

# Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



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## This month:

#### Capital Advance Leasing Facility - Southern Cross Road

Contracts have been signed between Lioncor and Co-operative Housing Ireland (CHI) to provide 208 homes to households on the Council's housing waiting list on the Southern Cross Road, Bray County Wicklow.

The A rated homes include 30 houses, 18 duplex homes and 160 apartments

## Arklow Municipal District Awarded €64,003 - Sports Capital Equipment Programme

Major improvements to Arklow Running Track at Seaview Avenue will be undertaken by Arklow Municipal District, as a result of a grant received from the Government.

Arklow Running Track at Seaview Avenue will be enhanced with extra lighting with €43,704 of the funding awarded. It is the intention of Arklow Municipal District to carry out further upgrades of the facility when further funding streams become available.

The Coral Leisure Centre in Arklow was also awarded €20,299 to improve disability access in the Centre.

#### **Aughrim and Ballywaltrim Libraries**

Contracts for the design and management of construction of a new library in Aughrim and an extension to Ballywaltrim Library at Boghall Road in Bray were signed by Wicklow County Council and award-winning architects, De Blacam & Meagher.

Both projects will now be progressed. Allowing for relevant timescales for development and construction, a completion date of late 2023/early 2024 is likely for both projects.

The planned work, which will jointly cost in the region of €5m, will include the demolition of the existing library building in Augrhrim and its replacement with a modern facility while there will be an extension to the current Ballywaltrim library in Bray.



## **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY**

## 1. Social Housing Support

	January 2022	January 2021
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4509	4499
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	238	278
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2488	2168
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	19	15
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	31	24

## 2. Allocation of Social Housing

	January 2022	January 2021
Wicklow County Council	39	09
Approved Housing Bodies	0	01

## 3. Social Housing Stock

	January 2022	January 2021
Tenancies occupied	4,641	4,548
Total weekly rental accrual	303,326.46	299,514.12
Arrears	2,667,542.36	2,644,609.13

## 4. Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

SCHEMES COMPLETED	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
O'Byrne Road, Bray	1	Completed and allocated
Old Library Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Avondale Heights Rathdrum	20	Completed and allocated
Delany Park, Arklow (Phase 1)	17	Completed and allocated
16A Oak Drive, Blessington	1	Completed and allocated
Druids Brook, Kilcoole	2	Completed and allocated
Whitehall, Baltinglass	34	Completed and allocated
Farrenkelly Greystones Phase 2	24	Completed and allocated
Convent Lands	51	Completed and allocated
Urban Villas (FCA Hall), Wicklow Town	8	Completed and allocated
Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue	20	Completed and allocated
Kilmantan Place, Bray	4	Completed and allocated
Carnew Rapid Build	30	Completed and allocated



Rathnew RAPID BUILD	47	Completed and allocated
Kilbride Court (Bray)	42	Completed and allocated
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and being allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	37	Completed, allocations ongoing
Total	376	
Schemes on Site	units	CURRENT STATUS
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	10	Completion anticipated Quarter Q1 2022 (10)
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2022
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completion anticipated Quarter 1 2022
Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build	36	Completion anticipated Q3 2022
Sheehan Court Design & Build	7	Completion anticipated Q3 2022
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completion anticipated Q4 2022
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completion anticipated Q3 2023
TOTAL	149	
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Part 8 in progress
Three Trouts Greystones Design & Build	41	Site start anticipated Q3 2022
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Site start anticipated Q1 2022
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Site start anticipated Q2 2022
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Preparing stage 2 application.
Ballynerrin, Wicklow	10	Single stage with department.
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Part 8 March meeting.
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Stage 1 approval received, stage 2 application prepared.
Rehills, Bray	80	Masterplan ongoing
TOTAL	388	

## Part V

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



Enniskerry	2	Scheduled Q2 2022	WCC
Delgany	4	Scheduled Q2 2022	WCC
Delgany	1	Scheduled Q1 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC

#### Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for 43 units in Delgany, Bray, Rathnew, Wicklow, Baltinglass, Dunlavin and Enniskerry with delivery ranging from 2021-2023. This includes the 53 units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

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

## Turnkey

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

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

#### Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

#### Southern Cross Road

Contracts have been signed between Lioncor and Co-operative Housing Ireland (CHI) to provide 208 homes to households on the Council's housing waiting list on the Southern Cross Road, Bray County Wicklow. The A rated homes include 30 houses, 18 duplex homes and 160 apartments

**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 houses €1,952,700 (2021 budget) (€228,889.87 spent to date) We have not yet been informed of our 2022 Allocation but we are authorised for up to 65% of the 2021 Allocation pending notification from the Dept of Housing, Heritage and Local Government
- > Grant funding for social houses €1,168.200 (2021 budget) (€111,855.24 spent to date)

#### **Private Houses**

Open Applications 106 (some carried over from 2021, approvals not included in this figure)

Approved applications 139 (some carried over from 2021)

Many of the approved applicants are experiencing delays in having the works carried out due to Covid and the inevitable back logs it has caused for contractors.

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

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

### **Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes**

During recent works on Casual Vacancies/Relets, the Council fenced large sections of existing social housing gardens this resulted in three infill sites to develop Age Friendly schemes in Greystones. It is proposed to build small A rated units, specifically designed for the older tenant, which will be offered to eligible tenants in the local area, who wish to downsize. The larger property will return to the council for reletting to a family, and the tenant will benefit from being able to remain in their community, in an age friendly designed home with high comfort and low utility costs.

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



#### **Vacant Homes Scheme**

There are now 13 CPOs underway on long term vacant houses around the county.

#### **Oral Hearings**

- 108 Charnwood, Bray Determination by An Bord Pleanála was due on 30<sup>th</sup> November following oral hearing on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021. ABP subsequently informed the Council that a decision would be further delayed and as of 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022 no decision had been reached.
- 6 Ashleigh, Ashford objection submitted to An Bord Pleanála Oral Hearing now deferred and may not be required as Purchase by agreement with Receiver underway.
- Negotiations are also ongoing to purchase some of the houses currently under CPO, by agreement. Purchases of 3 further vacant houses should close within the first 2 months of 2022.

Further long-term vacant properties have been identified for future batches of CPOs. 3 more CPOs will be published in mid February.

There were 8 reports relating to Co Wicklow on <a href="www.vacanthomes.ie">www.vacanthomes.ie</a> in Jan 2022 and 2 already in Feb 2022 - most of which were already known to us and are being investigated.

## **Infill Sites**

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

#### Housing Maintenance - Heating Upgrade Programme

Gas & Oil heating offer letters for 2022 were sent out in Januaray and list for 2022 is being compiled. The adopted budget for 2022 is €236,000. Gas & oil boiler maintenance contracts are due for renewal and will be procured through www.Supplygov.ie in the coming weeks.

#### 5. Purchase Schemes

#### Rebuilding Ireland Homeloans 2022

Received	Approved in principle
11	4

## 2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	January 2022
Applications Received	345	2
Completed	86	4
Declined	234	1
Ongoing	25	25



## 6. Homeless figures for January 2022

Addressing Homelessness			
radiocomy nomoloconoco	As at 31/01/2022	Year To Date	As at 31/01/2021
	26	26	31
No of New Presentations			
No. of Repeat Presentations	10	10	8
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	19	19	10
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	15	15	41
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	1	1	0
No. of Children	37	37	20
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	11	11	3
Family Circumstances	7	7	16
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	1	1	0
Mental Health	0	0	1
Risk of Homelessness	5	5	1
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	0	2
Addiction Issues	2	2	2
DV/DA	4	4	1
Medical Issues	0	0	2
Overcrowding	1	1	1
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	4	4	3
ASB:	1	1	0
Rough Sleeping*	0	0	3
Sofa Surfing*	3	3	5
Staying with Family*	8	8	7
Staying with Friends*	2	2	1

<sup>\*(</sup>Recorded as a Consequence of Homelessness as opposed to a Reason for Homelessness)



Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/01/2022	
Families	19
Adults	35
Children	49
Single individual	1

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/01/2022								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	14	18	11	7	5	0	2	1
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/01/2021								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	15	17	15	4	4	4	1	3

#### COVID 19

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

## **Homeless HAP**

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- > seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- > supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- ➤ To date, 377 households (282 families & 95 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022. (165 homeless cases, 205 prevention cases to date and 7 direct provision). 117 properties were sourced by WCC.



## Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

## Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation - Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

## Homeless Family Service - Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

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

A key focus of Wicklow County Council in addressing homelessness was to identify and provide a high supported, temporary accommodation unit in Bray/North Wicklow to address the accommodation and support needs of a particular homeless cohort. This cohort was identified from the presenting population and those currently known to and accessing homeless services in Bray/North Wicklow.

San Remo opened to clients in October 2020. The facility, operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where there are a number of emergency/cold weather Beds (restricted during Covid) and Supported Temporary Accommodation Beds (STA). There is on site key working support linking in with clients.

