

**Wicklow County Council
Chief Executive's Monthly Report – December 2024**



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Wicklow County Council

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This month:

Opening of Upgraded Trail at Russborough House & Park

On Tuesday 17th December, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Paul O'Brien officially opened the Russborough House & Park Link Trail. He was joined by the Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass MD, Cllr. Patsy Glennon and Wicklow County Council's Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman.

The works carried out in 2024 included site groundworks, path upgrades, the installation of a gravel surface, grassing, and planting. The existing railings were upgraded and painted, and new fencing was installed in necessary sections of the path. Additionally, a cycle hub area was created, complete with bike racks and signage for bike parking.

Funding for this project was provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), with matched funding from Wicklow County Council.

The upgraded trail now features a wide and level surface, which is enjoyed by the local Parkrun community every Saturday morning. It is hoped that this facility, with ongoing support from Russborough House, will serve as a source of recreation for all visitors.

Opening of Abbey Lane

Arklow Municipal District recently completed a project focused on the protection and enhancement of the Abbey Wall and Abbey Lane. A prior survey in the area revealed significant archaeological findings, including 17th-century pottery and pre-1800 bones. Following the Department of Heritage's policy, these artefacts have been preserved in their original location.

This laneway, a vital pedestrian link from Castle Park to Main Street and adjacent to the Abbey Cemetery, now serves as a revitalized public space, blending historical preservation with community enhancement.

The stone paving and construction around the flowerbed were completed by Michael Bennett & Sons Building Contractors. Meanwhile, the conservation of the Abbey Wall was carried out by specialists from Kirwan Conservation Ltd., following traditional methods with a stone and lime mortar mix. They reinstated the window openings in the Abbey Wall using steel frames that reflect the original design undertaken by Stephen Keogh. These windows also allow views of the graveyard from the laneway.

Arklow Municipal District staff installed the new lighting to the wall and laneway as well as completing the works to the flowerbed

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Social Development (Housing & Community)

Housing

	November 2024	November 2023
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	96	125
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	1370	1497
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	20	23
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	21	28

Allocation of Social Housing

	November 2024	November 2023
Wicklow County Council	26	16
Approved Housing Bodies	0	51

Social Housing Stock

	November 2024	November 2023
Tenancies Occupied	5020	4883
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€338,523.82	€323,327.75
Arrears (Including Bray)	€2,992,098.22	€3,100,996.83

Rent

- Income based Differential Rent Scheme - Last Review – 2019
- 2 Schemes in the County – one in Bray and one for the rest of the County (new tenants in Bray now go onto Wicklow Scheme)
- Weekly Accrual as of 30.11.2024 = €338,523.82
- Active Subscriptions as of 30.11.2024 = 5020

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Social Housing List by Area of Choice

	As of 30/11/2024
Arklow	922
Ashford	383
Aughrim	37
Avoca	37
Ballinaclash	9
Ballyconnell	4
Ballycoogue	1
Baltinglass	111
Barndarrig	11
Blessington	234
Bray	1070
Brittas Bay	1
Carnew	68
Conary	4
Coolboy	4
Delgany	222
Donard	16
Dunlavin	29
Enniskerry	46
Glenealy	12
Greystones	308
Kilcoole	50
Kilmacanogue	10
Kiltegan	5
Kirakee	1
Knockananna	6
Laken	1
Laragh	11
Newcastle	12
Ntrmk	58
Rathdangan	2
Rathdrum	58
Rathnew	113
Redcross	1
Roundwood	33
Shillelagh	25
Stratford On Slaney	3
Thomastown	9
Tinahely	28
Wicklow	248
TOTAL	4203

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Housing Needs Assessment 2024 (SSHA 2024)

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

The following actions were taken to complete the HNA 2024-

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

At the end of November, the Wicklow County Council Social Housing supports list figure was 4225. This number includes persons on Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and on the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS). It also includes persons seeking transfer from Approved Housing Body properties and council house properties to other social houses. When those on HAP, RAS and seeking transfers are removed for the overall figure of 4,225, the number of persons seeking and in need of Social Housing support in Wicklow is 1744.

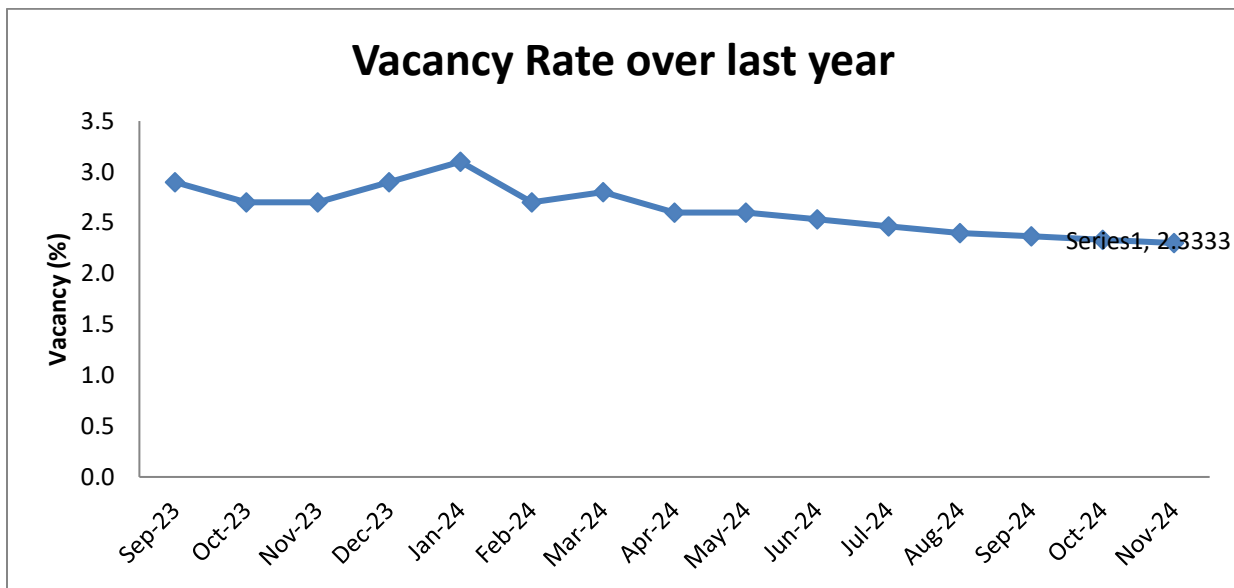
Re-Let’s / Voids

MD	Completed in 2024	In Progress	Not Started	Completed but not yet tenanted	Vacant
Arklow	18 (+1)	7 (+1)	6 (0)	14 (-1)	27(0)
Baltinglass	17 (+1)	5 (+2)	5 (+3)	16	26 (+3)
Bray	54 (+2)	5 (-1)	7 (+2)	4 (-8)	16(-7)
Greystones	8 (+2)	6 (+4)	1 (+1)	0 (0)	7(+5)
Wicklow	25 (0)	9(0)	20 (-3)	4 (+2)	39 (-5)
2024 Totals	122 (+1)	32 (-6)	39 (+1)	38(-1)	121 (+6)
2023 Totals	140				
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock (Total Vacancy + Occupied Tenancies)	2.4	Figures in brackets indicate change on last month			

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

The Council can only recoup a maximum of €11,000 per house from the Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage, whereas the average cost of relets was €36,000 per house in 2022 and €31,000 per house in 2023.



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

According to CSO Census 2022 data:

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

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

Housing Maintenance

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

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

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

Core Capital Programme

- i. Traveller accommodation

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

- ii. Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

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

- iii. Energy Retrofit Program

As part of our ongoing energy upgrade scheme, housing services are undertaking works across the county. This includes, depending on house surveyed, and not limited to external wall insulation, attic insulation, heat pumps and upgraded windows and doors. Number of houses retrofitted as of September 2024. These works comply with our policy on energy fabric upgrades which went through the SPC in 2023.

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EERP	Numbers carried out as of September
Houses retrofit	125



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

Mortgage To Rent

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

MTR	Numbers of inspections and sign offs as of October
Mortgage to Rent Properties	44

Vacant Home Surveys

Housing Services have been completing vacant homes surveys on behalf of the Vacant homes officer in 2024. This maps locations of vacant and derelict properties around the county in coordination with other departments.

Vacant Homes Surveys	Numbers carried out as of October
Surveyed on app	428

Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement

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

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out last month (October)
Targeted and complaint inspections	55

So far in 2024, the following Notices have been served by Wicklow County Council in relation to breaches of SI 137 of 2019:

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Notice Type	Served so far in 2024 (figures in brackets indicate increase on previous month)
Improvement Notice	36 (+2)
Prohibition Notice	9 (0)

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

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

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

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

Assessment criteria

CAS funding operates in partnership with LA’s and Approved Housing Bodies.

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

In 2023, Wicklow County Council delivered on 8 properties in partnership with Dublin Simon (4), Ark Housing Association (3) and Housing Association for Integrated Living (HAIL) (1).

Active projects 2024

Wicklow County Council is currently actively working with Ark Housing, Sunbeam housing association, National Association of Housing for Visually Impaired (NAHVI), St John of Gods Housing Association, Newgrove Housing Association, and Peter McVerry Trust to drive projects to completion.

To date, November 2024, Wicklow have delivered 6 properties in partnership with Sunbeam Housing Services (3), Ark Housing Association (2) and National Association of Housing for Visually Impaired (1). Areas of delivery below:

CAS Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	4	Delivery 2024	CAS
Newcastle	1	Delivery 2024	CAS
Arklow	1	Delivery 2024	CAS

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Active CAS projects included a construction project with SJOG which will deliver 4 units to house persons with disabilities, 4 turnkey units & 1 acquisition unit with Ark Housing to deliver units to persons at risk of homelessness and 1 unit with Sunbeam Housing Services to deliver a home to a person with a disability.

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

Council Delivered Adaptions Works	Completed/Ongoing
Bray MD	39
Baltinglass MD	14
Wicklow MD	20
Arklow MD	27
Greystones MD	10
Total	110

Budget Spend

	2024 Budget	Amount Spent as of November 2024
Grant Funding for Private Housing	€2,728,709.00	€2,298,787.60
Grant Funding for Social Housing	€913,457.00	€1,289,563.37

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Grants Received/Processed	249	216	266	327	281	456	769

Local Authority Home Loans up to November 2024

Received	Approved in Principle
71	27

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To Date	November 2024
Applications Received	460	5
Completed	109	4
Declined	280	0
Ongoing	15	15

Housing Acquisitions

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

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	Vacant	Tenant In Situ (TIS)	In Progress	TOTAL
2023	2	24		26
2024 (to 30th November)	6	6	6	18



(3) (Apt 19 Parkview Villas, Blessington – sale closed 16th October 2024)

House Purchase Enquiries (To 30th November 2024)

Total Received to date	Early Enquiry EOI Received	Closed -did not Progress with Purchase	Sale Agreed	Due Diligence Ongoing
55	16	26	6	7

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

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

There are currently 98 households in the County availing of this scheme.

Wicklow County Council (MTR) Tenants	Approved Housing Body (MTR) Tenants	In Progress
52	46	7

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Homeless Services

Homeless Figures for November 2024

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 30/11/2024	Year To Date	As at 30/11/2023
No of New Presentations	28	305	18
No. of Repeat Presentations	1	5	6
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	6	91	9
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	22	262	15
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	2	25	0
No. of Children	11	147	18
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	6	57	5
Family Circumstances	9	115	8
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	5	22	1
Mental Health	3	19	1
Risk of Homelessness	8	133	20
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	10	0
Addiction Issues	2	35	8
DV/DA	0	9	3
Medical Issues	2	16	0
Overcrowding	4	41	4
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	2	47	1
ASB:	0	8	1
Rough Sleeping*	0	18	6
Sofa Surfing*	9	31	2
Staying with Family*	9	83	4
Staying with Friends*	1	22	1

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/11/24	
Families	13
Adults	27
Children	41
Single individual	10

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Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/11/2023								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	19	21	23	4	7	1	4	2
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 30/11/2024								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	23	24	21	6	6	3	3	5

Homeless HAP Place Finder

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- Seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs.
- Establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- Supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 592 households (414 families & 178 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 30th November 2024. (237 homeless cases, 329 prevention cases to date and 26 direct provisions). 151 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

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

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

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

Dublin Simon are engaged by Wicklow County Council to operate and manage the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow as a Family Homeless Service. The building comprises of three 1-bed units, two 2-bed

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units, and two 3-bed units. Eleven families have now transitioned or are in the process of transitioning to a permanent home and the resulting vacancies are in the process of being occupied with families experiencing or in danger of homelessness.

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

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

Housing First

Peter McVerry Trust has been appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid-East Region. Wicklow County Council is committed to working with them and has now reached and surpassed the targets identified in the programme. Housing First recognises that a stable home provides the basis for recovery in other areas.

Properties will be provided by both Wicklow County Council and Peter McVerry Trust for the implementation of the programme.

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 18 clients under Housing First. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work

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

Homeless Action Plan 2024 – 2026

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

Youth Homeless Strategy 2023-2025

- Three-year strategy published 9th November 2022
- Focus on ending homelessness for young people aged 18-24 through:
 - Prevention of young people from entering homelessness
 - Improving the experience for young people accessing emergency accommodation
 - To assist young people exiting homelessness
- Multitude of stakeholders all with vital roles in addressing fundamental issues

Community

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

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

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

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

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

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

Additionally, this year's fund includes €1 million in current funding to support community and voluntary groups with non-pay running costs, such as energy bills (electricity, refuse charges, heating), and other operating expenses (rental or lease costs, insurance bills).

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

It should be noted that groups applying under the €1 million current fund are not precluded from applying for the capital funding and vice versa.

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

Further information and application forms will be available in January 2025.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

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

The Community Recognition Fund was first introduced last year to recognise the significant efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting newcomers to Ireland. The fund aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community, acknowledging the contributions made by local communities in accommodating arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. Eligibility for this scheme is limited to areas with high levels of new arrivals.

Earlier this year, Wicklow County Council sought expressions of interest for project proposals during the scheme’s first phase, resulting in the approval of €694,300 for seven community projects*. The final application window is now open for submissions, which will be accepted **until 4pm on Friday, 10th January 2025**. Funded projects must be capital in nature, provide medium- to long-term benefits for their communities, and be capable of being completed in 2025 or 2026.

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

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

*CRF 2024 Phase 1 Approved Projects

Wicklow	Carnew	Old Coolattin County Club CLG and Wicklow County Council	Carnew Community Land Development	€150,000
Wicklow	Dunlavin	Dunlavin GAA Club	Development of multi-use games area	€144,000

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Wicklow	Dunlavin	Imaal Hall Committee	Facilities Upgrade	€60,800
Wicklow	Newtownmountkennedy	Newtown GAA	Development of a Walkway	€100,000
Wicklow	Arklow	Arklow Town Team	Upgrade to St. Peter's Place Playground	€135,000
Wicklow	Bray	Bray Area Partnership	Purchase of new vehicle	€50,000
Wicklow	Rathdrum	Rathdrum Playground Committee	Park Placemaking Project	€54,500
Wicklow Total				€694,300

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

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2023

The projects below are nearing completion, with most having estimated completion dates by end of 2024.

