

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



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This month:

Clar 2022 Funding for County Wicklow

Five projects in County Wicklow are to benefit from CLAR 2022 funding to increase the amenities in their communities.

Under the Clár programme 2022 Wicklow has been awarded almost €170,000 for upgrades to public lighting in Askanagap and Kilpipe. Community halls in Knockananna and Akanagap are also to benefit from the scheme.

CLAR is an initiative under 'Our Rural Future' that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in designated rural areas. 'Our Rural Future' is the whole-of-government policy for rural Ireland for the period 2021-2025. It is about a community-based approach to rural development which recognises that the people who know best what their area needs are the people that live there.

Funding for Clermont Food Hub

A Priming Grant of €199,600 has been awarded to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG from Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS).

This funding is intended to allow Wicklow County Council to engage a consultant to prime the development of a Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation Centre at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew comprising regional infrastructure of scale for agri-food and drinks SMEs including specialist food production units, co-working innovation kitchens, and scaling and growth support services.

With one of Ireland's most prolific food and drinks networks, the focus of the new infrastructure will be to respond to industry needs for food enterprise space and innovation supports to accelerate growth in the regional food and beverage sector and will contribute to maximising the potential of the 55-acre site at Wicklow County Campus.

Wicklow is a proven incubator and growth zone for agri-food and drinks companies. To drive the latent potential of the sector, Wicklow County Council facilitated the development of a dedicated Food Strategy in 2018, which sets out an ambitious vision for the agri-food and drinks sector. In 2019, a feasibility study was commissioned by Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Naturally into the viability of a dedicated food hub for the county.

Food Hubs are recognised for their unique potential to spur productive, inclusive, and sustainable economic development. They tackle the challenge of the prohibitive high capital set-up costs of foodgrade workspace and help to create a pipeline of new food businesses with the ability to create jobs.

Rose of Tralee Contestants visit Wicklow

Wicklow County Council were delighted to host 17 of the Rose of Tralee contestants, including the Wicklow Rose, Rosin Long, on August 16th and 17th.

The Roses enjoyed a full agenda starting at Powerscourt Estate and including a visit to Glendalough, Beyond the Trees at Avondale Forest Park, coffee at Ballyknocken House Cookery School with Award Winning Cookery host Catherine Fulvio, a photo stop at Brittas Bay and a visit to Russborough House were among the highlights of the visit.



HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1. Housing

Social Housing Support

	July 2022	July 2021
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4535	4465
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	218	270
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2596	2329
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	22	16
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	29	31

Allocation of Social Housing

	July 2022	July 2021
Wicklow County Council	34	24
Approved Housing Bodies	03	09

Social Housing Stock

	July 2022	July 2021
Tenancies occupied	4,768	4,657
Total weekly rental accrual	312,614.56	306,259.40
Arrears	2,805,084.47	2,565,051.18



Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

SCHEMES COMPLETED	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Completed and allocated
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completed and allocated
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated
Whitehall, Baltinglass	34	Completed and allocated
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completed and allocated
Convent Lands	51	Completed and allocated
Urban Villas (FCA Hall), Wicklow Town	8	Completed and allocated
Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue	20	Completed and allocated
Kilmantan Place, Bray	4	Completed and allocated
Carnew Rapid Build	30	Completed and allocated
Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completed and allocated
Kilbride Court (Bray)	42	Completed and allocated
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completed and allocated
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completed and allocated
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completed and allocated
Schemes on Site	units	CURRENT STATUS
Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build	36	Completion anticipated Q1 2023
Sheehan Court Design & Build	7	Completion anticipated Q3 2022
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completion anticipated Q4 2022
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completion anticipated Q3 2023
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Part 8 complete – tender documents being prepared
Three Trouts Greystones Design &		2 9 6 - 2 6 -
Build 41		Site start anticipated Q3 2022



Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Site start anticipated Q3 2022
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Site start anticipated Q3 2022
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Stage 2 approval received – detailed design and part 8 being prepared.
Ballynerrin, Wicklow	10	Approval received from department. – part 8 ongoing
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Part 8 approved.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Stage 1 approval received, stage 2 received. – part 8 ongoing
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5
Burnaby, Greystones	75	PPP Bundle 5

Public Private Partnership.

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

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

Part V

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	20	Scheduled phased Q2-Q4 2022	CALF
Rathnew	6	3 Delivered Q1 2022, 3 Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Wicklow Town	4	Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Delgany	3	Scheduled Q2 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Scheduled Q3 2022	WCC
Kilcoole	3	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Enniskerry	2	Scheduled Q3 2022	WCC
Delgany	4	Scheduled Q3 2022	WCC
Delgany	1	Scheduled Q3 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	6	Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF

Potential units



Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Bray, Rathnew, Wicklow, Rathdrum, Kilcoole and Enniskerry with delivery ranging from 2022-2024. This includes the 59 units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

Turnkey

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Arklow	13	10 Delivered Q2 2022,3 Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Rathnew	10	10 Delivered Q2 2022	WCC
Bray	188	30 Units Delivered Q2, Remaining units Scheduled for Delivery Q3-Q4 2022	CALF
Rathdum	13	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Arklow	42	11 Delivered, Remaining units Scheduled for Delivery Q3-Q4 2022	CALF

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

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

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

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

Home Improvement/Adaptation

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

- > Grant funding for private house €2,299,375 (2022 budget) €863,953.52 spent to date
- > Grant funding for social house €818,793.00 (2022 budget) (€312,604.54 spent to date)

Private Houses



- > Open Applications 120 (some carried over from 2021, approvals not included in this figure)
- > Approved applications 184 (some carried over from 2021)

No of applications received:

Year	No of Private Grant applications received
2019	218
2020	266
2021	327
2022 (to date)	187

Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

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

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road - Two 2	Detailed design complete – tender process complete – contractor
bed properties	appointed and works due to start shortly.
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed	Detailed design complete – t tender process complete – contractor
properties	appointed and works due to start shortly
Carrig Eden - 14 units x 1	Part 8 complete commencement of design and build project to begin
bed age friendly units	shortly
Kilcoole Health Centre - 4	Detailed design almost complete
no 1 bed apartments	

Vacant Homes Scheme

There are now 16 CPOs underway on long term vacant houses around the county.

30 South Green, Arklow	Notice to Treat served. House now in possession of the Council and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
5 Priory Way, Delgany	Notice to Treat served. House now in possession of the Council and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy	House purchased from START Mortgages by agreement. Council tenant now in situ.
5 Ashwood, Roundwood	Confirmed CPO. House now purchased by agreement and will be refurbished prior to



	allocation.
108 Charnwood, Bray	Oral hearing held by An Bord Pleanála on 17 th
	August 2021 but no decision yet notified to
	parties.
10 Liam Mellows Avenue Arklow	CPO Confirmed. Purchase by agreement with
	Receiver in progress.
33 Connolly Street, Arklow	CPO Confirmed. Purchased by agreement with
	Receiver. In our possession since 20/5/2022 and
	will be refurbished prior to allocation.
6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Oral hearing of An Bord Pleanála held on 21st
	June – no outcome yet. Purchase of the house by
	agreement with Receiver will be completed
	shortly.
114 Hillside, Greystones	CPO published. Objection lodged. Oral Hearing
	due in October.
18 Delgany Glen, Greystones	CPO published. Objection lodged. Oral Hearing
	will follow. However purchase by agreement with
	Receiver is underway.
2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town	CPO published. No objections lodged. CPO
	confirmed 12 th April. Confirmation newspaper ad
	26 th April. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry
	served. House in possession of WCC since 3 rd
	August 2022. Refurbishment work to follow.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	CPO confirmed. Notice to Treat and Notice of
	Entry served. In our possession since 28 th of
	June.
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	CPO published 1 st week in April.
	Oral hearing due 28 th September 2022.
	Purchase by agreement with Link Financial in
	progress and should be completed before Oral
	Hearing.
53 South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 st week in April. Objection from
	owner. Oral Hearing 15 th September 2022
53A South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 st week in April. Objection from
	owner. Oral Hearing 16 th September 2022.
41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry	CPO Published 12 th July (newspaper ad).

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

Further reports relating to Co Wicklow on www.vacanthomes.ie were received in June. Information received from the public in this manner is crucial to identifying vacant houses and to taking action.



Since it began in 2017, we have received 206 reports relating to Co. Wicklow. 12% of these contained insufficient information to identify the house in question. 21% of reports related to the same house (often multiple reports submitted by the same person).

Croí Cónaithe (Towns)

This is a new scheme announced by the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Govt in July 2022. Up to €30,000 grant available for houses which are:

- Vacant for more than 2 years.
- Built prior to 1993.
- Within a town or village (rural houses not covered).
- To be used as the applicant's permanent dwelling.

The grant amount can be increased to €50,000 in cases where the building is Dangerous or Structurally Unsound (requires an Engineers Report). Buildings which are currently non-residential (such as vacant commercial units – shops etc) but which the applicant intends to convert to residential use, can also qualify.

It is intended to revitalise towns and villages by addressing vacancy and dereliction.

A small number of applications have been received and a number of enquiries about the scheme have been received and answered.

4 houses that were approved for sale at the January Housing and Corporate Estate SPC meeting are being advertised for sale to either existing tenants of Wicklow County Council or persons on the WCC social housing list.

Infill Sites

- Blackhills Two 3 bed semi-detected properties are nearing completion.
- Knockroe Part V111 approved and a revised stage 2 application has been submitted to the department for 2 x 4 bedroomed fully accessible units

Housing Maintenance - Heating Upgrade Programme

The adopted budget for 2022 is €236,000 and due to the significant increase in cost of new installations, only 19 houses will be done in 2022. Work has started on new Gas heating installations and will then move on to Oil as the same contractor is doing both. Gas & oil boiler maintenance contracts have been renewed and servicing has started. Arising from the procurement process there have also been significant increases in the cost of boiler servicing – in the range 12 to 23%. Similar increases will apply to boiler repair and replacement costs.

