the Housing section in October 2021 and further inspections will be carried out in 2022.

## 9. Energy Efficiency

**Solar Panel Carport** – Solar carpark complete and commissioning underway.

### Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

Works nearly complete on 57 properties in West Wicklow and Rathdrum

Additional BERs and suitability inspections being carried out on properties listed as being down for fabric upgrades in 2022. Framework for fabric upgrade works is underway



### 10. Community, Cultural & Social Development



#### **New Strategy**

New strategy being prepared, at consultation phase with Alliance and OPC and going out to general public for consultation including online surveys – new national template for strategy coming down the line early next year, strategy will be finalised towards last quarter of 2022

#### **Rathcoran Estate, Baltinglass - First Age Friendly Lifetime Community**

4 stage process for this has started with an implementation steering committee to be established after a resident's association is formed.

#### **Avondale House, Rathdrum - First Age Friendly Tourist Destination**

Site visit and consultation phase was carried out in March. The next step is a walkability audit.

#### **Arklow Befriending Service**

Training from Alone is finished, volunteers are ready to go phones have been purchased. Last stage before it is rolled out is the IT package from Alone to be procured, this IT system will be tailored for the Arklow Service. This is a pilot project for Arklow if it works well then it can be looked at for other areas of Wicklow, especially if we can implement it to reach the communities in the more rural isolated areas of Wicklow.

#### **Age Friendly Ambassador**

Senator Pat Casey is now County Wicklow's new AF Ambassador. His role is to represent Wicklow at any National AF events/launches as well as our own AF initiatives in Wicklow. His role is also to promote and support the AF programme and to raise awareness around AF practices.

#### **Baltinglass Primary Care Centres**

Launch of Baltinglass and Athy as Age Friendly Care Centres to be scheduled shortly.

#### **Disability Inclusion Steering Committee:**

Funding of €75,000 has been received the Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth to support disability services in the county for 3 No. projects through the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund.

The 3 projects are;

- Disability and Inclusion Strategy.
- Develop a guide for community groups/service providers on how to be more inclusive of people with disabilities.
- Communication boards for the playgrounds and other equipment to allow access/inclusiveness for people with disabilities.



There is a membership drive at the moment so feel free to promote among local young people in your areas – contact use [wicklowcomhairle@gmail.com](mailto:wicklowcomhairle@gmail.com).

The group will be developing a Podcast called 'it's not taboo to talk' which will be youth led and will cover topics around youth mental health.

Dail na nOg will be held on March 26<sup>th</sup> and Wicklow Comhairle will send 5 delegates to that. The group will be completing training on the No Hate Speech movement Big

Youth Event happening in Parkview Hotel on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Coordinator is doing outreach to schools with student councils. Rep on Climate and Biodiversity SPC will be replaced this month as current member has moved to UK.

### **Wicklow Arts Office**

Sile Stewart Arts Services Co-ordinator commenced in a new role with the Arts Office last week the second week in March. This is a three-year contract part funded by the Arts Council and we are delighted to have Sile join us. Previously she has worked with Arts and Disability Ireland and the Irish Architecture Foundation.

The Local Live Music Performance Scheme is in its third phase of investment in County Wicklow and there will be a tender soon for services required to be fulfilled by June 2022. Towns under consideration for the final performances are Wicklow Town, Rathdrum and Arklow. Baltinglass had the Hothouse Flowers and other acts on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February under the scheme. There were 400 in attendance at the main concert.

The Arts Office is currently undertaking consultation in Baltinglass towards an application to the Arts Council for the Creative Places Scheme 375k over three years for investment in the town of Baltinglass. There has been a phase of desk research, focus groups, a survey with 100 returns and on the ground consultation with groups and artists as part of the making of the application. The West Wicklow Interagency Group are supporting the application. The date is the 31<sup>st</sup> of March for submission.

The Arts Council investment in County Wicklow increased for 2022. Creative Ireland have indicated a total of 270k for investment in Wicklow in 2022 and there will be further funds which can be applied for separately to the main Creative Ireland Programme. Creative Ireland has just announced that they are continuing for another 5 years and the Culture and Creativity Plan for Wicklow under the CI Programme will be refreshed in 2022.

### **Community Activities Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme 2021**

The Department of Rural and Community Development has recently announced details of the Community Activities Fund (CAF) which provides funding to support community groups across Ireland. The amount of funding allocated to County Wicklow is €282,686.





The Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with their non-pay running costs for example utility bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay operating costs for example rental/lease costs, insurance bills.

Groups will also be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment for example tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

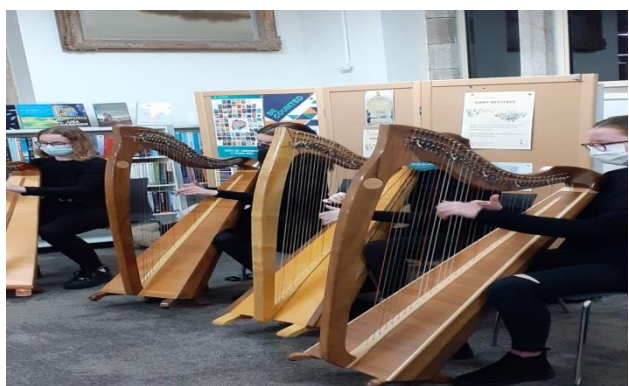
It is administered by Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area.

The closing date for submission of applications to County Wicklow LCDC was 4.00 p.m. on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022. The applications are currently being assessed and it is anticipated that they will be considered for approval at the LCDC meeting in April (to be confirmed) and then for final approval by DRCD.

### **Community Awards Scheme Report**

Wicklow County Council operates this scheme as part of its commitment to supporting local community development and is available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area. The maximum grant amount is €500 per organisation to assist with small projects and group running costs. The scheme will be advertised in late March with a closing date in late April.

### **County Wicklow Library Services**



#### **Seachtain na Gaeilge 7-17th March, Wicklow Libraries**

This year's programme for Seachtain na Gaeilge from Wicklow County Council Libraries is currently running, and is proving to be an outstanding success with over a dozen events organised in both the libraries and in local schools. Fear Grinn, "Giggles" made children giggle in Arklow Library with a bi-lingual performance, Ceol na Cruite with Comhaltas Harp Ensemble in Bray, kept the public

entertained while they browsed. Author, Patricia Forde was in Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin reading her book "An tOileán Thiar" with the pupils. Edward Hick gave a talk "as Gaeilge" on 'Biodiversity in Nature' to pupils in Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh, Bray, and in Greystones Community College. A group of young musicians from the Bray branch of Comhaltas held a session in Ballywaltrim Library, and library staff in almost all branches organised and delivered a story-time "as Gaeilge". Pupils from Saint Kevin's Community College, Dunlavin designed a bookmark especially for Seachtain na Gaeilge and an Irish language poetry competition is also running currently in Wicklow primary schools.



### **Ex Library Book Sale at Old Wicklow Library, proceeds to go to Ukrainian Appeal**

Wicklow County Council Library Service held a book sale on Friday and Saturday 11th and 12th March in the old library, Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow. The withdrawn books for sale were mainly ex-library stock from the old Wicklow and Rathdrum libraries and also withdrawn items from branches across the county. Wicklow County Council decided that all proceeds of the sale would go to support the Irish Red Cross, Ukrainian appeal. There was a steady flow of buyers, who donated very generously. A sum of €2,915.00 was raised. Sincere thanks to all who contributed.

### **International Women's Day**

Wicklow County Council Library Service held some interesting and engaging events to celebrate International Women's Day.

Wicklow Historian, Joan Kavanagh delivered a very engaging presentation to an audience of 40 in Wicklow Town Library. Joan told the intertwined stories of Eliza Davis and Margaret Butler who were both transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1845 for the crimes of infanticide and potato stealing respectively. Also organised for Wicklow Town library was an event featuring local woman Sara Phillips in conversation with Mary Millett from County Wicklow Partnership. Sara is on the board of the National Women's Council of Ireland (NCWI) and is also chairperson of the Transgender Equality Network of Ireland (TENI). This event attracted an unprecedented level of interest and was subsequently held via Zoom, in order to accommodate the demand for tickets. The conversation was very informative with Sara answering many questions about inclusion, her roles on both TENI and the NWCI and various issues that affect transgender women.

Blessington Library hosted a poetry evening which was facilitated by Paul O'Connor of "Poula Poetry". Attendees were invited to bring along a poem that they loved; the poem having been penned by a woman poet.

Bray Library had local CCE Harp Ensemble play beautiful harp music on International Women's Night, much to the enjoyment of visitors on the evening.

### **Seed Ark returns for 2022**

Seed borrowing is back in action at Wicklow County Council Library Service for 2022. Launched during the pandemic in 2020, this programme flourished and is now in its third year. The idea is very much in line with the library function in terms of borrowing and returning. A Seed Ark is a self-sustaining collection of pollinated heirloom seeds for community use. Gardeners borrow seeds at planting time and at the end of the season, they save seeds and return a portion to the library to keep the circle going. This initiative is accessible to everyone, but borrowers will need a library membership.