	Project Description
Bray Community Centre	Internal works including electrical upgrade, painting, flooring and heating system improvement works
	External works including windows and doors replacement, safe removal of asbestos, exterior painting,
	Other works will include accessible lift, protected stairway works, insulation upgrade, landscaping and signage
Baltinglass Community Park	Riverside Walking Path
	New Playground
	MUGA Refurbishment
Bray Parish Centre	Internal works including electrical upgrade, painting and fittings
Wicklow Town Placemaking Project	Refurbishment of Assembly Hall (total area 2,000 sq. ft) to include new heating system, Internal painting, insulation, install 3 phases, refurbish kitchen, toilets and meeting room areas. Make universally accessible
	Installation of universally accessible outdoor community gym facility along the Murrough, in order to extend upon and complement the existing community facilities present.
	Improvements to the seafront promenade linking Wicklow Harbour to the existing Murrough community facilities and beyond to the Murrough coastal walk.
Arklow Playing Pitch	Groundworks and surfacing works
	Multi use pitch and fencing
	Landscaping

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Rathdrum Community Park	Groundworks, Fencing, Gates
	Landscaping, large planters and benches
Greystones Community Park	Boules/pétanque playing ground
	Landscaping and Community Placemaking



County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

Healthy Age Friendly Homes

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

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

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

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

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

- 046-924 8899 (Head Office)
- healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie

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

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

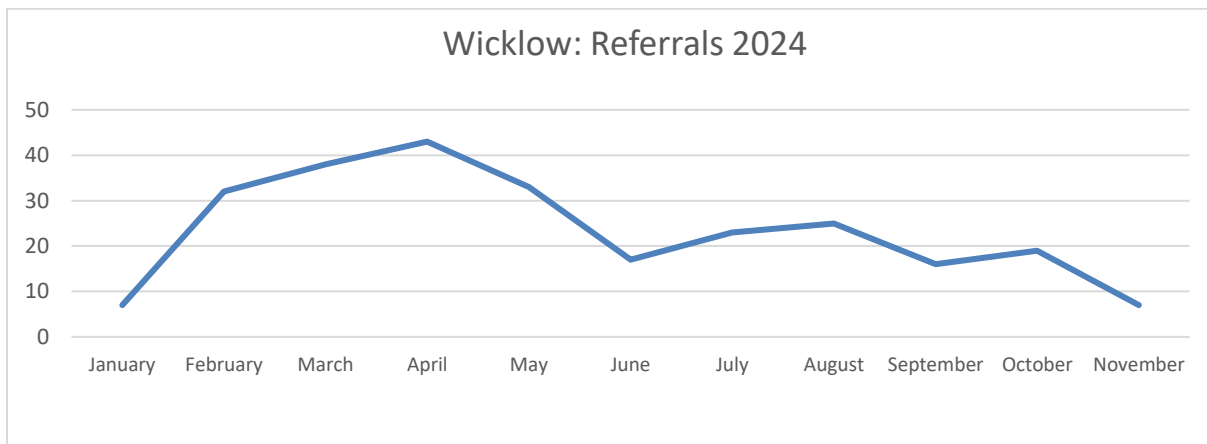
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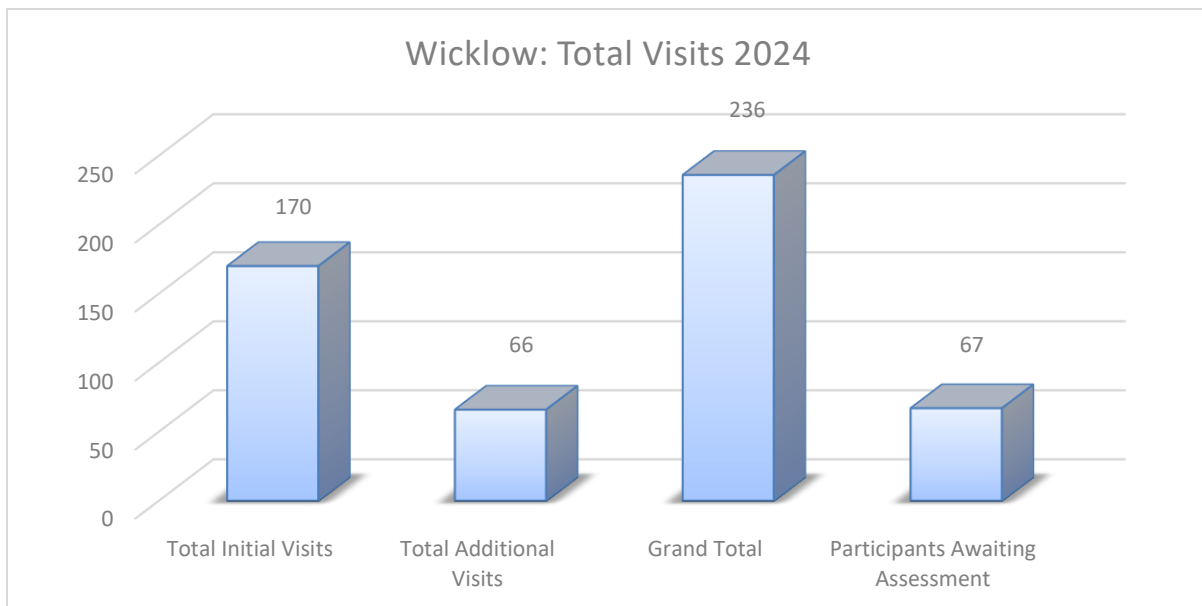
The programme has gone from strength-to-strength in Wicklow since its inception earlier this year. The 2024 projected targets for the programme in Wicklow have been exceeded, which demonstrates the success of the programme, and is a testament to the concerted collaborative efforts of the Local Coordinator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

Referrals to Healthy Age Friendly Programme

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



Total Number of Home Visits Conducted (Mar. 2024 – Nov. 2024):



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Total Initial Visits	170
Total Additional Visits	66
Total Visits Overall	236
Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit	67

**The revised projected visits for 2024, reflects the time needed this year to recruit new staff, the time required to facilitate staff training, and the time needed to initiate stakeholder engagement, programme promotion and programme scale-up. The new projected target of 203 visits in Wicklow for 2024 has been exceeded, thereby reflecting the success of the programme since its establishment in in 2024.*

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

Over 200 older people from across County Wicklow attended the Annual General Meeting of the Older People's Council, held at Arklow Bay Hotel in Arklow on November 1, 2024.

Staff from the multi-agency Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance attended the event to share information about services and supports available for older people. These included Age Friendly Healthy Homes, the Health Service Executive, An Garda Síochána, Citizens Information Services, County Wicklow Libraries, Local Sports Partnership, Healthy Age Ireland, County Wicklow Partnership, Bray Area Partnership, and the Public Participation Network.

Stephanie Lang, County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme Manager, provided an update on the Age Friendly Strategy for 2023-2027 and discussed future projects for 2025, including Information Clinics for older adults around the county and the piloting of the Care and Repair Programme.

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

County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance

Alliance meeting was held on the 9th of September 2024 where issues of Health, Transport, Housing and Socialisation were discussed. Each member of the Older Persons Council will discuss the issues facing their own areas. Visits will be carried out to various clubs around the county for example Men's Sheds, Women's Sheds and Active Retirement groups.

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

Age Friendly Ireland Committee

Wicklow Station has been nominated as the first train station within the County to receive Age Friendly Status. A Committee has been formed and a Walkability Audit took place on the 16th of October 2024 where people from the Irish Wheelchair Association, Members from the Older Peoples Council and

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members from Wicklow County Council took part. They were given a toolkit to use on the walk up to the station and around the station and they took notes of any issues that they came across. After the Walkability the Committee went back to County Hall to discuss their findings. A report of all the findings will be issued in the next few weeks and work will commence at the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025.

Disability Inclusion Steering Group

A “Make Way Day” meeting was held on the 24th of September 2024. “Make way Day” is a programme that will be piloted to make people aware of the difficulties people with disabilities face when people park their cars on footpaths obstructing people with disabilities to pass by freely. It is hoped that this programme will be launched by the end of the year.

The Sunflower Lanyard Programme aims to easily identify people with hidden disabilities. This Programme was rolled out in Wicklow County Council. Members of the Customer Care Unit currently wear these Lanyards so that a person with a hidden disability can identify which member of staff they need to talk to.

Access Officer

Training for Access Officer commenced in October 2024

Comhairle na nÓg

The position of Co-ordinator is currently in the process of being filled.

CLÁR 2024

CLÁR 2024 – all six projects applied for in 2024 were successful.

On the 7th of October, over €240,000 funding was announced under the scheme by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD. This latest announcement brings the total investment to over €13.5 million in support of over 310 projects in CLÁR areas nationwide so far this year under the 2024 programme.

The six projects in receipt of this funding in Wicklow are:

1. Annacurra GAA: Carpark Accessibility Upgrade Works - €50,000
2. Ballinacor Mountain Walkers Parking: Tarmacking, and associated works, of parking area at beginning of Ballinacor mountain walking route - €37,980
3. Askanagap Community Hall Renovations: Flooring, wiring, projector, and sound system - €50,000
4. Knockananna Amenity Area: Development of a green space within the existing amenity area - €29,215
5. Ballymanus Community Field: Provision of an All-Weather AstroTurf - €50,000
6. Knockananna Community Hall: Energy Upgrade - €24,588

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Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Scheme (LSSIF)

Wicklow Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre received total funding of €1,796,600 and the Charlesland Athletics Track Scheme received total funding of €436,032 under the LSSIF.

Tender documents for the refurbishment of Wicklow Swimming pool have been drafted and were sent to the OPW for oversight in mid-October. The OPW have queried parts of the tender documents and asked for more information, which the consultant engineers are currently addressing.

Works commenced at the track in Charlesland in early July and it was reopened to the public for use on the 1st of November. The refurbished track was officially opened by An Taoiseach Simon Harris on the 27th of November. The lane marking will be completed in the Spring.



Healthy Wicklow

The Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Unit

In collaboration with the Physical and Mental Wellbeing workshop held in Carnew Mart on Wednesday 4th December, Healthy Wicklow organised for The Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Unit to visit the Mart providing an onsite free health check for 25 farmers.

The Recovery Village Open Day

For the past five weeks Healthy Wicklow has funded a Drumming Programme in The Recovery Village which was showcased at their open day on Wednesday 11th December



Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Sláintecare Healthy Communities (SHC) is a government initiative focused on reducing health inequalities by addressing social determinants of health in disadvantaged communities. In Wicklow and Bray, SHC has established strong partnerships with Bray Area Partnerships, Healthy Ireland, CYPSC, BFRDP, Bray Travelers Community Project and many more local community groups, and healthcare providers to deliver targeted interventions. These interventions aim to enhance community wellbeing through physical, mental, and social health initiatives.

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Key Updates

Feasibility Study for Fassaroe and Little Bray

S3 Solutions is finalising a feasibility study for Fassaroe, highlighting the following key findings:

- Lack of investment in local amenities compared to more affluent Bray areas.
- Poor quality playgrounds and green areas, leading to safety concerns and antisocial behaviour.
- Limited facilities for all age groups and no operating base for local forums.

Community data from the Little Bray Family Resource and Development Centre consultations aligns with these concerns, with top issues identified as unemployment (75%), drug and alcohol misuse (72%), and mental health (64%).

Little Bray Garden Project

The Little Bray Garden Project, funded by Sláintecare SEED funding, is progressing. Planning permission for perimeter fencing is underway, addressing safety concerns for children at the crèche. Architectural plans are being developed to expedite the process, ensuring compliance with regulations.

Trauma Training

Trauma-informed training has been completed and is mandatory for new staff at the BFRDP and Community Centre, ensuring a supportive approach to community engagement.

Period Poverty Initiative

SHC, in partnership with Healthy Ireland, is addressing period poverty by providing free products to disadvantaged groups in the community.

Theraplay Project

A team led by Dr Suzanne Egan from the University of Limerick has been hired to conduct a Pre and Post Evaluation of the Theraplay Project at BFRDP. The project will begin in January 2025 alongside the recruitment of a play therapist and family engagement worker.

Food Poverty Forum

In October, the first Food Poverty Forum was held in Arklow, bringing together a significant number of local businesses, community representatives, and organisations. The forum aimed to support actions addressing food insecurity while creating a sustainable platform for those most in need, including families, schools, the elderly, and vulnerable groups.

The event was a success, with strong engagement and innovative ideas for tackling food poverty collaboratively. The next forum is scheduled for December/January and will continue building on the momentum to address food insecurity in Wicklow. Discussions will include strategies to:

1. Develop sustainable food distribution platforms.
2. Promote nutritional education in schools.
3. Enhance access to food for isolated elderly populations.
4. This initiative represents another key step in creating sustainable and equitable supports for communities experiencing food poverty.

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Funding Proposals

Two recent proposals have been successful:

- LGBTQ+ Youth Group: €20,000 for extended services, education, and outreach.
- GENIO Trust: A two-year programme funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund to address Traveller health determinants.

Local Enhancements

Several large-scale projects are being developed to improve facilities in Little Bray and Fassaroe. These include enhanced playgrounds, community centres, and accessible recreation areas.

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Current PPN Membership: 479 Member groups across the county.

Meet General Election candidates: 7 of 18 candidates participated in North Wicklow constituency webinar with 154 people engaging with it through their attendance or by watching recording. 3 of 7 candidates participated in the South Wicklow North Wexford constituency webinar with 89 people engaging with it.

Consultations: Blessington, Bray, Wicklow/Rathnew Local Area Plan; Part 8- Wicklow Port Access Road Link Scheme; Ashford Park & Ride Scheme; East Coast Railway Infrastructure Protection Projects; Draft Co. Wicklow Heritage Plan.

Wicklow PPN Winter Plenary took place in Greystones Family Resource Centre on 23 Nov. Members received a report on the work of the PPN in 2024 as well as approving the 2024 Financial Report, 2025 Projected Budget, and ratifying new member groups and PPN Representatives. Engaging presentation was given by Ger Deering, Ombudsman and Information Commissioner for Ireland.

Ongoing collaborative projects: Food Poverty Forum, Wicklow Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee.

Funding opportunities: 9 funding streams open for application.

See www.countywicklowppn.ie and Wicklow PPN Facebook page for further information on above and more including funding streams, public consultations, events, daily updates and membership.

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Planning, Economic & Rural Development

Planning

Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028 (as varied)

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

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

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

The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. An online consultation portal was created to present the variation alongside the draft Local Area Plan. The Proposed Variation was display for 6 weeks from 09 October to 20 November with 11 submissions received. The forward planning team are currently reading the submissions and preparing the Chief Executives Report to be issues to the elected members in January 2025 for their consideration.

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

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

The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Blessington Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation.

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An online consultation portal has been created to present the variation alongside the draft Local Area Plan. The Proposed Variation is on display for 6 weeks from 30 October to 11 December with submissions invited.

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

Proposed Variation No 4 to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Greystones / Delgany & Kilcoole LAP)

We are currently preparing proposed Variation No. 4 to the WCDP 2022-2028. The purpose of the Variation will be to ensure consistency between the WCDP 2022-2028 and the draft and final Greystones /Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan, which is being prepared separately but alongside the Proposed Variation. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the Variation and the initial stages of the SEA screening is currently being carried out.

Local Area Plans

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

Draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

The draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 was on display for 6 weeks from 09 October to 20 November 2024 with 166 submissions received. The forward planning team are currently reading the submissions and preparing the Chief Executives Report to be issues to the elected members in January 2025 for their consideration.

The Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan process is available to view here -

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

Blessington Local Area Plan

The draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025 is on display for 6 weeks from 30 October to 11 December 2024 with submissions invited. An online consultation portal has been created to present the draft Local

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Area Plan and associated CDP Variation No. 3. A well-attended public open day was held on 21 November 2024 in Baltinglass Municipal District Offices in Blessington.

The Blessington Local Area Plan process is available to view here –

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

Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan

Pre-draft consultation closed for the new 'Greystones - Delgany' & 'Kilcoole' Local Area Plan closed on 31 January 2024 with 115 submissions received. Two well-attended public information days were held in January 2024. All valid submissions have been reviewed and considered and a draft plan is being prepared. The draft plan is currently being prepared and it will go out on public consultation for 6 weeks with submissions invited from everyone. It is hoped that the draft plan will commence display in Q4 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

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

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

Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan

The pre-draft public consultation stage of the Local Area Plan ran from 01 March 2024 to 02 April 2024. An online consultation web portal was created for this stage, with submissions invited through the portal. 80 submissions were received. A well-attended public information day was held on 15 March 2024. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

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

Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue)

The pre-draft public consultation for the new Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan runs from 20 November 2024 until 18 December 2024. We have prepared an online consultation portal where everyone is invited

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to make a submission through. A public open day is planned for 05 December in Bray Civic offices. Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for the LAP and they are continuing to work on the SEA/ AA work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

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

The current LAP for Bray MD is available to view here

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

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

The Government's [Housing For All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland](#) has introduced a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes as a part of the 'Pathway to Increasing New Housing Supply'. The draft RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 was published on 01 February 2024. Submissions were invited on the draft maps up to 01 April 2024 with 9 submissions received. Submissions requesting a variation of the zoning of land were invited up to 31 May 2024 and no submissions were received by WCC. Determinations on the 9 submissions were issued by 01 July. Landowners had until 01 August to appeal the decision to ABP in the determination and 3 appeals were made. To view the draft RZLT maps click on the link below. The final RZLT maps for lands liable in 2025 will be published on 31 January 2025.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2024>

Vacant Site Levy

This programme is still ongoing and is affected by the proposed deferral of the RZLT. As liability to the RZLT is now proposed to be deferred for one year, it is considered appropriate to maintain provisions in legislation for the management and continued charging of the vacant site levy in respect of land which is identified on the register. This will continue to facilitate imminent placements on the register, conclusion of appeals and to facilitate the issuing of demands in relation to the levy for the period to the end of 2024. This will ensure that the use of the levy as an active land management measure will continue until the RZLT is in effect.

More information can be found online at the following link

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

Heritage Office

County Heritage Plan Review: A draft Heritage Plan was prepared by the Heritage Forum following analysis of issues raised through the pre-draft consultation process. The Draft was adopted by the

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members of Wicklow County Council during their meeting on 4th November. The Draft is currently open for public consultation, closing date 5th January, 2025.