Rebuilding Ireland Home loans 2022



Received	Approved in principle
22	11

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	July 2022
Applications Received	372	4
Completed	91	0
Declined	258	5
Ongoing	23	23

Homeless figures for July 2022

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/07/2022	Year To Date	As at 31/07/2021
No of New Presentations	29	235	33
No. of Repeat Presentations	0	16	2
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	14	117	18
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	11	119	16
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	3	12	1
No. of Children	27	214	28
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	13	89	10
Family Circumstances	11	72	15
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	0	6	1
Mental Health	0	5	0
Risk of Homelessness	3	19	1
Arrears/Loss of Income	2	8	0
Addiction Issues	0	11	4
DV/DA	1	21	1



Medical Issues	0	5	0
Overcrowding	1	6	2
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	1	29	0
ASB:	0	3	0
Rough Sleeping*	0	7	2
Sofa Surfing*	1	22	1
Staying with Family*	4	37	12
Staying with Friends*	1	15	3

^{*(}Recorded as a Consequence of Homelessness as opposed to a Reason for Homelessness)

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 30/06/2022	
Families	21
Adults	36
Children	59
Single individual	1

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @
31/07/2022

	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	21	26	18	6	6	5	0	3

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/07/2021

	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	14	17	15	6	0	5	1	2

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, 398 households (295 families & 103 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 31st July 2022. (173 homeless cases, 216 prevention cases to date and 9 direct provision). 118 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

Homeless Family Service - Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

Dublin Simon have been engaged by Wicklow County Council to operate and manage the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow as a Family Homeless Service. The building comprises of 3 x 1 bed units 2 x 2 bed units and 2 x 3 bed units - Refurbishment works and snagging are now complete.

The first 6 families have now been accommodated and assessments are underway to fill the remaining apartment in the hub.

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation - San Remo, Bray

San Remo opened to clients in October 2020. The facility, operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where there are a number of emergency/cold weather Beds 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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

The facility providing 35 ensuite bedrooms with associated kitchens and common areas is fully operational. Wicklow County Council have made arrangements to 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 Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients.

Housing First



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

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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 9 clients under Housing First and it is hoped that 3 further allocations will take place in the coming weeks. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation – the main issue facing this programme is the availability of one bed units in suitable locations with easy access to services etc.

Traveller accommodation

A mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019 - 2024 will commence before 31st August 2022.

Capital Programme

Ballinteskin – 3 houses	Contractor on site
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 4 houses	Approval received for funding from Department,— Part V111 approved detailed design underway
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 2 houses	Stage 2 approval received. Pre part V111 discussions underway.
Ballinteskin Extension	Works to start in the next few weeks

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

Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

Works completed on 57 properties in West Wicklow and Rathdrum and snagging underway

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

71 [properties given approval for energy efficiency fabric upgrade works in 2022 - Works commenced in Parnell Park Rathdrum.



Ukrainian Response

As of 18th August, the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 954 No. (although we know that they are over 1200 approx. in the County). This number is broken down as follows –

•	Arklow MD	117 No.
•	Baltinglass MD	104 No.
•	Bray MD	494 No.
•	Greystones MD	125 No.
•	Wicklow MD	114 No.

WCC are currently assessing all Displaced Ukrainians persons in the County in order to identify their accommodation needs as well linking them in with all the relevant services and supports within the community.

WCC are working through a list of pledged properties within the County and matching families accordingly. As of the 20th July we will have housed 108 number displaced Ukranian people.

Larger buildings and vacant units are also being identified and explored as potential options for medium to long term accommodation. –

Arklow Rest Centre closed at the end of May.

The Community Response Forum continues to meet on a fortnightly basis



2. Community

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2022 – Building Acquisition Measure (BAM)

The new 2022 Building Acquisition Measure forms part of the overarching Town and Village Renewal Scheme structure. This will provide up to €400,000 to each local authority to purchase vacant and derelict buildings for future development as community assets. Under the Scheme, local authorities were asked by the department to engage with the local community to identify suitable properties to turn into the likes of community and enterprise hubs, remote facilities and youth centres. Each local authority was invited to apply to purchase up to two such buildings within the €400,000 available.

The funding, under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, will see former banks, Garda stations and courthouses taken into public ownership and converted for community use.

The scheme is designed to tackle the scourge of dereliction in rural towns and villages and deliver new facilities that will benefit communities.

Wicklow is among the counties successful in receiving funding for properties to be included in the first tranche of properties that will be purchased under the initiative - the former Garda Station in Ashford and the former Bank of Ireland Building in Carnew.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Measure 1

Funding in respect of Measure 1 (Small scale repair/development/promotion and marketing – up to €30,000 grant available) has been announced with Wicklow receiving €29,700 in respect of the creation of a looped equestrian trail at Ballyboy Forest. This investment will further enhance Wicklow's outdoor amenities and will also provide a major boost to the local economy by attracting visitors and furthering our reputation as a destination for adventure tourism.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

Mid-Year Review: Upon assessment of all data and documentation submitted by the Partnerships in relation to this year's SICAP mid-year review, it was found that both PIs had made satisfactory progress in year to date on targets and performance indicators and any issues arising were resolved. The financial reports were also largely in line with expected monetary spend for this stage in the year with no financial anomalies arising. This allowed the LCDC to approve the Mid-Year Reports and release SICAP funding for August and September.

Ukrainian Funding: Under the SICAP Programme Co. Wicklow has been awarded a total of €210,372 to enable local community responses to people arriving from Ukraine. In the main, this funding will be used to recruit support workers who are fluent in Ukrainian, Russian and English to work closely with the refugees and support them with their day-to-day needs and issues. The funding will also be used for providing transport; translation services; English language supports; counselling; food/clothes vouchers; costs associated with running hub/outreach centres specifically set up for Ukrainian refugees; small scale capital expenditure.



Public Participation Network (PPN):

Consultations: Co. Wicklow PPN Climate Conversation; Co Wicklow Strategy for Disability & Inclusion; Food Poverty in Co Wicklow; Arklow Household Energy Survey; Public Libraries Strategy; Open Data Strategy; SDG National Implementation Plan; Barn Owl Survey; Strategic Vision for our Future Forrest Estate; Explore Your Shore Survey.

Training & Workshops: Community Buddy Training Programme; Fundamentals of Volunteer Engagement; Living Well Programme; How to ensure your charity is up to date on the Register of Charities; Equality & Human Rights in the Public Service.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: European Year of Youth Micro Grant Scheme; Town & Village Renewal; Ireland for Ukraine Fund; Brexit Blue Economy Enterprise Development Scheme; Creative Wicklow; Community Centres Investment Fund; WCC Tidy Towns Estates & Sustainable Development Awards; Ireland Community Play Fund; Night Time Economy Fund.

See www.countywicklowppn.ie for further information on all of the above.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

HER Wicklow, HER Outdoors

Wicklow sports and recreation partnership have launched their schedule of events for the 'HER Wicklow, HER Outdoors' week which took place from Monday, 8th to Sunday 14th August. HER Outdoors week aims to celebrate and encourage more females to get out and enjoy the benefits of being in the outdoors while bringing visibility to the opportunities for women and girls to get involved in outdoor physical activity.



Events coming up:

National Play Day took place on Friday 8th July. The aim of National Play Day is to promote play (and recreation) opportunities for children and young people all across the country. To celebrate this wonderful Play Day, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership has offered a multi-sport pack to the Direct Provision Centres & Emergency Accommodations around the county. National Play Day is funded through Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.



Wicklow Town, Direct Provision Centre - Summer Camp

This summer camp is taking place in the Pastoral Hall, Wicklow Town. It is aimed at children ages 3- 12 years of age from the Direct Provision Centre, Wicklow Town. It is a multi – sport summer camp and is in conjunction with County Wicklow Partnership.

Yoga for Beginners in Arklow Sports Centre (Coral Leisure)

Yoga for Beginners started in Arklow Sports Centre on Monday 18th July @7pm and @8pm for 4 weeks. Yvonne Doyle provided the yoga sessions. Yvonne is an experience yoga instructor teaching adults, athletes and children. Yvonne enjoys calming the mind and feeling more centred and grounded. Yoga improves balance and flexibility, builds strength and improves focus and concentration.

Disability Inclusion Summer Camps

Blessington Outdoor Disability Inclusion Camp took place on July 19th and 20th with activities on land and water over 2 days. 18 participants attended this camp.

Greystones Multi-Sport Camp for children with Autism or Intellectual Disability took place on 9th, 10th & 11th August with up 18 participants.

Further camps are being organised for Wicklow and Arklow, so that in each Municipal District, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership will have facilitated a camp for children or teenagers with an Intellectual Disability or on the Autism spectrum.

Healthy Wicklow

Healthy Wicklow and Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership recently welcomed Minister Frank Feighan to Blessington who is the Minister of State for public health, well-being and national drugs strategy. A taster of The 'Let's Play' initiative, Healthy Blessington booklet and an Inclusive Outdoor Activity Camp in Russborough were showcased which were all funded under the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 3.

Let's Play Event at the Tinahely Show

Healthy Wicklow and Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership held two 'Let's Play' events in Rathdrum and at the Best of Wicklow tent at the Tinahely Show. Further events are planned for Dunlavin and Ballywaltrim in conjunction with the libraries. These garden games will be made available to be rented out by the community through selected libraries in the county.

Age Friendly Ireland

County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027

The development of the new Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027 is progressing. The stakeholder and public consultation process has been completed and the findings were presented to a joint meeting of the County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance and the Older Persons Council on 1st June.

The next stage of development is to define the strategic goals and actions, in consultation with individual members of the Age Friendly Alliance. This will happen over the summer months and a draft of these Goals and Actions will be presented to the next meeting of the Age Friendly Alliance in September.



Avondale – Beyond The Trees

Avondale Beyond the Trees opened to the public on 22nd June. A walkability study of this unique visitor attraction, co-ordinated by Age Friendly Ireland, took place on 13th July with representatives of the Older Person's Council, accessibility groups and Wicklow County Council. The accreditation of Beyond the Trees Avondale as an Age Friendly Tourist destination will be the first such accreditation in Ireland and a formal launch event is anticipated in September.





Older Person's Council

The Older Person's Council (OPC) met in July to discuss plans for the AGM and annual Seminar in November. The OPC, in collaboration with Citizens Information Services and MABS, have also commissioned research on older people's use of financial services on the internet in County Wicklow. The results of this will be available later in 2022.

Disability Inclusion Steering Committee Update

The new disability strategy is in development. A consultant has been appointed and the consultation process is ongoing. A consultant has also been appointed to develop a toolkit /guide for community group on improving their accessibility to all.

County Wicklow Library Service

Capital Programme Update



Wicklow County Council has 3 library capital projects as part of current Library Development Plan – Aughrim, Ballywaltrim & Baltinglass. These are currently progressing as follows:

Aughrim

Part VIII application process commenced in July. Allowing for due process and subsequent tender process, if no objections are received, tender for construction should be in place by late September / early October.

Ballywaltrim

Proposed drawings for Ballywaltrim library are currently in progress.

Baltinglass

Baltinglass library forms part of a 3-tier, ambitious project for the development of Baltinglass Courthouse. The other elements are an upgraded heritage centre, with high quality tourism potential for West Wicklow and a state of the art Co-Working Hub. This was submitted for RRDF funding in late April, under the title "Baltinglass – Looking Back and Moving Forward". The Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) wrote to each applicant and requested a 3 minute video be submitted to complement each element of the application by 15th July.