### One Book, One Community – Dunlavin

One Book, One Community is an initiative that encourages a community to share the experience of reading the same book. Saint Kevin's Community College, Dunlavin, Scoil Niocláis Naofa, Jonathan Swift NS and Wicklow County Council Library Service joined together for the launch of this initiative on Friday 8th March. The chosen book "A Place Called Perfect" by Kilkenny author, Helena Duggan is bound to be widely read in the community and students can look forward to a quiz, a walking tour of Kilkenny and a visit to the school by the author in April.



Sláintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officers are being recruited across the country. There are currently only 8 in posts, one of which is based in Wicklow for the Bray area. This is a new role for the local authorities and is only in the initial roll out phase. The current focus is on networking with community stakeholders in Bray, developing a community profile using social determinants of health lens, overseeing the enhancement fund projects, and working towards a joint launch with the HSE in May.



### Sport Ireland Funding

- Sport Ireland have provided Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership with €40,000 for COVID related supports for Sports clubs and community groups related to physical activity for 2022.
- These groups CANNOT have obtained money from their NGB of sport.
- The sports partnership is going to target groups that have not received money from the partnership

to date in particularly hard to reach areas. An 'expression of interest' will be used for clubs and community groups to apply and a webinar on 'How to Apply' will be hosted specifically for clubs and groups that qualify.

- To date the Sports partnership has made €75,878.86 available to physical activity and sports groups in Wicklow.





## Sports Capital Grants

Wicklow received €3,798,529 from the Sports Capital Grants fund from 2020.

- A full list of Wicklow recipients is outlined at the end

## Staff Update

Permanent Social Inclusion Development Officer (SIDO) - Clara Jenkinson.

Permanent Community Sports Development Officer (CSDO) - Denise O'Shea.

3 year contract Community Sports Development Officer – Offer letter issued.

3 year contract Strategic Promotions Officer – Start date is 9th March, Sheena Hubbard.

## Courses

Safeguarding 1	17th January	Zoom Shillelagh Pony Club
Safeguarding 1	18th January	Zoom Shillelagh Pony Club
Safeguarding 1	22nd January	Zoom Arklow Geraldine's GAA
Safeguarding 1	24th January	Zoom – FULL
Safeguarding 2	1st February	Zoom – FULL
Safeguarding 1	8th February	Zoom – FULL
Safeguarding 1	15th March	Zoom - FULL
Safeguarding 3 (DLP)	22nd March	Zoom – FULL
Sports First Aid	12th February	Spotlight Studio's, Wicklow Town
Autism in Sport	7th February	5 booked (20)
Disability Inclusion Training	9th February	6 booked (20)

## Operation Transformation Nationwide Walk

- Operation Transformation Nationwide walk in Wicklow was virtual for 2022.

### Couch to 3K

- We are running a Community based Couch to 3K programme.
- Virtual 3K takes place during Women in Sport week 7th – 13th of March – 130 participants

### Ascend Women's Dance Programme

- A six-week Dance Programme in collaboration with Ascend, started Monday 17th January in Spotlight Studios, Wicklow Town. This programme is for eight women who have recently moved to Wicklow Town from Afghanistan.

## MARCH 2022



- A six-week Swim Programme in collaboration with Ascend, starting Wednesday 19th January in Coral Leisure Wicklow Town. This programme is for eight women who have recently moved to Wicklow Town from Afghanistan. Each participant will receive an 'Activity Pack' consisting of swim hat, swim goggles and a water bottle.
- A six-week Gym Programme in collaboration with Ascend, starting Thursday 20th January in Coral Leisure Wicklow Town. This programme is for eight women who have recently moved to Wicklow Town from Afghanistan.

Point 1.8 & 1.9; Inclusion & Positive, Quality and Diverse opportunities; Wicklow SRP Strategic Plan

### Learn to Cycle

- Lacken NS – Cycle Right Learn to Cycle
  - 2 of the 4 ASD Units took part in a Cycle Right Learn to Cycle Programme. 12 pupils were provided with a 5-week programme over January & February.
- Arklow Learn to Cycle
  - 13 participants began a Learn to cycle course on the 3rd March
- School teacher upskilling
  - We are going to deliver teacher training for the Learn to Cycle programme.
  - A free teacher training course will be offered to teachers and SNAs to become Learn to cycle coaches.
  - Schools will have to sign up to this programme in order to avail of the Learn to cycle programme in their school.
- This will mean the sports partnership will have to send 1 instead of 2 tutors to a school to deliver the programme and will mean we can deliver in twice the number of schools in 2022/2023 term.

### Online Exercise classes for Children & Teenagers with a Physical or Intellectual Disability

- Starting on 17th January, we have 12 children and teenagers registered for a 5 week programme covering, Yoga, Dance and Fun Fitness delivered each week for 30 minutes over 3 classes for the length of the programme.

**Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership**  
**INCLUSIVE ONLINE EXERCISE PROGRAMME - 5 WEEKS**  
FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS WITH A PHYSICAL OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Dance with Zoe	Fun Fitness with Lisa	Yoga with Jo
Mondays	Thursdays	Saturdays
@4:30pm for 30 mins	@4:30pm for 30 mins	@10:00am for 30 mins
Starting 17th January 2022	Starting 20th January 2022	Starting 22nd January 2022

Contact Clara, [cjenkinson@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:cjenkinson@wicklowcoco.ie), (0404) 20129 to book





### Online Exercise classes for Adults with a Physical or Intellectual Disability

- Targeting clients of HSE Day Care Services, this programme runs over 5 weeks starting on 17th January. 21 participants have registered and new participants from KARE in Baltinglass & Tinahely have engaged which is great, as they will hopefully take an opportunity to further their collaboration with Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership. The daytime exercise classes include, Yoga, Dance and Fun Fitness delivered each week for 45 minutes over 3 classes for the length of the programme. This gives the participant the opportunity to get the support of their care workers and not further burdening parents or carers with an activity to complete at home.



### Bike Week 2022

- Bike Week 2022 will take place from 14th to 22nd May 2022
- Planning is now in place re activities for the county

### Pilot Project

- An Tochar GAA, Irish Deaf Society, WSRP & GAA Health & Wellbeing Committee with support from Inclusion officers of GAA, LGFA & Camogie.
- This project is to introduce the most commonly used phrases in GAA and produce a video to support this
- Coaches in An Tochar will take part in a 6-week coaching course where they will use the signs as part of their training with their nursery groups.
- Video in final editing stage and will launch shortly.

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

End of Year Reports 2021: These reports were brought to the February LCDC meeting for approval. SICAP performance in the county last year was very strong and is testament to the hard work of the SICAP staff in both Partnerships. Both Partnerships also over-achieved on all of their key performance targets and kept their budget spend to within the parameters allowed. This allowed the LCDC to approve both reports and for SICAP funding for March to be released to both PIs.

Annual Plans 2022: Each Partnership steadily progressing on all targets and actions.

### Public Participation Network (PPN):

Current Membership: 382 Community Groups



Wicklow PPN will be collaborating with WCC over coming weeks to develop new Co. Wicklow Local Economic & Community Plan and review PPN Vision for Community Wellbeing. Process will include public consultations, online survey, meetings in each Municipal District and focus group discussions.

Current consultations: My Future Baltinglass; Draft River Basin Management Plan; InPLACE Project Newtownmountkenney; DRCD Customer Action Plan & Customer Charter; Our Future Tax & Welfare; Review of Building Regulations Part M (Access & Use); Reform & Modernisation of Legislation Regarding Cooperative Societies.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: RTÉ Toy Show Appeal; Community Water Development Fund; Enclude Tech Donations; National Lottery Funding; Social Enterprise Funds; Aldi Community Grant; Age & Opportunity Active National Grant; Artist in the Community Scheme; Wicklow County Arts Funding; WCC Estate Development Grants; Digital Town Awards; Wind Farm Community Funds.



## 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).

New guidelines have been launched for the preparation of LECPs. LECPs detail how Local Authorities will support economic and community development in their areas over the next six years. The new guidelines will assist with the development of the plans for local areas, with a key focus on sustainability, consultation and engagement with local communities and business.

The guidelines will require the Council to consider housing needs when formulating both the economic and community elements of the LECPs. The guidelines are timely as the current LECP finishes in 2022. The new plan will take account of lessons learned and the changing needs of communities, climate action and sustainability among other things. The guidelines reinforce the important role of communities in determining the needs and priorities of their local area.

### Retail

#### Bray Central

Oakmont have informed Wicklow County Council that the project has reached practical completion (PC). The Wicklow County Council monitor, Conor Carty Executive Engineer Bray MD, on the scheme is reviewing documentation on the project. Once PC has been agreed the process of transfer of title will begin.