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

## Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) approved funding to upgrade the building to provide 35 ensuite bedrooms within the existing building, with associated kitchens and common areas, as well as the upgrade of Fire Protection.

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

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

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. There continues to be a number of move ons from these properties, signalling the success of this model.

## **Housing First**

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

Peter McVerry Trust has been appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid-East Region and Wicklow County Council is committed to working with them to achieve the targets identified in



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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 9 clients under Housing First. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation.

## 7. Traveller accommodation

## **Capital Programme**

Ballinteskin – 3 houses	All residents who were on the proposed site have been rehoused. Tender has been advertised. Final approval to construction has been submitted to the department
Avondale Heights,	Approval received for funding from Department, – Part V111 approved detailed design
Rathdrum – 4 houses	underway
Barndarrig Group Housing	Revised Stage 1 approval received March 2021. Survey of utilities in the area
scheme for 2 houses	complete, preliminary design underway.
Ballinteskin,	Stage 1 for a disability extension has now been approved – discussions underway
	with tenant regarding decanting of Bay.

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

## **Covid 19 Update**

Wicklow County Council has put a number of arrangements in place to provide, among other things, services to previously un-serviced sites which will facilitate better sanitation and social distancing.

Welfare facilities were provided at a number of unauthorised sites.

Three families from unauthorised sites were provided with housing units.

Hygiene packs were distributed to all authorised sites and further facilities provided in March.

## 8. Energy Efficiency

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

#### **Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2**

Works nearly complete on 57 properties in West Wicklow and Rathdrum

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



## 9. Community, Cultural & Social Development



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

Rathcoran Estate, Baltinglass - First Age Friendly Lifetime Community - 4 stage process for this has started with an implementation steering committee to be established after a resident's association is formed.

Avondale House, Rathdrum - First Age Friendly Tourist Destination – process to start shortly.

## **County Wicklow Library Services**

## Aughrim & Ballywaltrim architectural contracts awarded



A tender was issued in 2021 for an architect led team to design and manage the construction of a new library for Aughrim, and an extension to the current Ballywaltrim library, at Boghall Road, Bray. De Blacam & Meagher Architects were the successful tenderers, who have won many architectural awards in recent years. The formal signing of the contracts took place in County Buildings Chamber on February 7th. The Aughrim project proposes the construction of a new library of 200 sq mtrs on the current Aughrim library site, while a 650 sq mtr extension, over 2 floors, is planned for Ballywaltrim. The latter project has received "approval in principle" from Dept of Rural & Community Development and will now proceed to have detailed drawings developed and submitted for grant aid support. A two year time frame is envisaged for completion of both libraries.

#### **Events resume at Libraries**

With the lifting of restrictions, staff at many of our libraries are pleased to be resuming activities in their respective libraries. Book clubs are beginning to meet again, and some new ones have been launched at Greystones, Enniskerry and Wicklow. The popular Knitting groups at Blessington and Arklow libraries have regrouped and are happily knitting and chatting once again, having been isolating since 2020! Children's activities have resumed with Toddler Times, Storytimes and Tummy Times kicking off in Greystones, Wicklow, Arklow, Ballywaltrim, Bray and Blessington Libraries and there is a distinct sense of excitement as, staff plan for 'Ireland Reads' and 'Spring Into Storytime' with plenty of activities in the pipeline to celebrate the day on the 25th February.



## "Small Steps to Literacy"

Wicklow County Council Library Service in collaboration with Kildare Library Service and Kildare Leader partnership recently shared the culmination of a body of work undertaken with the support of many organisations including SPECS Bray, Kildare Infant Literacy group and Bray Family Resource and Development Project.



This project was funded by Dormant Funds and the aim was to build on the My First Library Card concept launched originally in 2020. Entitled First Steps to Literacy, this ambitious project saw six short videos being recorded in Wicklow and Kildare library venues. The recordings feature local families engaging with their babies and young children with a view to showing how the fun sharing of

picture books and plenty of conversation with baby from birth can help children be reading ready when they start primary school.

The videos are available in English, Romanian and Czech Roma. They offer suggestions for parents on how best to support language development, appropriate to the ages of children between birth – 1 year, 1 – 3 years and 3 – 5 years old.

Links for the videos are accessible on Wicklow County Council Library's Youtube channel and will also be shared on request. These recordings will also be used at talks and other activities in our libraries.

## **Tovertafel (Magic Table) at Ballywaltrim Library**



The former Local Studies space at Ballywaltrim Library is now ready for use as a community space. This room is where the Tovertafel or more popularly know 'Magic Table' is housed. It consists of a box on the ceiling that projects light animations onto the table surface below. This resource has a series of interactive light games specially designed for to be enjoyed by everyone but especially those with dementia, autism and learning disabilities, helping with mobility, and encouraging them to be more active socially and physically.

The aim of the Magic Table is to provide enjoyment and relaxation for people of all ages 0-100!

Ballywaltrim library staff have started to welcome the tiniest members of the community to enjoy this facility – hosting a "Tummy Time" on Monday and Tuesday mornings for tiny babies, not yet crawling. This resource can bring generations together and create treasured moments with family members and carers.

#### **Púca in the Machine, Blessington Library**

This installation at Blessington Library focuses on the work of three artists – Shane Finan from Valleymount, Niamh Fahy from Bristol and Allanah Robins from Galway. They got together in 2021 to look at Poulaphuca Reservoir from the perspectives of myth and ecology. The exhibition, entitled "Puca in the Machine" launches on February 17<sup>th</sup> in Blessington Library. The artists will talk about their work which emanated from



well documented stories of the púca and the submerging of the Liffey Valley when the river was dammed, and many homes submerged to create the hydroelectric power station in the 1930s. The group will also launch a book about the project. This exhibition will remain in the community space at Blessington Library until March 5<sup>th</sup> before touring other venues.

## **Workshops on County Wicklow Family History**

Wicklow County Council Library Service are hosting 5 online genealogy workshops during January and February. These workshops feature a different resource each week and will take the amateur genealogist through the required steps needed to carry out research on their family history. The first week focused on an introduction to Wicklow's Family History resources and an overview of the Census records, moving on to the Church records, burial records, newspaper archives and other printed sources. The next session will look at land records to include deeds, Tithe Applotment books, Griffith's Valuation and Land Commission records and the final session on Wednesday 23 February will look at Estate records. These sessions have unlimited space and so far, have been attended by hundreds of enthusiasts— the audience has not only included Wicklow residents but extended across the country and further afield to include our neighbours in the UK and the Irish Diaspora worldwide. Anyone interested in booking may still do so by going to <a href="https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/wicklow-family-history-research-workshops-5-weeks-5-topics-tickets-243480355297">https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/wicklow-family-history-research-workshops-5-weeks-5-topics-tickets-243480355297</a>.

## **Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC)**

Funding of €75,000 was secured from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth to support disability services in the county for three applications through the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund.



#### Spring & Shine Events

Two events took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February and 14<sup>th</sup> February to celebrate St Brigid's Day & Valentine's Day in Ballyraine Campus.

Activities on both days included:

- A walk through the woods, talking about the local biodiversity
- Willow weaving a St Brigid's cross on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February and a willow heart on the 14<sup>th</sup> February
- Gentle yoga/meditation session to end with

### Online Workshops





- Autism in Sport Workshop 7<sup>th</sup> February
- Disability Inclusion Training Workshop 9th February

## Winter Wellness Walks



Due to the success of the Winter Wellness Walk series another two walks are scheduled for:

- The Lord's Wood, Baltinglass on the 21<sup>st</sup> February
- Glen Ding Wood, Blessington on the 28th February



County Wicklow received over €3.7m in funding awarded to a wide range of sports clubs and community organisations from GAA, golf, soccer, rugby and athletics clubs please see full list at https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/471ed5-sports-capital-allocations/.

Sports Capital Grants allocated to Wicklow of foot of Wicklow County Council applications are as follows;

•	Coral Wicklow – Improve disability access	€48,131
•	Coral Arklow – Improve disability access	€20,299
•	Lights on Arklow Running Track	€43,704
•	Dr. Ryan Park fencing and associated works	€31,724

#### Courses

## February 2022 courses

Safeguarding 2	1 <sup>st</sup> February	Zoom
Safeguarding 1	8 <sup>th</sup> February	Zoom
Sports First Aid	12 <sup>th</sup> February	Spotlight Studio, Wicklow Town - In Person
Autism in Sport	7 <sup>th</sup> February	Zoom



Disability Inclusion Training	9 <sup>th</sup> February	Zoom
Winter Wellness Walk The Lords Wood, Baltinglass	21st February	In Person
Winter Wellness Walk, Glen Ding Forest Blessington	28 <sup>th</sup> February	In Person

## **OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME (ORIS)**

Project Scheme Year and Measure	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding from WCC	Brief description
ORIS 2021- M2	Cliff Walk Protection 2021 Scheme	€220,000	€22,000	Introduction of a 2KM reroute to protect a section of eroded coastline along the Greystones to bray Cliff walk. Works will include signage enhancement and planting of natural habitat.
ORIS 2021- M2	Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme	€180,000	€18,000	Upgrade of the route from Laragh to Clara Vale to include an access ramp at Samuel Hayes Bridge ensuring accessibility to all.
ORIS 2021- Project Development	Three Trout Route 2021 Scheme	€50,000	€5,000	A feasibility study to investigate several stream crossings required to complete the Three trout route.
ORIS 2021- M3	The Sugar Loaf Repair 2021 Scheme	€500,000	€50,000	The Sugarloaf repair project will entail manual stone pitching of an ascent and descent route

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

Annual Plans 2022: The Social Inclusion and Community Activation work plans for 2022 submitted by Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership were brought to the February Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting and formally approved. Each plan of high quality with very detailed, targeted actions.