Heritage Forum: Meeting of the Heritage Forum held in Roundwood on 09.12.24

County Heritage Plan (CHP): All projects co-funded with the Heritage Council are complete and recoupment claims submitted.

Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) – Five new community groups have signed up to the *Our Wicklow Heritage* network and were officially launched on 9th December. There are now a total of 11 community heritage archives in county Wicklow, see www.wicklowheritage.org

Archaeology: Baltinglass – Irelands Hillfort Capital : A new publication by authors James O Driscoll, Alan Hawkes and William O Brien and supported by Wicklow County Council is due to be launched in Baltinglass on 10th December.

Community Monuments Fund- CMF 2024. Six projects have been completed in 2024 as follows; Drumgoff Barracks remedial works; Drumgoff Barracks preparation of a Conservation Plan; Kilmacanogue Conservation Plan; St Kevin's Church Hollywood Conservation Plan; Mullinacuffe Ruined Church Repair and Consolidation works; Financial drawdown of €202,000 to be submitted to National Monuments Service. The Community Monuments Fund for 2025 recently advertised with a closing date of 31st January for applications to WCC.

Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture): All projects complete and funding recoupments submitted under the BHIS and the HSF 2024.

BHIS 2025 was advertised in September. A total county allocation of €141,000, 25 applications received and assessed. Awaiting outcome from Dept.

The HSF 2025 has recently been announced. Invitations will be sought for County Wicklow with a closing date of 17th Jan 2025

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Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 30 th November 2023	To 30 th November 2024	% difference
Received (Valid)	1078	982	-8.9%

A total of 101 valid applications were received during November as follows:

Type of Development	30 th November 2024 Number Received
Individual Houses	27 (26 Rural)
Housing Developments*	02
Agricultural Structures	03
Commercial	04
Other Developments**	65
Total	101

**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.

Housing Developments – PRR24/60688-58 dwellings, Elbren Cottage, Ashtown Lane, Wicklow
 PRR24/60694-mixed use development, Blessington Demesne, Blessington, Co. Wicklow

Decisions issued in respect of 62 applications in November 2024:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	00
Individual Houses	03
Other Developments	59
Other Developments Requiring EIA	00
Total	62

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Decisions issued between January to November, in comparison to the same period for 2023:

	30/11/2023	30/11/2024
Total Number of decisions issued	927	821
Total Number of decisions to grant	781	690
% Grant Rate	82%	82%
No of applications withdrawn		13(4 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

ABP-313229-22 – Lands at **Coolagad**, Greystones (586 Units) Members Meeting 27/4/2022, CE report forwarded 30/5/2022

ABP-313314-22 – Lands at **Fassaroe and Monastery**, Bray (650 Units) Members Meeting 10/5/2022, CE forwarded 07/06/2022 – ABP unable to determine within the 16 weeks statutory timeframe.

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

ABP-314686-22 Lands at **former Bray Golf Club Lands**, Off Ravenswell Road and Dublin Road, Bray, Co. Dublin and Co. Wicklow, (586 Units), Members meeting 4th October 2022, CE report submitted 21/11/2022 – Granted 19/08/2024

Strategic Infrastructure Development

An Bord Pleanala has received an application for approval under section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-310090-21- Proposed development will comprise the onshore grid infrastructure including 220kV export cable circuits and fibre optic cables, new 220kV GIS substation at **Shelton Abbey** and overhead line connection and all associated ancillary works. In the **townlands of Johnstown North, Johnstown South, Seabank, Ballymoney, Killiniskyduff, Templerainy, Coolboy, Kilbride, Shelton Abbey, Ballyraine Lower and Ballyraine Middle, in Co. Wicklow** – approved with conditions 27/5/2023.

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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** – Decision, refuse permission under section 37G of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, 27/09/2023.

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for proposed development primarily comprising of the provision of a new 110 KV substation with Gas Insulator Switchgear (GIS) technology and two 110kV underground transmission cables (connecting to existing 220kV overhead lines to the northwest of the proposed substation) along with associated and ancillary works at **Bogland, Kish, Cooladangan, Ballintombay, Ballyroonaun and Ballynattin, Co. Wicklow** – ABP approved proposed development subject to 15 conditions 30/11/2023.

An Bord Pleanála has received a planning application for permission by Sure Partners Limited for offshore wind energy development – Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 located **off the coasts of Co. Wicklow and Co. Wexford** under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended – ABP-319864-24 refers.

An Bord Pleanála has received a planning application for a strategic infrastructure development in respect of proposed material recovery/recycling facility and inert landfill **Ballinclare & Carrigmore near Kilbride, Co. Wicklow** – ABP-321255-24 refers.

Substitute Consent

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for the remainder of the development on **lands at Ashford, Co. Wicklow** - ABP-312283-21 refers. Granted by ABP 16/8/2024 subject to 16 conditions.

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for development that consists of a sand/gravel extraction pit including extraction areas, processing areas, stockpiling areas and ancillary works (circa 23.7 hectares). The development also includes a sand/gravel washing/screening plant & buildings comprising workshop/machinery shed, tools storage container, pump – house, 2 no. portable

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office buildings, 1 no. portable office/canteen/WC, Sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant control cabin, bonded oil storage tanks, diesel generator container & electrical substation (all totalling circa 376sqm) The application is accompanied by a remedial EIAR and remedial NIS. **Lands at Ballinabarney North & Bolagh Lower, Redcross, Co. Wicklow.**

E-Planning Project

The eplanning has now been in place for just over one year, it went live on 17th April 2023 and for the year up to 16th April 2024, we received a total of 1,437 applications of which 744 were received through the eplanning portal and 693 were received in hard copy, 51.8% in the first year were received online.

For the **month of November**, a total of 121 planning applications were received of which 28.10% were hard copy applications and **71.90% were received online.**

From **1st January 2024 to November 2024** a total of 1202 applications were received of which 37.27% were hard copy applications and **62.73% were received online.**

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

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

- A number of one off rural dwellings throughout the county
- Change of use and conversions to a number of properties throughout the county
- Removal of existing two storey side extension and construction of three storey side extension in Bray
- Erection of 2 no. temporary prefabricated classrooms, in Arklow
- Extensions and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Construction of mixed use LRD in Blessington.
- Several demolitions of existing developments throughout the county
- installation of 109.08 KW (512.9M2) of ground mounted Solar PV Array and associated works and services in Arklow

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Planning Enforcement

New Files	7
Advisory Letters	18
Warning Letters	4
Enforcement Notices	0
Legal Files	1
Closed	6

Vacant Sites

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
Arklow	7
Baltinglass	1
Bray	2
Greystones	4
Wicklow	6

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

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
Baltinglass	2

Town Regeneration

1.1 Town Centre First Masterplans

1.1.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington, as a Pathfinder Town, is leading the way in the development of a Town Centre First Masterplan. This masterplan offers a clear and strategic framework for the positive and sustainable development of the town, both in the short term and in the future. Currently, the implementation of the Town Centre First (TCF) plan is in the planning stage, focusing on revitalizing key areas in the town.

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Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) funding has been allocated specifically to redesign Main Street and Market Square, two central areas that will play a significant role in the town's regeneration. The goal is to bring these projects to a shovel-ready stage, which means they will be fully prepared for the next phase, where they can be submitted for Category 1 RRDF funding to secure further financial support for construction and development. This initiative is a significant step toward enhancing the town's infrastructure, economic vitality, and overall community appeal.

1.1.2 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre First Masterplan

Newtownmountkennedy is among the 26 towns identified nationally under Phase 2 of the Town Centre First Plan initiative. The town will receive €30,000 in funding to support the development of its own Town Centre First Plan. This funding aims to guide the revitalization and sustainable development of the town centre, to enable it to become a vibrant and thriving hub for the community. The funding was awarded under the Town Centre First Measure 2 Suite of Supports. The plan must be completed with all associated claims submitted to the Department by 5th September 2025.

After successfully establishing the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team in November 2024, the Town Team along with the Town Regeneration Officer (TRO) is now in the process of drafting a tender document for the production of the Town Centre First Plan.

1.2 Town Centre First – Suite of Supports

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

The original deadline for the drawdown of the funding was 15th November 2024. However, an application to extend the deadline was submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development, and the request was approved. As a result, the revised deadline for drawing down the funding is now 8th May 2025, giving the town's additional time to finalize their plans and ensure the successful formation of their town teams. This extension provides a valuable opportunity for further planning and preparation in these communities.

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

1. Blessington – measures to include enhancement to the Square with tree planting and rain garden, spaces for dining and fixed seating.
2. Wicklow Town – Further enhancement at the Black Castle area to encourage more tourism and attractions for locals with installation of picnic tables, seating and a sculpture park.

The capital funding agreement was returned to the DRCD on 16th September 2024. The *Town Centre First Measure 3* projects must be completed with all associated claims submitted to the DRCD by 30th September 2025.

1.3 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow Co Council has been awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023. The Projects selected were;

- a. Kirikee, Glenmalure for work on their Community Centre to include renovation of the roof, windows ceilings and walls.
- b. Lacken to renovate the old schoolhouse to be used as a community centre to include café and community shop and a small heritage section.
- c. Wicklow Towns, Murrough BMX pump track to develop into best- in-class asphalt covered pump track for all ages and abilities. The Acceptance Agreements have been signed and the commencement of the tender process was discussed with the associated Town Team /Community Groups in early September.

Meetings are ongoing with the respective Community Groups to review their tender documents prior to uploading to e-tenders.

1.4 Town Teams

The process of forming a new Town Team in Newtownmountkennedy was completed in November 2024. Following this, the newly established team held its first meeting in December 2024. This marks an important milestone in the town's efforts to revitalise and develop its town centre as part of the Town Centre First initiative. The formation of the Newtownmountkennedy Town Team brings the total number of Town Teams in County Wicklow to five, joining Arklow, Blessington, Greystones and Wicklow.

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

1.5 Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

1.5.1 Blessington RRDF

Blessington has been awarded over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to be used for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a vacant/derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes Greenway. Meetings are being planned with the Town Team in early 2025 to progress these works.

1.5.2 Baltinglass RRDF

The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow came in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and the necessary technical plans are complete in order for the works to commence. Works on the Public Park and playground are almost completed. Application for further funding on this project was made to the Department on the 7th February 2024. However, the submission was not successful. The Town Regeneration Team have met with the consultants regarding the public realm works and a finalised a first phase of the works, which will hopefully go out to tender early in 2025.

1.5.3 Newtownmountkennedy RRDF

The project is at a standstill over contested issues regarding the design of the public realm. Following the necessary revisions, it is hoped that agreement will be reached with the plans signed off and submitted for Category 1 funding. A revised design will also form part of the Town Centre First Plan referenced previously.

1.5.4 Urban Regeneration Development Fund Call 3

Wicklow will receive €2.5 million to assist long term vacancy and dereliction. Four properties have been chosen (two in Arklow and two in Wicklow). The two properties identified in Wicklow have since had refurbishment works commenced on them by their owners and are no longer available for purchase. Two further properties are now to be identified and this process has commenced.

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An additional property has been identified in Arklow and approval has been received from the department to start the process of acquiring this property.

1.5.5 Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004

A revised business case has been sent to DHL&H in December 2025. A tender brief is currently being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for the proposed works. A WCC project team are meeting monthly to track progress of the project.

Tourism

Wicklow County Council Tourism Office continues to promote County Wicklow as a destination not only to domestic visitors but also on the international market using a range of tools and activities. See below some of the actions delivered on and also some upcoming events:

1. Wicklow Passport Promotion

The online promotion of the passport has boosted sales and is proving to be an excellent Christmas present while attracting people to visit the County and to collect the many stamps along the way.

2. Christmas & Shop Local Campaign

The Christmas blogs on the visitwicklow.ie website are proving extremely popular. The 'Where to meet Santa' has recorded more than 1,423 views in the last two weeks of November and first two weeks of December. Part of the Christmas Campaign includes a 'Wicklow Christmas Gifts Guide' featuring local ideas for Wicklow presents. Those included vouchers, annual passes, Wicklow Naturally & Made in Wicklow products, adventure races and more. Wicklow County Council ran an extensive #ShopLocal campaign promoting the Wicklow Gifts with social media ads and features on the Wicklow Times, the Wicklow People and online. The 'Wicklow Christmas Gift Guide' page on visitwicklow.ie recorded close to 900 visits.

3. Best of Ireland Promotion

Wicklow County Council has partnered with the social media platform Best-Of-Ireland to create and showcase a four day Wicklow Passport itinerary. The team at Best-Of-Ireland engaged in a tour around Wicklow in late November and produced four short videos showcasing their adventures around the County. The various videos were then released on the Best-Of-Ireland platform that counts up to 750k followers on

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Instagram. Each video recorded extensive reach and engagement with the 'Day #1' video getting more than 3000 likes.

4. Golf Wicklow and Outdoor Videos

The 'Best Wicklow Golf Holes' project produced ten high quality videos and a series of photos showcasing the diversity and quality of the golf offering available in the County. The 'Wicklow Outdoors' project produced nine videos featuring action packed activities such as hiking, trail running, kayaking, mountain biking, stand up paddling, equestrian activities, sea swimming and road cycling.

5. Wicklow Tourism Alliance

The final meeting for 2024 of the Wicklow Tourism Alliance took place in early December. The Wicklow Tourism Alliance is a group made up of representatives of the local tourism trade, local organisations and elected Councillors from each Municipal District. The Alliance meets at least three times a year, and offers a platform where members can share tourism updates and information. Chaired by the chair of Wicklow County Tourism, the Tourism Alliance is a vehicle for effective collaboration between all stakeholders in the tourism sector in County Wicklow.

6. Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP).

As part of the Wicklow Destination Experience Development Plan, Fáilte Ireland ran a Tourism Conference and Workshop on Thursday the 5th of December 2024 at the Parkview Hotel in Newtownmountkennedy. The event attracted over 80 people from the Wicklow Tourism trade and local organisations. It included presentations from Brian O'Flynn, Head of Ireland's Ancient East, Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Professor Terry Stevens, Stevens & Associates, International Benchmarking, Miša Novak, International Speaker, Alohas Consulting, Slovenian Tourist Board and Mark O'Connell, Repucon Consulting.

7. Wicklow Gaol

Consultants from CHL & Associates presented their interim report to the board of Wicklow Gaol in late November. The Strategic Report is now due for completion and will include an extensive review of the current operations, suggest opportunities for growth, and help to actively plan for the future development of Wicklow Gaol as Wicklow town's premier tourism attraction.

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Finally, Wicklow County Council is commissioning a Conservation Management Plan. This report is to review the current structure and set out recommendations for immediate repairs and ongoing maintenance, with a view to preserving this historic structure.

Economic Development

Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

Work is progressing on the Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns project at the Abbey Grounds. Fáilte Ireland has given an extension of funding until the end of the year.

Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan (VEMMP)

Work continues on the implementation of recommendations contained in the 7 – 10 year VEMMP. Some improvements already implemented include:

- Formation of the Glendalough Partnership; a strategic collaboration of the critical stakeholders operating in the area
- Tender for All Ability Trail from Laragh to Upper Lake is complete, with consultant due to be appointed early in the New Year
- Preparatory work being carried out for a Conservation Management Plan
- Improvements to parking and traffic management during Summer 2024 were widely welcomed
- Upgrade works to the Spinc trail (phase 2) are complete
- Establishment of the Local Advisory Group and increased communications with local residents and businesses

Each of the stakeholders continue to work towards the implementation of actions contained in the VEMMP

Special Projects

The GRID: The GRID (Greystones Regional Innovation District) is now open and taking enquiries. Engagement with potential licencees is ongoing with booking of hot desk space or meeting rooms live on the Connected Hub platform.

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

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Carnew Remote Working Hub: Design drawings have been reviewed and are being finalised. Documents for Part 8 planning approval are currently being prepared and will be ready before the end of the year.

Marketing Plan: The #ChooseWicklow campaign is in full flow with regular social media posts and radio advertising each week, backed up by the ChooseWicklow.ie website. The campaign will run through until the first few weeks of 2025.

Offshore Renewable Energy

The Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Network continues to meet regularly and engage with the offshore renewable energy companies who are developing proposals off the coast of County Wicklow. 'Preparing for Offshore', a networking/information event for suppliers and other interested parties was held in Clermont on 28th November. There were four speakers, a 'fireside chat' style Q&A session, as well as information stands in the room. The event was well attended, and participant's feedback indicated that it was useful for all. It is hoped to run a similar event again next year.