Oakmont continue to engage with prospective anchor tenants on the two main units in the centre. It is hoped that agreements to let will be settled in the coming weeks.

Fit out of the restaurants continues and Press Up Group has advertised for staff for these units.

#### Bray Outdoor Performance Space

The tender for Design Architect Services was advertised in January 2022. Two tenders were received and both were assessed. The successful tenderer is expected to be appointed for this project within the month. The executive have already met on zoom with residents on the seafront on a number of occasions. There is more scheduled non statutory consultation planned in the coming weeks with residents, businesses and other stakeholders such as the Mermaid Arts Theatre.





## Town Teams

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

Most Town Teams in Wicklow have been operating since 2018. It is considered timely to carry out a review of the town teams and with this in mind Wicklow County Council has appointed Mr Allen McAdam of MCA Consulting to conduct the review. It is proposed to present the results of the review at a plenary meeting of all the town teams to be held in early 2022.

### **Masterplans for Town Centres under 10,000 population**

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

Wicklow County Council had nominated three towns for the scheme: Blessington, Rathdrum and Newtownmountkennedy. Eligible towns are those with a maximum population of 10,000. The towns nominated had to be in a position to immediately engage with the Town Centre First process and act as demonstrators for other areas. Nominated towns were also required to have a Town Team or similar group in place and have already completed a background analysis phase such as a town centre health check and to be in a position to proceed to develop a Masterplan.

This initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future – the Government’s ambitious five-year strategy designed to reimagine and revitalise Rural Ireland. It is also linked to the Government’s ‘Housing for All’ strategy and the forthcoming ‘Town Centre First Policy’ which will be announced in the coming weeks.

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

### **Arklow Town Team**

The Arklow Town Team International Womens Day 5/10km virtual challenge event took place from Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March to Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Arklow Town team would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who signed up for the event. The medals will be posted during the month of March. Thank you to Coral Leisure Centre, Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Cllr. Miriam Murphy for sponsoring a prize for the event.



As part of the An Taisce National Spring Clean the Arklow Town Team are planning a spring clean which will take place in April.

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

Terms of reference were issued to the Bray MD Members in 2021. The Cathaoirleach is reviewing these and will be examining the best way forward.

### **Blessington Town Team**

No meeting was held in March however Blessington Town Team continues to work on various projects in the area.

### **Greystones Town Team**

The Greystones Town team held their inaugural AGM in person at the Whale Theatre on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022. Their vision for Greystones and commitment to Greystones was foremost at the meeting with a number of potential projects.

The Greystones Town Team is excited to be hosting an event to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Tiglin to mark the occasion.

### **Wicklow Town Team**

The inaugural guided walk of the Wicklow Town Heritage Trail will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March starting at St. Patrick's Church. The walk will be led by local historian, John Finlay whose knowledge was key in creating the Trail. The walk will take approximately 2 hours and includes 24 points of interest from the landing of St. Patrick in 432 to the end of the civil war in 1923.

### **Streetscapes**

Wicklow County Council has been allocated €320,000 in Streetscape funding under the Department of Rural and Community Development Town and Village Streetscape Scheme.

Six towns/villages in the County have been selected to participate in the Streetscape and Shopfront Enhancement scheme. The areas selected are Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington, Enniskerry, Kilcoole and Wicklow Town.

The Streetscape Enhancement Initiative is a key part of the Government's 'Our Rural Future' and is designed to make our rural towns and villages more attractive colourful and vibrant places to live, work and visit.

Types of projects funded include: refurbishment of traditional shop fronts, artwork, murals, lighting, planting etc. The initial application and promotion and development of the scheme was handled by Enterprise and



Corporate Services. The awarding of grants and drawdown of funds is handled by Community Cultural and Social Development. 108 applications were received and approved under this measure with 48 businesses returning the required documents to receive payment. Of these 48 businesses 32 have been paid totalling €87,581. The date for return of documentation has been extended to the 11<sup>th</sup> March.

### 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

#### **Wicklow Passport:**

The various stamping locations are being checked to ensure they all have stamps ready for the season. Various press trips are being planned throughout the season with the first one scheduled for the middle of March. The first mobile unit should be ready and on site before the end of March.

#### **EcoTrail Wicklow:**

The third edition of EcoTrail Wicklow will take place on Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Registrations for the event are now open. EcoTrail Wicklow and other adventure races will be used to showcase Wicklow as an outdoor activities' destination to overseas visitors. Engagement has started with the various offices of Tourism Ireland around the world to help promote the events and the destination.

#### **Nature Trail Press Feature**

Following on from the Press Trip organised in November of last year, Wicklow made the front page of the latest edition of 'Nature Trail' one of France's leading trail running magazines. The magazine is widely distributed around France through a niche but strong trail running community (estimated 1Million trail runners in France).



A blog post was launched to feature details of the press trip and included parts of the EcoTrail route and trails around Glendalough. See full itinerary at <https://visitwicklow.ie/nature-trail-mag-visits-wicklow-trail-running/>

### **Celtic Routes**

More than fifteen Wicklow experiences have been identified to feature on the Celtic Routes extensive promotional activities. There is a strong Outdoor Activities theme as well as Food and Heritage included in the Experiences.

Those experiences will feature on [www.celticroutes.info](http://www.celticroutes.info) website that is currently being enhanced. Celtic Routes is also planning some support and cross promotional activities between Wales and Ireland to participating businesses.

### **Vikings Valhalla**

The new series 'Vikings Valhalla' was launched at the end of February and is one of the top viewed series on Netflix worldwide. A dedicated blog entry has been created on the Vikings to showcase the various film locations around Wicklow: <https://visitwicklow.ie/the-vikings/>. This page is top ranking on search engines and is now the second most visited page on visitwicklow.ie website. Tourism Ireland has also created a short 'behind the scenes' video featuring Lough Tay and Ashford Studios.

Season three starts shooting this spring and options are being explored to maximise the enormous exposure that the series will offer over the next three years and more.

### **Destination Town Funding**

An application to Fáilte 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 with Mosart consultant's appointed to lead the design process. A planning application to enhance and redevelop the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow, into the Abbey Gardens and event space was passed unanimously by the members of Wicklow Municipal District at their meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The procurement process for detailed design and construction has begun.

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

This is a Fáilte Ireland funded project led by FI with strategic partners NPWS, OPW, Coillte and WCC. The Plan covers visitor attractions and activities available in the area and the first stage of stakeholder engagement has been completed.



The consultant team is now engaging with some of the key landowners to assess the feasibility of developing additional off road trails between Laragh and Glendalough and provision of additional parking. The process has identified a number of issues: congestion at key sites, concerns over security, capacity and quality of car parking and visitor services, issues with local access, and erosion and degradation of the environment.

Visitor Experience Hubs have been identified around the county where there is a particular focus of visitor attractions. Development of these hubs will build capacity, help disperse visitors across the county, encouraging longer stays and greater investment in the area. The team is developing detailed plans for walking, mountain biking, off road family cycling.

Measures have been taken this year to introduce additional temporary parking and to use traffic counters to improve parking management and signage. Toilet facilities have been upgraded.

The consultants have prepared the draft masterplan and this was presented to members of the Laragh/Glendalough Community on the 27th October 2021 and to the members of at the Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Next Steps: Further Consultation, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Economic Appraisal. A number of multi-agency sub-groups have been formed to address Environmental, Financial and Management issues these are data gathering at present.

### **Outdoor Dining**

All Local Authorities were invited to apply to Fáilte Ireland for funding under Part Two - Local Authority Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme - to develop streets and public spaces to facilitate outdoor dining in urban tourism centres, enabling access to outdoor seating for extended periods throughout the year.

Wicklow County Council applied for and was awarded funding for Outdoor Dining and Weatherproofing for Market Square in Wicklow Town (€119,000) and Abbey Lane in Arklow (€81,000). Works have commenced on the Wicklow project with five of the canopies/umbrellas installed at Market Square and some wiring to be completed. The bases for the two canopies at the Gaol are installed and all electrical supply ducts are in place with the final two canopies ordered.



### Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

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

A call was announced for category 1 proposals with a closing date for applications on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

### URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Part 1 of the Arklow URDF Project the refurbishment of the Courthouse and the development of an Enterprise Space in the former Town Council offices. Part 2 of the project the public realm works are currently underway.

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.

Following a presentation to the Bray members on the 11<sup>th</sup> January, RPS recently completed a draft feasibility report covering the marine and terrestrial elements of the Bray Harbour Improvements Scheme. A meeting of the Bray Harbour Joint Development Committee took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> February at which the preferred options described in the report were presented along with some further matters that have been requested for attention.