End of Year Reports 2021 submitted recently by both Partnerships show high achievement of all KPIs for last year. Further analysis is to be carried out by LCDC in advance of full approval and the release of SICAP funding for March.

## **Public Participation Network (PPN):**

Many PPN reps came to the end of their terms on boards and committees in 2021. Thus, new reps have been elected and are now receiving induction training.



Training & Workshops: CWP Climate Action for Communities; Living Well Programme; Wicklow LSP Couch to 3K; SDG Advocate Training; Fundamentals of Volunteer Engagement; NYCl One World Training. Contact Wicklow PPN for further information.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: Community Activities Fund; Seachtain na Gaeilge le Energia Fund; Community Water Development Fund; Wind Farm Community Funds; Rural Regeneration & Development Fund; Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Sponsorship Fund; Mental Health Grant Scheme; Toy Show Appeal; Social Enterprise Funding; Patagonia Environmental Fund; Heritage Funds (Built & Community). Contact Wicklow PPN for further information.

Disability: Funding has been received to engage a consultant to develop a guide for community groups/service providers in how to be more inclusive of people with disabilities. This project has the support of WCC's Disability & Inclusion Committee.

Consultations: Wicklow Age Friendly Survey; Swan River Greenway; Newtownmountkennedy Community & Work Study; Wicklow Comhairle na Nog Youth & Drugs; Draft River Basin Management Plan; Draft NTA Transport Strategy for GDA; Connecting Ireland -Rural Transport.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: Wicklow Garda Youth Awards; Arklow Windbank Fund; Community Activities Fund; Community Water Development Fund; Irish Youth Foundation Skills & Employment Fund; Kick Start Round 3 Fund; PayPal Giving Fund; Communities Climate Action Programme; EU Horizon Programme.

#### **LECP UPDATE - December 2021**

Goal 1: Develop community capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban and rural regeneration

## Town & Village Funding Scheme to Revitalise Towns and Villages 2021

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

#### **Grant Levels:**

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

Town and Village Applications Submitted July 2021

Town/Village	Project
Kiltegan	Transform a derelict vacant site into a multi-purpose
	community facility. The project aims to purchase the site
	and renovate the existing building to rehouse the



	community shop and café, provide community space, rehouse the CE scheme and provide a remote working hub.
Lacken	Refurbish a town centre building into a community shop, café and remote working hub. The project aims to maximise opportunity for economic benefit from the Blessington Greenway and from walkers and cyclists. It also aims to develop a heritage hub and a community space to create a resilient and socially cohesive community, using the Smart Village Model
Wicklow	This is a place making project to reconnect Wicklow centre to the port area by reanimating and revitalising the network of laneways with creative lighting, murals, riverside seating with canopy and park let planting
Hollywood	Place making project to create a quality and environmentally friendly public space. This project aims to transform an underutilised space which is close to woodland so lends itself to a natural approach to designing a pocket park with associated walkway and car parking.
Ballinaclash	Renovate the community hall to revitalise the village by providing access to remote working facilities and community activities to the community and possible new residents. This includes the replacing a dividing wall with a movable divider, fit out of remote working space and insulation works to the building
Coolboy	A place making project to improve public space in Coolboy and maximise social and economic benefits to the area. It will rejuvenate the village green by resurfacing and upgrading existing paths to make them more accessible and age friendly and reconnect a small underused annex area. It will also see the addition of picnic benches, a bandstand and an area of planting and landscaping, improving the biodiversity of the area.
Donard	Rejuvenation of community hall to develop a community café and to provide remote working spaces.

## Announcement of the Rural Regeneration Development Fund Category 2

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, on May 12<sup>th</sup>, announced the third call for Category 2 applications to the €1 billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. This fund is for projects that will drive economic growth and footfall, combat dereliction, regenerate town centre and heritage buildings develop pedestrian zones and outdoor spaces and make rural towns more attractive places to live, work and raise a family.

The €1 billion Fund is also part of the Department's Rural Development Investment Programme, which is funded under Project Ireland 2040. Projects that will be funded under Category 2 are those that require significant development before they reach the stage of being shovel ready.

RRDF Applications Submitted July 2021



Town/Village	Project
South West Wicklow – Shillelagh, Tinahely, Carnew	Reimagining South West Wicklow
This was not funded but will be resubmitted in the future	1. Maximise all opportunities for the area, arising from significant planned infrastructural investment and development of the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway.  2. Revitalise Rural Towns in Southwest Wicklow to become vibrant sustainable SMART centres of commerce and attractive places to work, live and recreate in harmony with the natural environment  3. Maximise all economic & social opportunities arising from the Coollattin Footprint in line with the Irelands Ancient East brand  4. Maximise economic, social and environmental benefits from the critical mass of 'National Walking Loop Trails' already developed in the area.
Blessington  This received funding – see below	Regeneration of Blessington Renovation of the town centre and public space and significant development works to Russborough House to enhance visitor experience and maximise economic opportunities arising from the Blessington Greenway development.

Blessington has been awarded just over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). This will be used for a major regeneration of Blessington Town Centre and related projects.

It will be utilised for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway.

This strategic funding along with the planned completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road and the funding for the Blessington Lakes eGreenway will help achieve Wicklow County Council's long-term vision for Blessington and enhance the Blessington as a place to visit.

Blessington also received €100,000 for development a Masterplan. Combined, these projects 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.

## CLAR 2021 - funded projects

Area	Project	Funding
Askanagap	Astro turf	50,000
Knockananna	MUGA floodlights	22,510.13
Knockananna	Community garden	9,747



Goal 3: Strategic Direction – Develop high quality integrated services, available to all communities, in particular, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups

## 1. Healthy Wicklow Strategy

Round 3 of Programme are underway but implementation has slowed down because of COVID-19. An extension to 31st December 2021 has been granted.

Planning has begun for Round 4 of the programme for Q2 2022

## 2. Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme

The Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme is a new initiative led by Slaintecare and Healthy Ireland in partnership with Wicklow Local Community Development Committee and other local stakeholders. The goal of the programme is to improve the long term health and wellbeing of people living in the most disadvantaged communities in Ireland. The programme is based in the Bray are of Wicklow. This is a holistic approach to health and wellbeing incorporating the physical and social determinants of health, that is, the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age, and the wider set of forces and systems that shape the conditions of daily life. The programme will implement targeted initiatives to tackle these challenges from within these communities. This will be achieved through the provision of dedicated services to build sustainable improvements in the health and wellbeing of all those living in those communities.

A local implementation team will be formed in each area led by a SHCP Local Development Officer to be employed by Wicklow County Council.

#### 3. County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy - Food Poverty and Sustainability

The County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy contains aims and objectives to tackle food poverty and food sustainability in the county. This is a long term issue but was highlighted through the work of the Community Response Forum during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A subgroup has been formed to work on this issue. Research has already been undertaken to establish the extent and nature of food poverty and the responses to this. Further research is now ongoing with a view to the development of a working plan going forward.

## **Local Economic and Community Plan**

Plans are underway for the development of the new County Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan. The plan will set out a number of High Level Goals, Objectives and Actions for the social, economic and community development of the county for the next six years.

The LECP has its statutory basis in the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The Economic element is the remit of Wicklow County Council through the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.