Skills Strategy

The Skills Strategy for County Wicklow is available on the website to read. The Skills Taskforce has reviewed its Terms of Reference and membership as the works of the Taskforce now turns to implementation of the Skills Strategy. The Taskforce will meet regularly over the coming months to drive implementation of the actions contained within the Strategy.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow Naturally:

This year's agri-food project, funding by the Department of Agriculture, is now complete for 2024. This funding was used to support an extra October Feast event and for the production of videos and images, as well as website upgrades.

The AGM of Wicklow Naturally was held on the 26th of November. After many years as Chair, Pamela Walsh resigned from her position and the group appointed Paul Smith as the new chair of Wicklow Naturally. The new board is now planning for 2025.

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Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters, and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral 			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 28/ € 672,873 4/ € 6,541	42 Combined	22 €671,747 7 €12,500
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
	2023	2024	2024
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	40	60	54
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	73 / 7 programmes	120	145
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	757	1020	1176
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	30	20	22
METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	581	500	427
Number of One-to-One Business Advice			
METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	

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Academic Year	2021/2023	2023/2024	Year to Date 23-24
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1028	1100	1358

METRICS: Client Transfers to Enterprise Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of transfers	2023	2024	Year to Date 2024
Number of transfers	5	5	4

Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	15	17
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	5	17	20
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	1	6	7
Energy Efficiency Grant	-	12	3
Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	6	11	11
New Exporters	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2024
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	5	3	-

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2023	2024	Year to Date 2024
Trading Online Vouchers	81	38 (meet demand)	77

November 2024 Activities:

- Local Enterprise Office Wicklow and Wicklow County Council hosted the East Wicklow Business Network together with Bray Chamber of Commerce networking meeting called '**Your Business, Your Future: Tax Reliefs and Legacy Planning**' on 20th November in the GRID, The Greystones Regional

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Innovation District. It was a great opportunity to partner with these networks and showcase the new enterprise hub for Greystones. Over 60 attendees were delighted to view the facilities and offices on offer in the GRID and many expressions of interest were received following the event.

- Local Enterprise Office Wicklow and Wicklow County Council organised and hosted an information event on behalf of the **East Coast Offshore Renewable Energy Network** called '**Preparing for Offshore Opportunities**' on 28th November 8.30am in Clermont House. This event was intended to showcase and promote the network and to inform business owners of the key offshore developments planned along the East Coast. Over 80 attendees came to listen to keynote players speak about the sector, plans, supply chain opportunities for the local business community.
- LEO staff member, Louise Fleming, formed part of the judging panel at the 'Junior Entrepreneur Programme' (JEP) pitches at St. Laurence's N.S. Greystones for sixth class. JEP is a national entrepreneurship programme run throughout Ireland, founded by the Kennelly Foundation partnering with Enterprise Ireland.
- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out several times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Business Advice Clinics continue to run 3 days per week to provide advice to those individuals hoping to start a business and to assist existing businesses grow and develop.
- Additional Start Your Own Business courses were added to meet demand and ensure clients do not have to wait too long to participate in such a course.

December 2024 Activities:

- The Trading Online Voucher Scheme closes 13th December and is being replaced by a new more general support called Digital for Business and GrowDigital which aims to encourage small businesses to implement digital technologies in their business.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

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

Training scheduled for December:

- SYOB 5-week programme-19/11-19/12/2024

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Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

Climate Action

Climate Actions Focus:

- **Climate Action Committee** established and first meeting took place in November. Next item is to establish the Climate Action Delivery committee.
- **E-Bike Shared Mobility Scheme**
Expression of interest for Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow issued and two submissions received. Bolt and Moby have expressed an interest.
During the standstill period, we received a query from one of the parties which we are reviewing.
- **Wicklow Second Youth Climate Conference**
Held in East Glendalough on 26th November from 10-1pm with Codling Wind Park and East Glendalough School
- **Coastal Erosion**
 1. The ECRIPP project is at public consultation until the 4th January 2025, WCC have made a submission.
 2. Malachy Walsh and Partners have been engaged in relation to Brittas Bay and Ennereilly, And have submitted an Inception report.
 3. Ltd have been appointed for the Seabank to Kilmichael Point coastal erosion management risk study and have submitted an Inception report.
 4. North Beach (Funding submitted to OPW, Area may be covered by ECRIPP)
- **Glyphosate Policy** – Wicklow County Council has joined a Service Level Agreement for the Scientific Assessment of Alternatives to Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Amenity Public Open Spaces project with various third level institutions (such as Maynooth University and Trinity), agencies, and ten other local authorities (some with large park departments). This SLA commenced in 2020 and findings have been received by WCC. This has to be reviewed.
- **Wicklow SuDS Policy Draft Complete** Public Consultation has passed
- **Greystones MD - Active Travel Scheme with NB SuDS Rainwater Garden scheme taking place**– Part Funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund
- **Rainwater Management Plan drafted** for area in Redford Park. An initial design has been completed, Detailed design to be completed. CCTV survey required
- **Arklow MD Office, Civic Centre, Depot and Harbour Office** – Solar PV to be added and funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund.
Arklow MD done, Civic centre approved by climate Team, Depot approved funding by Climate Team. Energy Team organising works. Harbour Office under consideration.
- **Bray MD EV Mower demonstration Day** – The District reviewed EV mowers with the Climate Action Team – A mower is tendered on etenders and will be funded for the Bray MD from the Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund. Tender process has passed. CE Order signed.
- **Wicklow MD - Brittas Bay** – 1000m of Chestnut Fencing, Delivery has been received and installation will be carried out by Wicklow MD funded by Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund.
- **Baltinglass MD** - Community Notice Board to be trialled in Blessington. Meeting to take place with District Engineer. The option of a shared mobility scheme for Blessington will be reviewed.

Climate Action Officer Update:

- Community Gardening Expression of interest received 39 to date with a good graphical spread with Wicklow Town with highest demand.

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- Currently investigating Available Sites.
- Working on Green Events Policy

Biodiversity Officer Update

- Biodiversity Working Group second meeting held, to discuss aims, objectives and preliminary actions.
- Biodiversity Plan Update –
Review submissions from public engagement process and develop report in response.

Key stakeholder engagement continues (meeting with key groups)

Initiate internal consultation process in new year (meeting with nominees from each section)

- Local Biodiversity Action fund:
End of year report on the 6 LBAF projects
€95,000 Claimed
- Heritage Council grant
End of year reporting on same - €20,000 grant

Community Climate Action Programme

- Funding of €646,000 allocated to Wicklow.
- Projects have commenced
- The programme was launched prior to the first SPC meeting.

Project Scale	Wicklow	Baltinglass	Greystones	Bray	Arklow
Large	2	1	1	0	1
Medium	3	2	1	1	2
Small	1	3	1	0	1

Environmental Awareness

- Tree Planting Grant – 20 applications, 12 approved across the 5 MDs
- Tidy Towns & Sustainable Development Awards 2024 application process closed, break down as follows:

Award	Bray MD	Greystones MD	Wicklow MD	Arklow MD	Baltinglass MD
SD Award	3	3	4	2	11
Estates	6	4	4	4	9
Main St	1	1	3	1	8

- EAO is currently judging Tidy Estates & Main Streets and doing site visits for a number of the SD Awards. There is an increase in number of entries
- Composting & Recycling for Schools Workshops, ReLove Fashion programme delivered by the Rediscovery Centre, Rubbish Film Festival (9) delivered by Create School.
- Green Flags – school visits and applications for renewal
- Schools Christmas Decorations Competition

Climate Networking

- Bioeconomy Forum member (Two LA's represented Tipperary (Enterprise) and Wicklow (Climate Team)).
- SDG Forum

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- Biodiversity Officers Network
- Community Climate Actions Officers network
- LA Climate Action Forum
- Revised Climate Action Charter Workshop
- Rain Water Management Plan template workshop
- Currently organising workshops for Climate Action Week.

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Solar Meithal in Greystones ongoing
Fabric Meithal in Arklow

Tidy Towns Forum

Tidy Towns Education Event for County with Tidy Towns Forum launched (Good representation from around County)
Compiling list of interested groups

Greystones, Newcastle, Kilcoole and Delgany Climate Action Forum

Date to be set for January for next event

Harbours and Ports

CCTV and Access Control

Civil works have commenced to put in place improved CCTV and access control systems in Wicklow and Arklow harbours.

Arklow Harbour

Work is underway to bring water and power to the Fishers pontoon in Arklow Harbour.

Wicklow Harbour

Work is underway to construct showers for swimmers adjacent to the Sandfiner beach.

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-24	7	5	2	9	7	2
Feb-24	6	5	1	7	5	2
Mar-24	8	7	1	9	7	2
Apr-24	10	9	1	11	9	2
May-24	8	8	0	8	6	2
Jun-24	8	8	2	10	6	4
Jul-24	8	6	2	10	7	3
Aug-24	5	4	1	6	4	2
Sept - 24	7	6	1	8	5	3
Oct- 24	4	3	1	5	3	2
Nov-24	5	5	0	5	3	2

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Litter/Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created	139
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	328
No of Litter Fines Issued	12
No of Fixed Penalty Notice issued	3
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	6
No. of Warning Letters Issued	10
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	21
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	3
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	12
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	21
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	2
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	6
Income - Litter	€930.00
Income- Waste Management	€4,200.00

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 11 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 11 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 1 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Noise pollution complaints closed.
- 1 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 0 Air pollution complaints closed.

Private Water Supplies

- 1 Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for 117 Regulated Private Water Supplies prepared.
- 12 Private Water Supplies Monitored.
- 11 Private Water Supplies were compliant with drinking water parametric limit values.
- 1 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with microbiological parametric limit values.
- 0 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with pH parametric limit values.
- 0 Private Water Supplies were non-compliant with chemical parametric limit values.
- 0 Private Water Supply audit inspection.
- 0 Boil Water Restrictions placed on Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice due to microbial failures.
- 3 Boil Water Restrictions lifted from Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice after remedial action and compliant sample results.
- 0 Do Not Consume Restrictions placed on Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice due to chemical failures.
- 0 Do Not Consume Restriction lifted from Private Water Supplies upon HSE advice after remedial action and compliant sample results

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Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

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

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 5 Catchment engagement activities was undertaken
- 1 Catchment assessments carried to assess risk and impact.
 - **Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026**
 - 1 Inspection Plan prepared
 - 5 inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems to verify work to comply with advisory notices.

Good Agricultural Practice Inspections

- 4 Inspections of farms were carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.
- 2 Inspections of farms were carried out following pollution complaints.

Well Grants

- 21 New Water Grant application were received
- 3 New Well were granted
- 18 New Pumps were granted
- 28 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units were granted
- 30 inspections in advance/completion of works were carried out

Petrol Vapour Recovery

- 0 Petrol filling station Stage Ib Installation (Petrol Delivery) inspected.
- 1 Petrol filling station Stage Ib Installation (Petrol Delivery) assessed.
- 2 Petrol filling station Stage II Installation (Petrol Pump Dispensing) issued certificate of testing.
- 0 Petrol filling station Stage II Installation (Petrol Pump Dispensing) inspected.

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 0 Paint Retailer inspected.
- 1 Vehicle refinisher installations inspected.
- 0 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installation issued letters.
- 0 Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installation issued compliance certificate.
- 1 Dry Cleaner installation was inspected.
- 0 Dry Cleaners installation issued compliance certificate.

Solid Fuel Regulations

- 0 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected and compliant.
- 0 Wholesalers/distributors/retailer follow-up inspections.
- 10 Solid Fuel Samples Taken and Analysed.

Air Pollution Act

- 0 Inspection of Licenced bitumen plant.

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Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

- 0 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.
- 0 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed non-compliant and licensees were requested to take corrective action.
- 0 unlicensed wastewater discharges to waters was inspected.
- 0 unlicensed wastewater discharges to waters was assessed.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

- 38 River samples taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
- 4 Lake samples taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants

Planning & Development

- 8 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
- 8 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
- 1 environmental report on referred planning applications/consultations was completed concerning housing development.
- 1 Environmental report on compliance with existing planning conditions
- 0 Environmental reports on other planning assessment (forestry etc.) was completed.

Control of Dogs

The Regulations in relation to the keeping of XL Bully breeds has come into effect. Owners have until the 1st March 2025 to apply for a certificate of exemption to own or keep an XL Bully dog after which time it will be an offence. To date there have been 20 applications for certificates of exemption.

Projects Office

Whitestown Remediation Project

The draft remediation plan has been presented to the court and has been approved in part. Tender Documents for the Outlets for Material excavated from the site and also for the main contractor are presently being prepared.

Avoca Mines Remediation Project

The Council is working in Partnership with DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project. Currently, this work primarily involves making the mines sites safe, by replacing fencing and making safe access to locations that require sampling and monitoring. The contract has been awarded to complete the fencing around Cronebane and Tigroney sections of the Mines. Monitoring and repair works to existing fencing continues.

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Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Planning Application and CPO has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender stage of the project. Site Investigation and Archaeological Investigations will be carried out in 2024.

Wicklow Arts Office

Strategic Project Award Scheme 2025

Six applications were successful under the Stream A applications to this scheme for 2025, each will receive an award of €15,000.00 to carry out a project which meets the strategic ambitions of the Arts Plan 2020 – 2025 in the community realm. There were four successful applicants to Stream B. These applicants will each receive continuation funding for initiatives which were previously funded under Stream A of this Award Scheme. Each will receive €10,000.00. Announcement of successful applicants is pending contract acceptance.

Wicklow Artists Salon

Wicklow Arts Office set up The Artist Salon programme in 2022. This is an artist-led initiative by County Wicklow artists for Wicklow artists and cultural practitioners. It is peer support and takes the form of a series of evening events bringing together artists in person with both a social and professional purpose, to seed learning, support interactions and encourage collaborations.

Each Salon focuses on a particular topic and features invited artists to explore important themes affecting the arts in Wicklow and beyond. Salon number 9 booking is now live and will take place at the historic Russborough House on November 16th with lunch as part of the day.

Creative Places Baltinglass

Three further residencies and a commission are being commenced between November and December 2024. These will have durations of six to nine months and will have wide ranging participation both in age range and inclusion from the town. They are shaped by our experiences to date in working with the community to identify areas of artistic need and input.

Creative Ireland

The very successful Music Teaching Residency 55+ project in partnership with Music Network has been contracted and will involve a new ensemble of accordion, violin and harp providing tuition for a new group of learners. It will take place at Rathnew in Wicklow County Campus.

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report – December 2024

Wicklow County Library Service

Family Time at Your Library



This December, libraries across the country are hosting fantastic family-friendly events to celebrate the joy of reading together. Family Time at Your Library is all about bringing families together to enjoy stories, discover amazing books, and have fun with reading. From children's books to e-books and audiobooks, there's something for everyone to explore!

These events are part of the Right to Read programme, which encourages families to make reading a regular, fun activity.



The Circus Skills Workshop was hosted in several library branches and was a fantastic opportunity for families to come together and enjoy some creative fun. Designed for children aged 5 and up, the workshop included activities such as clown skills, spinning plates, tightrope walking, juggling, balance, and balloon animals.

Parents and caregivers participated alongside the children, fulfilling the family-focused element of the event. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees expressing how much they loved the workshop and requesting its return in the future. It was a truly engaging and entertaining experience for all involved.

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Library of Sanctuary Award



Councillor Melanie Corrigan, Leas Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council cordially invites you to the celebration of Wicklow County Council Library Service's Library of Sanctuary Award

Join us on:
Thursday, November 28th at 11am
at Blessington Library

Please RSVP to:
mamurphy@wicklowcoco.ie or 01 2866566



Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council



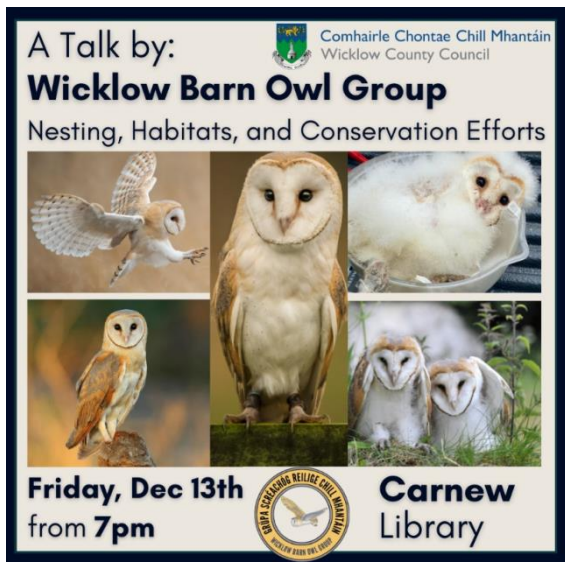
Wicklow Library Service Receives Library of Sanctuary Award

Wicklow Library Service was officially presented with its Library of Sanctuary award on November 28th during a special ceremony held at Blessington Library. This recognition celebrates our libraries commitment to creating an inclusive, welcoming space for all, particularly for those from migrant and refugee communities.