Blessington eGreenway

The Planning application was lodged to An Bord Pleanála on 14th January 2022. A total number of 293 submissions were received by the Bord by the deadline of the 4th March 2022.

The submissions raised were based on the following issues -

- No Toilets 97
- Traffic Lights/Single Lane Traffic on bridges 239
- Parking 94
- Traffic 98
- Lack of Public Consultation 137
- Trees 25
- Fencing 38
- Environment 70



Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure

1. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Economic)

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). LECPs detail how Local Authorities will support economic and community development in their areas.

New guidelines have been launched for the preparation of LECPs which will require the Council to consider housing needs when formulating both the economic and community elements of the LECPs. The guidelines are timely as the current LECP finishes in 2022.

The next Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2029 will set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of County Wicklow, both directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

The new plan will take account of lessons learned and the changing needs of communities, climate action and sustainability among other things. The Economic Development unit is seeking to engage with the business, tourism and wider community to help identify priorities for the County over the lifetime of the plan.

Consultation has begun in consideration of the high level goals to inform the LECP, Community engagement workshops were held in each of the Municipal Districts, in collaboration with the PPN, ideas were also put forward at the annual Business Briefing. The members of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee have engaged in two workshops on the subject of the LECP to date.

Retail

Bray Central

Practical Completion Cert (PCC) was issued by the Architects for the Scheme on the 15th of February to Wicklow County Council. In accordance with the development agreement an inspection has taken place with the design team for the developer. Once PCC has been agreed, the process of transfer of title will



begin. The Legal Team for the developer and the Council's Law Agent are in communication with regard to legals.

Oakmount continue to engage with prospective anchor tenants on the two main units in the centre. It is hoped that agreements to let will be settled in the coming weeks. Oakmount has advised that there are leases in place on all of the leisure spaces and heads of terms are agreed with several new retail units. Fit out of the restaurants continues and Press Up Group has advertised for staff for these units.

Town Teams

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

Most Town Teams in Wicklow have been operating since 2018. It is considered timely to carry out a review of the town teams and with this in mind Wicklow County Council has appointed Mr Allen McAdam of MCA Consulting to conduct the review. The result of the review will be presented to the Council and to the Town Teams in September, 2022.

Since the review was carried out, the government policy document Town Centre First was published, and the Council has received sanction to appoint a Town Regeneration Officer on a three year contract.

Town Centre First Masterplan

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

This initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future – the Government's ambitious five-year strategy designed to reimagine and revitalise rural Ireland. It is also linked to the Government's Housing for All strategy and a key component of the Town Centre First policy.

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





Arklow Town Team

Arklow Town Team are pleased to announce that they have received €1,500 in funding from the Creative Wicklow Grants Scheme 2022 to host a number of 'Old Tales made New' events in Arklow.

The Arklow Pottery Heritage Week Event will take place in the Main Street Car Park and Bandstand on Sunday 21st August. Activities on the day include Historical Photo Exhibition, Arklow Pottery Show & Tell, The Great Estuary Walk and Talk with author and historian Jim Rees – telling the story of Avoca River and Harbour and the important connection to the Arklow Potteries, Giant Teacup & broken pottery collection, Children's activities with the Colour Club in association with the Local Authority Waters Programme, Watercolour Wonderland, Cup Creation Competition, Wet n Wild Water Play and Giant Garden games. All are welcome.

Following a recent meeting held with Clear Channel the public payphone on Ferrybank in Arklow will receive an upgrade. The new contemporary design will also include a Welcome Touch Screen, Wayfinding information screen, Points of Interest and will be linked to the Visit Arklow website.

Arklow Town Team have submitted an application under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for The Goods Store project at Arklow Railway Station for a grant of up to €500,000 to carry out works to bring the building back to use as a working, sustainable community space. This project has already received €6,000 from the Heritage Council under the Community Heritage Scheme 2021, to carry out a survey and conservation report on the beautiful old stone building which have already been completed.

A feasibility study is to commence in September on the Ballyduff River in Avoca to identify the optimum solution for fish to move through an impassable barrier at Glenart Ornamental weir.

Bray Town Team / Bray Town Recovery Team

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

Greystones Town Team

The Town Team has submitted application for funding to hold an Annual Film Festival. This year's festival is earmarked to be held on the 9th October, 2022.

The Train Station murals are progressing well. Landscaping & planting on the platform is also complete.



Wicklow Town Team

The Town Team at their July meeting discussed the progress of the following projects:

- The Archaeological ground investigation works at the Abbey Grounds have now been completed and the report is being prepared
- The Wicklow Town Heritage Walk is being well attended each weekend
- Ballyguile Walk further meetings with landowners to take place
- Wicklow to Glendalough Pilgrim Walk further engagement required with the Uplands Council
 and with National Parks and Wildlife
- · Backlighting project is progressing slowly
- Court Services have agreed to backlight the Courthouse building
- A Project Manager is to be engaged along with WMD staff to oversee the Town and Village Doctors Steps project. This project will require a Part 8
- Pump Track There is a Part 8 requirement for this project

Blessington Town Team

The July Town Team was cancelled due to a number of members away on holiday but work continues with an update due at the September meeting.

Tourism

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

The strategy sets out a number of challenging but achievable priorities along with a series of detailed actions to be implemented over the next 5 years

The Key Priorities are:

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

EcoTrail Wicklow

Following from the successful Failte Ireland grant application, details to enhance the EcoTrail Weekend



Experience/Festival are being finalised. The grant will be split between promotional activities to help promote the event, the destination and the sport, and enhancing the festival atmosphere around the event in Bray.

Telematin Promotion:

Télématin, a daily television programme, is an institution in France and is followed on average by 800,000 viewers every day. The feature on Wicklow lasted more than five minutes and featured locations such as Powerscourt Waterfall, Lough Tay and Glendalough.

Télématin journalists were hosted by Clothilde Walenne, originally from France and now living in Wicklow and working as a forager for the Brooklodge hotel who reported that the weather was fantastic on the day which helped to showcase Wicklow's stunning scenery.

The feature was made possible through the strong links between the Tourism Ireland's office in Paris and Wicklow County Council.

Tinahely Show

The August Bank Holiday Monday welcomed the return of the Tinahely Show after a two year absence. This offered Wicklow County Council a unique opportunity to showcase The Best of Wicklow to over 25,000 visitors. Exhibitors on the day included the Civil Defence, County Wicklow Partnership, the Disability Committee, the LEO Office, Local Sports Partnership, Healthy Wicklow, PPN, Pure Project, Tinahely Courthouse, Wicklow SEC, Wicklow Tourism and Wicklow Naturally. The exhibitors put on great displays with lots of interaction with the visitors. Cookery demonstrations by Wicklow Naturally drew a lot of attention while Wicklow Tourism promoted The Wicklow Passport.

Rose of Tralee

On Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th August, Wicklow County Council will be hosting 20 of the Roses. This will be a good opportunity to showcase the county both nationally and internationally, with coverage viewed all over the world and will be invaluable marketing into the future. The Roses will enjoy a full agenda including lunch at Powerscourt, a visit to Glendalough, the new visitor experience at Beyond the Trees in Avondale Forest Park, a cookery demo at Ballyknocken House, a photo stop at Brittas Bay and lunch at Russborough House to name but a few.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study



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

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

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

Weekend traffic management arrangements and a shuttle bus service have been introduced in Laragh to deal with the problems caused by heavy volumes of cars entering the village on Saturday, Sundays and public holidays to visit Glendalough and the surrounding area with effect from 4th June

The free (weekend / public holiday) bus service connects the Laragh carpark on the R755 and the Glendalough Visitor Centre. The Traffic Management system warns drivers when the Upper car park and the Glendalough Visitor Centre car park are full and directs drivers to the Laragh car park.

Next Steps: Further Consultation, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Economic Appraisal. A number of multi-agency sub-groups have been formed to address Environmental, Financial and Management issues; these are data gathering at present. The consultants will deliver an update to the members of Wicklow County Council at the September meeting.



Outdoor Dining

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

Wicklow County Council applied for and was awarded funding for Outdoor Dining and Weatherproofing for Market Square in Wicklow Town (€119,000) and Abbey Lane in Arklow (€81,000). Works have been completed on the Wicklow project, the windbreaker flower boxes with MARKET SQUARE etched on them have been installed.

The Arklow Project has been delayed.

Outdoor Performance Space

The letter of Contract Award for design Consultants issued to the successful tenderer on the 30th March. The successful tenderer is Vincent Hannon Architects. An initial meeting with officials from the Council was held on 21st April.

Meetings have taken place with Strand Road residents, Royal Marine Terrace and Martello Terrace.

A site meeting took place on the 9th May with the Design Team, Council officials and representatives from the Mermaid Theatre where the different canopy options were discussed. Initial drawings showing canopy options have been received from the Architect and will be discussed internally over the coming week.

When the final design is agreed drawings will be prepared and presented to the Members prior to commencing the Part 8 process.

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 a 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 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.

Two applications have been submitted for RRDF category 1 proposals in April 2022. The applications were Rathdrum RISE (Regenerate, Invest and Support Enterprise) and Baltinglass; Looking Back and Moving Forward. A decision on these applications is expected in Q4 2022.

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

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

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

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

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



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

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

The requirement for additional environmental assessments was identified in the draft Feasibility Report. During a meeting with RPS in March, RPS undertook to carry out an EIA Scoping Exercise as an add-on to their current engagement. It was also agreed that they should provide ecological services to undertake a Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening. A fee proposal was submitted and included for additional public consultation on the scheme and the production of a 3D model for the improved visualization of the scheme. The fee falls within the value of the original tender for which RPS were appointed in 2019 to carry out the feasibility study. RPS has been instructed to proceed with this work. A follow up meeting is proposed to clarify the extent of the terrestrial elements of the scheme to be included in the EIA scoping report or which shall be deferred to till a design is available and may instead be subject to a Part 8 planning process.

When scoping reports are completed and agreed, a new tender will be required to procure engineering services for the preparation of detailed designs and EIAR to submit to An Bord Pleanala for planning approval. It is also proposed that the council investigate the feasibility of acquiring a portion of the foreshore by CPO for the marine element of the scheme. This can be decided in parallel by An Bord Pleanala and may avoid the need for a foreshore licence application for the scheme.



The Bray Sustainable Bridge Project is on hold until An Bord Pleanála makes a determination on the need for a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

Maritime

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

Key milestones have been:

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

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

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

The relevant projects of interest to Wicklow include the Codling Wind Park and the Dublin Array A consultation process on the Offshore Renewable Energy Maritime Area Consent (MAC) Assessment for Phase One has taken place.