The Community element is the remit of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

The Plan 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 the relevant Local Authority area
- An enabling framework that supports collaborative working
- The primary mechanism at local level to bring forward relevant action arising from measures under national Government policy

The plan is developed within the context of:

- The COVID 19 pandemic and recovery
- Climate Change
- The Sustainable Development Goals
- The Public Sector Duty Act

## 6 Stages to the Development of the LECP

Stages	Steps	Steps	Steps	Steps
Preparation	Evidence Base	Socio-economic Analysis	Consultation with key agencies	Socio-economic Statement & High Level Goals
Consultation	On High Level Goals	Revision of statement based on consultation	Sign off by SPC and LCDC	
Development of Objectives and Outcomes	Based on evidence and consultation	Prepared by Advisory Group	Sign off by SPC and LCDC	Final Draft to MDs and EMRA
Finalise Plan	SPC and LCDC to adopt final draft	LA to approve final draft	Submission to Minister and published by LA	
Implementation	Implementation plans developed	Consideration of available resources	Ongoing flexible implementation	Measurable and achievable actions
Monitoring and Evaluation	KPIs to address proposed outcomes	Ongoing data for inclusion	Regular implementation reports	



## **Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure**

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

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

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

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

#### Retail

#### **Bray Central**

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

#### **Town Teams**

Town Teams in Arklow, Blessington, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow continue to meet virtually where possible to progress various projects. Activity, particularly engagement with stakeholder groups has been curtailed due to Covid restrictions.

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

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



Consulting to conduct the review. It is proposed to present the results of the review at a plenary meeting of all the town teams to be held in early 2022.

## Masterplans for Town Centres under 10,000 population

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

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

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

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

#### **Arklow Town Team**

At the first meeting of 2022 members of the Arklow Town Team received a presentation on projects delivered in 2021. Despite the challenges of not being able to meet face to face, the volunteers of Arklow Town Team, with the support of Arklow Municipal District Council, were busy completing a number of projects which included:

- Flower Basket Scheme 2021- 125 baskets purchased.
- Flower Irrigation System on the 19 Arches Bridge and pollinator friendly planters for the bridge.
- A Ronnie Delany commemorative statue was unveiled
- Community Garden Biodiversity project at Glenart College, where a polytunnel and raised beds were installed
- A successful virtual 5k/10k event for International Women's Day was held to raise money for Bray Women's Refuge and a Town Team project.



- A sum of €6,000 was received from The Heritage Council to carry out a Conservation Plan for The Goods Store at Arklow Railway Station. The Town Team hope to work closely with Irish Rail and Wicklow County Council to bring this building back to use as a community space.
- Installation of the Pride Pedestrian Crossing on Main Street.
- The 'Visit Arklow' tourism brand was developed and launched with funding secured from LEADER
  for the development of the VisitArklow.ie website which has been supported by the establishment
  of social media channels.

The members also received an update on the three projects that were granted funding which included:-

- Harbour to Headwaters River Tourism project.
- SEAnanagins Seafood Festival.
- Painted playground project at Kynocks Park.

The Town Team have recently received €3,950 funding from the Community Foundation for Ireland to carry out a comprehensive biodiversity survey of the woodlands in order to tackle some of the major invasive species issues and other woodland habitat challenges associated with the forest.

A virtual 5k/10k event to support International Women's Day has been organised for 2022. You can register for the race on <a href="https://www.popupraces.ie/race/arklow-town-team-international-womens-day-5k-10k-virtual-challenge-2/">https://www.popupraces.ie/race/arklow-town-team-international-womens-day-5k-10k-virtual-challenge-2/</a>.

Arklow Town Team has more plans for 2022 and is always open to hearing suggestions from the wider community. These can be emailed to <a href="mailto:arklowtownteam@gmail.com">arklowtownteam@gmail.com</a>.

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

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

## **Blessington Town Team**

A presentation was given on the Blessington Rural Regeneration Development Fund application. The presentation included details of the recent announcement by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), a total project cost of €1,293,380 has been awarded in respect of the Blueprint for Blessington application made to RRDF. Of this figure, €1,034,704 will be provided by RRDF and €258,676 will be provided in match-funding by Wicklow County Council.



In the announcement, the DRCD focussed on main themes including:

- Reinvigorating the heart of Blessington
- Remote working facility eHub
- Visitor centre for the eGreenway
- Maximising opportunities for Blessington which will arise from the development of the eGreenway

The RRDF application which was submitted has clear links to the Blessington Health Check which is already in place. Objectives contained in the Health Check such as proposals for undergrounding of ESB cables, a Shopfront Improvement Scheme, etc. were carried into the application form. The RRDF process is a vehicle which will allow us to access the funding to implement these actions.

## **Blessington Greenway Update**

An update on the Blessington Greenway was given at the recent Town Team Meeting. It was heard that Wicklow County Council had originally obtained a Part 8 planning permission to construct a Greenway around the lakes of Blessington. The scope of works for the project was changed during the process of route identification. These project changes triggered the need to review the environmental reports underaken to date, which has led to the project requiring a NIS and a planning submission to ABP. The new planning documents are going through the final reviews and it is planned to lodge in January 2022. The scheme runs though ESB lands and a licence Agreement will be in place for the scheme and lands needed. The closing date for entering submissions to the Development is the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

## Festivals in Blessington in 2022

The Blessington Town Team received an update on the proposed festivals;

The Great Gathering – Russborough house 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The Great Gathering is a new festival that combines food and current affairs and is set to the backdrop of a sophisticated music and arts festival in a stunning venue.

Kaleidoscope Festival - Russborough House 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June 2022. (The festival last took place in 2019) The festival will increase in capacity from the previous 15,000 to 25,000 people. Targeted advertising for the festival will target the Irish Diaspora in UK and USA.

## **Greystones Town Team**

Greystones Town Team is working to maximise the benefit to Greystones of winning the LivCom award for most liveable community.



The Town Team will be holding its AGM in the Whale Theatre on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, the first in person meeting for a long time.

#### Wicklow Town Team

Wicklow Town Team are awaiting a decision on an application they submitted for LEADER funding for Community Power.

Wicklow Town Team are working with Wicklow Enterprise Park to identify a suitable site for a digital hub for Wicklow.

It is proposed to advance the Peter O'Connor sculptor for the Ashtown Roundabout and a Sculptor is currently working on the project and engaging with the family.

Wicklow Town Team are willing to support a proposal for a Pilgrim Way linking Glendalough, Laragh, Glenealy, Rathnew to Travelahawk in Wicklow.

## **Streetscapes**

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

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

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

Types of projects funded include: refurbishment of traditional shop fronts, artwork, murals, lighting, planting etc. 99 applications were received and approved under this measure the date for completion of works has been extended to 11<sup>th</sup> February. The initial application and promotion and development of the scheme was handled by Enterprise and Corporate Services. The awarding of grants and drawdown of funds is handled by Community Cultural and Social Development.

### **Tourism**

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

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



## The Key Priorities are:

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

## **Wicklow Passport:**

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

#### **EcoTrail Wicklow:**

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

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

#### Accessible Glendalough Blog:

Late last summer, a trip to Glendalough was organised to experience how accessible Glendalough was. From that experience a blog entry showcasing how our tour went has been created and the blog can be found at: <a href="https://visitwicklow.ie/accessible-day-visit-glendalough/">https://visitwicklow.ie/accessible-day-visit-glendalough/</a>.

#### **Celtic Routes**

The Celtic Routes Wales/Ireland promotional project has begun with various agencies working on a variety of promotional activities to raise the tourism profile or our two regions. The extensive budget allocated to the project will be spread through various media over the next few months including social media, print and online national press and on the ground advertising mostly in the UK but also in Ireland. Another project includes the development of experiences offering the 'Celtic Spirit' and we have reached to the Wicklow trade to help create those experiences and feature on the various campaigns.



## **Destination Town Funding**

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

## Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

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

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

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

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

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

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



## **Outdoor Dining**

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

Wicklow County Council applied for and was awarded funding for Outdoor Dining and Weatherproofing for Market Square in Wicklow Town (€119,000) and Abbey Lane in Arklow (€81,000). Works have commenced on the Wicklow project with five of the seven canopies/umbrellas installed and some wiring to be completed. The final two will be installed at the Gaol and works should start shortly.

## **Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications**

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

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

## **URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund**

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

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



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

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

#### Maritime

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

Key milestones have been

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The purpose of the consultation is to:



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

## **Food and Beverage Strategy**

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

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

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



## 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) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 33/ €641,745 -4 / €6,594 (to date)	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	

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

METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	77	64	28
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	105	75	15
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes		900	75
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	10	1

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



Number of 0	One to One Bu	ısiness Advice		
meetings	including	Businesses 530	500	12
assigned a	mentor and Bi	rexit 1-1		

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

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

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARG	ETS
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Trading Online Vouchers	135 Total value: € 279,127.40	70 Depending on budget and demand	5

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	3

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



#### January / February 2022 Activities

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

### **Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme**

The SpringSummer 2022 business skills training programme is underway with courses now open for bookings through our online portal on <a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow">www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow</a>.