It is recognised that space for existing and proposed recreational facility providers around the harbor remains an issue and was discussed at the meeting. RPS will be asked to further examine the regeneration opportunities on the north side of the harbour that may also facilitate the provision of improved recreational infrastructure. RPS has also been requested to address future sea level rise in the terrestrial works proposals and to outline the stakeholder engagements that took place in preparing the report.



The preferred option for the marine works provides for extending south pier northwards and extending a breakwater spur northwards from the north pier to create a smaller outer harbor. Along with another spur on the inside of the south pier this will serve to greatly reduce the wave action from the north easterly winds that are responsible for the wave damage that occurs in the harbor. This will also provide a berth for small passenger ferries and also provide a holding area for boats while waiting on the tide before entering the main harbor. Dredging is also proposed to facilitate mooring but access in and out of the current harbor will be still dependent on the tides.

An estimate of about €8.5m plus VAT has been provided for the preferred option for the marine works. A cost for the terrestrial works was not provided and this has been requested for inclusion in the report. A steering group meeting is planned for the 9<sup>th</sup> March, at which additions and amendments to the report will be discussed. Additional works, in relation to environmental assessments will also be examined with RPS to determine if they can be progressed within the current contract. The draft feasibility report has found that there are significant potential environmental impacts and that the planning decision will most likely be determined by An Bord Pleanála.

The Bray Sustainable Bridge Project is on hold until An Bord Pleanála make a determination on the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). A decision on this matter by An Bord Pleanála is expected in February.

### Maritime

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

Key milestones have been

The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme Consultation. Wicklow County Council made a submission strongly supporting the case for the funds created as a result of the offshore renewable energy projects to be managed and distributed locally rather than centrally.

The adoption of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021 aimed at harnessing Ireland's offshore wind potential while protecting our marine environment

One of the elements of the MAP is the creation of a new maritime consent process (MAP)



Under the special transition provisions in the MAP Act, the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications will have the responsibility for assessing and granting MACs for a first phase (Phase One) of offshore projects, which satisfy the definition of “relevant maritime usage” under the Act (the Relevant Projects).

The relevant projects of interest to Wicklow include the Codling Wind Park and the Dublin Array

A consultation process on the Offshore Renewable Energy Maritime Area Consent (MAC) Assessment for Phase One has taken place.

The purpose of the consultation is to:

- Set out the proposed approach to MAC assessment for Relevant Projects
- Provide important information on various aspects of the new MAC regime for Relevant Projects
- Invite feedback from interested stakeholders on the proposed approach to the assessment of Phase One MAC applications

Following completion of the consultation process, the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications has announced the opening of the application process for Marine Area Consents to relevant projects, it should be noted that the Arklow Bank Wind Farm, which is Ireland’s first offshore wind farm, is at an advanced stage of planning and has been operating under an earlier consent regime.

### **Dutch Trade Delegation**

Wicklow County Council welcomed the Dutch Ambassador to Ireland, His Excellency, Adriaan Palm, to Wicklow town on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The visit by the Ambassador was in conjunction with a trade delegation of leading Dutch maritime companies who are visiting Ireland in order to identify trade, investment and collaboration opportunities within the Irish offshore wind sector.

The delegation has a particular focus on bottom-fixed offshore wind and port development, making County Wicklow an ideal location for their visit. The Dutch delegation consists of 14 companies and was led by Arjen Schutten, Managing Director, Holland Home of Wind Energy, and Kees Mokveld, Advisor, International Clean Energy Partnership (ICEP), at Netherlands Enterprise Agency.

The Ambassador was surprised and delighted when Ms Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, Wicklow LEO, welcomed him to Wicklow County Council in their shared native tongue.





The delegation received a number of presentations in Wicklow County Council focusing on a case study of Codling Windpark and the Transformation Wicklow Port before departing for Tinakilly House Hotel where they were treated to a Wicklow Naturally drinks reception, with all refreshments prepared using locally produced food and beverages. This was one of the first trade visits to Ireland since Covid 19.

### Food and Beverage Strategy

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

A funding application has been submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in respect of the development of Food Trails as part of Wicklow's tourism offering.

A drinks reception was held in Tinakilly Country House for a recent visit by the Dutch Ambassador with all refreshments prepared using Wicklow Naturally ingredients. This was a great opportunity to showcase Wicklow Food and Drink to an international audience.

Wicklow Naturally continues to increase their network of members in 2022 to add to the array of County Wicklow produce. Wicklow Naturally members will be represented at a range of events throughout the year starting with Bloom, through Taste of Wicklow, Tinahely show, Ploughing Championships, OctoberFeast, Gifted all aimed at raising the profile of Wicklow produce.



## 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
	2021	2022	2022
<b>Grants Approved (number/ value)</b> - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 33/ €641,745 - 4 / €6,594	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	-4/ € 81,340 -4/ € 6,106
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			

METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	77	64	28
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	105	75	59
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	994	900	254
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	10	3

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	849	750	86

## MARCH 2022



Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor and Brexit 1-1	530	500	34
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METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2020/2021	2022/2023	Year to Date 21-22
No. of Secondary Student Participants	953	1000	864

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

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Trading Online Vouchers	135 Total value: € 279,127.40	70 Depending on budget and demand	12

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	8	11	10

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	7	10	0



### February 2022 Activities

- Fortnightly newsletter continues to be circulated to the LEO client database outlining 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.
- Training programmes introduced for established Food and Beverage sector are continuing Throughout March and April. Remaining workshops will focus on online sales channels as well as looking at the opportunity presented by the discounters, this will be coupled with individual mentoring for selected clients.
- Applications are invited from Food and Beverage Businesses for Food Academy from 24<sup>th</sup> March to 15<sup>th</sup> April for the 2022/2023 programme. 2 Wicklow food businesses from the 2021/2022 programme will now progress to trial in Supervalu stores around Wicklow in May
- The Wicklow County final of the Student Enterprise Programme will take place virtually on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at 12 noon. 864 Students have participated in the programme over the past academic year and have learned how to set up and run a mini business. The Winners will represent Wicklow in the Junior and Senior category of the National Final which takes place on 18<sup>th</sup> May in Dublin.
- The first Advanced version of the Owner Development Programme commenced on 24<sup>th</sup> February with 16 participants
- Eight Co Wicklow craft clients exhibited at Showcase 20222, three of whom were in the dedicated 'LEO Area'. Feedback from this area was excellent and business was brisk, with many export orders
- The East Wicklow Business Network was supported by the LEO at its launch on 8<sup>th</sup> March in Greystones Gold Club, as Louise Fleming from the LEO addressed the group about available business supports.
- Alison Banton addressed the Network of Entrepreneurial women in the first in-person meeting for this network in two years, at the Glenview Hotel on 9<sup>th</sup> March
- Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Mr Simon Harris TD, heard about proposals for the further development of Wicklow County Campus planned by Wicklow County Council during a visit to the campus on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Minister Harris welcomed the Council's openness to collaborating with IT Carlow and KWETB to achieve their vision for developing a centre of excellence in innovation, enterprise and education.
- Local Enterprise Week took place from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> till Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March during which a full week of training and networking events including a Spotlight event called: Future Proofing your business using Technology, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Vibeke Delahunt outlined available supports during this session. Over 130 business clients took part in training and meetings throughout the week.
- An extensive development programme called Innovate Wicklow! Will start on 24<sup>th</sup> March and will be delivered by the Design+ Centre IT Carlow.
- The launch of the Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan by Minister Damien English took place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at County Buildings.

### Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The SpringSummer 2022 business skills training programme is underway with courses now open for bookings through our online portal on [www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow](http://www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow).



### **Business Skills Training Courses recently held:-**

- Start Your Own Business with a Focus on Blue ways and Green Ways, 1<sup>st</sup> March
- Essential Idea Exploration, 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- Digital Marketing Clinics (one to one) 7<sup>th</sup> March
- Start Your Own Business 9<sup>th</sup> March
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar 10<sup>th</sup> March
- Video Production – Tools, Techniques & Tactics – Beginners Level 11<sup>th</sup> March

### **Business Skills Training Courses available for bookings on our website include:-**

Bookkeeping Using Excel 7<sup>th</sup> April  
Effective use of Social Media for your Business 27<sup>th</sup> April



## 2. Planning and Development

### County Development Plan Review

The consultation period for the draft County Development Plan 2022-2027 ended on 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2021. Over 300 submissions were received. The Chief Executive prepared the Report under Section 12(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) on the submissions made to the Draft County Development Plan and this was issued to the Elected Members. Workshops were held with the elected members in January 2022.

A special Council meeting to consider the CE Report on the submissions received on the draft County Development Plan 2022-2027 has been scheduled to take place on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### Wicklow Heritage & Biodiversity Office

County Heritage Plan allocations from The Heritage Council: Following the submission of project proposals, a total allocation of €57,000 has been received for 2022 for Wicklow for the following projects and activities; Wicklow Barn Owl Survey; Wicklow Swift Champion Project; Geology publication; Heritage Communications; Glendalough Community Archaeology project and a County Wicklow Community Archaeology initiative.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Fund: The Heritage Office has prepared and submitted funding applications for €48,000 under the LBAPF for a continuation and expansion of the Brittas Bay Conservation Project and the initiation of a county hedgerow survey. Awaiting the outcome of these funding applications.