The ceremony was attended by Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, who delivered a speech recognising the library service's efforts in fostering social inclusion. A representative from Places of Sanctuary Ireland also spoke, highlighting the significance of this achievement and the ongoing collaboration with libraries nationwide.

A group from an IPAS centre in Dunlavin joined the celebration, providing an opportunity for attendees to connect with and welcome members of our new communities. The event was a lovely occasion, reflecting the shared commitment to making libraries a sanctuary for everyone in County Wicklow.

Barn Owl Talk – Carnew Library



A Talk by:
Wicklow Barn Owl Group
Nesting, Habitats, and Conservation Efforts

Friday, Dec 13th
from 7pm

Carnew Library

Wicklow County Council

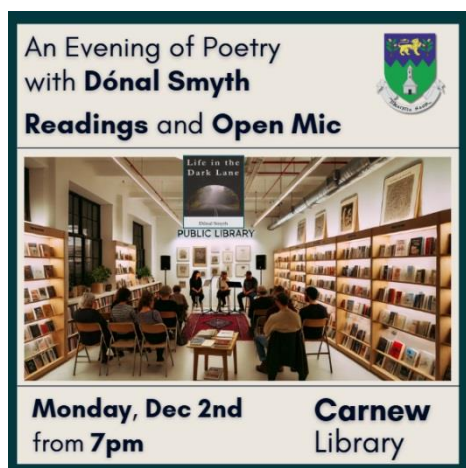
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Carnew Library will host an engaging talk by the Wicklow Barn Owl Group on Friday, December 13th, at 7 pm. Attendees will delve into the fascinating world of barn owls, exploring their nesting habits, preferred habitats, and the vital conservation efforts aimed at protecting these iconic birds.


This event offers a unique opportunity for nature enthusiasts, bird lovers, and anyone interested in preserving local wildlife to connect with experts and learn practical ways to support biodiversity in Wicklow.

Visitors will also have the chance to sign up for the limited-edition Barn Owl card during the evening.

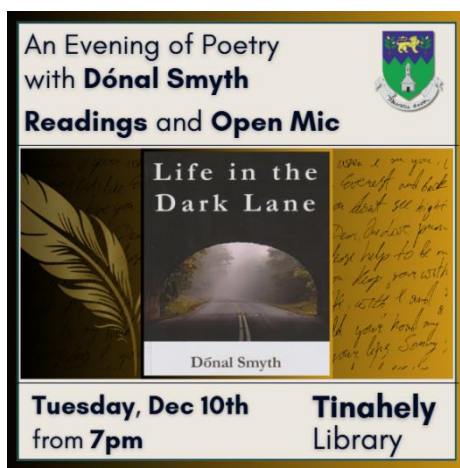
Poetry evenings – Carnew + Tinahely Library



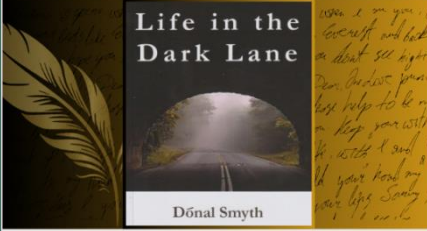
An Evening of Poetry with **Dónal Smyth**
Readings and Open Mic



Monday, Dec 2nd **Carnew**
from **7pm** **Library**



An Evening of Poetry with **Dónal Smyth**
Readings and Open Mic



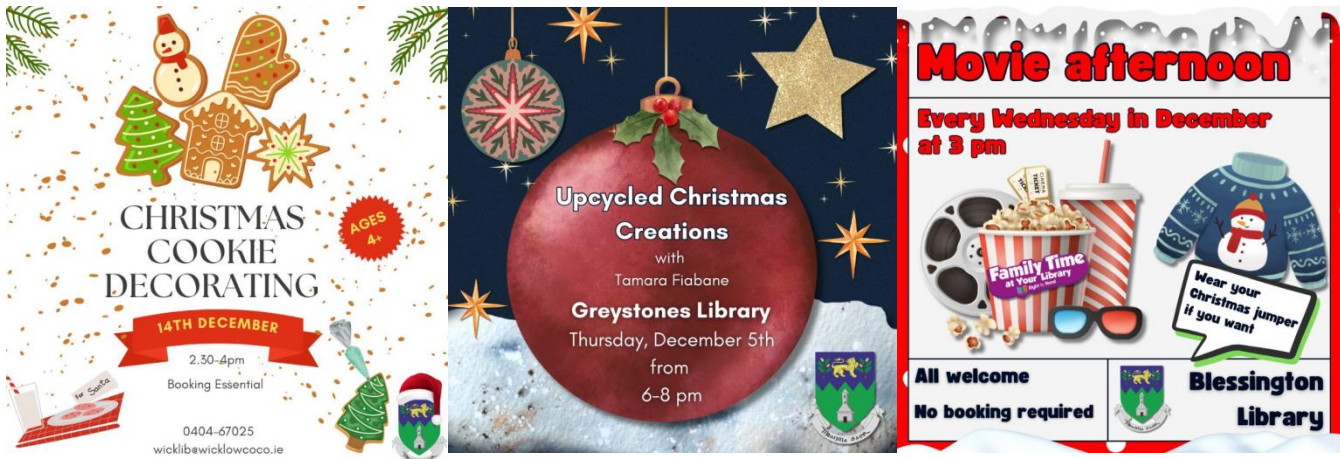
Tuesday, Dec 10th **Tinahely**
from **7pm** **Library**

Carnew and Tinahely Libraries recently hosted *An Evening of Poetry* with Dónal Smyth, featuring readings from his debut poetry collection, *Life in the Dark Lane*. This deeply personal work explored themes such as chronic pain, depression, and the transformative power of love.

Originally from Dalkey and now based in Gorey, Dónal shared how his life experiences, including his childhood near Bulloch Harbour, have shaped his writing. The evening also included an open mic session, where attendees had the opportunity to share their own poetry in a welcoming and supportive atmosphere.

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report – December 2024

Christmas at Wicklow Libraries



Wicklow Libraries are embracing the Christmas spirit with a variety of events throughout December, offering something for everyone to enjoy.

Families can look forward to magical Storytime's and special visits from Santa, spreading joy to children of all ages. Creative workshops are in full swing, with wreath-making and card making sessions for adults and upcycled Christmas decoration activities for children, sparking festive imagination and sustainability.

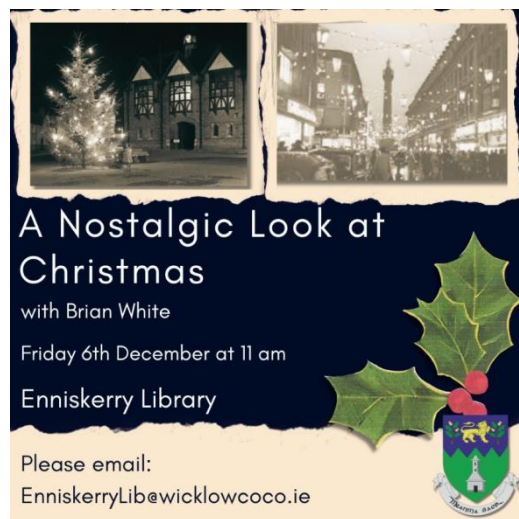
With such a wide range of festive activities, Wicklow Libraries are the place to celebrate the season, connect with the community, and make lasting memories.



Local History Talks



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report – December 2024



Wicklow Libraries hosted two delightful events celebrating the magic of Christmas past.

Historian Brian White shared stories and images of festive traditions, vintage adverts, and cherished memories, transporting attendees down memory lane and into the holiday spirit. Meanwhile, Jim Scannell's talk, *Christmas 1963 in Wicklow*, brought the season to life through the newspaper archives, revisiting key news events, activities, and celebrations from that year.

Both events featured mince pies, tea, coffee, and a chance to explore a selection of historical newspapers, adding a warm and inviting touch to these nostalgic celebrations.

Firefighter Storytime at Blessington Library



Blessington Library recently hosted a fun and educational storytime with Eoin, the local firefighter. Eoin captivated the audience with a festive Christmas story, shared fascinating tales about his adventures as a firefighter, and provided important fire safety tips for children and families. Attendees also had the opportunity to ask questions about what it's like to be a firefighter.

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report – December 2024

This event was a great success, offering curious kids and families a fun and interactive way to learn about fire safety while enjoying a holiday-themed story.

Puzzle meet up at Blessington Library



Blessington Library recently hosted a fun-filled afternoon with the Irish Jigsaw Puzzle Association.

Attendees had the chance to meet fellow puzzle enthusiasts, swap puzzles to try something new, and test their skills with exciting Speed Puzzling challenges. Whether they were seasoned puzzlers or beginners, everyone enjoyed socializing, sharing tips, and celebrating the joy of puzzling together.

It was a fantastic event that brought puzzle lovers together for a memorable afternoon!

A Homemade Christmas at Bray Library

<p>A Home Made Christmas with Bray Library Jewellery making with Deirdre Maher Ridgeway</p>  <p>Tuesday 17th December, 4.30pm Booking: braylib@wicklowcoco.ie; 01-2862600; or at the desk</p> 	<p>A Home Made Christmas with Bray Library Christmas decoration knitting with Pauline for experienced knitters</p>  <p>Monday 16th December, 3pm Booking: braylib@wicklowcoco.ie; 01-2862600; or at the desk</p> 	<p>A Home Made Christmas with Bray Library Christmas Card making with Pauline</p>  <p>Monday 9th December, 3pm Booking: braylib@wicklowcoco.ie; 01-2862600; or at the desk</p> 
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Bray Library will be hosting a series of festive events this December under the theme 'A Homemade Christmas', with a focus on sustainability. These events will offer a chance to create eco-friendly decorations, upcycle gifts, and make personalized cards, encouraging a greener approach to holiday celebrations.

Wicklow County Council

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Attendees will learn creative, sustainable ways to celebrate the season, all while reducing waste and enjoying the joy of making homemade treasures. It's a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and embrace a more sustainable, handmade Christmas!

Archives & Genealogy Service

Irish Community Archives Network – Our Wicklow Heritage

Our Wicklow Heritage online community archives network is Wicklow County Council's partnership project with the National Museum of Ireland and the Heritage Council. The Wicklow network is administered through a collaboration between the Heritage, Archives and Local Studies services of Wicklow County Council. The network is expanding with new Wicklow community groups coming on board from Blessington, Roundwood, Wicklow and Tinahely. The new sites were launched in December bringing the total number of groups on the Wicklow ICAN network to ten, as well as the county site, which is managed by the Heritage, Local Studies and Archives services of Wicklow County Council.

Digitisation programme

County Wicklow Valuation records launching in December on Wicklow.ie. The Primary Valuation, also known as Griffith's Valuation, was the first, full-scale valuation of property in Ireland and details of property with valuations were published between 1847 and 1864. There is a printed valuation book for each barony or poor law union in the country, showing the names of occupiers of land and buildings, the names of those from whom these were leased, and the amount and value of the property held. Now digitised, the County Wicklow property valuation records are an updated version of the Griffith's Valuation, dating from 1887 to 1892. They place people in towns and townlands in County Wicklow at a time when there are relatively very little records for family history in Ireland. They provide information on residence between Griffith's Valuation, dated 1850s and the earliest surviving Irish census of 1901. The valuation records list rate-payers, usually heads of household, and often show if property changed hands, where one name is simply crossed out and replaced with another - known as "cancelled records".

Outdoor Recreation

Wicklow Coast Blueway

The Wicklow Coast Blueway project is moving towards the second stage of the accreditation process with the current accreditation mainly reliant on provider-based activities. Blueway promotion and links has commenced with a timetable of events and providers listed. Project completion is due in March 2025, with signage installation a priority and works currently at various stages of completion on the selected Blueway Nodes:

Greystones – Accessible boardwalk installed at South Beach. Works completed.

Brittas Bay – Accessible toilet, upgraded toilets, new larger water tank and new outdoor shower facilities. Car parking painting and tidy up. Works completed.

Wicklow Town –Harbour area: path upgrade completed. Toilet facilities upgrade completed. New outdoor showers, ground works and showers installation completed.

Arklow – New path completed replacing the old boardwalk at South Beach. Planters with shrubs now installed along the Roadstone site fence by the car park. Licence Agreement and MOU finalised with Roadstone, landowner, with new facility works at the Cove consisting of installation of a changing screen with seating area and a bike shelter being installed during December.

Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee (WORC) – NPWS host

The next meeting will be held on the 16/01/2025 at NPWS main offices in Laragh.

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Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) supports the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the necessary repair, enhancement, or promotion of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure in countryside areas across Ireland. The Scheme is funded under "Our Rural Future" which specifically prioritises the growing outdoor activity tourism sector as part of a long-term vision for a vibrant and sustainable rural Ireland.

The table below is a list of current projects funded under ORIS:

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Date for Completion
OR221WW02	<i>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</i>	Marc Devereaux, DOS, liaising with Bray MD and a new task force on project funds' allocation decision.	Extension granted.
ORIS 2021-M2 OR221WW01	<i>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</i>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. New tender in progress. Trial hole dug, engineers report with JJ Martin for review and response.	In progress. Extension granted.
ORIS 2021-M3 OR321WW01	<i>The Sugar Loaf Repair (Images above)</i>	Stone Pitching by hand, waterbars and crossdrains constructed. Pitching and path building from shoulder to summit is now fully complete. First large V-Ditches dug for water management on lower sections. Blocking of gully and anchor bar construction continuing down hill.	Extension granted. Nearing completion.
ORIS 2022 M1 OR122WW05	<i>Red Kite Loop (Avoca) Play Area</i>	Ground works completed around Play Area. Play Equipment installed.	Completed
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW01	<i>Blessington Greenway Link to Russborough House & Park</i>	Enhancement of trails in Russborough Parklands/cycle hub to link with Greenway. Bike shelter installed at the end of the trail and new finger signage and plaque.	Completed
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW02	<i>Glenmalure Community Riverside Walk & Recreation Area</i>	Upgrade of existing trail, boardwalk replaced with a path. Play Equipment installed and groundworks completed.	Completed
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW03	<i>Coolkenno Equestrian Trail</i>	Construction of equestrian trail and access. Licence Agreement with landowners due after their planning permission process is completed.	In progress
ORIS 2022 M3 OR322WW01	<i>Roundwood Recreation Area</i>	Groundworks and extension of existing car park with fencing works completed. Play equipment installed in play areas and completion of surface works during December. Bike area designed; works will commence in mind February. Identification of running routes due in January 2025.	In progress

The official opening of the 2022 Measure 2 ORIS project at Russborough House & Park, consisting of an upgraded path along the garden trail and a bike parking area, will take place on Tuesday 17th December at 10am.

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ORIS 2023 - Project Development Measure (PDM), Measure 1 and Measure 2

The total funding awarded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to 2023 ORIS Measures 1, 2 and Project Development Measure projects in Wicklow amounts to **€858,780**.

