

**Minutes of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup>  
March 2022, Boardroom, Clermont Campus, Rathnew Co. Wicklow @ 10am.**

**Present:** Councillor Tom Fortune Chair  
Councillor Gerry Walsh  
Councillor Pat Kennedy  
Councillor Mary Kavanagh  
Mr. Killian McGreal  
Mr. Huw O'Toole  
Ms. Muireann Dalton

**In Attendance:** Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, Director of Service  
Ms. Christine Flood, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise  
Ms. Susan Nichols, Administrative Officer  
Ms. Linda Healy, Administrative Officer  
Ms. Caroline Dunne, Assistant Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Ms Deirdre Whitfield

---

Before the meeting commenced Chairman Cllr. Tom Fortune thanked outgoing Chair Cllr Gerry Walsh and a minutes silence was observed for the people of Ukraine.  
With new members to the committee and the first "in person" meeting since Covid 19, formal introductions were made.

**ITEM 1**

**Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

The minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 as circulated were proposed by Cllr Gerry Walsh, seconded by Cllr. Pat Kennedy and agreed.

**ITEM 2**

**Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**ITEM 3**

**To receive a Presentation: Guidelines for the preparation of a Local Economic and Community Plan**

Ms. Susan Nichols delivered a presentation to the members of the SPC.

The presentation highlighted the context, framework, objectives and different stages of the plan.

**Following the presentation the following queries were raised;**

- What is the main aim of the plan and is it how the Council spends money?
- How long will the process take?

**Responses received;**

- Main aim of the LECP is to develop a shared vision for the County, reflect Climate Action measures and it will be a mechanism for future funding.
- New Plan developed in 2023 with almost a year of public consultations. The first milestone is the current public consultation which closes on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022.
- It was also agreed to promote the consultation process through PR.

**ITEM 4****To receive a Presentation: Town Centres First**

**Ms. Christine Flood delivered a presentation on Town Centres First.**

**From the presentation concerns were raised about the Town Teams policy and how it is supported as there is very little engagement between Town Teams and Councillors.**

Under the Government policy, Town Centres First, the establishment of Town Teams is encouraged. Separately Wicklow County Council has engaged a consultant to conduct a review of existing Town Teams in the County to assess how they are performing and to identify issues..

**A query was raised on how Town Teams can register and to reflect hinterlands?**

With implementation of the Town Centre First Policy, the proposed changes to the format of the existing Town Teams and the appointment of a Town Regeneration Officer (TRO) for the County it will be possible to register existing entities as town teams, subject to criteria to be determined. An important aspect of the TRO role will be capacity building for the town teams and it is anticipated that all teams wishing to register will take part in training.

**It was also queried on how a Town Team is constituted?**

The TRO will play an important role in the makeup of the town teams. As per the Town Centre First policy document, stakeholders on the team could include; Local Authorities, Chambers of Commerce, Public Participation, Networks, business associations, local development sector, community groups, business owners, developers, retailers, landlords, residents, tourism groups, An Garda, Síochána, charities, social enterprises, sports organisations, cultural groups, voluntary groups and educational facilities.

**ITEM 5****To consider a final draft of the County Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy 2022 – 2026 (previously presented to the SPC Members)**

Final draft noted by members and for same to be brought forward to the next full Council Meeting.

**ITEM 6.1****To receive and consider update on:****LECP: LCDC and Community Activities**

Report was circulated to members of the SPC prior to the meeting.

**Town & Village**

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

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

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

West Wicklow also benefitted from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Funding is awarded to the Donard community who have identified an opportunity to revitalise their village through developing a coffee shop in the community centre for visitors and residents. The positive social impacts would be immediate as "the Meeting Place" will provide an essential hub not just for the town residents and the surrounding environs but also to the tourists who enjoy staying at the nearby caravan park and those involved in outdoor trails.

A new Town & Village Scheme will open soon and we encourage all communities to get involved.

## **CLAR**

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd Riachtanais) or Funding for Small-Scale Rural Projects is a targeted investment programme which provides funding for small-scale - infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered the greatest levels of population decline.