Community Monument Fund (CMF) 2022- The Heritage Officer co-ordinated applications for county Wicklow under this grant scheme on behalf of National Monuments Service. A total of 11 applications for community based archaeological projects were prepared and shortlisted by 1<sup>st</sup> March. Awaiting outcome of applications.

Protected Structures Grants: Applications were assessed and submitted from Wicklow under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Approval received for 11 projects under a county allocation of €96,000. Awaiting the outcome of the HSF shortlisted projects.

Local Authority Heritage Officers Heritage & Climate series of 4 webinars held Jan-February. Brittas Bay Conservation project presented under webinar 2 Wetlands, Community and Climate.

## MARCH 2022



For more see <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/new-contributions/heritage-biodiversity-actions-for-climate-new-heritage-officer-webinar-series-2022>

### Development Management

#### Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Received (Valid)	170	166

A total of 115 valid applications were received during February as follows:

Type of Development	28 <sup>th</sup> February Number Received
Individual Houses	25 (22 refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	06
Agricultural Structures	02
Commercial	10
Other Developments**	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>

*\* Large housing development*

*22/81, Seamus Monaghan Construction Limited, 11 units, Bramblehill, Lugduff, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow.*

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

## MARCH 2022



Decisions issued in respect of 92 applications in February, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	05
Individual Houses	27 ( 22 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	60
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>

In relation to decisions issued between January to February 2022, in comparison to the same period for 2021, the details are as follows:

	28/02/2021	28/02/2022
Total Number of decisions issued	157	164
Total Number of decisions to grant	133	139
% Grant Rate	85%	85%
No of applications withdrawn		13

### Applications lodged with An Bord Pleanála

#### Strategic Housing Development

ABP-305558-21, Kilgarron Hill, Parknasilloge, Enniskerry (219 Units), Members meeting 1/3/2022, CE report to be forwarded to ABP by 31/3/2022

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





### **Strategic Infrastructure Development**

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

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

### **Substitute Consent**

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

### **E-Planning Project**

The commencement of the roll out of the ePlanning system is scheduled in Wicklow for Q3 2022.

The project will include the following elements:

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

## MARCH 2022



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

### Planning Enforcement

New Files	9
Advisory Letters	16
Warning Letters	10
Enforcement Notices	2
Legal Files	1
Closed	15

### Vacant Sites

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

- 5 Section 15 Demand for levy notices
- 3 Section 10(2) Removal from Register Notices
- 4 sites on appeal to ABP – Section 9 (Notice of Entry)
- 2 sites on appeal to ABP - Section 18 (Market Valuation)
- 02 sites on appeal to Valuation Tribunal
- €2,100 paid in levies in February

### Derelict Sites

Municipal District	3 No sites on Register
Wicklow	1
Baltinglass	1
Bray	1

## MARCH 2022



### Court Cases

District Court	1 Case adjourned to May 2022
Circuit Court	11 cases adjourned to next call over/sittings 1 Case Court Orders On Consent and costs agreed

### Short-Term Letting

Applications for Registration received	128
Warning Letters issued	26
Enforcement Notices issued	7
Under Investigation	49
Legal Proceedings instigated	1

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



## 3. Environmental Services

### Waste Management

#### Litter/Waste Enforcement

No. of Complaints Created	128
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	196
No of Litter Fines Issued	12
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	2
No. of Warning Letters Issued	7
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	5
No. of Burning Applications Granted	9
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	6
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	36
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	9
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	4
Income - Litter	€2,650.00
Income- Waste Management	€6,038.09

Recent successful prosecutions include:

- A long running case of unauthorised burning at Ballyremon Commons reached a satisfactory conclusion with imposition of a prison sentence of 3 months (conditionally suspended for 12 months), the maximum fine of €5,000 and costs in the sum of €4,400
- The case of a driver who discarded a cigarette from his vehicle resulting in fine of €150 and costs of €150
- Persistent dumping by an individual at a charity shop in Arklow resulting in fine of €450 and order to pay costs of €150
- Evidence retrieved from a significant number of bags of waste dumped at a Wicklow Town housing estate resulted in litter fines and costs of €300 being imposed.
- A lorry load of waste dumped in Manor Kilbride, Blessington and retrieval evidence leading to prosecution and payment of €350



- A large volume of mixed household and construction waste dumped at the Murrough, Wicklow was the result of individuals handing over waste to unauthorised collectors. €450 fines ensued.
- Significant waste found at Ballymoyle Forest, Kilpatrick was the result also of individuals handing over waste to unauthorised collectors, and fines of €200 and costs of €450 ensued
- Evidence was retrieved from waste dumped at Aughavanagh to Rathdangan Road resulting in fines of €350 and costs of €350

### **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 2020.

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.

Surveys of the qualifying interests, as agreed with NPWS, were completed in December and results are being collated into report form. The reports must be circulated to the required stakeholders before 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

### **Recycling Centres**

Tenders have been received and assessed to set up a Multi-Party Framework for Civil and Structural Engineer-Led Integrated Design Team Consultancy Services for various projects established in the next 4 years with the replacement of the Asbestos Roof in Bray Recycling Centre and general refurbishment of the centre. Contract documents will issue shortly to the successful tenderer.

### **Climate Action**

#### **Climate Action Plan 2021 – Securing Our Future**

The Climate Action Plan, which was launched on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021, is an ambitious plan to put Ireland on a more sustainable path, cutting emissions and creating a cleaner, greener economy and society

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



The plan sets out 475 separate actions to halve Ireland's greenhouse emissions by 2030, including extensive offshore wind power, retrofitting 500,000 homes and putting a million electric vehicles on the roads.

The public sector will lead by example and halve emissions by 2030. Green Teams will be established in every public sector body. No new fossil fuel heating systems will be installed in public buildings after 2023, except in very limited exceptional circumstances. All new fleet purchases will be electric from 2023, where such vehicles are available.

A new National Retrofit Plan will drive demand and make retrofitting more affordable whilst there are increased targets for district heating and the public sector, and strengthening building standards for all buildings.

Just transition principles are embedded in the plan, including the principles that people need to be equipped with the skills to benefit from changes and that costs need to be shared. A Just Transition Commission will be established.

All increases in carbon tax receipts are earmarked for targeted social protection measures, an expansion of retrofitting, particularly for social and low-income homes, and agri-environmental projects.

Wicklow County Council will commence the Advance Planning Stage of the development of the plan in Q2. This will include a review of the Climate Adaptation Strategy adopted in September 2019 and a Countywide Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI).

### **Wicklow Climate Action**

The Tree Management Policy was adopted by Plenary on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Work is ongoing to implement the protocols in the policy. This includes the development of an app to capture all information about existing trees on council owned land.

A draft Glyphosate Policy was presented to the CABA SPC on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022. As with the Tree Policy, an App is being developed to record and map usage throughout the County by Council Staff. The final Policy will be on the agenda of the next CABA SPC.

RPS Consulting Engineers have completed the base line carbon footprint study for the Arklow Decarbonisation Zone. Stakeholder Workshop was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss projects that may be included in the implementation plan. A draft Implementation Plan with proposed carbon reducing projects is expected by the end of Q1.



The Climate Action Officer is coordinating input from a number of departments to develop a strategy for the Council on the rollout of EV Chargers in the public domain and also transitioning the fleet to EVs. A National EV Strategy is expected from the Department of Transport in the coming weeks.

The Green Team is a new team which has been set up with staff from all sections throughout the organisation. Members have received training and have met on a number of occasions to discuss projects to rollout across the organisation.

### Environmental Awareness

A Food and the Circular Economy conference was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February. The conference was delivered in partnership with Wicklow Naturally, Wicklow LEO and Sustainable Tourism Ireland. 85 people participated in the online conference. The conference was funded by the EPA through the LAPN programme.

County Wicklow Partnership have funded an eight week Climate Action training course for community representatives in County Wicklow. 51 people are participating in the training which is being delivered by Sustaineo.

A second LAPN project will link to the Bikes for Africa project and involve delivery of workshops on bicycle repair in the three larger recycling centres and a video animation to promote extending the life of bicycles through good maintenance. Workshops will target both adult and youth participation. An LAPN project to provide training on composting has now been completed and a case study is being prepared.

The annual National Spring Clean Campaign has been launched and materials purchased to support the campaign.

Eleven teams from County Wicklow successfully completed entries for this year Relove Fashion Competition which offers students the opportunity to develop skills in developing a circular economy approach to textiles and fashion. Five of the teams were selected to be among the 19 finalists.