The purpose of the consultation is to:

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



Following completion of the consultation process, the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications has announced the opening of the application process for Marine Area Consents to relevant projects, it should be noted that the Arklow Bank Wind Farm, which is Ireland's first offshore wind farm, is at an advanced stage of planning and has been operating under an earlier consent regime. SSE has recently announced its intention to apply for a larger more ambitious project under the new MAC scheme.

An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission to SSE Renewables to develop the onshore grid infrastructure necessary to connect the 800MW Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park.

Codling Windpark has submitted their Marine Area Consent application, this is a very significant milestone in the development of Ireland's largest offshore windfarm.

Shelmalere Offshore Windfarm (DP Energy Iberdola) has opened consultation on its EIAR a copy can be viewed at the offices of Arklow MD

Ocean Winds Réalt na Mara Offshore Windfarm has delivered a number of community engagement clinics during the month of July.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Funding of €175,000 has been secured via the LEADER Food Programme for a Food and Beverage Coordinator role for Wicklow Naturally CLG and 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 continues to increase its network of members in 2022 to add to the array of County Wicklow produce. Wicklow Naturally members will be represented at a range of events throughout the year including Taste of Wicklow, the Tinahely show, Ploughing Championships, OctoberFeast and Gifted; all aimed at raising the profile of Wicklow produce. Wicklow Naturally and its members continue to receive coverage in national and international media including Lonely Planet, Farmers Journal, Forbes and Nationwide.



Farm to Fork Trails

Wicklow Naturally has been actively working to develop a number of Farm to Fork Food Trails within County Wicklow, with bus tours being scheduled monthly commencing in September. A self-drive option is also being developed. This project has been supported by funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Agri-Food Tourism measure, with match funding provided through Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Naturally.

A trial run of the trail took place on Wednesday 27th July, 2022 and kicked off from Bray DART station where the guests met the bus. First stop was a visit to Killruddery for refreshments and the guests were then brought to visit and sample from a selection of the wonderful Wicklow Naturally producers including Nibbed, Wicklow Farmhouse Cheese, Wicklow Brewery and An Tairseach. Lunch was provided at Wicklow Brewery. The guests were returned to Bray DART station for 6pm.

The Wicklow Naturally Farm to Fork Food Trails will be officially launched on Wednesday 31st August 2022.



2. Local Enterprise Office

LEO Objectives

To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:

- 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
	2021	2022	2022
Grants Approved (number/ value) - 33/ €641,745	- Meet Demand	-22/ € 404,782	
 Measure 1 Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters 	- 4 / €6,594	- Meet Demand	-8/ € 12,286

NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO

METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)		64	29
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	105	75	72
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes		900	301
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	10	5

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Number of new clients added to database	849	750	156
*criteria have been amended for this			



metric		
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses	500	189
assigned a mentor and Brexit 1-1		

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARG	ETS
Academic Year	2020/2021	2022/2023	Year to Date 21-22
No. of Secondary Student Participants	953	1000	864

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

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARG	ETS
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Trading Online Vouchers	135 Total value: € 279,127.40	50 Depending on budget and demand	38

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		11	11

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	,	10	4

JULY 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.
- LEO Wicklow client, Kate Dempsey of Aqualicense Ltd. won the Overall Winner Award at the National Enterprise Awards 2022, held at the Mansion House on Thursday 2nd June.
- WCC Economic Development Team and LEO Wicklow organised a skills event called 'From Screen Skills to Green Skills: Meeting the needs of our key sectors into the future' on Friday 24th June at Wicklow County Council. Keynote speaker was Minister Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education followed by industry speakers and representatives from the relevant education and training providers.
- LEO Wicklow was represented at the Best of Wicklow tent at the Tinahely Show on 1st August and distributed advice and information to attendees.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Autumn/Winter business skills training programme has been published on the LEO website. Courses are now open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow.

A wide range of courses are on offer from August through to December, starting with a Start Your Own Business Course commencing on 30th August.



3. Planning and Development

County Development Plan Review

The Proposed Material Amendments (PMA's) to the Draft County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 went on display from 27 April - 25 May 2022. 76 submissions were received. The 3rd CE report, which goes through each of the PMA's and the valid submissions received, was issued to the members on Tuesday 26 July and is available to view online https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Stage-6

The members will return for a final meeting (12 September 2022) to decide on each amendment, and then adopt the final plan.

Local Area Plans

The Forward Planning Department has commenced work on the preparation on new LAPs for Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole, Wicklow Town & Rathnew and Blessington (which will be delivered in that order). The team are at the data gathering and surveying stage, and will be consulting with all internal departments and state agencies over the next few weeks. It is intended to start public consultation in Q4 2022, following adoption of the County Development Plan.

Residential Zoned Land Tax

This is a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes, and which will in time replace the Vacant Site Levy, was enacted as a part of the Finance Act 2021, as referred to in Circular NRUP 06/2021 of 22 December 2021. The aim of the tax is to activate and bring forward the development of housing on lands which are suitably zoned and serviced, as indicated on maps to be prepared and published by local authorities for their respective functional areas. These maps are to be published by 01 November 2022. The legislation also sets out certain lands which are to be excluded from the scope of the tax. The tax measure is intended to encourage activation of existing planning permissions on lands which are identified as being in scope and to incentivise owners of suitable lands without planning permission to commence the process of engagement with Planning Authorities.

While residential zonings which include existing dwellings are to be included on the map(s), where connected or able to be connected to services, permanently occupied residential premises which are liable for Local Property Tax will not be liable for the tax.



Heritage & Biodiversity

Climate Action: Biodiversity Actions/ Activities currently underway

Wicklow Barn Owl Project – currently peak season for survey work as breeding birds are most active from now until August. Public awareness talk held in Arklow for Biodiversity week, lots of sightings being reported. BWI Wicklow branch held coastal survey event on 16th June as part of project. Remaining Barn Owl boxes will be erected before the end of the year.

Wicklow Swift Project: Resources, advice and nesting boxes distributed to schools and community groups on request. Outing held in Rathdrum for National Biodiversity Week, 30 persons in attendance.

Pollinator resources – Advice and resources available. Over 200 'managed for wildlife' and 'Don't mow let it Grow' outdoor signs distributed to MDs and members of public. Noticeable increase in pollinator friendly management at roadside verges, roundabouts and open spaces.

East Coast Nature Reserve Events: Monthly seasonal free public event programme in place in partnership with Bird Watch Ireland at East Coast Nature Reserve. Crinniu na nOg event held on 11th June, next event on Wildflower theme scheduled for 17th July.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan funding allocations - confirmed in early June. Total of €48,000 allocated for the following two projects as follows:

Brittas Bay Conservation project (Works underway)

- Continuation of conservation measures, introduction of grazers (cattle)
- Recording & monitoring (incl citizen science)
- Pilot dune erosion measures
- Community Engagement programme Dawn in the Dunes event held 22nd May.
- Interpretation/ branding
- Warden (PT)
- Sea Buckthorn (invasive species) control

County Hedgerow Survey – Request for tenders issued, closing date 24th June. It is proposed to engage ecological services to carry out a county Hedgerow survey using the established 'Hedgerow Appraisal System' (approx. 20 survey samples for county) to

- Assess quality and extent of hedgerow network in county Wicklow
- · Establish baseline to monitor change over time



Make recommendations for management

Climate Action (Built Heritage - Archaeology):

Community Monuments Fund (CMF): Funding to increase the resilience of our Built Heritage (archaeology) to climate change via Community Monument Fund (CMF) 2022- Seven CMF projects currently underway, overseen by Heritage Officer, allocations as follows:

, Arklow Castle repairs €84,621; Mullinacuffe Historic Church ruins repairs €14,954; Castlekevin, Roundwood conservation plan €18,682; Baltinglass Hills – Lidar Survey €29,362; West Wicklow Medieval church and graveyards –geophysical survey and access improvements €30,000; Castlekevin podcast production €7,748; Abbey Lane, Arklow – research & interpretation €7,072.

Community Archaeologist for Wicklow:

Allocation received through County Heritage Plan Fund from the Heritage Council and WCC for appointment of a part time community archaeologist. Request for quotations (RFQ) issued for the provision of Community Archaeology Services for Wicklow County Council to work with Heritage Office to support landowners and council in their role as custodians of archaeological heritage. Yvonne Whitty, De Faoite Archaeology has been appointed. One of the key areas of focus will be appropriate management of Council owned monuments e.g. historic graveyards to ensure conservation and climate resilience

Climate Action (Built Heritage – Architecture): Protected Structures Grants: Projects under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage underway. BHIS includes 11 projects under a county allocation of €96,000. HSF includes 3 projects; €25,000 towards Russborough Weir Wall repairs; €40,000 for St Matthews Church, Newtownmountkennedy, and €10,000 to vernacular house at Greenan More.

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31 st July 2022	To 31 st July 2021
Received (Valid)	724	827



A total of 104 valid applications were received during July as follows:

Type of Development	31 st July 2022 Number Received
Individual Houses	20
	(17 refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	03
Agricultural Structures	04
Commercial	09
Other Developments**	68
Total	104

^{*} Large housing development

Decisions issued in respect of 103 applications in July:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	09
Individual Houses	23
	(22 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	70
Other Developments Requiring EIA	01
Total	103

Decisions issued between January to July 2022, in comparison to the same period for 2021:

	31/07/2021	31/07/2022
Total Number of decisions issued	685	633
Total Number of decisions to grant	594	534
% Grant Rate	87%	84%
No of applications withdrawn		11

^{**}Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger signpost, 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.



Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

ABP-313208-22 – lands at Season Park, Newtown (179 Units) Members Meeting 25/4, CE forwarded 30/5 – ABP notified that unable to determine within the 16 weeks statutory timeframe

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

ABP-313314-22 – Lands at Fassaroe and Monastery, Bray (650 Units) Members Meeting 10/5, CE forwarded 07/06 – 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, CE report forwarded 22/06

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

An Bord Pleanala 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 associates site works at Ballinclare and Carrigmore townlands, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow

Substitute Consent

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

E-Planning Project

The commencement of the roll out of the ePlanning system is scheduled in Wicklow for Q3 2022. The project will include the following elements:

• Standardised naming/structure of all documentation in Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála.