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

- Bookkeeping for Small Businesses (2 day course) 8<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> March (9 participants)
- Pathways to Growth for your Food or Beverage Business Workshop 8th February (9 participants)
- Maximising Sales on your Website & Social Media Channels 9th February (20 participants)
- Start Your Own Food Business the Essentials 9th February (21 participants)
- Cashflow Management 17<sup>th</sup> February (9 participants)

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

- Start Your Own Business with a Focus on Blue ways and Green Ways, 1st March
- Essential Idea Exploration, 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- Digital Marketing Clinics (one to one) 7<sup>th</sup> March



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



## 3. Planning and Development

#### **County Development Plan Review**

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

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

## **Wicklow Heritage & Biodiversity Office**

Community Monument Fund (CMF) 2022- The Heritage Officer advertised this grant scheme on behalf of National Monuments Service in December 2021 with a closing date for applicants of 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022. The scheme is open to private applicants and the local authority under three strands relating to archaeological sites; Stream 1 capital funding for projects of up to €85,000, Stream 2 funding for conservation advice (up to €30,000) and Stream 3, for access projects (up to €30,000).All applications will be assessed and shortlisted by Heritage Officer by 1<sup>st</sup> March and forwarded to the Dept.

Protected Structures Grants: The Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage were advertised in December with a closing date for applications of 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. The grant scheme, and assessment of projects is co-ordinated by the Heritage Officer on behalf of the Planning Department. There were 20 applications under the BHIS and 11 projects were recommended for the total allocation of €96,000. There were 13 applications under the HSF and 5 projects shortlisted for final assessment by the Department.

Local Authority Heritage Officers Heritage & Climate series of 4 webinars held Jan-February. Brittas Bay Conservation project presented under webinar 2 Wetlands, Community and Climate. For more see <a href="https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/new-contributions/heritage-biodiversity-actions-for-climate-new-heritage-officer-webinar-series-2022">https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/new-contributions/heritage-biodiversity-actions-for-climate-new-heritage-officer-webinar-series-2022</a>

## **Development Management**

#### **Planning Applications**

Total valid			
applications received	31st January 2021	31st January 2022	%
Received (Valid)	67	62	-7%

A total of 62 valid applications were received during January as follows:

Type of Development	31st January 2022 Number Received
Individual Houses	16
	(10 refer to rural house applications)
Housing Developments*	05
Agricultural Structures	01



Commercial	07
Units	33
Total	62

<sup>\*</sup> Large housing development PRR22/8 Wicklow County Council Part 8, Greystones 14, units PRR22/15,Brookhampton Ltd, 56 units, Kilcoole PRR22/37, Broomhall Estates, 93 units,Rathnew

Decisions issued in respect of 73 applications in January 2022, being:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions		
Housing Developments	6		
Individual Houses	18		
Other Developments	48		
Other Developments	1		
Requiring EIA			
Total	73		

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

	31/01/2021	31/01/2022
Total Number of decisions issued	90	73
Total Number of decisions to	78	62
grant		
% Grant Rate	86%	85%
No of applications withdrawn	13	13

#### **APPLICATIONS LODGED WITH AN BORD PLEANALA**

## **Strategic Housing Development**

An Application was made by Capami Ltd for 219 units at Kilgarron Hill, Parknasillogue, Enniskerry (ABP 312217) A decision is due by An Bord Pleanala by 14th April 2022

ABP-312020-21, Lands at Bray Head House (179 Units) Members meeting 7/12, Decision due by ABP 23/03/2022

## **Large Scale Residential Development**

The Large Scale Residential Development Act was signed into law 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and will take over from the current Strategic Housing Development process. Applications made under this section will be made directly to the Planning Authority rather than ABP as per the previous process.

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



To date, 2 applications have been received which are at different stages as follows

- Section 247 pre-planning consultation
   A pre-planning consultation has been made in respect of 224 residential units at Abbeylands
   , Arklow
- Stage 2 pre-planning consultation (Section 32B)
   An application has been made in respect of 267 units at Tinakilly, Rathnew.

#### **Substitute Consent**

One application was made directly to An Bord Pleanala for Substite Consent under Section 177E of the Planning and Development Act -An Bord Pleanala Reference No 312283-21 refers (Wicklow County Council reference number SU2101)

The applicant is Vartry Developments Ltd and refers to an application to retain and complete mixed use development (residential and retail) in 5 three storey blocks at Mount Usher View Ashford. The report of the Chief Executive was forwarded to ABP on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

#### **Strategic Infrastruture 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

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

## **E-Planning Project**

The commencement of the roll out of the ePlanning system is scheduled in Wicklow for Q2 2022. The project will include the following elements:

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



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	15
Advisory Letters	20
Warning Letters	06
Enforcement Notices	06
Legal Files	0
Closed	20

## **Circuit Court**

11 Cases adjourned to next call over / sittings

1 Case Court Orders On Consent and costs agreed

#### **Vacant Sites**

Municipal District	26 No. Sites on Register		
Arklow	7		
Baltinglass	2		
Bray	4		
Greystones	5		
Wicklow	8		

1 Notice of Entry Notice

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

2 sites on appeal to ABP - Section 18

2 sites on appeal to Valuation Tribunal

€1,050 levies received January 2022

## **Derelict Sites**

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



## **Court Cases**

District Court	1 Case adjourned to May 2022	
Circuit Court 1 Case adjourned to May 2022		
	12 Cases listed for January 2022	
High Court	2 Cases adjourned for mention in February 2022	

## **Short Term Letting**

Applications for Registration received		
Warning Letters issued		
Enforcement Notices issued		
Under Investigation		
UD files created	0	

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



## 4. Environmental Services

## **Waste Management**

#### **Litter/Waste Enforcement**

No. of Complaints Created	167
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	147
No of Litter Fines Issued	16
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	3
No. of Warning Letters Issued	2
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	10
No. of Burning Applications Granted	5
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	7
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	5
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	31
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	1
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	2
Income - Litter	€1,200.00
Income- Waste Management	€7,150.00

## **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

Draft remediation plan was lodged with Brownfield restoration Ireland Limited (BRIL) on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020.



Following the receipt of submissions from a number of prescribed bodies, the High Court instructed WCC to incorporate the requests contained in the submissions into the draft plan and to commence surveys required for an Appropriate Assessment.

Surveys of the qualifying interests, as agreed with NPWS, were completed in December and results are being collated into report form.

#### **Recycling Centres**

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

#### **Climate Action**

#### Climate Action Plan 2021 - Securing Our Future

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

#### **Wicklow Climate Action**

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

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

The Climate Action Officer is coordinating an input from a number of departments to develop a strategy for the Council on the rollout of EV Chargers in the public domain and also transitioning fleet to EVs.

The Green Team is a new team being set up with staff from all sections throughout the organisation. Members have received training.

#### **Environmental Awareness**

A project proposal to fund a project entitled Powering up SECs was submitted to Pobal under Strand 2 of the Climate Action Fund with Irish Rural Link as lead partner. The PPNs and SEAI County mentors from Wicklow, Kildare and Meath were partners in the project proposal. The Climate Action Fund has a theme of Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing. The project aims to support SEC communities who have completed energy master plans for their community move forward on delivery of projects.

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

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



A second LAPN project will link to the Bikes for Africa project and involve delivery of workshops on bicycle repair in the three larger recycling centres and a video animation to promote extending the life of bicycles through good maintenance. Workshops will target both adult and youth participation.

An LAPN project to provide training on composting has now been completed with training provided in Hollywood, Blessington, Grangecon and Newtownmountkennedy. Advice was also given to Clermont campus. The project was extended in December to include Loreto College in Bray.

Judging has been completed in the annual Tidy Town, Estates and sustainable development awards. This year the awards referenced the sustainable development goals.

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

Wicklow County Council is one of three local authorities involved in an EPA funded pilot on separate collection of textiles which will test different approaches for improving the collection of textiles. Donegal and Clare will test new collection systems while Wicklow will use a communications campaign to increase use of existing textile disposal options. The communications campaign will target one town, for which we will use Arklow, focusing on the charity shops in the town and the recycling centre.

Wicklow County Council is working with eight other local authorities to develop a series of short videos on dog fouling for use on social media. The campaign will include six animated video each of which shows the impact dog fouling has on others using a variety of scenarios. We will seek matching gifs which can be shared by residents associations more easily on Whats app groups and will serve as reminders of the main campaign. The videos are currently in production.

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

#### **Sustainable Energy Committees**

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

Newtownmountkennedy completed its Energy Master Plan in November.



Glenmalure and Laragh have also completed Energy Master Plans.

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

The Arklow SEC received grant approval for Energy Master Plan funding in December.

#### **Control of Dogs**

#### Dog Licences

411 licence reminders issued and 422 licences issued in January 2022, being 387 annual and 35 lifetime.

#### **Control of Horses**

Three horses were seized during January, with one non seizure.

#### **Harbours and Ports**

#### Activity at Wicklow Port

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

#### **Pollution Control**

## Pollution Response & Investigation

- 7 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 3 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Sewage pollution complaint received and investigated.

## **Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme**

- 12 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 8 Rivers monitored involving 17 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

#### Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

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



LAWPRO hosting Online public consultations @ 7.30pm 16<sup>th</sup> February 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March - see https://lawaters.ie/rbmp-public-meetings-2022/

5 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.