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Date for Completion
ORPDM23WW01 CC781	Lugnaquilla Recreation Plan	Recreation plan for the area with a Feasibility study in progress. Due to be completed by March'25.	30/06/2025
ORPDM23WW02 CC782	Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan	Feasibility project to provide a realistic work plan with budget and time frame designed to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design, landscape design, bike hub design. Environmental consultation and Tender documentation being reviewed.	30/06/2025
OR123WW01- CC791	Hollywood Natural Play Area	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Play Equipment RFQ sent and contract appointment due shortly. Licence agreement signed with Coillte. Play area at design stage.	31/10/2025
OR123WW02 - CC792	Wicklow Way (Glencree River) Re-surface	200m of new trail construction and 800m of surface dressing.	Completed
OR123WW03 - CC793	Knockree Bridge	Knockree bridge replacement at the Glencree brook on the Wicklow Way, between Ballyreagh and Onagh Bridge.	Completed
OR123WW04 - CC794	Knockamunnion-Stranahely Bridges	Replacement of 2 bridges and additional drainage works between them over a track of some 200m. Work plan being prepared.	31/10/2025
OR123WW05 - CC795	Three Wells and Cushbawn Link	8m of surfacing on Three Wells crossing and 270m of surfacing on the looped upper trail. Specification of works commenced.	31/10/2025
OR123WW06 - CC796	Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way	Signage replacement along an 18km route is in progress.	31/10/2025
OR223WW01 - CC903	Baravore Car Park, Glenmalure	Enhancing parking, with design being done by Council's Engineer. Trail specification underway. Car park specification created, with RFQ for distribution during December.	30/06/2026
OR223WW02 - CC904	Three Trouts Bridge, Delgany	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the route. In progress with Greystones MD Engineer with initial tender out.	30/06/2026
OR223WW03 - CC905	Tinahely New Loop Trail	Additional spur to loop walks linking Coolafunshogue, Curravanish and Ballyshonog. 10km route to Tinahely village. Initial design in progress.	30/06/2026

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Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

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The table below is a list of current projects funded under ORIS:

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Date for Completion
OR221WW02	<i>Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme</i>	The TIDES Project team are providing support to Greystones MD with the preparation of CPO maps for the Cliff Walk realignment. Marc Devereaux, DOS, liaising with Bray MD and new task force on project funds' allocation decision.	Extension requested to DRCD
ORIS 2021-M2 OR221WW01	<i>Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme</i>	Accessibility works at Samuel Hayes bridge. New tender in progress. Trial hole work by contractor to check grounds near bridge has been approved by NPWS.	In progress. Extension granted to August 2024
ORIS 2021-M3 OR321WW01	<i>The Sugar Loaf Repair (Images above)</i>	Stone Pitching by hand, waterbars and crossdrains constructed. Pitching from shoulder down towards lower slopes 50% complete. 2 Helicopter Airlifts completed. Pitching and path building from shoulder to summit is now fully complete. Blocking of biggest gully and anchor bar construction continuing downhill. First large V-Ditches dug for water management on lower sections.	In progress. Extension to Oct'24
ORIS 2022 M1 OR122WW05	<i>Red Kite Loop (Avoca) Play Area</i>	Ground works completed around Play Area. Play Equipment installed.	Completed
ORIS 2022 M2 OR222WW01	<i>Blessington Greenway Russborough Parklands & House Trail</i>	Enhancement of trails in Russborough Parklands/cycle hub to link with Greenway. Bike shelter installed at the end of the trail and new finger signage and plaque.	Completed
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ORIS 2022 M3 OR322WW01	<i>Roundwood Recreation Area</i>	Groundworks and extension of existing car park with fencing works completed. Area cleared for equipment installation with first two play areas delivered and installed. Second delivery during Nov, with last play equipment delivery in Jan'25. Bike area designed; works will commence after completion of play areas.	In progress

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Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Outdoor Recreation Plan Public Consultation

The development of the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Plan is ongoing with Outscape Consultants. Steering Group Consultations and site visits have been completed. The dates for the Public Consultation have been set for 5th and 6th of Feb 2025.

Local Sports Plans

Sport Ireland have launched the Templates for Counties to develop their Local Sports Plans. This is an action of the National Sports Policy which requires each county to develop a Local Sports Plan for Capital and Participation of Sport and Physical Activity in the county. This is required to be completed in 2025 with widespread public consultation and cross departmental input within Wicklow County Council. More information on these plans is available [HERE](#).

Training & Education

Activity	Venue	Date
Safeguarding 1	Online	12th November 2024
Sports First Aid	Shoreline Sports Park	9th November 2024
Autism in Sport Workshop	Online	21st November 2024
Disability Awareness Training	Blessington ETB	16 th December 2024
Safeguarding 1	Online	4th December 2024

Active Girl Guide Programme Report - 28 November 2024

On Thursday, November 28th, the Active Girl Guide Programme was held at St. Kevin's Community College, Dunlavin, as part of Sport Ireland's Her Moves initiative. Targeting 1st-year female students, the programme aimed to inspire activity, teach nutrition, and promote mental wellbeing.

Sessions Included:

- **Physical Activities:**
 - *Teen Girl Skate Session:* Introduced roller skating as a fun, alternative way to regular sports to stay active.
 - *Introduction to Weightlifting:* Led by Weightlifting Ireland, focusing on proper form and building gym confidence.
- **Learning Opportunities:**
 - *Sports Nutrition Class:* Practical advice on fuelling active bodies with live food demonstrations.
 - *Wellness Class:* Addressed social media anxiety and fostering positive self-talk.

The event provided students with engaging opportunities to explore new activities, build life skills, and prioritise holistic wellbeing. The feedback has been very positive with students from various years strongly requesting from their teachers if the roller skating can come back again.

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Inclusive Badminton with the National Learning Network

10 participants from the National Learning Network in Arklow are attending a 4-week Inclusive Badminton programme in Coral Leisure Arklow. Badminton Ireland coach Georgina Ward is facilitating the programme by introducing the participating to the fundamentals of the games.

Chronic Condition Programmes:

December Chronic Condition Programmes:

- Tai Chi for Respiratory Conditions, Shoreline Leisure, Bray
- Pilates, The Recovery Village, Newcastle Hospital, Newcastle

Wicklow County Council

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Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (12/12/2024) outstanding stands at **616 – 3.94%** of total stock of 15,653. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults.

The new public lighting contractor has commenced works in Wicklow week commencing 21/10/2024. There was a significant backlog of faults accumulated prior to the commencement of the new contractor.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	2	3	7	1	4	17
Cable Fault (Attended)	6		3			9
ESB Interface Required			8			8
ESB Required (Attended)	13	12	13	16	21	75
Knock Down (Attended)			1			1
Materials Required	1	3	1		2	7
No Supply	5	1	14	1		21
On Hold	3	3	7		8	21
Submitted	75	111	93	61	98	437
TMR	4		7		2	13
Tree Cutting Required			5		2	7
Grand Total	109	133	159	79	137	617
Percentage Not Working	4.02%	4.74%	4.96%	2.63%	4.71%	4.24%

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The survey element of the above project has been completed. The retrofitting of lanterns is ongoing.

Periodic Speed Limits

PWS Signs Ltd. has substantially completed the erection of the signage for the periodic speed limits at schools. They are currently working on a snag list.

Speed Limits

The erection of poles for the change in rural local road default limits has commenced. Signage is due to be installed with a commencement date for the new rural limit of 7th February 2025.

Wicklow County Council

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Noise Action Plan

The Wicklow Noise Action Plan is being finalised and due for publication shortly.

Transportation Statistics

	Total 2022	Total 2023	Total 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024
Solicitors Queries	838	1026	954	100	124	131
Road closure applications	78	42	44	5	1	0
Road Opening licences	1414	1956	1155	103	115	127
Abnormal Load applications	60	54	44	9	4	3

TRANSPORTATION

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

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

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

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

A non-statutory public display on the emerging preferred options for sections A and C took place in November 2022. A further non-statutory public display event was held in the Glenview Hotel in September 2023 that presented the overall emerging preferred option for the BPIS between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview). The public display documents are available to view on the project website www.n11m11bpis.ie. The Post Consultation Report which summarises the issues raised has been prepared and is available on the Project Website since the 18th October 2024.

Since December 2023, work has been progressing to develop the emerging preferred option in greater detail and to undertake a thorough environmental evaluation of the scheme.

Specifically, the reassessment of options currently being undertaken is focussed on Sub-Scheme B, between Junction 6 (Bray/Fassaroe) and Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue). Further details on the options being assessed are presented in the Post Consultation Report. This work is currently progressing, and following completion of this revisit of Phase 2, details of any revision to the final preferred option will be published. This is expected in late Q1 2025.

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment to the east of the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The options review and design commenced in March 2023 following confirmation of funding from TII. Site investigation works were completed in November 2023. This information has been reviewed by the Design Team and the final design option has been prepared. Direct consultation has taken place with the affected residents/landowners. The procurement of a contractor for the construction works is currently being progressed by the project team.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

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

N81 Irishtown West, Whitestown Lower, Hangman’s Bend and Tuckmill Lower “N81 Four Studies”

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

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

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The Phase 2 Options Selection work is currently progressing under TII's Project Management Guidelines. A non-statutory Public Display event on the Route Options took place in the Inis Fail Germaines, Main Street, Baltinglass, on Wednesday 27th March 2024. The public display documents are available to view on the project website www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie. The period for submissions ended on Friday 26th April 2024. The next steps are to further develop the options in order to establish the emerging preferred option. It is envisaged that further public consultation of the preferred route will take place in Q1 2025.

N81 Pavement Capital Works

Drainage works and the resurfacing of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove were completed in May 2024. Two other sections of the N81 received surfacing renewal works namely at N81 Trooperstown Blessington and N81 Mullycagh Lower. Works were fully completed by end May 2024.

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

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

Park & Ride/Share at Hollywood

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

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

N81 Blessington Gateway Project

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

N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities

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

The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in November 2023.

The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) has been progressed to Part VIII stage of design. The Part VIII documents for Junction 16 Ashford/Rathnew are currently on display on the Wicklow Co. Co. Consultation Hub and County Buildings up to the 11th December 2024. Submissions may be made by interested parties up until noon on the 10th January 2025.

The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) is being progressed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office.

N11/R772 Johnstown North/Regional Road

Road safety works involving the design and installation of a vehicle restraint system have been progressing throughout 2024, at the interface between the R772 Regional Road and the adjacent M11 motorway at Johnstown just North of Junction 20 on the M11. TII provided approval for WCC to proceed with construction contract award in August 2024. The works commenced on site in early October 2024 with an anticipated 8-week programme. The works achieved substantial completion in late November 2024 with snagging anticipated to be completed in the coming weeks.

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Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

The Phase 2 Options Selection Report, which will determine the preferred route for the Greenway, is currently being reviewed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Negotiations are still ongoing with landowners. Following TII approval of Phase 2 we will proceed to Phase 3, involving Design and Environmental Evaluation.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

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

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

Tenders submitted by contractors for the Chapel Road Project have been evaluated and we are currently raising orders for the construction phase of the project. On successful completion of the contract award process construction is expected to start on site at the start of Q1 2025. The CPO Notice to Treat was issued on all landowners in October 2023 and Notice of Entry issued in November 2024. Discussions between Wicklow Roads Project staff and landowners are ongoing. A Wicklow County Council appointed valuer is engaging with valuers and homeowners as part of the CPO process.

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Phase 2 Route Options are currently being developed by Wicklow County Councils consultant Atkins Realis. A 4-week public consultation was completed in May 2024 for the emerging route corridors. The project was presented at the April Council meeting with two public events taking place in Greystones and Wicklow during April. Meetings and information sharing is ongoing with Irish Rail for their East Coast Rail Infrastructure Protection Project.

Blessington eGreenway

Wicklow County Council were notified by letter dated 02/12/2024 that An Bord Pleanála has refused permission for the Blessington Greenway. We are currently awaiting issue of the full ABP inspectors report and this will be referred to Wicklow Law Department for a decision on how to proceed.

Kilmacanogue to Bray Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme

TII have instructed Wicklow County Council to issue tender documents for design services for the development of the Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme.

Active Travel Updates

Projects under Construction

Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities (Wicklow MD)

Provision of new pedestrian facilities and road safety improvements along the Ballyguilemore Road between Carrig View and the entrance to the proposed new St. Patricks GAA Pitch. The scheme includes for new footpaths and road widening works. Construction of the new footpath is now complete, along with the drainage and public lighting works. Road edge reinstatement works have also been completed. Planting of new native hedgerow and native trees along roadside boundary are ongoing.

Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

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

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

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

New pedestrian crossing and footpath civil upgrade works are completed on Church Lane, electrical works are ongoing and to be completed mid-December.

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

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. This project includes implementing a one way system on the eastern side of Fair Green. Front of school works for the school zone are complete as well as new one way system on east side of Fair Green. Works on permeability link have commenced and are to be completed mid-December. This will link the new development and provide a continuous pathway to the school off the main vehicular routes.

Project Updates

Bray Transport Interchange (Bray MD)

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. David Walsh Civil Engineering commenced ground works in Mid-February. Main drainage works have been completed. Paving has been installed on Quinsborough Road and Adelaide Road. Works are progressing on schedule. Buses are relocated to temporary stops. Works ongoing on Station Road and Florence Road. Accommodation works are ongoing.

Wicklow Station Pedestrian and Cycle Link (Wicklow MD)

New pedestrian and cycle bridge to be provided at Wicklow Train Station, linking Station Road to the Port Access Road. Bus and vehicle set down to be provided along with cycle parking. Acquisition of lands on northern side of rail line complete. Part 8 approved by Members on 2nd December. NTA approval will be sought for commencement of Phase 5-Detail design and Procurement.

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvements along the R750 and Station Road from Abbey Street carpark to Station Road Junction to improve linkage to Wicklow Train Station. The Preliminary Design has been prepared by DBFL Consulting Engineers and submitted to the NTA for approval, comments received from NTA. Road Safety Audit to be carried out. Tender to be advertised for consultants to manage the project through phases 4-7.

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

New footbridges and alterations of road to make provision for cyclists. Meeting held with consultant to recommence the project. A Phase 2 Gateway Report has been prepared and issued NTA for approval. Tender to be run for consultant to progress the scheme from Phase 3 to Phase 7, to be advertised using the new NTA Consultants Framework.

Greystones Pathfinder (Greystones MD)

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

- **Phase 1 – Charlesland Dual Carriageway Roundabout Upgrade Works** - The phase will include new and improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Tenders were invited for contractors to carry out the upgrade works and contractor has been appointed. NTA approval received to proceed to construction stage. Construction works commenced on Mill Road roundabout.
- **Phase 2 - Church Road Improvement Works** - This phase of the project will reduce vehicle speeds and provide a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists along Church Road through the narrowing of the carriageway, junction realignment, new and improved pedestrian crossings and road resurfacing. Works completed and road markings installed.
- **Phase 3 - Greystones Marina to Charlesland Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements** - This phase includes the design of pedestrian and cycle improvement works to be completed along the public road linking Greystones Train Station with the Marina to the north and Charlesland to the south. The preliminary design has been prepared by Arup Consulting Engineers and has been submitted to the NTA for Gateway 3 approval.

Kilcoole Road Footpath (Greystones MD)

Footpath to be constructed linking Greystones to Kilcoole. Meeting held with landowner to discuss accommodation works. Contractor has commenced the accommodation works at Barna Cottage. Accommodation works are ongoing at Barna Cottage.

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

Provide improvements on Blacklion Manor Road to make the area safer for school children. These works aim to encourage more children to walk and cycle to school. Preliminary Designs prepared and issued to NTA for approval. Section 38 to be advertised when preliminary designs are approved by the NTA.

Safe Routes to Schools: Kilmacanogue NS (Bray MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Preliminary Designs prepared and issued to NTA for approval. Section 38 to be advertised in when preliminary designs are approved by the NTA.

Safe Routes to Schools: Greystones Educate Together (Greystones MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Preliminary Design is being prepared. Section 38 will be advertised when preliminary designs are approved by the NTA.

Safe Routes to Schools: Temple Carrig School (Greystones MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Issue updated preliminary design to the NTA for review. Section 38 will be advertised when preliminary designs are approved by the NTA.

Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

Work on 1 new bridge (Tombreen, Carnew) was completed in November.
Work commenced on 1 new bridge (Carrigeenshinnagh).

Winter Maintenance

Salting continues under WM Plan.

Oct 14 to 31- O treatments

Nov 1 to 21- 1 single and 2 double treatments (12th 19th D 20th D)

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

Machinery Yard

Large truck (HCV) tender for 4 vehicles order completed and PO issued.

Pick-up truck tender for 20 vehicles to be advertised soon.

Lease contract (various size vehicles) to be advertised in January.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	975,830.39
Greystones Municipal District	297,731.86
Wicklow Municipal District	432,471.35
Arklow Municipal District	226,667.26
Parking Permits	102,335.66
Parking Fines	562,456.00
Wicklow County Council Total	2,597,492.52

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Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing information at 30th November 2024

Greenhill Road – 36 Houses

- 35 sold
- 1 remaining portal to reopen on the 13th November 2024 until the 13th December 2024 (advertised week starting 28/10/24)

Aldbrough Manor Baltinglass – 12 Houses – Phase 1

- 58 applied
- 29 Eligible
- 29 offered
- 6 accepted

Phase 2

The Scheme was re-advertised on Wednesday 21st February in both the Wicklow People and Irish Independent. Portal opened on the 6th March 2024 until the 17th April 2024 for applications to be submitted.

- 80 applications received
- 32 offers made (letters sent)
- 15 income too high (letters sent)
- 2 Withdrawn
- 5 accepted
-

All applications exhausted, no more offers to be made from this portal all applicants have been notified. It is hoped to close 7 of sales in December 2024 & the remaining in January 2025.

Rathnew – 44 dwellings

- Advertised - Wicklow Times is Monday 27th May 2024 and Wicklow People is Wednesday 29th May 2024.
- Portal opened from the 10th June 12noon until the 22nd July 2024. Offers have been made. 42 accepted. All who have applied have been notified.
- A Purchaser of a 3 bed pulled out in November 2024 as they could not secure a mortgage.
- The original 2 remaining terrace houses were re-advertised week starting 28/10/2024 with portal to open on the 14th November 2024 until the 13th December 2024. We now have 3 to offer from this portal.