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

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

Planning Enforcement

New Files	8
Advisory Letters	19
Warning Letters	8
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	0
Closed	8

Derelict Sites

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

Vacant Sites

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

03 sites on appeal to ABP - Section 9 (Notice of Entry)



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

01 site on appeal to Valuation Tribunal

€2,481.81 paid in levies in July

Short-Term Letting

	To date	Jan to Mar 2022
Applications for Registration received to date	130	
Warning Letters issued	26	
Enforcement Notices issued	7	
UD files opened	27	
Under Investigation	51	
Legal Proceedings instigated	1	



2. Environmental Services

Waste Management

Litter/Waste Enforcement

No. of Complaints Created	187
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	136
No of Litter Fines Issued	18
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	4
No. of Warning Letters Issued	5
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	11
No. of Burning Applications Granted	8
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	3
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	6
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	31
Income - Litter	€3,925.00
Income- Waste Management	€230.00

Whitestown Remediation Project

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

The first draft remediation plan was lodged with Brownfield restoration Ireland Limited (BRIL) on 27th November 2020. Following submissions from a number of parties a revised remediation plan, which incorporated requests contained in the submissions, was circulated on the 28th April 2022. Submissions on the revised remediation plan have been received from a number of parties and work is ongoing in reviewing these submissions.



Climate Action

Climate Action Plan 2021 - Securing Our Future

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wicklow County Council will commence the Advance Planning Stage of the development of Wicklow's Climate Action Plan in Q2 of 2022. This will include a review of the Climate Adaptation Strategy adopted in September 2019 and a Countywide Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI). As such the plan will incorporate both climate mitigation and adaptation measures.

Wicklow Climate Action

The Glyphosate Policy was adopted by Wicklow County Council on Monday 4th July. Work is ongoing to bring an awareness to staff, community groups and the public on the environmental impacts of applying glyphosate. An App is being developed to record and map usage throughout the County by WCC Staff. Staff of Wicklow County Council presented at a Joint Oireachtas Committee meeting, to inform the committee on lessons learned during the process of developing the Glyphosate Policy.



Arklow Decarbonisation Project: RPS Consulting Engineers has delivered the Baseline Emissions Inventory, the Register of Opportunities, Placemaking and Active Travel Reports and the draft Implementation Plan. The Decarbonisation Zone will become a chapter in Wicklow's Climate Action Plan.

A **National EV Strategy** was launched by the Department of Transport in March. This strategy places an onus on the Public Sector to increase EV penetration in the public sector fleet, to coordinate the delivery of infrastructure across all levels of government and to facilitate the development of a comprehensive mixed-type EV charge point network serving the needs of all citizens. The Climate Action Officer with the support of the TWES Directorate is coordinating input from a number of departments to develop a strategy for the Council on the rollout of EV Chargers in the public domain with the TWES Directorate working on transitioning the Council fleet to EVs.

The **Green Team**, a cross departmental team with 16 members, is working on a policy to rollout the use of recycled paper throughout the organisation. Alternative green cleaning products are being trialled also.

ALCNature have commenced work on developing a **Conservation Management Plan** for Wicklow Head and Bray Head.

As per the Climate Action Mandate of the Climate Action Plan 2021, the public sector must create bicycle friendly buildings for employees and visitors. Work has commenced to identify suitable locations for the installation of bicycle parking at all Wicklow County Council owned public buildings.

Environmental Awareness

The annual **Tidy Towns**, **Estates and Sustainable Development** awards were opened for entries from Tidy Towns, residents associations, community groups, businesses and schools. The awards have been linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The **Gum litter task force** gum litter campaign was launched in Greystones with Greystones Tidy Towns. The campaign features advertising across different media with visits to schools planned for September.

Wicklow County Council is one of twelve local authorities that partnered to deliver a new **dog fouling campaign** which contains six videos, seven social media posts, one gif and an advertisement for the local papers. The campaign has been launched and will appear on our social media over the summer months. The campaign aims to highlight the impact of dog fouling on all while reminding owners of their responsibility to pick up after their dog.

Sea Safari workshops with Sea Shore Kids have been programmed for the four Blue Flag Beaches and also Arklow Beach. They are part of the education and awareness activities for our Blue Flags and will introduce



children to some of the biodiversity living on our coastlines. All will take place in early August, and all have now been fully booked out.

Wicklow Naturally has formed a sustainability committee with six members of the network. Work to date has included a survey of members and preparation of blogs for the Wicklow Naturally website to advance sustainability for the food sector in County Wicklow.

The annual tree grant to support planting of native trees and hedgerows in communities has been launched and is now open for application. 75% of the cost of planting trees is grant-aided.

A **Bikes for Africa project** was launched at Arklow Recycling Centre with the Rotary Clubs of Wicklow and Bray. Bikes will be accepted in all recycling centres with a storage facility installed in Arklow. The bikes will be repaired at Shelton Abbey Open Prison before being shipped to The Gambia. Good sturdy bikes suitable for students commuting to school are being sought. The project was funded under the anti-dumping initiative and helps to develop circular economy activity in our recycling centres.

An LAPN project is linking to the Bikes for Africa project and involves delivery of workshops on bicycle repair in the three larger recycling centres and a video animation to promote extending the life of bicycles through good maintenance. The video was used to advertise the workshops. All workshops programmed for the first week of August are fully booked and more workshops will be programmed.

The aim of the project is to promote better maintenance to extend the life of materials.

An LAPN project to provide training on composting has now been completed and a case study is being prepared. The project was extended to provide training Newcastle Tidy Towns with a site selected at the community centre will receive training in the coming months on good practice in composting.

Sustainable Energy Committees

Greystones/Delgany and Wicklow Town SECs both completed their energy master plans.

Work continues on the Energy Map Plans, EMPs for Enniskerry, High Park and Blessington.

Newtownmountkennedy, Glenmalure and Laragh have also completed Energy Master Plans.

Consultants have now started work on the Arklow SEC energy master plan with surveying in the town during the month of June.



Glenmalure, Laragh and Wicklow Town held Energy Awareness Days and both events were well attended by the public. Wicklow Tidy Towns SEC will participate at the Tinahely Show to promote energy awareness and will promote use of the library service home energy saving kit.

Beaches

Bathing Water Season

Wicklow County Council commenced its Beach Lifeguard Service on June 1st. The service provides fully qualified beach Lifeguards at seven locations along the Wicklow Coast Line namely, Bray South Promenade, Greystones South, Wicklow Harbour, Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South and Arklow South. A number of rescues were undertaken by the Lifeguards during the month of June.

Each of these locations will be patrolled from 11am to 7pm daily until the end of August, with weekend cover provided on our Blue Flag Beaches in Greystones and both Brittas Bay beaches.

Water Safety - Stay Safe this Summer

Wicklow County Council strongly advises the public to use Lifeguard Patrolled beaches. The lifeguards focus is on the avoidance of incidents by providing advice and intervening when hazards are identified. Additionally, they provide first aid for those using the beach and they are in contact with the Irish Coast Guard should they be required.

In general, never swim alone, make sure you can be seen – wear bright swim cap etc, never swim following alcohol intake and warm up fast upon getting out of the water. Your body can continue to cool for up to 30 minutes following a swim – get dressed quickly with many layers and have a warm non-alcoholic drink.

Blue Flag

Wicklow County Council retained its Blue Flags for Greystones South, Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South beaches, awarded by An Taisce in recognition of the excellent water quality and facilities available at these bathing areas.

The An Taisce Blue Flags programme demands consistently excellent water quality over a four-year period.

Two other bathing locations in Co. Wicklow have achieved excellent status. This brings the number of bathing locations in Co. Wicklow with the status Excellent to five:

- Brittas Bay South
- Brittas Bay North
- Arklow South



- Clogga
- Greystones South

Harbours and Ports

Activity at Wicklow Port - Shipping Movements

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-22	5	4	2	6	4	2
Feb-22	5	6	0	6	5	1
Mar-22	11	8	3	14	10	4
April 2022	9	9	0	9	7	2
May 2022	8	8	0	8	7	1
June 2022	7	5	2	9	7	2
July 2022	10	8	2	12	9	3

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 9 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 2 Air pollution complaints received and investigated
- 1 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

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

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

• 1 Catchment activity/engagements/consultations on water quality matters.

Petrol Vapour Regulations.

- · 1 Petrol filling station was inspected
- 1 Certificate of installation issued.



Drinking Water Regulations - Non-exempted Private Supplies

- 8 Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored and compliant with tested parameters
- 4 Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored and 3 had non-compliances with pH and 1 had detected the presence of coliforms.
- 1 Boil Water Notice issued.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Preparation of Inspection Plan
- 2 Inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems carried out and found non-compliant.
- 2 advisory notices were issued.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

- 5 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.
- 1 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and 2 deemed non-compliant.
- 1 self- monitoring licensed wastewater discharges to waters were reviewed.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants - Ambient Monitoring

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

Bathing Water Regulations

- Bathing Water Quality for 32 bathing water samples was mostly excellent in July.
- Included Identified bathing waters- Bray South Promenade, Greystones South, Brittas Bay North and South, Silver strand and Clogga.
- Included other bathing waters- Arklow South, Arklow Cove and Greystones Cove, Kilcoole, Murrough,
 Wicklow Harbour and South of Bray Harbours Beaches.
- Arklow Cove Beach went from excellent to sufficient to excellent in July.
- Clogga Beach went from excellent to good to excellent in July.
- 14 samples were taken from river flowing into bathing waters.

Planning & Development

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

Well Grants

Number of New Applications

Number of New Wells Granted



•	Number of New Pumps Granted	11
•	Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.) Granted	20
•	Number of Inspections in advance/after works	18

Arklow & Avoca Flood Relief Schemes

On the 19th July An Bord Pleanala published two orders approving the Planning Application (EIAR) and Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for Arklow Flood Relief Scheme. Once the Judicial Review period expires, Wicklow County Council will proceed to confirm the CPO and procure the detailed design to allow the commencement of this important project.



5. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Public lighting

For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults. Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **235 1.55%** Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attend	1	3	1	1	2	8
Cable Fault (Attend)	1	1			2	4
ESB Required (Attended)	6	3	4	8	12	33
Knock Down (Attended				1	1	2
Materials required	1	1				2
No Supply	2	1	2	5	1	11
On Hold			11	1	5	17
Submitted	20	15	33	27	24	119
TMR	5	4	13	7	2	31
Tree cutting required			2	2	4	8
Grand Total	36	28	66	52	53	235
Percentage Not Working	1.22%	1.17%	1.98%	1.87%	1.45%	1.55%

	08/07/22	11/7/22	18/7/22	25/7/22	2/8/22	8/8/22
Access Issues (Attend)	12	12	12	7	7	8
Cable Fault (Attend)	5	3	3	3	4	4
ESB Required (Attended)	34	34	34	34	33	33
Knock Down (Attended	3	2	2	2	2	2
Materials required	2	2	2	2	2	2
No Supply	10	11	11	11	11	11
On Hold	15	15	15	16	17	17
Submitted	145	129	144	141	124	119
TMR	31	31	28	30	31	31
Tree cutting required	12	12	12	12	8	8
Total	269	251	263	258	239	235
Percentage not working	1.78%	1.66%	1.74%	1.70%	1.58%	1.55%



Transportation Statistics (General)

	Total 2020	Total	Total	June 2022	July 2022
		2021	2022		
Solicitors Queries	842	923	491	85	78
Road closure applications	23	53	41	9	2
Road Opening licences	1279	1575	847	106	130
Abnormal Load applications	33	54	34	6	8

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 has been provided to continue during 2022.