The annual Tree Grants are being paid out to 29 applicants as planting is completed. Funding to plant 4,700 was provided. Preparations have commenced for National Tree Week in March when further trees will be distributed for planting. 1000 trees have been ordered for the event.

Wicklow County Council is one of three local authorities involved in an EPA funded pilot on separate collection of textiles which will test different approaches for improving the collection of textiles.

## MARCH 2022



Donegal and Clare will test new collection systems while Wicklow will use a communications campaign to increase use of existing textile disposal options and a series of three one off collections. The communications campaign will target one town, for which we will use Arklow, focusing on the charity shops in the town and the recycling centre.

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. The videos are currently in production.

### Sustainable Energy Committees

Work continues on the Energy Map Plans, EMPs for Enniskerry, Greystones/Delgany, Wicklow and Blessington. Greystones/Delgany and Wicklow are almost complete.

Newtownmountkenedy completed its Energy Master Plan in November.

Glenmalure and Laragh have also completed Energy Master Plans.

High Park in Kiltegan has just commenced working on its EMP with consultants.

The Arklow SEC received grant approval for Energy Master Plan funding in December and consultants were recruited in February.

### Control of Dogs

Annual advertising campaign on radio and social media, in collaboration with the IFA, regarding control of dogs to prevent worrying of sheep during lambing season commenced.

### Dog Licences

A total of 317 dog licences were purchased in the month of February, 297 annual licences and 20 lifetime licence.

A radio advertisement campaign commenced on East Coast Radio on the 12<sup>th</sup> March regarding dogs worrying sheep during the lambing season.



# MARCH 2022



## Horses

No horses were seized during the month of February 2022. There are four horses in the pound to be rehomed.

## Caravan Park

Application forms have been sent out to approximately 30 caravan parks for the 2022 season. This generally runs from St Patrick's Day until the end of October.

## Burial Grounds

It is intended to conduct a review of the Co. Wicklow Burial Ground Policy.

## Harbours and Ports

Activity at Wicklow Port

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-22	5	4	2	6	4	2
Feb-22	5	6	0	6	5	1

## Pollution Control

### Pollution Response & Investigation

4 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.

1 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.

1 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.

### Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

14 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards

14 Rivers monitored involving 31 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

### Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

The New Draft River Management Plan for 2022-2027 2021 has been published and submissions on the content of plan are invited.

LAWPRO hosted online public consultations on 16<sup>th</sup> February 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March - see <https://lawpro.ie/rbmp-public-meetings-2022/>



The EPA has indicated that they will soon assign status to water bodies which were previously unmonitored.

The EPA has published its report on the proposed designation of heavily modified water bodies i.e. rivers which are dammed or channelized e.g. Liffey, Kings and Vartry Rivers in Co. Wicklow. Public consultation is now open until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022. <https://www.catchments.ie/public-consultation-on-the-designation-of-heavily-modified-waterbodies-for-the-third-cycle-river-basin-management-plan/>

7 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.

### **Deco Paint Solvent Regulations**

2 Vehicle Refinisher Installations was certified.

### **Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026**

1 Preparation of Inspection Plan

10 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems carried out and 7 found compliant.

3 Advisory notices issued requiring remedial action for the non-compliant domestic waste water treatment systems.

### **Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer**

6 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.

3 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and 2 deemed non-compliant.

5 licensed wastewater discharges to sewer were monitored and deemed compliant.

2 licensed wastewater discharges to sewer were monitored and 2 deemed non-compliant.

### **Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring**

36 River/Lake samples taken and analysed upstream and downstream of discharges of public wastewater treatment plants

### **Planning & Development**

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

### **Well Grants**

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| • Number of New Applications                     | 17 |
| • Number of New Wells Granted                    | 2  |
| • Number of New Pumps Granted                    | 8  |
| • Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) Granted | 8  |



- Number of Inspections in advance/after works 16

### Arklow & Avoca Flood Relief Schemes

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

An Oral Hearing took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2022. This Oral Hearing only related to the CPO.

Wicklow County Council has been working with the Law Department and the OPW in reviewing the submissions in order to prepare for the Oral Hearing.

There were 21 submissions on the Planning Application and 9 submissions to the CPO, all of these submissions were addressed, either by way of written response or at the Oral Hearing.

A decision is awaited from An Bord Pleanala.



## 5. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

### Public lighting

#### Public lighting

The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **345**. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation.

For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults to same period in the previous three years.

Year	2022	2021	2020	2019
Date	28/02/2022	01/03/2021	02/03/2020	25/02/2019
No. of Outstanding Faults	<b>345</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>339</b>
Difference		26	-35	-6

	24/01/2022	01/02/2022	07/02/2022	14/02/2022	22/02/2022	28/02/2022
Access Issues (Attended)	11	11	11	11	17	15
Cable Fault (Attend)	3	2	3	4	4	4
ESB Required (Attended)	21	20	21	21	21	21
Knock Down (Attended)	3	2	2	2	1	1
Materials required	2	2	2	2	2	2
No Supply	11	11	11	12	12	12
On Hold	17	18	18	21	21	22
Submitted	279	265	247	216	222	246
Traffic Management Required	20	23	22	22	25	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>345</b>
Percentage of lights not working	2.45%	2.34%	2.23%	2.06%	2.15%	2.28%

Status	Arklow MD	Baltinglass MD	Bray MD	Greystones MD	Wicklow MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)		5	4	3	3	<b>15</b>
Cable Fault (Attend)	1	1	1		1	<b>4</b>

## MARCH 2022



ESB Required (Attended)	5		4	4	8	21
Knock Down (Attended)		1				1
Materials required	1	1				2
No Supply	1	4	2	5		12
On Hold	2		10		10	22
Submitted	24	84	49	34	55	246
TMR	1	3	9	8	1	22
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>345</b>

### Transportation Statistics (General)

	Total 2020	Total 2021	Total 2022	January 2022	February 2022
<b>Solicitors Queries</b>	842	923	120	53	67
<b>Road closure applications</b>	23	53	11	3	8
<b>Road Opening licences</b>	1279	1575	259	85	174
<b>Abnormal Load applications</b>	33	54	11	8	3

### M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website [www.n11m11.ie](http://www.n11m11.ie) on 14 December 2021 following the review of submissions received during public display. Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation was due to commence in Q1 2022.

A letter has been sent to the Minister for Transport on behalf of the members of the TWES SPC requesting that a meeting with the Minister to discuss the suspension of funding for the N11M11 Improvement Scheme.

Environmental Surveys already commenced on site will likely be continued to a logical point and concluded. The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet virtually with the public and any interested parties.

### M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

Arup Consulting Engineers are progressing with the development of the scheme and are now considering all three sub schemes. The decision to revisit all three sub schemes between Loughlinstown Roundabout to Junction 9 Glenview Hotel is due to the lack of funding for the main scheme. Certain elements of Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) are also progressing in tandem.

The BPIS web site is now available on [www.n11m11bpis.ie](http://www.n11m11bpis.ie). This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

### N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

Work by the contractor on a small number of snagging and outstanding items are continuing. The road works speed limit order was lifted on 01 October 2021, with the exception of the Parallel Service Road which will retain the RWSLO of 50km/h. The speed limit of 60km/h included in the current bye-laws will apply on the N11 mainline. It is intended to amend this bye-law to allow a 100km/h speed limit as intended by the Part 8 for the scheme. This will be further considered as part of the county wide review of speed limits in the coming months. A proposal has been invited for noise assessment in Kilmacanogue, Wicklow County Council have contacted TII seeking approval for funding for the noise assessment in Kilmacanogue.



**N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment** – The scheme is complete and the remediation works on the road surfacing are also complete. The tenders for the Per Cent Art Feature will be published by the Arts Officer shortly.

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

Phase 1 (Feasibility Report) for the N81 Tuckmill Lower, Hangman's Bend, Whitestown Lower and Irishtown West projects (the 'N81 Four Studies') has been completed. 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). Funding has been allocated by TII to progress this scheme in 2022.

**N81 Pavement Capital Works** - Resurfacing works of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove will be tendered for in 2022.

**N81 Capital Maintenance** - Resurfacing work at Monaspick and Annalecky have been applied for with TII, and we are awaiting approval. Applications for funding for drainage works at Mullicagh and Hempstown have been approved and works are to commence in Quarter 2.

### **N81 TII Vehicle Restraint Systems (VRS) Programme**

The contract involves 9 complete barrier replacements and 6 barrier repairs. The contract has been awarded to CHM and works commenced on site in Nov 2021 and are continuing into 2022.

### **Chapel Road Pedestrian & Cyclist Infrastructure Improvement Scheme**

CPO has been confirmed by An Bord Pleanála dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022.

### **Active Travel**

Wicklow County Council continues to progress the 63 awarded projects.