### **Deco Paint Solvent Regulations**

- 1 Vehicle Refinisher Installations was certified.
  - 1 Dry cleaner Installations was inspected.

## **Smokeless Coal Regulations**

1 information campaign carried out.

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

- 1 Preparation of Inspection Plan
- 1 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems carried out and found compliant.

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

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

#### **Planning & Development**

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

#### **Well Grants**

Number of New Applications	7
Number of New Wells Granted	4
Number of New Pumps Granted	18
Number of New Equipment (Filters etc.)Granted	28
Number of Inspections in advance/after works	32

#### **Arklow & Avoca Flood Relief Schemes**

The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was signed by the Chief Executive and nominated member on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 and the Environmental Impact Statement and application to An Bord Pleanala was submitted to An Bord Pleanala on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2021



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

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

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

A decision is expected from An Bord Pleanala on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 (according to the ABP website)



## 5. Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

## **Public lighting**

The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **354** Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation.

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

Year	2022	2021	2020	2019
Date	01/02/2022	01/02/2021	04/02/2020	28/01/2019
No. of Outstanding Faults	354	338	607	334
Difference		-16	253	-20

	10/01/2022	17/01/2022	24/01/2022	01/02/2022
Access Issues (Attended)	8	8	11	11
Cable Fault (Attend)	2	3	3	2
ESB Required (Attended)	21	21	21	20
Knock Down (Attended	3	3	3	2
Materials required	3	3	2	2
No Supply	11	11	11	11
On Hold	14	17	17	18
Submitted	280	325	279	265
Traffic Management Required	15	16	20	23
TOTAL	357	407	367	354
Percentage of lights not working	2.38%	2.71%	2.45%	2.34%

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)		2	3	4	2	11
Cable Fault (Attend)	1				1	2
ESB Required (Attended)	5		4	3	8	20



Knock Down (Attended		1			1	2
Materials required	1	1				2
No Supply	1	4	2	4		11
On Hold			8		10	18
Submitted	26	88	59	42	50	265
TMR	1	3	8	9	2	23
Grand Total	35	99	84	62	74	354

#### **Transportation Statistics (General)**

	Total	Total	Total	December	January
	2020	2021	2022	2021	2022
Solicitors Queries	842	923	53	53	53
Road Closure Applications	23	53	3	7	3
Road Opening Licences	1279	1575	85	73	85
Abnormal Load Applications	33	54	8	1	8

#### M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website <a href="https://www.n11m11.ie">www.n11m11.ie</a> on 14 December 2021 following the review of submissions received during public display. Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation was due to commence in Q1 2022.

Funding for the N11 M11 Junction 4 to Junction 4 scheme has been omitted by TII for 2022. No indication has been given by TII as to when future funding will be provided. Therefore progress on the scheme has been suspended as of January 2022. A project statue update was published in Bulletin #12 on the project website on 28 January 2022. This suspension is likely to have repercussions for the work completed to date. Some of this work may become obsolete and may have to be revisited or reworked.

Environmental Surveys already commenced on site will likely be continued to a logical point and concluded.

The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet virtually with the public and any interested parties.

#### M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

Arup Consulting Engineers are progressing with the development preferred option as part of Phase 2 (Options Selection). The preferred option currently under consideration runs from Loughlinstown Roundabout to junction 6 (Bray/Fassaroe) in both the northbound and southbound directions and from junction 9 (Glenview) to junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) in the northbound direction only. Certain elements of Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) are also progressing in tandem.

The BPIS web site is now available on <a href="https://www.n11m11bpis.ie">www.n11m11bpis.ie</a> This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.



#### N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

Works were completed in 2021. The speed limit of 60km/h included in the current bye-laws will apply on the N11 mainline. It is intended to amend this bye-law to allow a 100km/h speed limit as intended by the Part 8 for the scheme. This will be further considered as part of the county wide review of speed limits in the coming months.

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

Following the completion of the Phase 1 (Feasibility Report) for the N81 Tuckmill Lower, Hangman's Bend, Whitestown Lower and Irishtown West projects (the 'N81 Four Studies'); Wicklow County Council has requested approval from TII to progress the scheme to Phase 2 (Route Selection) in accordance with the TII Project Management Guidelines (PMG). Funding has been allocated by TII to progress this scheme in 2022.

#### N81 TII Vehicle Restraint Systems (VRS) Programme 2021

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

#### **Active Travel**

Wicklow County Council welcomed €9,007,500 in Active Travel Investment Grants in January. This 2022 allocation provides for 63 projects throughout the county.

- 44 Existing Projects
- 19 New Projects
- 36 Design Team Projects
- 27 Implementation Team Projects

#### The Active Travel Scheme aims to:

- Promote awareness and uptake of travelling with a purpose, using your own energy by means
  of walking or cycling.
- Improve transport options for those choosing alternatives to the car.

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

#### **URDF**

Arklow HTC: Sub - Project Parade Ground Public Realm: - Scheme under construction.

#### **Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge:**

2021 - Part VIII application for the above project went out on public consultation the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021, closing date was the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021. An Bord Pleanála recommended that Wicklow Council suspend a decision on the Part 8 on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021 until such time that the Board determines if a EIAR is required for the above project. It should be noted that Wicklow County Council had already determined that an EIAR is not required.



A decision on whether an EIAR is required will be made by the Board on or before the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and following determination a decision will be made in relation to detailed design. Decision not received yet

#### **RRDF**

#### Making Baltinglass Hub for South West Wicklow:

Arup was appointed consultant on scheme and a tender package for construction will issue in February 2022.

#### **Blueprint for Blessington:**

2021 – A successful application was made under RRDF for project funding for design, planning and building purchase. Documents are being prepared for procurement of consultants for the masterplan.

# Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre Refurbishment Scheme / 'Placemaking at Newtownmountkennedy':

Plans are following completion of public consultations and preliminary design, work is underway to prepare and lodge Part VIII documents for the scheme.

# Wicklow County Council Compulsory Purchase Chapel Road Pedestrian and Cyclist Infrastructure Improvement Scheme) No.1 Order, 2021

An Bord Pleanala intends to determine the application for confirmation of this CPO on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Following decision it is intended that detail design and tender preparation will commence. Decision not received yet.

#### **Blessington Inner Relief Road**

Preliminary ecological and aborist surveys for preferred route have been identified and designed, and landowners have been contacted. Ground investigation work to commence in January and detailed ecological surveys to be completed in end of Quarter 1 2022.

#### **Arklow Shillelagh Greenway:**

Route has been identified, ecological surveys are completed landowners have been informed of decision to acquire necessary lands by Compulsory Purchase Order. NIS and planning documents are being prepared.

#### **Wicklow Greystones Greenway:**

Feasibility report complete with emerging preferred route identified. Additional funding of €350,000 has been secured to undertake ecological surveys and prepare planning documents for the scheme.

### **Blessington Greenway:**

Route has been identified and letters of consent have been received from landowners Planning documents under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act were lodged with An Bord Pleanála for approval on 14th January 2022.

#### **DTTAS**

An allocation of €13,335,800 was received from the Department of Transport in February 2022 in respect of the maintenance and improvement of regional and local roads. The allocation assists in the importance of road maintenance and improvement works which promote the safety of all road



users, including cyclists and pedestrians. Measures, including appropriate road pavement edge treatment, maintenance of verges, embankments and cuttings, roadside drains together with repairs of road pavement, footways, cycle tracks and cycle ways, which all contribute to road safety.

**Speed Limit Review -** A county wide review of speed limits has commenced. Elected members, the Garda and a range of stakeholders are being contacted in advance of the preparation of a draft review document.

## Operational Fire Statistics January 2022

	Total stations		2. Greystones	WC	rum	>	Blessington	vin	8 Baltinglass	>	ely
	otal (	Bray	reys	E. Wicklow	Rathdrum	1.5	lessi	Dunlavin	altin	Carnew	Tinahely
Call sign	<u> </u>	1.1	12	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	21
Two Stations Mobilised	1		1.2	1.0		10	1.0		1.0	1.0	
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	0										
Fire Domestic	18	4	4	3	3	2		1	1		
Fire Caravan	2				1						1
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	15	3	3	3	3		1			1	1
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	4	2	2	İ		İ	İ	İ		İ	
Hazardous Materials Incident	0			İ		İ	İ	İ		İ	
Fire Industrial / Commercial	4	2	2	İ		İ	İ	İ		İ	
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	3		1	1					1		
Fire Alarm or CO <sub>2</sub> Activation	17	6	3	3		3	2				
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	1	1									
Fire Chimney	15	3	3	3	1	4					1
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	15	5	2	6		2					
Fire Vehicle	4	2		1			1				
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1		1								
Ambulance Assist / Medical		2	2		1						
Assist	5				1						
Garda Assist	3	1	1	1							
Electrical Incident	2									1	1
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	1					1					
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	1					1					
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	0										
False Alarm – Good Intent	9	3	3	2		1					
Malicious False Alarm	0										
Mobilised into other County	5						2		1	1	1
Times Stations mobilised	125	34	27	23	9	14	6	1	3	3	5



There were **102 incidents** attended during the month of January 2021. Individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **125 occasions** including 5 incidents in other counties.