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 to Junction 9 (Glenview).

The BPIS web site is now available on www.n11m11bpis.ie. This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment of the 7 no residential properties that are adjacent to the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The draft report concluded that the change in junction layout does not change the noise levels at nearby properties when compared to the previous layout. However when road traffic speeds are increased to 100kph along the N11, noise levels were elevated at the nearest noise sensitive locations by up to 4.5 dB Lden. This would cause a potentially significant impact to the receptors along the N11. Following on from this report, feasible noise mitigation measures are now being investigated.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The tenders for the Per Cent Art Feature will be published by the Arts Officer shortly.

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

Following completion of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Phase 1 feasibility studies (N81 Four Studies – Feasibility Report), Wicklow County Council will now look to progress the following two projects:

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

Wicklow County Council will commence procurement for Technical Advisors to undertake TII Project Management Guideline Phases 2 to 4 (inclusive) for the above projects, with the aim to procure an advisor and commence Phase 2 in 2022.

N81 Pavement Capital Works

Resurfacing works of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove will be tendered for in 2022. The design of the pavement is being carried out, expected to be completed by Quarter 3.

N81 Capital Maintenance

Resurfacing work at Monaspick and Annalecky was completed in May.



Applications for funding for drainage works at Mullycagh and Tinode have been approved and works are to be completed in Quarter 3.

N81 Fencing Retrofit

The contract for the fencing will commence in Q3.

N81 Invasive Species Removal

The contract has been awarded for the removal of invasive species identified along the N81. Works are to commence in Quarter 3.

Arklow Public Realm

Construction works well advanced

- Completed 50% of new granite paving in roadway across from former Ormonde Cinema
- Completed 50% of pedestrian crossing adjacent to Bank of Ireland

Main Street - South Side of Road from Bank of Ireland to Bradshaw's Lane

- · Completed granite paving and grout.
- Removed barriers and opened footpath

Main Street - North Side of Road across from Bradshaw's Lane to K Style Hair and Beauty

- · Site clearance of existing surfaces.
- · Installation of drainage connections.
- · Reduced dig and preparation of formation of paving.
- · Installation of kerbing and paving formation

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

Options Report to be finalised for a few sections of the greenway. Once discussed with the landowners, the emerging preferred route will be finalised and public consultation undertaken. Invite for Independent Agronomist has been sent out and awaiting response.

Baltinglass Town Centre Plan

Wicklow County Council has conducted the procurement process for a contractor and submitted the Tender Report and recommendation. Additional funding is required over and above the original allocation and is under consideration. Award of contract is to be undertaken once approvals have been obtained.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

Wicklow County Council invited interested parties, residents of the local area and members of the public, to participate in a Non-Statutory Public Consultation for the scheme in order to provide their feedback on the identified Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. The consultation period has now ended and responses to submissions are being prepared. Review of detailed design along with potential SUD strategies for the scheme. Additional surveys also undertaken in July to assist in planning documents is to be issued shortly.

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

Consultants are proceeding with detailed design and tender preparation. Notice to Treat will be issued within the next month to commence formal discussions on compensation.

Redford Junction



This is to upgrade the existing signal-controlled Redford Park Junction consisting of improvements for pedestrians and cyclist with the upgrade of footpaths and the inclusion of protected cycle track facilities, as well as an improvement through the upgrade of two existing bus stops in the immediate vicinity of the junction. Report to Members on the Part 8 Consultation is been finalised and will be brought before the Members of the Council at the first available meeting in September 2022

Active Travel

- ➤ Barry Transportation have commenced work on the preliminary designs for St Kevin's National School, Greystones; SS Michael and Peter Junior School, Arklow and St. John's S.N.S. Arklow
- > Tenders have been received for Consultants to manage the Preliminary Design and Options Selection Phase of the Greystones Pedestrian and Cycle improvement and these are currently being assessed.
- Works have commenced on the Options Assessment Phase for the River Dargle Greenway.
- Tenders have been advertised for Consultants to manage the Preliminary Design and Options Selection Phase of Wicklow Main St to Marlton Rd, R772 Ashford and Rocky Road, Wicklow
- Section 38 Advertisements have issued for Deerpark Cycleway, Sidmonton Square and Powerscourt National School Projects.
- A Part 8 advertisement has issued for Footpath Improvement works on Herbert Road Ashton Wood to Pedestrian Bridge Project.
- Vale Road Footpath Project has been completed.

Further details on all projects can be viewed on https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Roads-Transport/Roads-Infrastructural-Projects/Active-Travel

Surface Dressing

Surface Dressing which is part of the Restoration Maintenance Programme has now been completed for the entire County, for the 2022 season as of the last week in July. After care sweeping ongoing but to be completed by end of August.

Bridge Rehabilitation

Bridge Rehabilitation works ongoing with a number of parapet repairs completed in July. Currently working on Ballyreagh Bridge which involves the installation of a new floor slab under the bridge to prevent scour of the structure. Consultation with IFI required for in stream works. All in stream works to be completed by end of September.

Speed Limit Review

A county wide review of speed limits is still ongoing. Elected members, the Garda and a range of stakeholders are being contacted in advance of the preparation of a draft review document. Submissions were received by a number of stakeholders. A schedule of proposed changes has been presented to each of the Municipal Districts at the June and July meetings. Any further changes proposed by individual MDs will be in the proposed draft speed limits which will go on public display.



Operational Fire Statistics July 2022

	Total stations	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Call sign	Ĕ	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised		1.1	1.2	1.0	1.7	1.5	1.0	1.7	1.0	1.5	2.1
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	4	1	1	1		1					
Fire Caravan	0	•	•	•							
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	22	4	6	4	3	2		1	1		1
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	13	2	2	3	3	1	1	•			1
Hazardous Materials Incident	2	1	1								1
Fire Industrial / Commercial	2		1	1							
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	0										
One Station Mobilised	I.										
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	25	8	9	3	2				1	2	
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	43	9	10	7	5	4	4			3	1
Fire Chimney	0										
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	32	11	8	6	1	3	1	2			
Fire Vehicle	6	4	1			1					
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	2						1		1		
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	13	4	3	2		3			1		
Garda Assist	1	1									
Electrical Incident	3			1		1			1		
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	4	1	2	1							
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue											
Lock In / Lock Out		1		1							
False Alarm – Good Intent		4	1	1	2		1	1			
Malicious False Alarm	0										
Mobilised into other County	6					2		2		2	
Times Stations mobilised	190	51	45	31	16	18	8	6	5	7	3

There were **147 incidents** attended during the month of July 2022. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **190 occasions** including 6 incidents in other counties.

Operational activity for the month of July increased by 45% (+59 mobilisations) on the preceding month (June 2022 – 131 mobilisations). This is accounted for by the following: mobilisations to vehicle fires increased from 5 to 19 (+14), gorse fires increased from 6 to 43 (+37) including a number of long duration, small malicious



urban fires increased from 15 to 32 (+17). There was a decrease in domestic and other building fires down from 29 to 6 (-23).

Operational activity for the month of July 2022 was up 37% (+51 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2021 (July 2021 – 139 mobilisations). When compared year on year increases occurred in mobilisations to vehicle fires up from 9 to 19 (+10), alarm activations up from 15 to 25 (+10), gorse fires up from 29 to 43 (+14), small malicious urban fires up from 18 to 32 (+14).

Sample Incidents (July 2022)

• 01/07/2022	Crews from Arklow and Wicklow Town attended a domestic house fire at Brittas Bay which was contained to the room of origin.
04/07/2022	Arklow crew attended an accident on the North Quay involving a construction worker.
• 13/07/2022	Greystones and Wickow town crews attended a kitchen fire in a commercial premises in Newtownmountkennedy which was contained and extinguished.
• 13/07/2022	Rathdrum and Tinahely crews attended a 3-car RTC near Ballinaclash. One car with casualty was overturned in the ditch.
• 17/07/2022	Rathdrum crew supported by crew from Wicklow Town, Coillte staff and a private helicopter fought a forest fire on Carrig Mountain over a 2-day period.
• 19/07/2022	Crews from Bray, Greystones and Blessington attended a forest fire at Crone Wood. They were assisted by Coillte staff, Air Corps helicopter and a private helicopter. Firefighting took place over 2-days with damping down taking place over the following weeks.
22/07/2022	Crews from Baltinglass and Dunlavin attended a single vehicle RTC at Toberbeg.
• 30/07/2022	Crews from Rathdrum and Arklow attended an RTC between a car and a truck at Corballis. One casualty was taken to hospital by Air Corps helicopter.

Incidents in County Kildare 2-incidents):

•	08/07/2022	Dunlavin crew were mobilised to an RTC at Halverstown Cross Road, false alarm.
•	26/07/2022	Dunlavin crew were mobilised to automatic fire alarm activation at Crookstown Service
		Station, Ballytore.

Incidents in County Wexford (4-incidents):

•	06/07/2022	Arklow crew supported Wexford Fire Service at an RTC at Borleagh, Inch, involving 2 cars and a van, 1-casualty trapped.
•	06/07/2022	Carnew crew attended a fire in trees at Riverchapel Avenue, Gorey.
•	20/07/2022	Arklow crew attended a domestic fire with possible persons reported in Gorey.
•	29/07/2022	Carnew crew attended a grass fire at Kiltillahan, Askamore.

General

- A nationally accredited QQI 3-week Recruit Course (firefighting skills) took place in Bray from 11th July. 8 students from Wicklow completed the course as did 9 students from other counties.
- Fire Crews were provided as part of the overall safety plan for the Bray Air Display.
- 2 new fire service jeeps have been fully fitted out and are now operational in Greystones and Arklow Fire Stations.
- A refurbished second hand training appliance was delivered to Bray Fire Station for use on training courses for the county.