- Strand Road Cycle Route – Official Opening to take place on the 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- Bray DART Interchange – Part VIII documentation being compiled
- Bray Public Transport Bridge – Awaiting An Bord Pleanála determination
- Kilmacanogue to Bray Retail Park (Southern Cross) - Part VIII documentation being compiled
- Dublin Road to Wexford Road – Tenders received and awaiting award of contract
- Rathdown Road – Tender documents being prepared
- Arklow Main Street to Train Station - Tenders received and awaiting award of contract
- Greystones Seafront to Kilcoole - Tender documents being prepared
- Lower Main Street, Tinnahask Road & Dock Road to South Quay - Tenders received and awaiting award of contract
- Sea Road to Train Station, Kilcoole - Tender documents being prepared
- Ashford to New Developments (Urban) Footpath – Topographical survey to commence
- Enniskerry Pedestrian Improvement Scheme – Part VIII complete
- Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme - Part VIII documentation being compiled
- Deerpark Cycleway - Part VIII documentation being compiled

Wicklow County Council is committed to working with the NTA to provide sustainable transport solutions and promote Active Travel in the County.

# MARCH 2022



## Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	135,388
Greystones Municipal District	37,838
Wicklow Municipal District	46,845
Arklow Municipal District	31,479
Parking Permits	13,215
Parking Fines	52,674
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	<b>317,440</b>

## Fire Service

### Operational Fire Statistics February 2022

	Total stations	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	0										
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	14	3	5	2			1	2	1		
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	0										
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	0										
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	4						1	2	1		
Fire Alarm or CO <sub>2</sub> Activation	28	9	10	5			1			1	2
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	3	1	1	1							
Fire Chimney	9	1		2	1		2		2	1	
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	8	2	1	3	1	1					
Fire Vehicle	3	1				1	1				
Flooding	1		1								
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	14	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	7	2		1		2	1	1			
Garda Assist	1					1					
Electrical Incident	2	1									1
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										

## MARCH 2022



Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	2	1				1					
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	1			1							
False Alarm – Good Intent	0										
Malicious False Alarm	4	3		1							
<b>Mobilised into other County</b>	<b>6</b>							3	1	2	
<b>Times Stations mobilised</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

There were **99 incidents** attended during the month of February 2022. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **109 occasions** including 6 incidents in other counties.

Operational activity for the month of February **decreased by 13% from the preceding month** (January 2022 – 125 mobilisations). This can be attributed to a decrease in domestic fires (down from 10 to 1), chimney fires (down from 15 to 9) and rubbish fires (down from 15 to 8). There was, however, increased activity in some incident types, alarm activations (up from 17 to 28) and significantly storms such as Dudley and Eunice resulted in 14 trees down or similar incidents.

Operational activity for the month of February 2022 **was the same as activity in 2021** (February 2021 – 109 mobilisations). When comparing year on year, in 2022, domestic fires are down (from 9 to 1), gorse fires are down (from 18 to 3) but there is a corresponding increase in alarm activations (up from 9 to 28) and trees down (up from 3 to 14).

### Sample Incidents (February 2022)

11/02/2022	Baltinglass and Dunlavin crews attended a 2-car RTC at Clock Cross, Baltinglass.
16/02/2022	Greystones and Bray crews attended a single car RTC at junction 10, northbound on the N11.
18/02/2022	Greystones and Wicklow Town crews attended a single car RTC at junction 13, northbound on the N11.
20/02/2022	Bray and Greystones crews attended an RTC involving a car that had overturned on the N11 at Kilmacanogue.
22/02/2022	Dunlavin and Blessington crews attended a 2-car RTC on Church Street, Dunlavin.
25/02/2022	Bray and Greystones crews attended an RTC on the N11 southbound at junction 11 involving a HGV and a car.
26/02/2022	Baltinglass and Dunlavin crews responded to a domestic house fire at Lathaleere, a large fire in the kitchen was quickly brought under control and extinguished.

### Incidents in County Kildare (3-incidents):

08/02/2022	Dunlavin fire crew were mobilised to automatic alarm activation in Timolin, Ballytore (false alarm).
15/02/2022	Dunlavin fire crew were mobilised to a chimney fire in Calverstown, Kilcullen.
18/02/2022	Dunlavin and Baltinglass fire crews supported crews from Athy at a cattle shed on fire in Portersize, Ballytore.

### Incidents in County Wexford (2-incidents):

11/02/2022	Carnew fire crew were mobilised to a truck on fire at Corragh, Bunclody – the incident was down-graded to a jeep fire.
16/02/2022	Carnew fire crew were mobilised to support Gorey crews at an RTC involving a car and a truck at Baltyfarrell, Askamore.



# MARCH 2022



## General

- A work programme is being progressed countywide with a view to achieving ISO:45001 Accreditation by year's end.
- 1 Recruit Firefighter completed a mandatory 5-day Breathing Apparatus / Compartment Fire Behaviour course.
- Development of the LASNTG Fire Service App by Wicklow Fire Service for recording student assessments will be adopted as the national standard.

## Fire Prevention Statistics February 2022

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	15		3		13
Regularisation Certificates			1		1
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	7		8		8

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District	1	2	1		1
Circuit					
Dangerous Substances Act					
Explosive Act					

## Building Control

### Commencement Notices for February 2022:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 41

- 28 Valid Commencement Notices

- No. of CN's still awaiting RI at end of February = 6

- Invalidated CNs for February = 7

- 68% Submissions required Revised Information

### ☐ Certificates of Completion processed in February 2022

- 14 New No. of CCC submitted

- 11 No. Validated

- 0 No. Invalid

### Submission Statistics

11 No. Validated CCCs related to;

3 No CCCs submitted in January 2022

8 No CCCs submitted in February 2022

75% CCC submitted required Revised Info Requests

\*\*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 February:

- Executive Engineers
- Staff Officer (Grade V) – Preliminary Interviews
- Senior Staff Officer (Grade VI) – Preliminary Interviews
- Cleaners

#### Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021
<b>Managerial/Administrative</b>	296	297	304	305
<b>Professional/Technical</b>	123	118	121	122
<b>Outdoor</b>	268	264	261	262
<b>Temporary/Seasonal</b>	51	71 (increase relates to lifeguards)	49 (reduction relates to lifeguards)	49
<b>Non DOHPLG</b>	8	8	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>746</b>

#### Access to Information

##### F.O.I. Requests

February 2022: 10	February 2021: 11
Jan – February 2022: 19	Jan – February 2021: 15

# MARCH 2022



## Ombudsman Requests

February 2022	2
January to February 2022	6

February 2021	0
January to February 2021	1

## Press Releases

February 2022 – 10 Press Releases

## Register of Electors

Since the publication of the Live Register in February we have completed the issuing of printed copies to Post Offices, Libraries, Garda Stations and Council Offices throughout the County where it is available for inspection by members of the public.

The Franchise Section has commenced testing of the LGMA's new pilot i-Reg system over the last month and we are reporting and liaising continuously with the LGMA in terms of troubleshooting that we are encountering as well as suggestions for improvements within the new system.

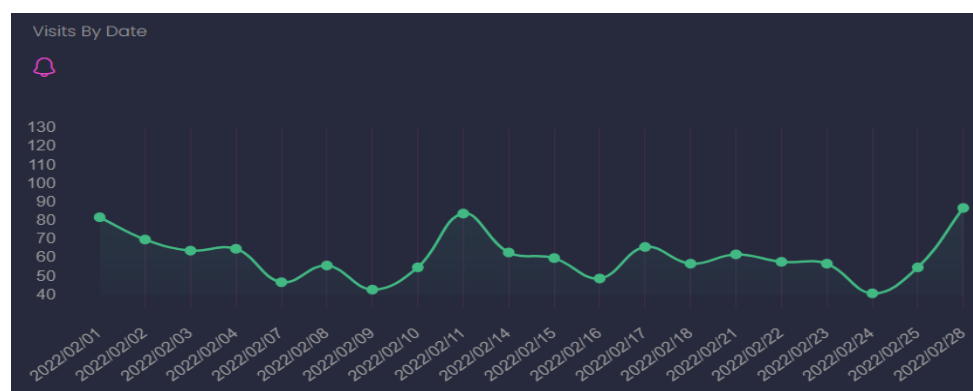
As part of our testing we are planning to run a dummy election in April which will assist us in identifying any system errors and whether or not the Anonymous Voter application is functioning.

We 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 registered in the absence of fieldworkers.

## Customer Service Hub

2022- February			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	8976	Motor Taxation	1613
No. of Emails	1330	Revenue	237
No. of Elected Members Emails	122	Social Housing Applications	71
CRM Cases	220		

Total in person visits for February 2022 – 1221 an increase of 8.5% from January 2022.