### **The 2022 CLÁR Scheme is now open**

The Measures being funded under the 2022 CLÁR Programme are:

Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities

Measure 2: Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders Transport

Measure 3: "Our Islands"

### **Local Economic and Community Plan**

The development of the new LECP is underway. The community elements of the plan are being overseen by the Local Community Development Committee while the economic elements are being overseen by the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC.

An extensive consultation process is underway.

## **ITEM 6.2**

**To receive and consider update on:**

## LECP: Economic Activities

Report was circulated to members of the SPC prior to the meeting

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with amongst other things implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

LECPs detail how Local Authorities will support economic and community development in their areas over the next six years. The development of the next LECP is underway at present. The new plan will focus on key areas such as sustainability and climate action, consultation and engagement with local communities and business is underway at present.

The new plan will take account of lessons learned from the current plan and the changing needs of communities. The guidelines reinforce the important role of communities in determining the needs and priorities of their local area. As part of the process to develop a new LECP the Council is required to consider housing needs when formulating both the economic and community elements of the LECP.

### LECP Economic Objectives

6.1	<i>Support inward investment and promote the creation and expansion of new and existing employment opportunities in the County to drive economic development within the County</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engaging with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland</li><li>• Supporting investment by offshore wind energy companies</li><li>• Developing Masterplans and the property portfolio for Blessington, Greystones, Wicklow County Campus and Rathdrum</li></ul>
6.2	<i>Support and develop Wicklow County Campus to allow it to reach its full potential as a centre of learning and innovation in the County</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engaging with IT Carlow now SETU</li><li>• Development of the Screen Hub and Screen Training</li><li>• Supporting campus companies</li><li>• Developing a masterplan for the campus to focus on the screen sector, food and renewable energy</li><li>• Broadband Connection Point</li></ul>
6.3	<i>Support the provision of high quality infrastructure throughout the County that will facilitate and support economic expansion</i>	Urban Regeneration Development Funding Projects in Bray Wicklow and Arklow and future projects in Wicklow and Arklow Broadband delivered to Wicklow County Campus Continuing to work with other departments to support infrastructure development for Transport, Harbours, Water and Waste Water and tourism infrastructure
6.4	<i>Enhance the attractiveness of town centres and</i>	Working with MDs & Town Teams

	<i>retail premises across the County</i>	URDF RRDF applications Streetscape Funding Masterplan applications Placemaking Outdoor dining Destination Town Projects Public Realm enhancements Health Checks and Public Realm Plans
7.1	<i>Stimulate and support the development and expansion of micro-enterprises and SME's, facilitating the growth of economic activities, development of innovative sectors, promotion of business engagement and the creation of new employment opportunities, decent jobs and sustainable, meaningful livelihoods</i>	Working with LEO, Community Cultural and Social Development, County Wicklow Partnership across a range of sectors including food, crafts and tourism
7.2	<i>Harness the County's existing assets and encourage collaborative opportunities and business engagement amongst sectors to develop new markets and initiatives, maximising opportunities for business development and employment creation</i>	Film Strategy in place Maritime Strategic Review carried out Craft Strategy under development New commuter/work survey to be conducted in early 2022 with a focus on opportunities presented by remote working
8.1	<i>Promote and direct the tourism development of the County in a sustainable manner that conserves, promotes, protects and enhances the County's natural, built and cultural heritage and derives optimal economic benefit from visitors to the County</i>	Tourism Strategy in place Development of the Masterplan for Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park and the Visitor Orientation Plan for Wicklow underway Destination Town funding for Abbey Grounds secured Accommodation strategy complete – portfolio to be developed Plans for the development of Greenways A range of thematic experiences on offer
8.2	<i>Capitalise on the immediate and future economic opportunity in the Film and Television Industry and support the expansion of the sector in the County</i>	Screen Enterprise Hub under construction Funding for Crew Skills Hub A record number of films being made Expansion of studio space underway
8.3	<i>Realise the potential benefits of the County's maritime assets</i>	Arklow and Wicklow confirmed as operations and maintenance bases for the offshore wind energy sector Proposals for development of harbours at Bray, Wicklow and Arklow – seeking URDF funding Proposals to develop marine training and Marine enterprise centres Supporting other marine sectors such as aquaculture, fishing and tourism
8.4	<i>Support the rural economy and promote rural economic diversification</i>	Establishment of Wicklow Naturally
8.5	<i>Maximise the economic development in the County through improved and strategic</i>	Development of the website, social media and brands such as Wicklow Outdoors,