Fire Prevention Statistics July 2022

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	19		13		4
Regularisation Certificates			2		
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	21	1	14		8

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Response Issued	Not raising an objection
District					
Circuit	1	1		1	1
Dangerous					
Substances Act					
Explosive Act				1	

Commencement Notices for July 2022:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 38

- > 9 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 22 Opt Out Declarations
- > 5 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 2 Seven day Notice

Submission Statistics

- > 58 % of Commencement Notices Opt Out
- ▶ 58 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 22 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
- > 7 are Compliance Documentation (32%)
- > 12 are Opt Out (55%)
- ➤ 1 Without Compliance Documentation (5%)
- > 2 Seven Day Notice (8%)
- 22 Valid Commencement Notices
- > 60 new build residential Units
- Invalidated CNs for July = 1

☐ Certificates of Completion processed in July 2022

- > 20 New No. of CCC submitted
- > 10 Required Revised Information
- > 20 No. Validated
- O No. Invalid
- > 125 new residential units validated



Submission Statistics

- 20 No. Validated CCCs related to:
- > 5 No CCCs submitted in June 2022
- ➤ 15 No CCCs submitted in July 2022

Building Control continues to experience high construction activity in July 2022. 60 new residential units were notified to Local Authority for commencement and 125 newly completed residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in July.

Building Control continued with site inspection in July to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 3 No. Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests remain high in Wicklow building Control, 58% of submissions required revised information in July. It should be further noted that some Opt Out Submissions are requiring 2 to 3 revised information requests which results in submissions being assessed 2 to 3 times to ensure compliance prior to commencement.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	573,136
Greystones Municipal District	159,052
Wicklow Municipal District	218,447
Arklow Municipal District	133,338
Parking Permits	39,070
Parking Fines	202,492
Wicklow County Council	1,325,535

Water Services

In Quarter 2 2022, Wicklow County Council staff continued to provide Water and Wastewater Services under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water.

Annual Service Plan 2022

Wicklow County Council works alongside Irish Water in line with Key Performance Indicators under the Annual Service Plan. As a part of the Annual Service Plan, Water Services in Wicklow County Council is required to deliver on performance measures and Key Performance Indicators.

The Annual Service Plan 2022 outlines all 69 performance measures alongside all corresponding baselines and targets. Each measure and associated objective has been grouped into one of four categories, namely: -

^{**}BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments



1. Learning & Growth (7 measures)

Objective: To continuously improve and drive transformation and change initiatives

2. Customer (17 measures)

Objective: Providing services that are valued by customers. This is influenced by the CRU Customer Handbook and proposed Performance Assessment metrics

3. Internal Process / Compliance (30 measures)

Objective: Adherence to all reporting requirements and meeting regulatory requirements as set out by the relevant statutory and regulatory bodies, e.g. CRU and EPA

4. Financial (15 measures)

Objective: Providing a cost effective service, within budgetary constraints

Within the four categories of performance measures there are three distinct tiers:

- 1. KPIs 17 measures
- 2. Operational Measures 39 measures
- 3. Tracking Measures 6 measures

Drinking Water

Wicklow County Council staff work with Irish Water under a service level agreement (SLA) to provide safe and clean drinking water to the people of Wicklow. This year the Council continues to work under changes to the working environment that were brought in due to Covid-19. Normal operation and maintenance works have been on-going with caretakers, leakage locators, plumbers and leakage inspectors ensuring quality and supplies from water treatment plants (WTPs) and within networks, haven't been affected during this period. Administration, outdoor, technical and engineering staff continue to work together to ensure the best service is delivered on a daily basis.

Operation and Maintenance Works:

Reservoir Cleaning:

There is an on-going program of reservoir cleaning and repair currently being carried out by Irish Water and the water services staff of Wicklow County Council, to ensure the highest quality water is supplied and distributed into the networks. Site visits have been completed on 20 reservoirs due for cleaning in 2022. This year service cleaning inspections have taken place at reservoirs in Giltspur, Priestnewtown, Tinahely, Rathdrum, Redcross Intermediate, Ballydonnell, Ballinaclash, Ballymurtagh and at the three reservoirs in Lamberton (Arklow). Cleaning works at Glending, Broomhall, Raheen and Barnbawn are to be completed before the end of 2022.

Burst Mains & Leak Repairs:

On a daily basis, there are burst mains and leak repair carried out by Wicklow County Council water services staff. Often, these are on smaller mains but regularly they are on larger pipes on roads and can cause a lot of disruption. This can be due to older pipes, pressure build up or pipe strikes. These incidents can happen at any time during the day or night and water leakage inspectors, leakage locators, plumbers and external contractors make themselves available to fix these issues.

Leakage Equipment Pilot:

Wicklow County Council is currently involved in trialling new leakage equipment on behalf of Irish Water. This equipment detects noise on the network and gives the leakage crews locations of possible leaks. Loggers are



currently being used in Bray following trials in Delgany, Blessington, Kilpedder and Arklow. In total Wicklow County Council have 400 leakage loggers available for deployment. The Council has 150 extra leakage loggers than it had in Q1 so the capacity for leakage detection has increased.

Water Network Programme: Mains Rehab.

Irish Water, in partnership with Wicklow County Council, are currently progressing a number of water improvement projects, to improve security of supply, water quality and reduce the levels of leakage.

- Palermo Bray Complete
- Trafalgar Road Greystones Complete
- Roundwood Rationalisation Complete
- Barndarrig Rationalisation Complete
- > Avondale Park Bray Complete
- Windgates rationalisation Complete
- Newtownmountkennedy mains rehab 90% Complete
- Woodstock Road, Newtownmountkennedy Complete.

Pressure Management

Irish Water, in partnership with Wicklow County Council, are currently progressing a number of pressure management projects, to improve security of supply and reduce the levels of leakage across Wicklow. Up to the end of Q2 there are 103 PRV controllers installed across the county which help control and stabilise the pressure throughout the network.

District Metering Areas (DMA)

Through the Irish Water, Water Network Programme, Wicklow County Council is currently replacing DMA flow meters across the county in order to track and manage the leakage in the metered water network more efficiently.

Capital Projects

- Dunlavin rationalisation at final design
- ➤ Aughrim, Ballymorris at construction stage
- Old Connaught Woodbrook Water Supply Scheme Contract awarded at the end of Q2. At construction stage.

Waste Water

Waste Water Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Section

The primary function of the Waste Water Section, working under the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water, is the on-going management, operation and maintenance of existing waste water treatment plants, in order to ensure continued production of effluent discharges to the environment to required standards and to keep the waste water collection network running properly.

The Waste Water Section also organises regular compliance sampling, and testing of effluent parameters and reporting of results (to IW/EPA).

So far in 2022, there have been no ELV parameter exceedances which represents the best compliance performance in any year to date (for the first 6 months of year).



In addition, reports are provided to Irish Water as to feasibility and particular requirements in relation to connection applications and pre-connection enquiries (received by IW) and similarly in relation to planning applications.

Capital Maintenance & Minor Capital Improvement Works

O&M expenditure falls under two main headings or funding sources – i) day to day operational goods and services and ii) Capital Maintenance (CM). Capital Maintenance expenditure essentially provides for the like-for-like replacement of components and equipment, as and when required due to normal wear and tear or breakdown.

From time to time (subject to various issues, including level of staffing available) somewhat more substantial or notable works are proposed by WCC (and if approved by IW) are progressed by the Wicklow County Council O&M Section under CM funding. There were no such notable projects completed or underway in Q2 2022.

Irish Water Capital Works (Waste Water)

[Note Wicklow County Council has no role in the delivery of these projects by Irish Water **Arklow WwTP:**

Works are ongoing on site.

Blessington WwTP Upgrade:

The upgrade to the Blessington WWTP is ongoing and is anticipated to be completed in Q4 of 2022. The Upgrade will increase the PE into the plant and allow planning applications that have been granted, subject to planning permission to be progressed.

Avoca WwTP

A Planning Application for a new WWTP in Avoca is currently back with IW for further Information.

Aughrim WwTP Upgrade: - (Small Town & Village Growth Programme)

This Project is currently with IW asset delivery section and is in the early stages of design etc. No recent status/progress update has been received.

Tinahely WwTP Upgrade:- In Q3, IW asset strategy personnel will visit the Tinahely Wwtp site to obtain/confirm details of existing infrastructure, as a prelude to assessing and establishing requirements and scope of (any) proposed plant upgrade and associated cost estimates for subsequent review and hopefully approval for handover to asset delivery section to progress the project to completion.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI's):

Under the Annual Service Plan with Irish Water, Wicklow County Council continued to be scored on Key Performance Indicators. The 2022 Q2 score was 92% which reflects the excellent performance of Wicklow County Council staff across all pillars within the Annual Service plan throughout the year. The Quarter 2 report for 2022 includes:

- A score of 100% was achieved for notice of planned work
- A score of 100% was achieved for timely response to workflow gueries



- A score of 100% for Drinking Water Supply Microbiological Compliance
- A score of 100% for Waste Water Treatment Incident Reporting (Category 1-5)

(Based on Irish Water ASP Monthly Report Quarter 2 2022).



Organisational Development and Financial Matters

1. HR and Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in July:

- Technician Grade 1 (Architectural)
- Technician Grade 1 (Civil)
- Technician Grade 1 (Environmental)

Employee Numbers

	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
Employee Numbers				
Managerial/Administrative	304	305	303	298
	404	400	447	116
Professional/Technical	121	122	117	116
Outdoor	261	262	273	264
Temporary/Seasonal	49 (reduction relates to lifeguards)	49	44	69 (Increase due to Lifeguards)
Non DOHPLG	8	8	6	6
Total	743	746	743	753



Access to Information

F.O.I. Requests

July 2022: 8	July 2021: 13
January- July 2022: 46	January – July 2021: 52

Ombudsman Requests

July 2022: 3	July 2021: 4
January – July 2022: 19	January – July 2021: 12

Press Releases

July 2022 - 9

Register of Electors

The President signed the Electoral Reform Bill on the 25 July and the Act is now available on the Oireachtas website https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/act/2022/30/eng/enacted/a3022.pdf

The Electoral Register (IReg) version 5.0 has been installed on Wicklow County Councils server and will be rolled out to the remaining 27 Local Authorities in the next 4 to 6 weeks and the system will then be the only Register of Electors system in place, from 3rd October 2022.

Customer Service Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub							
2022 - July							
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions				
No. of Phone Calls	9876	Motor Taxation	1855				
No. of Emails	1105	Revenue	350				
No. of Elected Members Emails	42	Social Housing Applications	61				
CRM Cases	345						

Total in person visits for July 2022 – 1421 an increase of 7.7% from June 2022.





#YourCouncilDay

This year's #YourCouncilDay theme was climate action and the role of local authorities in addressing climate change alongside regular #YourCouncilDay content showcasing the people and many services of the local authority.

Nationally there were **over 4,100 mentions of** Your Council Day 2022 on social media between the 27^{th} of June -10^{th} of July. **79%** of these were shared on **Twitter**, **12%** on **Facebook**, and **9%** on **Instagram**.

Wicklow County Council was ranked as a top contributor using the #YourCouncilDay hashtag along with Donegal and Cork County Councils.