## 2. I.C.T.

### IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 33 tickets a day in February, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is underway.
- The upgrade of PC's in libraries and general offices continues and due to complete by end Q1 2022

### Implementation of ePlanning

- Systems and Project Plan in Place to rollout ePlanning

### GIS & Systems Analysis

- Preparation of the draft Greystones/Delgany - Kilcoole LAP has commenced.
- Development of a Tree Survey App has commenced.
- A proof of concept has been developed for a Heat Pump Management System.
- Review of the draft County Development Plan has begun with a view to its publication.
- The procedure to publish data to the National Open Data Portal has been upgraded.

### Business Systems/Applications Development

- Arklow Municipal District's Road's Section is collaborating with the inhouse Applications Development Team, to design and develop a new generation of "Smart" mobile data collection applications.

### Customer Service Delivery

- Support for the Customer Service Innovation Hub is ongoing. The Customer Service project requires a high level of IT collaboration with both hardware and software elements integrated into the Hub.
- Work continues with the business process mapping and DPIA's are being carried out for each process as it arises.
- Avaya IP Office Phone System has been modified to integrate the Avaya Contact Centre Select Hardware Appliance and software. This has led to greater integration with call reporting systems and has improved customer service delivery.

### eServices

Wicklow.ie – pageviews from March 1st, 2021, to February 28th, 2022, were 1,436,784 This is a slight increase in unique pageviews compared the same period the previous year.

- Social media accounts – followers to date
  - o Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 10,689 followers. This is an increase of 543 followers or 5.3% on the previous month.
  - o Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 7589 followers. This is an increase of 41 followers or .5% on the previous month.
  - o Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 2676 followers. This is an increase of 42 followers or 1.6% on the previous month.



- The Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie continues to feature in enhanced consultation campaigns. These have included–
  - Part 8 - To construct 2 no. four bedroomed semi-detached dormer houses at rear no. 8 Knockroe, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow
  - County Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan Consultation 2022
  - Part 8 - 20 no. social housing units at Schools Road, Lugduff, Tinahely
  - Blessington eGreenway
  - Part 8 - To Construct 14 one-bedroom age friendly apartments over three storeys with associated works at 1 Marine Road
  - Swan River Greenway and Old court Connectivity Scheme
  - Age Friendly Survey
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month.
  - #KeepWell
  - #OutdoorsForEveryone

### COVID-19

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

- 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
- 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.



## FINANCIAL

### Revenue Account

Due to year-end adjustments that are currently being carried out as part of the 2021 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) process, we are not in a position to provide January 2022 expenditure figures in the normal format at this time. This situation will be regularised during the Quarter 1 period. The below table outlines the 2022 adopted budget by service division.

REVENUE ACCOUNT			
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2022			
	Expenditure	Income	NET
	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	€
Housing and Building	34,438,754	(39,943,965)	(5,505,211)
Road Transport & Safety	22,204,016	(15,347,052)	6,856,964
Water Services	5,394,788	(6,561,262)	(1,166,474)
Development Management	12,355,595	(6,872,547)	5,483,048
Environmental Services	12,130,078	(2,083,134)	10,046,944
Recreation and Amenity	8,498,513	(1,148,299)	7,350,214
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,566,840	(809,228)	757,612
Miscellaneous Services	10,846,102	(9,033,954)	1,812,148
Central Management Charges	20,213,476	(1,000,000)	19,213,476
Local Government Fund		(13,068,907)	(13,068,907)
Commercial Rates		(31,929,814)	(31,929,814)
	<b>127,648,162</b>	<b>(127,798,162)</b>	<b>(150,000)</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 1st February 2022 to 28th February 2022.

### Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2022					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2022	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	28/02/2022
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	11,738,557	11,036,638	(4,962,716)	0	17,812,479
Road Transport & Safety	(43,249,562)	725,533	(458,781)	0	(42,982,810)
Water Services	(12,304,712)	119,397	(88,924)	0	(12,274,238)
Development Management	(10,075,571)	65,486	(2,157,983)	0	(12,168,069)
Environmental Services	893,628	637,975	(399,785)	0	1,131,818
Recreation and Amenity	(2,013,357)	636,636	(63,999)	0	(1,440,721)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,357,881)	27,298	0	0	(1,330,583)
Miscellaneous Services	(28,158,125)	5,855,562	130	0	(22,302,433)
	<b>(84,527,022)</b>	<b>19,104,523</b>	<b>(8,132,059)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(73,509,938)</b>



## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2022										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2022	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/1/2022	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
<b>Rates</b>										
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	2,837,526	2,929,598	0	47	0	5,767,171	(2,627,028)	3,140,143	0	46%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	446,170	386,043	0	0	0	832,213	(381,289)	450,923	0	46%

**NB** The commercial rated figures will be populated after the 2022 rate demands are issued. The rent collection and housing loan collection percentage is below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

## General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2022

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

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



## Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024

The Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of March 21st 2022. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

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





## Capital Funded Projects

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
NRGF	Blessington Greenway	€15,000,000	€0
URDF	Arklow Historic Town Core	€3,134,684	€783,671
URDF	Wicklow Town - Library and Fitzwilliam Square	7,034,879	€2,407,470
URDF	Bray Public Transport Bridge	€8,600,000	€1,000,000
URDF	Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration	€9,520,000	€2,380,000
RRDF 2019	Blueprint for Baltinglass	€3,566,968	€891,742
RRDF 2020	Placemaking Newtownmountkennedy	€477,000	€119,250
REDF	Wicklow County Campus - Content Creation Hub	€3,500,000	€2,000,000
Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns	Abbey Grounds Wicklow Town	€620,000	€120,000
Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Scheme	Market Square Wicklow Town	€119,000	€19,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Greystones CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Blessington CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
WCC	Mill Road, Greystones Masterplan	€50,000	€50,000
ORIS 2018	Avonmore Way Link Bridge	€490,000	€98,000
ORIS 2018	Vartry Reservoir Walks & Car Park	€197,131	€39,426
ORIS 2018	St. Kevin's Way	€200,000	€40,000
ORIS 2018	The Spinc	€200,000	€50,400
ORIS 2019	Wicklow Way Infrastructure Enhancement	€25,000	€5,000
ORIS 2019	Baltinglass Road Cycle Trails	€11,000	€2,200
ORIS 2019	North Wicklow Trails Network Development	€310,700	€38,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Avondale Avonmore	€20,330	€2,033
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Trail Digitising	€19,600	€1,960
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Tinahely	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Stratford	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Long Distance Video	€21,400	€2,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Brockagh Mountain Access	€11,100	€1,110
ORIS Measure 1 2020	People Counters	€22,000	€2,200
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Sean Lenihan	€21,200	€2,120
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Glenmalure Bridge	€12,500	€1,250
ORIS Measure 3 2020	Bright light Blueway	€554,820	€55,482
Sports Capital Programme	Charlesland All Weather Pitch Refurbishment -	€59,271	€5,927
LSSIS	Wicklow Swimming Pool	€1,646,052	€493,816
LSSIS	Charlesland Running Track	€411,674	€123,502
CLAR 2019	Rathcoyle NS	€55,556	€2,778
CLAR 2019	Knockananna	€46,000	€3,000
CLAR 2021	Knockananna community allotment	€10,830	€1,083
CLAR 2021	Askanagap	€55,557	€5,557
CLAR 2021	Knockananna	€27,514	€2,501



Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
T&V 2018	Blessington	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2018	Wicklow	€150,000	€30,000
T&V 2019	Dunlavin	€26,216	€2,623
T&V 2019	Coolkenno	€30,000	€3,000
T&V 2019	Aughrim	€119,500	€17,925
T&V 2019	Redcross	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2019	Delgany	€37,000	€3,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Bundled	€28,000	€2,800
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Dunlavin	€4,950	€495
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Roundwood	€40,000	€4,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Ballinaclesh	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Enniskerry	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Laragh	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Tinahely	€5,500	€550
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Baltinglass	€10,000	€1,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Arklow	€39,500	€3,950
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Wicklow	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Greystones	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Rathdrum	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Broadband Connection Points	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Kilcoole	20,000	2,000
T&V 2020 Main	Stratford	€200,000	€22,222
T&V 2020 Main	Avoca	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Enniskerry	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Annamoe	€100,000	€11,111
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilmacanogue Nature Trail	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Lacken Mass Path	€18,000	€1,800
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilcoole Mass Path	€13,000	€1,300
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Avonmore Kayak Project	€16,500	€1,650
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Age Friendly Triobikes for older people	€23,160	€3,160
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Keadeen Access	€13,500	€1,350
ORIS 2021 Project Development	Three Trout Route	€50,000	€5,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 3	The Sugarloaf Repair	€500,000	€50,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link	€180,000	€18,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	€220,000	€22,000
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Wicklow	€68,759	€20,628
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Arklow	€28,999	€8,700
Sports Capital Programme	Arklow Running Track	€62,434	€18,730
Sports Capital Programme	Dr. Ryan Park	€45,320	€13,596
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>€59,067,435</b>	<b>€11,267,801</b>