	<i>branding and marketing</i>	Wicklow Naturally further work proposed in 2022 on Film and Economic Development
9.1	<i>Support the development of renewable energy and a low energy future for Wicklow</i>	Climate Action Plan in Place Proposals for the Community Benefit Fund Development of offshore renewable energy

## RETAIL

### Bray Central

Wicklow County Council has been informed by Oakmount that they have achieved practical completion on site. This is to “shell and core” and following practical completion there will be some time for fit out of units by tenants. The Wicklow County Council Monitor is examining documentation in relation to practical completion as per the development agreement.

It is anticipated that the hospitality element will open soon after practical completion has been signed off.

## TOWN TEAMS

Town Teams in Arklow, Blessington, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow continue to meet virtually in most cases.

### rArklow Town Team

Some highlights from Arklow Town Team include funding for:

- €6,000 was received from The Heritage Council to carry out a Conservation Plan for The Goods Store at Arklow Railway Station.
- Installation of the Pride Pedestrian Crossing on Main Street.
- The ‘Visit Arklow’ tourism brand was developed and launched with funding secured from LEADER for the development of the VisitArklow.ie website, supported by social media.
- Harbour to Headwaters – River Tourism project.
- SEAnanagins Seafood Festival.
- Painted playground project at Kynocks Park.

### Bray Town Team / Bray Town Recovery Team

Bray Town Team is undergoing a period of change, incorporating Bray Town Recovery Team. Terms of reference were issued to the Bray MD Members in 2021. These are under review by the Cathaoirleach before deciding on the best way forward.

### Blessington Town Team

Major investment and development in the Blessington area were welcomed by Blessington Town Team recently with the announcement by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), that a total project cost of €1,293,380 has been awarded in respect of the Blueprint for Blessington application made to RRDF. Of this figure, €1,034,704 will be provided by RRDF and €258,676 will be provided in match-funding by Wicklow County Council.

Blessington Greenway which is a €15m project is currently being reviewed by An Bord Pleanála, with the closing date for submissions ending Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

#### **Greystones Town Team**

Greystones Town Team is working to maximise the benefit to Greystones of winning the LivCom award for most liveable community and making arrangements for the upcoming St. Patrick's Day celebration.

#### **Wicklow Town Team**

Wicklow Town Team have a number of projects in the pipeline including seeking funding for a Community Power project, working with local stakeholders to identify a suitable site for a digital hub for Wicklow, progressing a sculpture for Ashtown roundabout and exploring a proposal for a Pilgrim Way linking Glendalough, Laragh, Glenealy, Rathnew to Travelahawk in Wicklow.

#### **Streetscapes**

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

Wicklow County Council was allocated €320,000 in Streetscape funding under the Department of Rural and Community Development Town and Village Streetscape Scheme. The areas selected are Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington, Enniskerry, Kilcoole and Wicklow Town.

Types of projects funded include: refurbishment of traditional shop fronts, artwork, murals, lighting, planting etc.

The scheme was advertised by the Economic Development Unit who worked with the Municipal Districts to assess the applications. The allocation of grants is being processed by Community Cultural and Social Development. 108 applications were received and approved under this measure with 48 businesses returning the required documents to receive payment. Of these 48 businesses 32 have been paid totalling €87,581. The date for return of documentation has been further extended.