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

Lott Lane Affordable 72 units

Phase 1 (26 units) - AHF funding received Aug 2024

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Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completed and allocated
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completed and allocated
Greenhills Road (Affordable)	36	Completed and sold
Schemes on Site	Units	Current Status
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Final snagging underway
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completed
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2025
Merrymeeing Rathnew Phase 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Merrymeeing, Rathnew, Phase 3	7	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Fassaroe, Bray	13	Contractor appointed
Burgage More Blessington PPP	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Contractor appointed
Rehills, Bray	193	PPP dropped the scheme due to high projected costs, WCC reconsidering the viability of this scheme
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Stage 1 funding application underway
Burnaby, Greystones PPP	272	PPP Bundle 5 continuing
Ballinahinch Ashford	19	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Tinahask, Arklow	75	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Tinahask PPP, Arklow	128	PPP Bundle 6 continuing
Sheephouse Arklow	48	Design Stage
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Part 8 approved, design work underway
Hawkstown Park Phase 2, Wicklow Design & Build	54	Part 8 approved, design work underway

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

Ballintekin – 3 houses	Houses allocated
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Contractor on site completion date January 2025
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses and 17 social houses	Three group housing schemes. Final layout agreed with department/families. Social house layout is being finalised for the rest of the site. Part 8 Expected Q2 2025.

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Fire safety annual checks on Halting sites for 2024 has been carried out.
Tender for multiparty design consultant for Ballyguile Road (Hillview) Age Friendly Scheme mix of Housing/Community/Regeneration type works to be completed in November. Works Being done in coordination with the Housing Agency.

Energy Efficiency upgrades to Council Stock

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

Work has been completed on 91 retrofits, 126 programmed to be completed by the end of the year.

Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2024:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	1	Delivery due Q4 2024	CALF
Dunlavin	3	Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Delgany	1	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Rathnew	2	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Greystones	8	Delivered Q4 2024	CALF
Wicklow	3	2 Delivered Q1 2024, 1 Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Rathdrum	2	Delivered Q1 2024	WCC
Delgany	8	3 Delivered Q3, 3 delivered Q3, 2 due Q1 2025	WCC
Blessington	6	4 Delivery Q2 2024, 2 Delivered Q3	WCC
Rathnew	4	Delivered Q4 2024	WCC
Rathnew	37	1 Delivered Q4 36 Due Q4 2024	WCC
Blessington	9	Delivered Q4 2024	CALF
Bray	15	Delivered Q4 2024	CALF
Dunlavin	1	Delivered Q4 2024	WCC

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Rathnew, Bray, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy, Blessington, Baltinglass and Wicklow with delivery ranging from 2024-2026. This includes the units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

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Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2024:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	17	Delivery Due Q4 2024	CALF
Greystones	5	Delivered Q3 2024	WCC
Baltinglass	2	Delivery Due Q1 2025	WCC
Arklow	3	Delivery Due Q1 2025	WCC
Rathnew	1	Delivered Q2 2024	WCC
Blessington	7	Delivered Q4 2024	CALF
Bray	10	Delivered Q4 2024	CALF

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Expression of Interest for Turnkey Housing Developments/Housing Schemes and or land for the provision of social housing/affordable housing was advertised on 31st July 2024.

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. Approved Housing Bodies also make applications for CALF acquisitions to address a particular housing need.

CALF Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	2	Delivered February 2024	CALF
Bray	1	Delivered April 2024	CALF

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 etc.

CAS Acquisitions 2024	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Bray	1	Delivery February 2024	CAS
Newcastle	1	Delivered April 2024	CAS
Bray	1	Delivered April 2024	CAS

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands

Parnell Road (Central Garage site)

Tuath have submitted the revised CAS application and it is currently being assessed. The Department had some queries which have been responded to.

Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas

All land registration issues have now been resolved. Respond are in the process of appointing a project manager.

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Infill Sites/ Age Friendly/ Disability Units

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

Vacant Homes Scheme

Compulsory Purchase Orders on long term vacant houses around the county 2024.

No.	Property Location	Current Status
1.	2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
2.	100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
3.	41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry.	House allocated and tenant in situ.
4.	5 Priors Way, Delgany.	Works commenced.
5.	30 South Green, Arklow.	Works commenced.
6.	53 South Green, Arklow.	Works commenced.
7.	88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town.	Works commenced.
8.	6 Ashleigh, Ashford.	Works commenced.
9.	2 Harbour Road, Arklow.	Contractor appointed.
10.	114 Hillside, Greystones.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
11.	53A South Green, Arklow.	Gone to Tender for refurbishment works.
12.	108 Charnwood, Bray.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
13.	36 Wheatfield, Bray.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
14.	10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow.	Preparation for Tendering for Works.
15.	27 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray.	CPO commenced.

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

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

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

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

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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

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

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Number of Applications	162
Applications in progress/information requested from applicants.	8
Applications Approved.	66
Number of Applications paid.	22
Value of 21 Grants paid out.	€1,177,675.77
Applications pending execution of Legal Deed of Charge/Payment.	22
Applications withdrawn/Rejected.	44

Serviced Sites – Kilcommon, Tinahely,

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

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Emergency Response

Operational Fire Statistics November 2024

There were **110 incidents** attended during the month of November 2024. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **145 occasions** including **12** mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of November 2024 **decreased by 9% (minus 14 mobilisations) on the preceding month October 2024 (159 mobilisations)**. There was a significant decrease in bonfires post Halloween however activity in this category was still high at 15 incidents mainly in Bray and Greystones. This decrease was partially balanced by an increase in Domestic House Fires (+6 mobilisations), RTCs (+9 mobilisations), Flooding (+4 mobilisations), incident in other counties (+5 mobilisations).

Operational activity for the month of November 2024 **increased by 7% (plus 10 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2023** (November 2023, 135 mobilisations). There was a decrease in Domestic House Fires (-6 mobilisations), a decrease in vehicle fires (-4 mobilisations) but there was an increase in RTCs (+18 mobilisations).

Incidents in County Kildare (6-incidents total):

- 03/11/2024 Blessington crew supported crew from Naas at a fire in a back garden in Ballymore Eustace.
- 11/11/2024 Blessington crew supported crew from Naas and Dublin Fire Brigade at a fire in an industrial bakery in Monread Industrial Estate.
- 12/11/2024 Blessington crew supported crew from Naas at a single car RTC at Eadestown with casualties trapped.
- 16/11/2024 Blessington crew supported crew from Naas at a 2 car RTC at Eadestown.
- 26/11/2024 Blessington crew supported crew from Naas at a single car RTC at Arthurstown.
- 26/11/2024 Dunlavin crew supported crew from Newbridge at a 2 car RTC at Swordlestown.

Sample Incidents in County Wexford (6-incidents total):

- 02/11/2024 Carnew crew supported crews from Bunclody Fire Station at a single car RTC at Johnstown.
- 15/11/2024 Carnew crew supported crews from Bunclody and Gorey Fire Stations at a Haybarn Fire at Glandoran.
- 26/11/2024 Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey Fire Station at a single car RTC at Coolnagloose, Inch.
- 28/11/2024 Arklow crew supported crews from Gorey Fire Station at a Domestic House Fire in Gorey.

Fire Prevention Statistics November 2024

Fire Safety Certificates (FSCs), Disability Access Certificates (DACs)

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, refused or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	5		3		6
Revised FSCs	0				0
FSC 7-Day Notice	1		4		5
Regularisation FSCs	6	4			0
DACs	30		2		13
Revised DACs	0				0

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Dispensations / Relaxations	0				0
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The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 17 planning files during the month of November 2024. The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 17 of these files.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	10	1	1	4	4
Circuit	0	0	1	0	0
Dangerous Substances Act	0	0	0	4	0
Explosive Act	1	0	0	0	0

Sample activities during the month of November included:

- An inter-agency meeting was held on 19th November in preparation for the EU MODEX exercise to take place the week of 24th March 2025.
- Officers from Wicklow attended meetings organised by the NDFEM in Dublin with international partners involved in delivering MODEX 2025.
- A meeting of the Eastern Region MEM Working group was attended on 20th November.
- Fire Safety Inspections Traveller accommodation took place on 25th, 26th and 27th November.
- An inter-agency COMAH / Seveso Exercise to test the External Emergency Plan of the Zoetis Plant in Rathdrum to place on 29th November.
- Officers attended a national seminar for Fire Prevention Officers.
- Wicklow Fire Service was represented at a national meeting of the Women's Fire Service Network.

Building Control Statistics November 2024

Commencement Notices for November 2024:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 42

- 8 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 22 Opt Out Declarations
- 6 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 6 Seven Day Notice

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Submission Statistics

- 52 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 76 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 32 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 7 with Compliance Documentation (22%)
 - 16 are Opt Out (50%)
 - 3 Without Compliance Documentation (9%)
 - 6 Seven Day Notice (19%)
- 27 Valid Commencement Notices
- 22 new build residential Units and additional 39 Apartments
- 12 Extensions
- 3 Non Res new builds
- 2 Invalidated CNs

Certificates of Completion processed in November 2024

- 26 New No. of CCC submitted
- 14 Required Revised Information
- 29 No. Validated
- 1 No. Invalid
- 160 new Residential units and 10 additional apartments
- 0 Non Res. Builds

Submission Statistics

- 29 No. Validated CCCs related to;
- 4 no. CCCs submitted in October 2024
 - 25 No. CCCs submitted in November 2024

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

61 new residential houses and 12 Extensions were notified to LA for Commencement & 160 newly completed residential units plus 10 apartments units were submitted, assessed and validated in November. There has been an increase in both Commencement Notices particularly in Opt Out Submissions and Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions compared to the same period in 2023. The increase in CCC's in November is due to the target for completed homes by Christmas 2024.

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

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In November, Building Control carried out 2 joint site inspections with the National Building Control Office. Both traditional and modern methods of construction sites were selected for inspections. For any non-compliances with Building Regs identified onsite or during desk top assessment, Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued. 6 No. Section 11 issued during November.

Revised Information requests remained high in November for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 76% of Commencement Notice submissions & 54% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. Revised information requests are issued to nominated role holders of submissions when compliance with Building Regs has not been demonstrated.

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

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

Civil Defence

- Civil Defence Volunteers provided first aid cover alongside the Order of Malta at the turning on of the Christmas lights in Greystones in the Burnaby park.



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- Wicklow Age Friendly hosted an event in the Arklow Bay hotel for members of our aging community, Civil Defence Volunteers were on hand to provide First Aid cover at this event.



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- The Leinster Orienteering Championships 2024 was held in Crone wood, where participants of all ages took to the hills in the pursuit to locate all the checkpoints, our volunteers were on hand to provide medical cover for the event.

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Wicklow
Local Authority Integration Team

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



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Top Line Data

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	12
Number of new centres opened this month	0
Total number of residents	1472 – decrease of 51 since October
Of which are children	436 – increase of 20 since Nov

WCC LAIT Activity up to end of Nov 2024	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	75
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	607
Total number of sessions with single adults	346
Total number of sessions with families/couples	243

LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for October

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	12
Total no of face-to-face sessions	*77
No. of adults (total from singles, couples and families)	108
No. of sessions with single adults	46
No. of sessions with families	27
No. of children from families met	50
No. of sessions with couples	4
No. of sessions with IPA's	60
No. with Refugee Status	15
No. with Subsidiary Protection	1
No. with Leave to Remain	1
Less than 3 months in Ireland	11
1-3 months in Ireland	13
3-6 months in Ireland	11
6 months – 1 year in Ireland	21
1-2 years in Ireland	10
Over 2 years in Ireland	10

**Any differences between figures reflect instances where two adults in a family/couple have different status or have been in the country for a different length of time.*

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Areas of Support

Main Theme / Primary Support Issue	Incidence
Health - adult	6
Health - child	4
Mental health	1
Medical Card	16
Education & Training - Adult	7
Education - child	1
Special needs - child	0
English	1
MyGovID	0
Employment	15
Volunteering	0
Legal	3
Housing/accommodation	3
Transport	0
Childcare	1
Family support	0
Orientation to Ireland	10
Financial Supports	8
Other	4

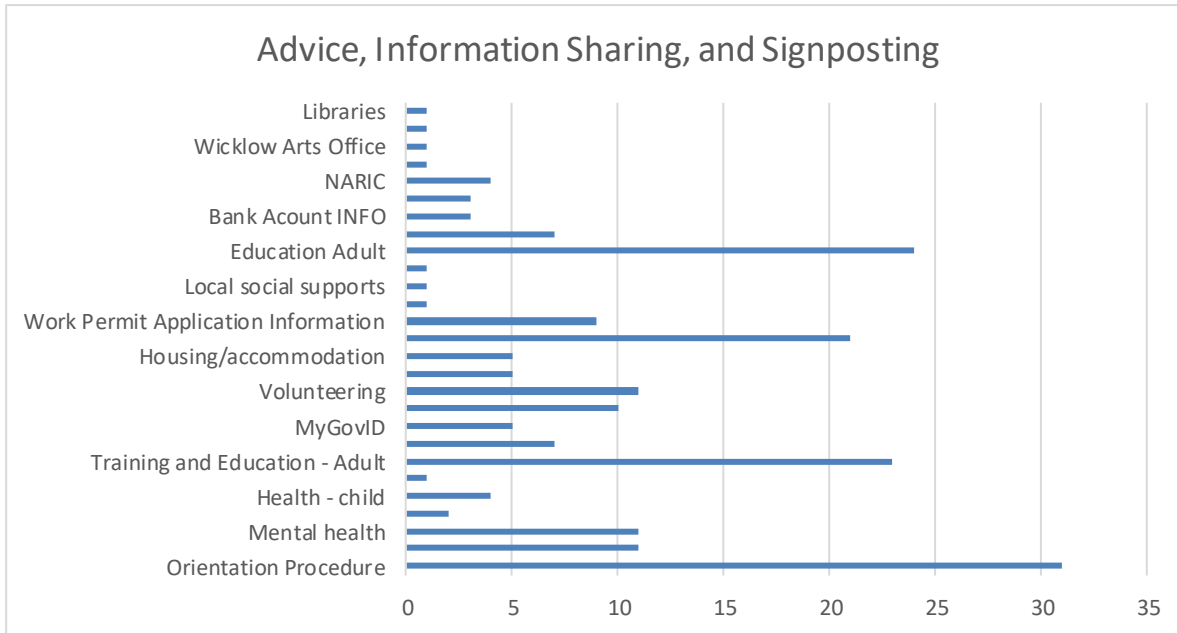
In-Session Support Categories	Incidence
Advice, Information and Signposting	204
Practical Support	38
Referral and advocacy	36

Post-Session Categories of Support	
Advocacy and Referral	0
Follow up Contact with Client	26

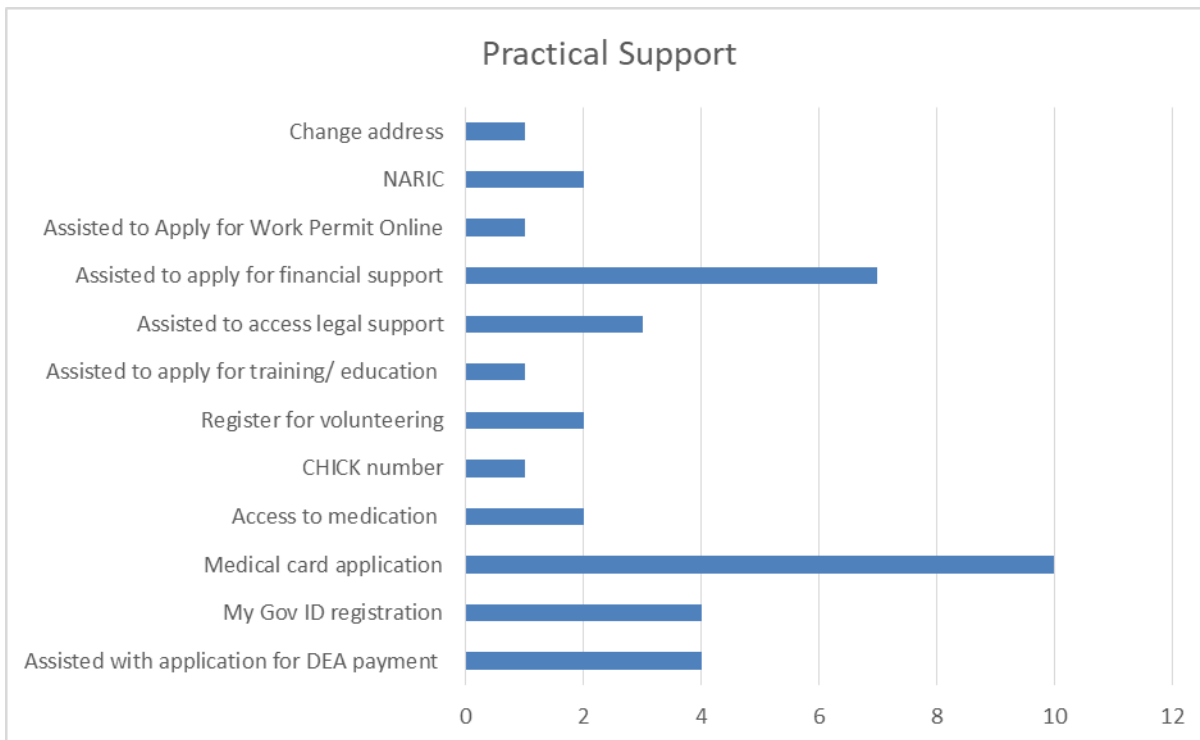
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In-Session Support: Detailed Breakdown