Operational activity for the month of January **decreased by 25% from the preceding month** (December 2021 – 165 mobilisations) which represents a trend towards a return to expected activity levels. There were no storms in January therefore flooding and trees down incidents were greatly reduced (from 29 to 1). RTCs were also reduced (from 18 incidents to 8). There was, however, an increase in domestic fires (up from 5 incidents to 9) and an increase in maliciously set outdoor fires (up from 8 to 15).

Operational activity for the month of January 2022 was up 23% on the equivalent month in 2021 (January 2021 – 112 mobilisations). Most of the increase can be accounted for by an increase in fires in buildings (domestic, commercial and agricultural) and continued high levels of anti-social activity resulting in outdoor fires close to urban areas being started maliciously.

## Sample Incidents (January 2022)

18/01/2022	Bray and Greystones fire crews attended a 2 car RTC on the Roundwood road out of Kilmacanogue. One patient was removed from a vehicle.
18/01/2022	Wicklow Town and Rathdrum fire crews attended a domestic house fire in Ocean View, Sea Crest. The fire in the kitchen was extinguished by 2 firefighters in breathing apparatus.
19/01/2022	Carnew and Tinahely fire crews attended a single vehicle RTC in Coolboy.
19/01/2022	Arklow and Wicklow Town attended a domestic fire in Argyle House, Sea Road involving a historic wooden building.
21/01/2022	Wicklow Town and Greystones crews fought and contained a fire in a barn at Rossana involving machinery and vehicles.
22/01/2022	Crews from Baltinglass and Dunlavin extinguished a fire in an underground car park beneath apartments. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus were committed to the scene.

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

28/01/2022	Blessington fire crew supported a fire crew from Naas at a report of a fire in a Retail
	Park in Gigginstown, Naas. False alarm.
29/01/2022	Baltinglass fire crew supported by a fire crew from Carlow town attended an RTC
	involving a motorbike near Castledermot.
31/01/2022	Blessington fire crew supported fire crews from Naas at a single vehicle RTC where a
	car had overturned near Redbog.

#### Incidents in County Wexford (1-incident):

26/01/2022 Carnew and Tinahely Fire Crews attended a single vehicle RTC involving an overturned car at Ballyellis, Askamore.

### Fire Prevention Statistics January 2022

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	6		8		6
Regularisation Certificates					



FSC as part of 7 Day Notice			
Disability Access Certificates	3	1	7

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	No Objection letter	Not raising an objection
District	1	1		1	
Circuit					

## **Building Control January 2022**

#### **Commencement Notices for Jan 2022:**

Commencement Notices Submitted: 28

- 8 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 18 Opt Out Declarations
- 0 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 2 Seven day Notice

#### **Submission Statistics**

- 64 % of Commencement Notices Opt Out
- 50 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 14 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which

4 are Compliance Documentation (29%)

8 are Opt Out (57%)

0 Without Compliance Documentation (0%)

2 Seven Day Notice (14%)

21 Valid Commencement Notices

84 new build residential Units + 12 apartments

Invalidated CNs for November = 1

### **Certificates of Completion processed in January 2022**

- 8 New No. of CCC submitted
- 7 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 63 new residential units validated

#### **Submission Statistics**

7 No. Validated CCCs related to;

1 No CCCs submitted in November 2021

6 No CCCs submitted in January 2022

75% CCC submitted required Revised Info Requests

\*\*BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Building Control experienced an active start to 2022.

84 new residential units in addition to 12 apartments were notified to LA for Commencement in January or early February 2022.

63 completed residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in January.



Building Control continued with site inspections in January to identify non-compliances with Building Regulations onsite and 3 No. Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Final statistics for Building Control activity in 2021 was also accumulated and distributed. Revised Information requests remain high as volume of Opt Outs in Wicklow is also on average between 50% to 60% each month. Opt Out submissions are generally from BCMS users who are unfamiliar with both BCMS and Building Regulations which leads to Building Control resources being directed to resolving both administration and technical issues with Opt Out Submissions.

#### **Water Services**

In Quarter 4 2021, Wicklow County Council staff continued to provide Water and Wastewater Services under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water.

#### COVID-19

All staff in the Water Services Department, technical, outdoor and administrative staff continue to work throughout the Covid-19 period with no interruption to supply and services throughout the crisis. Following on from the recent government announcement regarding the unwinding of Covid-19 restrictions Wicklow County Council administrative staff are now continuing to proceed with the phased return to the workplace.

#### **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: -

#### 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 to provide safe and clean drinking water to the people of Wicklow. This year has seen changes to the working environment due to Covid-19. Normal Operation and Maintenance works have been on-going throughout this challenging time with Caretakers, leakage locators, plumbers and leakage inspectors ensuring quality and supplies from Water treatment plants 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 been 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. Progress on this will be updated for the next report.

#### **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. The leaks identified by Wicklow County Council leakage crews and repaired by the plumber since beginning of January 2022 has saved approximately 111,000 litres a day.

#### **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. The meters are currently being used in Arklow following trials in Delgany, Blessington and Kilpedder. WCC have also received an additional 250 loggers for future leakage monitoring across the county.

#### 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 high levels of leakage.

- Palermo Bray Near Completion
- Trafalgar Road Greystones Near Completion
- Roundwood Rationalisation Works Progressing
- Barndarrig Rationalisation Progress ahead of schedule
- Avondale Park Bray Complete



Glen Road Delgany – 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 high levels of leakage across Wicklow.

### **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.

#### **Waste Water**

#### Water Services: - 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 required environmental standards and to keep the waste water collection network running properly.

The Waste Water Section organises regular sampling and testing of effluent parameters and reporting of results (to IW). 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 is essentially split under two main headings or funding sources – day to day operational goods and services and Capital Maintenance. Capital Maintenance expenditure essentially provides for the like-for-like replacement of components and equipment when required due to normal wear and tear or breakdown.

In certain (occasional) instances slightly more notable capital improvement works may receive approval and be undertaken and progressed by the WCC O&M Section.

#### Improvement works completed in Q4 2021 under the auspices of "Capital Maintenance"

#### Ballyconnell WwTP\_ (€500k approx.)

The provision of a new WwTP for Ballyconnell reached final completion and became operational in Q4 / October 2021.

#### Aughrim WwTP improvements (€150k approx.)

The replacement of the existing mechanical aerator system by the more efficient and robust "Fine Bubble Diffused Air" (FBDA) system and the provision of a new Electrical Control Panel with advanced HMI (Human machine interface) was completed and commissioned in Q4 2021. A new and better quality inlet screen was installed earlier in Q2.

#### Irish Water Capital Works (Waste Water)



#### **Arklow WwTP**

The €139 million Arklow Wastewater Scheme formally commenced on the ground with a sod turning ceremony at the old Wallboard Factory site in Arklow on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Works will be ongoing over the next couple of years.

### **Blessington WwTP Upgrade**

The upgrade to the Blessington WWTP began in Q4 of 2021 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**

Site investigation and detailed design work for new WwTP for Avoca progressed during Q4 2021.

Preparation of environmental reports and planning application documentation is currently underway.

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

Currently progressing under 2020-2024 allocation. Project is with Asset Strategy at early stage of scoping of design options and risk assessment. Handover to Asset Delivery (AD) is scheduled in 2022.

Wicklow County Council has no involvement or role in the delivery of these projects by Irish Water.

#### **Key Performance Indicators (KPI's):**

Under the Annual Service Plan with Irish Water, WCC continued to be scored on Key Performance Indicators. The 2021 overall score was 89.3% which reflects the excellent performance of Wicklow County Council staff across all pillars within the Annual Service plan throughout the year. The Quarter 4 report for 2021 includes:

- A score of 100% was achieved for timely response to workflow queries
- A score of 100% was achieved for Drinking Water Supply Microbiological Compliance.
- A score of 100% for Waste Water Treatment Incident Reporting
- A score of 100% for Waste Water Treatment UWWTD Performance by no of WWTP's

(Based on Irish Water ASP Monthly Report Quarter 4 2021).