#### **TOURISM**

##### **Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022**

The Key Priorities are:

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

##### **Wicklow Passport:**

The Wicklow Passport will remain key to this year's promotions aimed at the domestic market. A series of touring itineraries is being developed to help visitors plan their Wicklow Passport journey. Five display units will rotate and be displayed at various locations around Wicklow such as top attractions or accommodation providers to help raise awareness of the Passport.

### **EcoTrail Wicklow:**

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

A series of press trips inviting strong journalists and influencers to help promote itineraries around Wicklow is being planned. This project is being developed with the support of Failte Ireland and should give an extensive reach through national media.

**Destination Town Funding:** Funding of €500,000 was awarded to Wicklow by Failte Ireland in respect of Destination Town Funding to develop visitor amenities in the Abbey Grounds, with Mosart consultant's appointed to lead the design process. A planning application to enhance and redevelop the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow, into the Abbey Gardens and event space was passed unanimously by the members of Wicklow Municipal District at their meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The procurement process for detailed design and construction has begun.

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

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

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

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

### **Outdoor Dining**

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

### **RURAL AND URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Blessington has been awarded just over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). This will be used for a major regeneration of Blessington Town Centre and related projects. It will be utilised for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway. This strategic funding along with the planned completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road and the funding for the Blessington Lakes eGreenway will help achieve Wicklow County Council's long-term vision for Blessington and enhance the Blessington as a place to visit. Combined with the proposals for developing a



Masterplan for Blessington, this project will add to the quality of life of the entire community by optimising digital connectivity, supporting employment and skills and enhancing the public realm in line with the objectives that underpin “Our Rural Future” Ireland’s Rural Development policy.

A call was announced for category 1 proposals with a closing date for applications on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Applications for Rathdrum and Baltinglass are currently being prepared.

#### **URDF: URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND**

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

Funding of €7.14m has been announced for the Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration Project from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and this funding has the capacity to unlock the great potential of Bray Harbour and surrounding area.

A final draft feasibility study on Bray Harbour Improvement Scheme has been issued to Wicklow County Council. The Steering Group will be examining this report and to finalise next steps on this strategic project.

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

#### **MARITIME**

There are a number of Offshore Wind Energy projects proposed off the coast of County Wicklow

- Dublin Array – Bray and Kish Banks
- Cailleach – off Bray Head
- Codling Wind Park between Greystones and Wicklow
- Arklow Bank between Arklow and Wicklow Head
- Shelmalere just south of Arklow

#### **Arklow Bank**

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

SSER has made an application to Wicklow County Council in respect of the O&M base at Arklow.

#### **Codling Wind Park**

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

maintenance base for the project, which will be located at a port along the east coast, may be considered in the EIA.

The Codling Wind Park has announced its decision to base its operations and maintenance facility at Wicklow Port. This will provide 75 skilled jobs over the 25 to 30 year lifecycle, plus another 40 jobs during construction. The construction of the windfarm itself will employ 1,000

### **Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme**

Under the RESS energy providers bid for connections to the national grid. This is a major milestone for the offshore windfarms. If their bid is not successful the projects will not proceed. The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications has opened a consultation on the first auction to supply electricity from offshore wind under the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS 1). The aim of this targeted consultation is to engage stakeholders and gather feedback on aspects of the Terms and Conditions to ensure the efficient and economical delivery of renewable electricity projects under ORESS 1.

Key policy objectives of the RESS 1 include:

- increasing energy security, energy sustainability and ensuring the cost effectiveness of energy policy;
- providing for community participation through community benefit funds;
- increasing technology diversity – by broadening the renewable electricity technology mix;
- delivering an ambitious renewable electricity policy to 2030;

The consultation document covers issues such as state consent, bidding independence, grid connections, bidding mechanisms, bid bonds and performance securities and offshore community benefit funds.

Wicklow County Council made a submission, a copy of which was circulated in the previous report.

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

Key milestones have been:

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

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

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

Under the special transition provisions in the MAP Act, the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications will have the responsibility for assessing and granting MACs for a first phase

(Phase One) of offshore projects, which satisfy the definition of “relevant maritime usage” under the Act (the Relevant Projects).