- Advice, Information and Signposting**

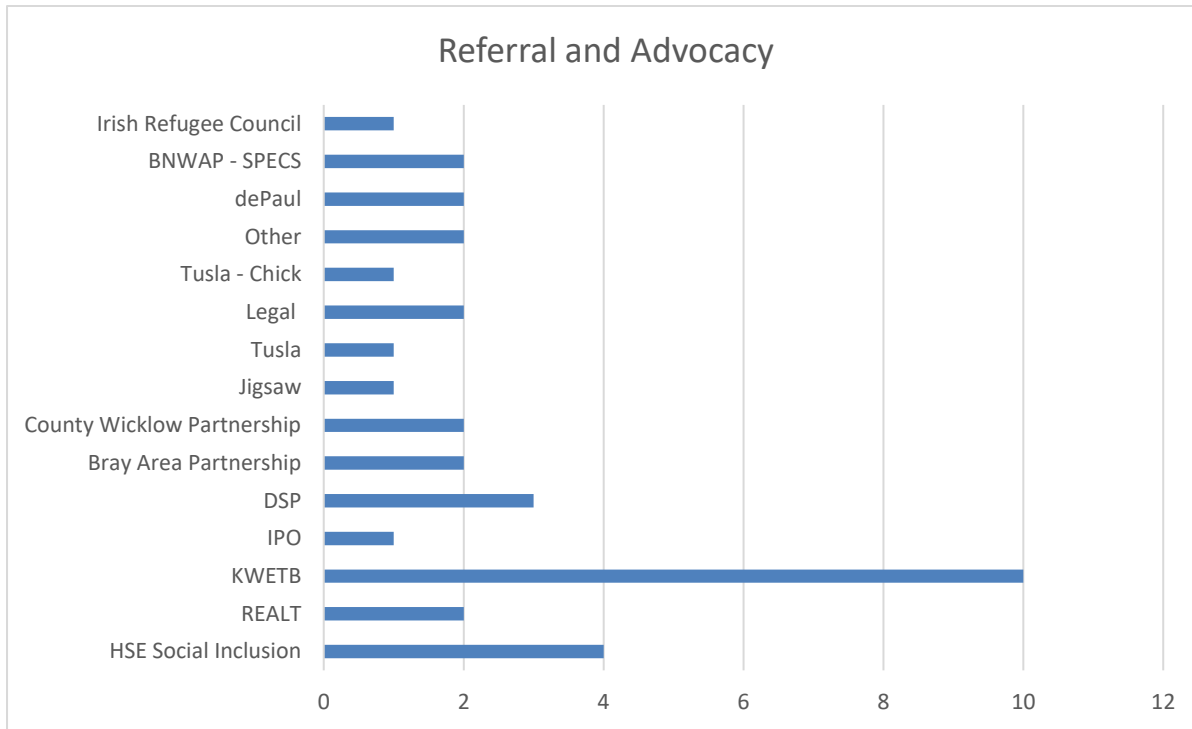


- Practical Support**



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- **Referral and Advocacy**



Other Activity

In addition to delivering support clinics, the WCC LAIT facilitated 16 children from an IPAS centre in Blessington to become members of local sports and recreation clubs. This project was delivered using funding provided through CYPSC.

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Organisational Development (HR & Corporate)

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in November 2024:

- Interviews Executive Engineer
- Interviews Assistant Health and Safety Officer

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024
Managerial/Administrative	319	323	337	334
Professional/Technical	150	150	146	146
Outdoor	265	261	259	255
Temporary/Seasonal	43	44	87	91
Non DoHPLG	5	5	5	5
Total	782	783	834	831

*Increase in Temp/Seasonal category due to graduate recruitment programme

Freedom of Information

November 2024: 5	November 2023: 5
January – November 2024: 113	January – November 2023: 97

Ombudsman Requests

November 2024: 2	November 2023: 2
January – November 2024: 20	January – November 2023: 28

Press Releases

November 2024 – 21

Register of Electors

Online applications via www.checktheregister.ie continue to be received and processed daily. Approximately 5000 applications were received in advance of the closing date for the general election. The franchise team are now

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processing any applications which were minor in nature such as updating contact details etc. and any applications received after the closing date.

Following the Boundary Commission Report in 2023 and the subsequent redrawing of boundary lines in both Wicklow and Wexford, the new smaller 4 seat constituency of Wicklow recorded the highest turnout nationally at 67.8% - 8.1 percentage points above the national average of 59.7%

The new 3 seat constituency of Wicklow-Wexford recorded a turnout of 61.17%.

Customer Service Innovation Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2024 – November			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	8,613	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	1,564
No. of Customer Service Emails received	1,746	Revenue Transactions	1,487
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	101	Housing Counter Visits	607

Total in person visits for November 2024 – 1,388



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Energy

2024					
Action	Energy Savings	Carbon Savings	Simple Payback before Grant (Years)	Project Status	Funding
	(kWh)	(T CO2)			
Bray Fire Station					
Air-to-water heat pump, re-piping, replacing radiators and re-plumbing	350,000	71	8	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Appliance Bay Doors (5)				Works Complete	
Window Upgrades				Works Complete	
Total	350,000	71	8		
County Buildings					
Air-to-water heat pump	230,000	47	10	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Enabling Works				Works Complete	
Radiator Upgrades				Works Commenced	
Total	230,000	47	10		
Bray Civic Offices					
Air-to-water heat pumps replacing gas boiler	120,000	24	8	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Heating Controls				Works Complete	
Total	120,000	24	8		
Wicklow Civil Defence (Greystones)					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacng gas boiler	10,000	5	7	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Solar Photovoltaics (10kWp)				Works Complete	
Insulated hot water cylinder				Works Complete	
Total	10,000	5	7		
Wicklow Town Fire Station					
Air-to-water heat pump, replacing electric storage heating	10,000	3	8	Works Complete	Wicklow Fire Service
Window & External Door Upgrade				Works Complete	
Insulation Upgrades				Works Complete	
Total	10,000	3	8		
Blessington Fire Station					

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Air-to-water heat pump, replacing gas boiler	24,657	5	13.5	Works Complete	50% SEAI Pathfinder 50% WCC Energy Efficiency Fund
Solar Photovoltaics (10kWp)				Works Complete	
Insulated hot water cylinder				Works Complete	
Upgrade Lighting to LED				Works Complete	
Insulation Upgrades				Works Complete	
Total	24,657	5	13.5		
Arklow Recycling Centre					
Solar PV Project 20kW	20,000	3	4	Works Complete	WCC Climate Action Fund
Total	20,000	3	4		
Arklow Municipal District Depot					
Solar PV Project 20kW	20,000	3	4	Works Complete	WCC Climate Action Fund
Total	20,000	3	4		

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Finance, Water & Information Systems

Finance

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2024							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	46,965,361	53,458,479	88%	(49,951,704)	(57,560,824)	87%	(2,986,343)
Road Transport & Safety	25,600,741	25,608,536	100%	(19,408,966)	(18,366,119)	106%	6,191,775
Water Services	4,307,878	4,809,015	90%	(5,247,613)	(5,729,978)	92%	(939,736)
Development Management	25,996,171	15,877,727	164%	(20,426,288)	(10,024,717)	204%	5,569,884
Environmental Services	13,358,204	15,632,861	85%	(2,568,107)	(4,087,049)	63%	10,790,097
Recreation and Amenity	8,596,904	9,440,065	91%	(1,059,810)	(1,079,718)	98%	7,537,094
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,031,891	2,283,534	89%	(872,863)	(1,104,228)	79%	1,159,028
Miscellaneous Services	9,256,509	9,997,953	93%	(12,863,678)	(13,219,706)	97%	(3,607,169)
Central Management Charges	21,539,942	22,890,755	94%	(1,042,172)	(1,050,000)	99%	20,497,771
Local Government Fund				(15,473,976)	(16,880,701)	92%	(15,473,976)
Commercial Rates				(28,828,057)	(31,045,885)	93%	(28,828,057)
	157,653,602	159,998,925	99%	(157,743,234)	(160,148,925)	98%	(89,632)

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 November 2024 to 30th November 2024.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2024					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2024	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/11/2024
	€	€	€	€	€
	Housing and Building	13,566,712	50,211,403	(38,619,999)	(642,459)
Road Transport & Safety	(41,551,755)	17,848,787	(9,603,514)	(536,000)	(33,842,482)
Water Services	(6,530,052)	1,177,476	(1,654,726)	(22,500)	(7,029,803)
Development Management	(32,037,828)	15,872,967	(34,678,787)	(370,250)	(51,213,898)
Environmental Services	(936,699)	4,406,989	(2,962,966)	(585,000)	(77,676)
Recreation and Amenity	(2,144,873)	5,778,423	(1,432,228)	(141,000)	2,060,322
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,046,613)	346,948	76,397	(343,817)	(1,967,084)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,410,645)	72,670	(909,610)	1,446,895	(9,800,690)
	(82,091,754)	95,715,663	(89,785,433)	(1,194,130)	(77,355,654)

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Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2024										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2024	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/11/2024	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	3,457,366	32,005,285	0	(416,992)	(208,053)	34,837,605	(29,032,562)	5,805,043	554,384	85%
Rents & Annuities	3,434,905	16,578,335	0	(5,518)	0	20,007,722	(16,610,780)	3,396,942	0	83%
Housing Loans	276,649	2,290,442	0	0	0	2,567,091	(2,386,430)	180,661	0	93%

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

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2024

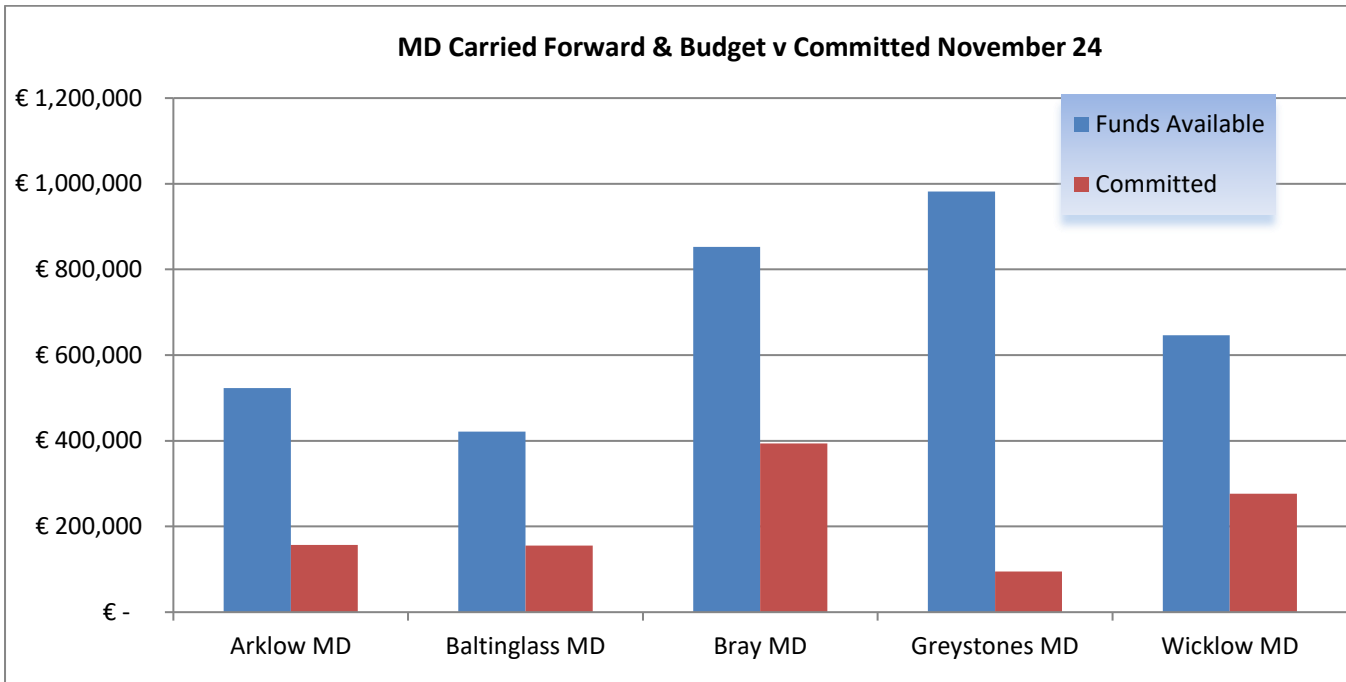
The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 9th 2023 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% generated circa €1.2m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the 5 Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2024 is set out below:

Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	34,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	10,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	66,500
Festivals / Other	25,000	20,000	52,000	20,000	25,000	142,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Discretionary Funding	223,028	223,028	367,370	223,028	223,028	1,259,482
Total	284,028	261,028	440,870	261,028	265,028	1,511,982

Municipal District carried forward allocation and budget '24 and expenditure for 2024 is as follows:

Municipal District	C/F from 2023	Adopted Budget 2024	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	238,944	284,028	522,972	157,174	365,798
Baltinglass MD	160,175	261,028	421,203	155,541	265,662
Bray MD	411,666	440,870	852,536	393,848	458,688
Greystones MD	720,591	261,028	981,619	95,091	886,528
Wicklow MD	381,436	265,028	646,464	276,146	370,318
Total	1,912,812	1,511,982	3,424,794	1,077,800	2,346,994

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Capital Investment Programme 2024-2026

The Capital Investment Programme 2024-2026 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of April 8th 2024. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2024	2025	2026	TOTAL	Dev Charges ¹	Loan	Grant Aid ²	Other ³	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	107,375,000	130,150,000	136,500,000	374,025,000	-	30,000,000	333,083,500	10,941,500	374,025,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	20,331,000	45,830,000	58,400,000	124,561,000	31,001,000	7,000,000	69,360,000	17,200,000	124,561,000
WATER SERVICES	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	-	-	300,000	-	300,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	8,271,000	4,849,507	8,435,000	21,555,507	2,172,376	-	15,623,131	3,760,000	21,555,507
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	4,990,000	25,370,000	23,997,000	54,357,000	-	-	47,867,000	6,490,000	54,357,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	8,467,791	9,595,000	18,017,000	36,079,791	12,773,291	-	21,806,500	1,500,000	36,079,791
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	4,000,000	12,210,000	20,400,000	36,610,000	3,127,500	-	30,507,500	2,975,000	36,610,000
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	700,000	500,000	500,000	1,700,000	-	-	-	1,700,000	1,700,000
OVERALL TOTAL	154,234,791	228,604,507	266,349,000	649,188,298	49,074,167	37,000,000	518,547,631	44,566,500	649,188,298

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Capital Funded Projects

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

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

Wicklow County Council

Chief Executive's Monthly Report – December 2024

Information Systems

Operations

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

GIS & Systems Analysis

- **GIS Server Migration**
Scripts have all been migrated and tested. Enabled in scheduler and ready to be deployed. The migration ensures smoother performance and eliminates dependency on outdated server environments.
- **Consultation Hubs**
Further data extraction and analysis. The insights will inform strategic planning decisions and improve stakeholder engagement.
- **Bluesky Data Processing**
Land contours output for two landfills for Waste Management. The data will aid in monitoring and evaluating waste management strategies on these sites.
- **Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)**
Extract commencement notices from iPLAN and merge with GIS planning applications. Data added to RZLT viewer. This integration improves transparency and enables more efficient tax assessments for zoned residential lands.
- **Software Updates**
Software updates and app installations for Forward Planning staff (Field Maps & Revit). This ensures staff have access to the latest tools for effective planning and data visualisation.
- **Organisational Development**
Preparation of maps and datasets – Bray Greystones Cliff Walk (Open Street Map & Aerial views). These maps provide visual clarity and support informed discussions on the area's development and maintenance.
- **File Share Project**
Additional work on template styling – issue for review/comment. Refining templates helps standardise documentation and improve workflow efficiency.

Infrastructure

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