## **Parking Income**

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	62,594
Greystones Municipal District	16,965
Wicklow Municipal District	18,078
Arklow Municipal District	9,249
Parking Permits	8,855
Parking Fines	23,409
Wicklow County Council	139,150



## **Organisational Development and Financial Matters**

## 1. HR and Corporate Services

## Recruitment

The following interviews were held in January:

- Executive Librarian (Grade VI)
- Community Sports Development Officer (Grade IV) Permanent & Temporary 3 year contract
- Sports Inclusion Development Officer (Grade IV) Permanent
- Strategic Promotions Officer (Grade V) Temporary 3 year contract

## **Employee Numbers**

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

## **Access to Information**

## F.O.I. Requests

January 2022: 9	January 2021: 4
January - January 2022: 9	January – January 2021: 4



#### **Ombudsman Requests**

January 2022	4
January to January 2022	4

January 2021	1
January to January 2021	1

#### **Press Releases**

January 2022 – 16 Press Releases

## **Register of Electors**

The Franchise Section produced the 2022/2023 Live Register of Electors on the statutory required date of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. This Register will be in force from 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 until 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and in the instance of an electoral event a Supplement Register will be produced.

The Franchise staff will continue to strive for excellence and accuracy on the Register of Electors database. We are continuing to accept applications from 18 year olds and new residents moving into the county. We will continue to make contact with new housing developments and urban areas where new developments are coming on stream in an effort to get new residents register.

Now that the Live Register is published we are in the process of issuing it to Post Offices, Libraries, Garda Stations and Council Offices where it will be available for inspection. We are also beginning liaison with Nursing Homes with a view to updating the Disabled Special Voters List. It is hoped that when Covid Restrictions are fully lifted we can resume visiting Secondary Schools throughout the County with a view to getting 18 year olds registered to vote.

Work is ongoing and continuous throughout the year where is a lack of Eircodes and dates of birth. Wicklow Co Co are in the top 3 of local authorities in Eircode coverage on their register with over 99% of the electorate having an Eircode attached to their Register of Electors entry.

We are continuing to assist the LGMA in their exercise to have other Local Authorities achieve similar Eircode coverage on their own Register of Electors. Work is also progressing and the Wicklow County Council Franchise Section have significant input into, the new Electoral Register Modernisation Process with staff members forming part of the Department Committee on this process. The Franchise Section have also been involved in assisting the LGMA in developing an updated version of the current register database system with regular MS Team Meetings and discussions on this project. The new pilot system is now ready and testing of this pilot site will commence from the beginning of March with continuous reporting and liaising with the LGMA on troubleshooting and ongoing development of the new system. Wicklow County Council is one of the two lead authorities on this project which in turn will be rolled out to other Councils as the year progresses.



#### **Customer Service Hub**

2022- January			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls (Qtrly)	26,607	Motor Taxation	1036
No. of Emails	1214	Revenue	204
No. of Elected Members Emails	105	Social Housing Applications	186
CRM Cases	210		

Front Entrance with new Revolving door fully open to the public.

Total in person visits for January 2022 – 1125 a 12% increase from December 2021.





#### 2. I.C.T.

#### IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 35 tickets a day in January, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is underway.
- The upgrade of PC's in libraries and general offices continues and due to complete by end Q1 2022

#### **Domain Migration**

• Server migration is now complete.

#### Implementation of ePlanning

Systems and Project Plan in Place to rollout ePlanning

#### **GIS & Systems Analysis**

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

## **Business Systems/Applications Development**

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

## **Customer Service Delivery**

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

#### **eServices**

Wicklow.ie – pageviews from February 1st, 2020, to January 31st, 2021, were 1,444,987 This is a slight increase in unique pageviews compared the same period the previous year.

- Social media accounts followers to date
  - o Facebook (Wicklow County Council) 10,146 followers. This is an increase of 503 followers or 5.2% on the previous month.
  - o Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) -7548 followers. This is an increase of 56 followers or .6% on the previous month.
  - o Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) 2634 followers. This is an increase of 42 followers or 1.3% on the previous month.



- The Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie continues to feature in enhanced consultation campaigns.
   These have included
  - o Part 8 20 no. social housing units at Schools Road, Lugduff, Tinahely
  - Blessington eGreenway
  - Part 8 To Construct 14 one-bedroom age friendly apartments over three storeys with associated works at 1 Marine Road
  - Part 8 To construct 106 residential units and crèche and all associated works at Burgage More,
     Blessington, Co. Wicklow
  - o Swan River Greenway and Old court Connectivity Scheme
  - Age Friendly Survey
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month.
  - o #KeepWell
  - o #OutdoorsForEveryone

### **Response to COVID-19**

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

- Remote Working Requirements for staff of Wicklow County Council
- Blended model for return-to-work arrangements
- Government Networks
- Phone Systems
- Call Conferencing
- Communications and awareness
- Laptops procured and configured to support remote working for key staff in vital business areas.
- Remote working licencing has increased in all business areas with ~300 WCC users now having the facility to work remotely using a combination of Citrix and Cisco.
- Community Call Helpline remains in place with support to the helpline staff



## **FINANCIAL**

#### Revenue

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

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

#### 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 January 2022 to 31st January 2022.

## **Capital Account**

	CAPITA	AL ACCOUNT				
INCOME AND EXPEN	IDITURE SUMMARY	BY SERVICE DIVI	SION AT 31ST JAN	IUARY 2022		
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2022	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/01/2022	
	€	€	€	€	€	
Housing and Building	11,454,056	5,014,701	(1,320,147)	0	15,148,610	
Road Transport & Safety	(44,097,584)	409,219	(308,626)	0	(43,996,991)	
Water Services	(12,426,772)	4,880	(127,424)	C	(12,549,316)	
Development Management	(10,072,355)	13,049	(670,816)	0	(10,730,123)	
Environmental Services	924,775	510,196	(237,859)	0	1,197,112	
Recreation and Amenity	(1,763,020)	221,234	(1,641)	0	(1,543,427)	
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,330,583)	0	0	0	(1,330,583)	
Miscellaneous Services	(28,506,847)	6,019,339	0	0	(22,487,508)	
	(85,818,330)	12,192,616	(2,666,513)	0	(76,292,227)	



#### **Commercial Rates. Rents and Loan Collections**

	SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST JANUARY 2022									
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2022	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/1/2022	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates										
Rents & Annuities	2,837,526	1,628,533	0	(219)	0	4,465,840	(1,355,052)	3,110,788	0	30%
Housing Loans										

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

#### **General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2022**

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

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

#### **Capital Investment Programme 2020-2022**

The Capital Investment Programme 2021-2023 for Wicklow County Coucil details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was approved by the Members at the Council meeting of March 1st 2021. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.



PROGRAMME GROUP		Expecte	d Outlay			Р	roposed Funding		
	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL	Dev Charges <sup>1</sup>	Loan	Grant Aid <sup>2</sup>	Other <sup>3</sup>	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	149,460,000	148,060,000	147,760,000	445,280,000		30,000,000	360,740,000	54,540,000	445,280,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	33,009,134	16,435,578	14,227,500	63,672,212	11,045,290	7,795,000	41,907,749	2,924,173	63,672,212
WATER SERVICES	150,000	150,000	150,000	450,000			450,000		450,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	2,340,000	8,178,000	6,300,000	16,818,000	1,097,800	-	10,114,200	5,606,000	16,818,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	1,250,000	4,010,000	11,775,000	17,035,000			16,210,000	825,000	17,035,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	4,583,594	25,749,891	17,823,000	48,156,485	9,439,775	-	37,696,710	1,020,000	48,156,485
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	1,150,000	25,320,000	27,062,946	53,532,946	4,647,869		43,837,209	5,047,869	53,532,946
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	1,950,000	2,200,000	2,200,000	6,350,000			2,325,000	4,025,000	6,350,000
OVERALL TOTAL	193,892,728	230,103,469	227,298,446	651,294,643	26,230,734	37,795,000	513,280,868	73,988,042	651,294,643



## **Capital Funded Projects**

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



Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
T&V 2018	Blessington	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2018	Wicklow	€150,000	€30,000
T&V 2019	Dunlavin	€26,216	€2,623
T&V 2019	Coolkenno	€30,000	€3,000
T&V 2019	Aughrim	€119,500	€17,925
T&V 2019	Redcross	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2019	Delgany	€37,000	€3,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Bundled	€28,000	€2,800
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Dunlavin	€4,950	€495
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Roundwood	€40,000	€4,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	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
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilmacanogue Nature Trail	€20,000	€18,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Lacken Mass Path	€18,000	€16,200
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilcoole Mass Path	€13,000	€11,700
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Avonmore Kayak Project	€16,500	€14,850
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Age Friendly Triobikes for older people	€23,160	€20,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Keadeen Access	€13,500	€12,150
ORIS 2021 Project Development	Three Trout Route	€50,000	€45,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 3	The Sugarloaf Repair	€500,000	€450,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Jubliee Loop and Avonmore Way link	€180,000	€162,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	€220,000	€198,000
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Wicklow	€68,759	€48,131
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Arklow	€28,999	€20,299
Sports Capital Programme	Arklow Running Track	€62,434	€43,704
Sports Capital Programme	Dr. Ryan Park	€45,320	€31,724
	Sub-Total	€59,067,435	€12,191,645