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

Applications for MACs from these projects will open this year and will mark an important step towards reaching our 2030 targets.

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

The purpose of the consultation is to:

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

#### **FOOD AND BEVERAGE STRATEGY**

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

Wicklow Naturally were delighted to host a stand at this years 'Gifted', Ireland's premier Craft and Design Fair in the RDS. Some members had their own stands also and it was a great opportunity to display, promote and buy gifts from Wicklow this Christmas.

Preparations are being made for a number of national, local events and promotional activities throughout 2022, these include Bloom in the Park, Taste of Wicklow, the Great Gathering, the Tinahely Show, the National Ploughing Championships, Eco Trail, October Feast and Gifted. These events will provide an opportunity to promote Wicklow's food and beverage producers and the hospitality sector nationally and locally.

Wicklow Naturally, Wicklow County Council, the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office and Sustainable Tourism Ireland provided an online conference to explore opportunities in the circular economy for food producers on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February which had a very good attendance and participation rate. The conference highlighted many positive changes that businesses could make to become truly sustainable.

An application, prepared by Wicklow Naturally, has been submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Rural Innovation and Development Fund (RIDF) which sought proposals for Agri-Food Tourism measures. The application seeks funding to establish the Wicklow Naturally Farm to Fork Trails which will establish a number of food and beverage trails throughout County Wicklow, providing essential linkages between farms/agriculture experiences to food/drink producers, hospitality providers and markets. The trails will be a premier showcase to

the 200,000+ visitors to County Wicklow expected in 2022, with that number set to increase year on year.

The Farm to Fork Trails will be offered as a self-drive/self-guided option or a scheduled guided tour, facilitated by Wicklow Naturally, taking place at a number of locations throughout the county. Each stop on the trail will be a member of Wicklow Naturally and trails may be updated as new members join.

The Wicklow Naturally Farm to Fork Trails will allow visitors to not only taste County Wicklow but to experience County Wicklow.

#### ITEM 7

#### Report of Head of Enterprise, Leo Supports

#### ITEM 8

#### Wicklow County Campus, Content Creation Hub

Ms. V. Delahunt provided a report covering Item 7 and 8 (copy circulated) which covered the following;

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

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Grants Approved (number/ value)			
- Measure 1	- 33/ €641,745	- Meet Demand	4 / € 81,340
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	-4 / €6,594 (to date)	- Meet Demand	2 / €1,661
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Total No. of All Programmes	77	64	30

(Training/Networking/Events/Seminars )			
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	105	75	15
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	994	900	150
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	10	2

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	849	750	20
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor and Brexit 1-1	530	500	12

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021/2022	2022/2023	Year to Date
No. of Secondary Student Participants	953	1000	Recruitment ongoing

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Trading Online Vouchers	135 Total value: € 279,127.40	70 Depending on budget and demand	12 (€ 26,092)

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

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

### January / February 2022 Activities

- Fortnightly newsletter continues to be circulated to the LEO client database outlining supports, training courses, events and other relevant information.
- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- A number of new training programmes have been introduced for the Food and Beverage sector for 2022: For those contemplating starting a business in food and beverage there is a start your own food business course and for established businesses we have developed a series of workshops to help businesses identify new routes to markets looking at food service and online channels as well as looking at the opportunity presented by the discounters, this will be coupled with individual mentoring for selected clients.
- The Owner Manager Development Programme will conclude on 17<sup>th</sup> February (21 participants)
- An Advanced version of the Owner Development Programme, delivered by Blaise Brosnan will commence on 24<sup>th</sup> February with 16 participants
- Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Mr Simon Harris TD, heard about proposals for the further development of Wicklow County Campus planned by Wicklow County Council during a visit to the campus on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Minister Harris welcomed the Council's openness to collaborating with IT Carlow and KWETB to achieve their vision for developing a centre of excellence in innovation, enterprise and education.
- Minister Damien English, Minister of State for Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail launched the Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at County Buildings with an audience of about 50 guests representing the economic and enterprise sections of the three Local Authorities and relevant stakeholders Authorities throughout the Mid East region.
- Local Enterprise Week takes place from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> till Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March and planning is underway for a week full of training and networking events including an online Spotlight event called: Future Proofing your business using Technology, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March which is open to participants nationally.
- An extensive development programme called Innovate Wicklow! Will start on 24<sup>th</sup> March and will be delivered by the Design+ Centre IT Carlow depending on sufficient demand.

### Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

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

### Business Skills Training Courses recently held:-

- Bookkeeping for Small Businesses (2 day course) 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> March (9 participants)

- ✚ Pathways to Growth for your Food or Beverage Business Workshop 8<sup>th</sup> February (9 participants)
- ✚ Maximising Sales on your Website & Social Media Channels 9<sup>th</sup> February (20 participants)
- ✚ Start Your Own Food Business – the Essentials 9<sup>th</sup> February (21 participants)
- ✚ Cashflow Management 17<sup>th</sup> February (9 participants)
- ✚ Start Your Own Business with a Focus on Blue ways and Green Ways, 1st March
- ✚ Essential Idea Exploration, 2nd March

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

- Digital Marketing Clinics (one to one) 7<sup>th</sup> March
- Business Planning and Accessing Finance for Your Business Workshop, 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- Start Your Own Business 9<sup>th</sup> March
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar 10<sup>th</sup> March
- Future Proofing Your Business Using Smart Tech Tools 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March (2 x half days)
- Video Production – Tools, Techniques & Tactics – Beginners Level 11<sup>th</sup> March

**Clermont Enterprise Hub development update:**

- Good progress has been made with installation of floors in the courtyard building. Roof has been removed for entire new roof structure.
- Foundations for the new building have been poured.
- The steps in the main hall have been removed to allow for upgrade of the conference centre. Great space opened up by their removal. Waiting to have the main hall restored and deep cleaned.
- Second floor refurbishment into private office has commenced also by taking out ceilings. No steels needs replacing. Floor tiles being tested for asbestos.
- Overall, Design Team remain pleased with construction contractor, with the level of communication around issues as they arise, Health and Safety compliance and standard of sub contractors. Two weekly site meetings continue with Larry Roe, Engineer representing the employer.
- The first invoice has been validated by Design Team and cheque has been issued for the value of €77,634. Second invoice and validation expected shortly.
- The REDF advance payment request for €34,000 (& of total capital grant) was approved by the Invest Committee in Enterprise Ireland to assist with keeping the project on track to meet its milestones. Q4 2021 Transfer of funds from Wicklow County Council to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG bank acc of €554,000 to cover first three invoices (No – Jan). Quarterly transfers agreed thereafter.

**Next steps:**

- Promotion and marketing of facilities to commence, Q1 2022
- Recruitment of Centre Manager Q1 2022 depending on construction progress.
- Foul drainage system to be developed for the whole campus concurrently. Topographical and CCTV surveys carried out to inform the design.

**East Coast Crew Development Hub**

- Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG has been approved a funding application for €300,000 funding for screen skills training courses and work placements under the East Coast Crew Development Hub Initiative at Screen Ireland.
- A strategic workplan has been submitted for agreement prior to signing of Funding Agreement for one year. Signing of agreement recommended in order to proceed with recruiting the co-ordinator to be agreed by Board of Directors and signed by end 2021.
- Recruitment for a Manager of the Crew Hub is ongoing, salary set at €45,000 (same as in Galway and Limerick).

### **Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan 2021-24**

The Mid East Regional Enterprise plan was launched by Minister Damien English on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at WCC county buildings.

The focus on actions around Screen Content Industry and Hub development, Network of Remote working Hubs, renewable energy / Maritime opportunities and Enterprise Hub, Offshore Wind training facility at Wicklow County Campus, as well as a Food Development Incubation Hub in Co. Wicklow.

