Press Release

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

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

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

Speaking of the launch of this scheme, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy said “This Town and Village regeneration scheme represents a fantastic opportunity for communities in the county to turn their visions into reality for their areas. I urge people to get involved and to take advantage of this funding opportunity”.

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

* Tackling dereliction in town centres
* Turning vacant properties into remote working and multi-use community spaces
* Investing in town centre living
* Investing in amenities to make town centre living more attractive
* Upgrading and improving shop fronts and streetscapes on Main Streets
* Projects that support and enhance the night time economy and add vibrancy to town centres

**Grant Levels:**

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

**Project Development Measure:**

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

**How to apply:**

As in previous years, in order to apply, community groups must fill out an Expression of Interest form which should be submitted to Wicklow County Council. Selection of projects is a competitive process. 8 Expressions of Interest will be selected by the local authority for development into detailed applications to be submitted to the Department. All Expressions of Interest will be assessed based on the priorities contained in the Scheme Outlines (available on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)). The closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest is Friday 4th June at 4pm.

Expressions of Interest forms should be emailed to townandvillage@wicklowcoco.ie

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