- Twitter @Wicklowcoco 7.7k followers, 73 tweets, 314 engagements, 59 retweets
- Facebook @WicklowCountyCouncil 9.8k fans, 70 posts, 809 engagements, 55 shares
- Instagram @Wickowcoco 2.9k followers, 24 posts, 119 engagements, 5.7k impressions

Noted mentions that peaked nationally on the 1st of July as #YourCouncilDay on Twitter was a post from Wicklow Civil Defence.



2. I.C.T.

Blended Working

The IT Department continue to plan and support the additional business needs required by implementation of Blended Working:

- Blended model for return-to-work arrangements
- Remote Working Requirements for staff of Wicklow County Council
- Government Networks
- Phone Systems
- Call Conferencing
- · Communications and awareness

IT Helpdesk

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

Implementation of ePlanning

• Systems and Project Plan in Place to rollout ePlanning

GIS & Systems Analysis

- In house development of an application to record the Residential Property tax is ongoing. Datasets needed to identify sites have been collected.
- A case study showcasing the migration of GIS data from our in-house server to AGOL cloud account has started.
- Development of a mobile app to survey Churches of archaeological interest has been finalised.
- Consultation has begun with Galway County Council to incorporate their current MEM system into our organisation.

Business Systems/Applications Development

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

Customer Service Delivery

• Support for the Customer Service Innovation Hub is ongoing. The Customer Service project requires a high level of IT collaboration with both hardware and software elements integrated into the Hub.



- Work continues with the business process mapping and DPIA's are being carried out for each process as it arises.
- Avaya IP Office Phone System has been modified to integrate the Avaya Contact Centre Select
 Hardware Appliance and software. This has led to greater integration with call reporting systems and has
 improved customer service delivery.

eServices

Wicklow.ie – pageviews from June 1st, 2021, to May 31st, 2022, were 1,240,168 This is a decrease in unique pageviews of 17% compared the same period the previous year.

- Social media accounts followers to date
 - o Facebook (Wicklow County Council) 11,107 followers. This is an increase of 36 followers or .3% on the previous month.
 - o Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) 7703 followers. This is an increase of 21 followers or .3% on the previous month.
 - o Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) 2843 followers. This is an increase of 35 followers or 1.25% on the previous month.
- The Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie continues to feature in enhanced consultation campaigns.
 These have included—
 - Redford Junction Part 8
 - o County Wicklow Disability, Inclusion and Access Strategy
 - Draft Customer Action Plan
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month.
 - o #KeepWell
 - o #OutdoorsForEveryone



3. Financial

Revenue Account

	DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT								
INCOM	ME AND EXPEND	ITURE SUMMA	RY BY SERVIC	E DIVISION AT	31st JULY 2022				
	EXPENDITURE				NET				
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Adopted Full % Budget Income Year Budget Spent to Date			Actual Expenditure / (Income)		
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€		
Housing and Building	18,377,313	34,438,754	53%	(21,467,945)	(39,943,965)	54%	(3,090,633)		
Road Transport & Safety	10,172,940	22,204,016	46%	(6,070,583)	(15,347,052)	40%	4,102,358		
Water Services	3,066,119	5,394,788	57%	(3,711,252)	(6,561,262)	57%	(645,133)		
Development Management	6,418,535	12,355,595	52%	(3,343,042)	(6,872,547)	49%	3,075,492		
Environmental Services	6,726,940	12,130,078	55%	(944,352)	(2,083,134)	45%	5,782,588		
Recreation and Amenity	5,389,221	8,498,513	63%	(1,067,400)	(1,148,299)	93%	4,321,821		
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	767,276	1,566,840	49%	(322,002)	(809,228)	40%	445,274		
Miscellaneous Services	7,133,316	10,846,102	66%	(5,949,168)	(9,033,954)	66%	1,184,148		
Central Management Charges	11,628,023	20,213,476	58%	(689,012)	(1,000,000)	69%	10,939,011		
Local Government Fund				(7,623,529)	(13,068,907)	58%	(7,623,529)		
Commercial Rates				(18,462,947)	(31,929,814)	58%	(18,462,947)		
	69,679,682	127,648,162	55%	(69,651,232)	(127,798,162)	55%	28,451		

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 July 2022 to 31st July 2022.

Capital Account

	CAPITAL	_ ACCOUNT				
INCOME AND EXPE	NDITURE SUMMARY	BY SERVICE DIV	VISION AT 31st J	JLY 2022		
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2022	Balance at Expenditure		Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/07/2022	
	€	€	€	€	€	
Housing and Building	13,706,643	36,477,843	(25,049,974)	(364,000)	24,770,512	
Road Transport & Safety	(35,706,853)	5,724,693	(1,934,856)	(250,000)	(32,167,017)	
Water Services	(10,436,363)	150,536	(385,565)	(35,000)	(10,706,392)	
Development Management	(25,225,375)	1,453,214	(5,466,643)	(450,000)	(29,688,804)	
Environmental Services	743,438	1,895,940	(2,192,667)	(311,250)	135,461	
Recreation and Amenity	446,620	1,782,208	(307,915)	(96,588)	1,824,324	
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,443,763)	41,979	(6,000)	(197,500)	(1,605,284)	
Miscellaneous Services	(18,825,824)	3,370,044	(6,341,944)	644,735	(21,152,989)	
	(76,741,477)	50,896,456	(41,685,565)	(1,059,604)	(68,590,189)	



Commercial Rates. Rents and Loan Collections

	SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31st JULY 2022									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2022	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/07/2022	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	6,342,375	31,652,285	(94,966)	(993,403)	(1,541,915)	35,364,375	(19,498,008)	15,866,367	1,689,682	58%
Rents & Annuities	2,837,526	10,195,754	0	(17,674)	0	13,015,606	(9,749,709)	3,265,897	0	75%
Housing Loans	446,170	1,152,904	0	0	0	1,599,074	(1,339,922)	259,152	0	84%

Rates accrual represents full year accruals while rents and loans are accruals year to date. The rates collection, rent collection and housing loan 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 2022

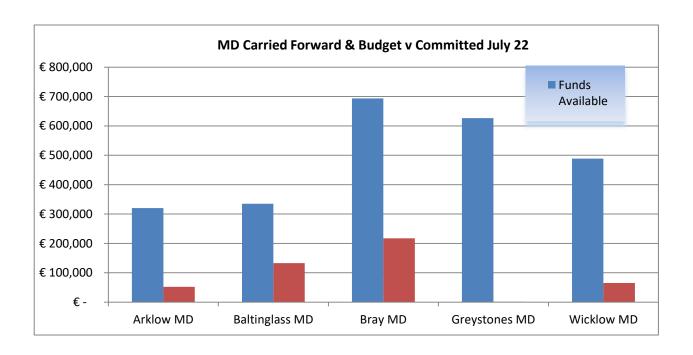
The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on July 27th 2021 to raise the LPT basic rate by 6% resulted in an additional €1,043,460 in the Revenue Budget for 2022. This money was ring-fenced for Discretionary Funding in the Municipal Districts. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation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

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

Municipal District carried forward allocation and budget '22 and expenditure for 2022 is as follows:

Municipal District	C/F from 2021	Adopted Budget 2022	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	63,471	256,649	320,120	52,328	267,792
Baltinglass MD	113,456	221,649	335,105	132,872	202,233
Bray MD	262,229	431,254	693,483	217,579	475,904
Greystones MD	393,074	233,649	626,723	1,104	625,619
Wicklow MD	246,816	241,649	488,465	65,258	423,207
Total	1,079,046	1,384,850	2,463,896	469,140	1,994,756





Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024

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

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



Capital Funded Projects

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
NRGF	Blessington Greenway	€15,000,000	€0
URDF	Arklow Historic Town Core	€3,134,684	€783,671
URDF	Wicklow Town - Library and Fitzwilliam Square	7,034,879	€2,407,470
URDF	Bray Public Transport Bridge	€8,600,000	€1,000,000
URDF	Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration	€9,520,000	€2,380,000
RRDF 2019	Blueprint for Baltinglass	€3,566,968	€891,742
RRDF 2020	Placemaking Newtownmountkennedy	€477,000	€119,250
REDF	Wicklow County Campus - Content Creation Hub	€3,500,000	€2,000,000
Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns	Abbey Grounds Wicklow Town	€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
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	€190,700	€38,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Avondale Avonmore	€20,330	€2,033
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Trail Digitising	€19,600	€1,960
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Tinahely	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Stratford	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Long Distance Video	€21,400	€2,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Brockagh Mountain Access	€11,100	€1,110
ORIS Measure 1 2020	People Counters	€22,000	€2,200
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Sean Lenihan	€21,200	€2,120
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Glenmalure Bridge	€12,500	€1,250
ORIS Measure 3 2020	Bright light Blueway	€554,820	€55,482
Sports Capital Programme	Charlesland All Weather Pitch Refurbishment -	€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	€1,646,052	€493,816
LSSIS	Charlesland Running Track	€411,674	€123,502
CLAR 2019	Rathcoyle NS	€55,556	€2,778
CLAR 2019	Knockananna	€46,000	€3,000
CLAR 2021	Knockananna community allotment	€10,830	€1,083
CLAR 2021	Askanagap	€55,557	€5,557
CLAR 2021	Knockananna	€27,514	€2,501
Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2022	Wicklow Libraries	€26,500	€2,650
	Sub-Total	€56,705,032	€11,312,089



Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
T&V 2018	Blessington	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2018	Wicklow	€150,000	€30,000
T&V 2019	Dunlavin	€26,216	€2,623
T&V 2019	Coolkenno	€30,000	€3,000
T&V 2019	Aughrim	€119,500	€17,925
T&V 2019	Redcross	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2019	Delgany	€37,000	€3,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Bundled	€28,000	€2,800
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Dunlavin	€4,950	€495
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Roundwood	€40,000	€4,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Ballinaclash	€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	Ballinaclash	€70,000	€7,000
T&V 2021	Donard	€29,000	€2,900
T&V 2021	Wicklow	€245,931	€24,593
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilmacanogue Nature Trail	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Lacken Mass Path	€18,000	€1,800
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilcoole Mass Path	€13,000	€1,300
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Avonmore Kayak Project	€16,500	€1,650
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Age Friendly Triobikes for older people	€23,160	€3,160
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Keadeen Access	€13,500	€1,350
ORIS 2021 Project Development	Three Trout Route	€50,000	€5,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 3	The Sugarloaf Repair	€500,000	€50,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Jubliee 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	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Ballyboy Equestrian Trail	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Glen Turn Cliff Walk	€33,300	€3,600
ORIS 2022 M1	Miners Way	€28,000	€2,800
ORIS 2022 M1	Red Kite Loop	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	West Wicklow Access Points	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Wicklow Uplands	€33,000	€3,300
	Total to date	€59,816,421	€11,670,872