### **ITEM 9**

#### **Blessington Greenway Update**

Ms. S. Nichols provided a report to the meeting (copy circulated) regarding all Greenway proposals;

#### **Greystones to Wicklow Greenway**

The coastal route is approximately 20km in length, extending between the southern end of the Bray to Greystones cliff walk at Greystones harbour to the Murrough Car Park at Wicklow.

- **Status**  
Currently at phase 1  
The Feasibility Study is complete with an emerging preferred route. In summary, it is considered that it is potentially feasible to develop a coastal route through the designated conservation area of the Murrough Wetlands SAC / SPA without impacting on the qualifying interests of the SAC if the route is developed so as to ensure there is no disturbance to birds species nor impact on the sites qualifying interests (i.e. habitats) and features of interest (i.e. species) of the sites. It is considered likely that there will be significant impacts, which have the potential to be mitigated for, on the Annex I (non-qualifying interest) Fixed Dune system which runs alongside the railway line. Alongside this a Coastal Protection Study has been completed between Merrion Gates and the County boundary between Wicklow and Wexford. In order to advance and complete this Coastal Trail Feasibility Study, the preferred route that has been recommended is neutral of any potential Coastal Protection Study recommendation.
- **Milestones / Phases expected 2022**  
Based on the Feasibility Study that has been completed further reports and studies will be required to be submitted as part of the planning application to An Bord Pleanála. Funding



has been received to complete these surveys. Meeting to be arranged with NPWS to discuss. Plan is progress these studies in 2022.

### **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

The proposed Greenway will be approximately 33km in length and will commence at Shillelagh village south of County Wicklow. The proposed route will follow the disused Woodenbridge to Shillelagh Railway Line which lies adjacent to the banks of the Derry River, Aughrim River and Avoca River. It will run through villages Tinahely, Aughrim, Woodenbridge eventually connecting to Arklow Town.

- **Status**  
Currently at Phase 1.  
Route has been identified. The consultants appointed for the scheme are completing the reports to accompany the Natura Impact Statement planning submission which is planned be lodged to An Bord Pleanala by Q1/Q2 2022. Land Access process will take place at the same time as the planning process.
- **Milestones / Phases expected 2022**  
Currently reviewing the recently published Code of Practice for Greenways. The timescales for delivery are been reviewed in light of this new document.

### **Blessington Greenway**

Wicklow County Council has obtained Part 8 planning permission to construct a Greenway around the lakes of Blessington. The new Greenway will cover approximately 42.4kms of walking and cycling trails mostly through the forest and woodlands. The Greenway will link into the existing 6.5km Greenway to the south of Blessington Town which links the town with Russborough House. The scheme runs though ESB lands and a licence Agreement will be in place for the scheme and lands needed.

- **Status**  
Currently at Phase 1  
The scope of works for the project was changed during the process of route identification. These project changes triggered the need to review the environmental reports undertaken to date, which has led to the project requiring a NIS and a planning submission to ABP. This was lodged 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022.
- **Milestones / Phases expected 2022**  
Plan to start construction Q3 2022 with an 18 months construction period.

#### **The following queries were raised from the above;**

- Who is carrying out the code of Practice?
- Is there public consultation on the Code of Practice document itself?

#### **The following responses issued;**

- The Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways addresses all elements of a Greenway Project, from inception to completion detailing recommendations for each stage from Consultation, Route Options, Design, Environmental Assessment, Land Acquisition and payment structure, provision of accommodation works, provision of Agronomists,

Construction work including supervision during construction works, reinstatement work and maintenance work..

- All information regarding the document is on the Departments website.

#### ITEM 10

##### Correspondence

There was no other correspondence that had not already been dealt with during the course of the meeting.

Muireann Dalton is replacing Michael Ryan on the EDES SPC committee therefore it was suggested that a letter of thanks issue to Michael for his contribution to the committee.

#### ITEM 11

##### Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC will take place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 10am in the Boardroom, Clermont Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.

Signed:



Cllr. Tom Fortune

Chair

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date:

