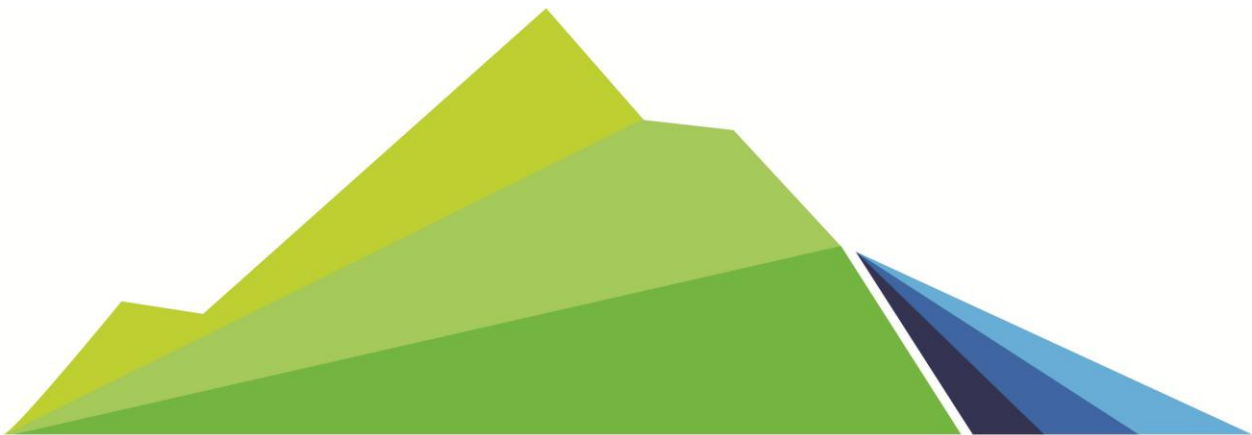


Chief Executive's Report – August 2026



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council



W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Contents

Social Development	4
Housing	4
Community	14
Planning, Economic & Rural Development	23
Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity.....	34
Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery.....	48
Transportation	48
Infrastructure Delivery	58
Integration and Emergency Response	62
Organisational Development	71
Finance, Water & Information Systems	74
Finance.....	74
Information Systems	79

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

This month:

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL SECURES €360,000 FUNDING

Wicklow County Council welcomes the announcement of €360,000 in funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to purchase a vacant property in Arklow under the Building Land and Acquisition Measure 2026.

This funding will initiate the regeneration process, aiming to revitalise an unused property with a focus on community needs. “Our Rural Future” and Project Ireland 2040 aims to provide more sustainable places to revitalise in our towns and rural communities.

Prior to the application for funding, Wicklow County Council have been actively engaging with property agents and owners of vacant properties in the Arklow area to explore potential purchases, which were dependent on securing this funding. Identifying and sourcing a suitable building will now progress. This opportunity is crucial and welcomed for Arklow.

Arklow has faced ongoing challenges, with several buildings in the town centre showing signs of vacancy and deterioration. Wicklow County Council's decision to purchase a property reinforces the importance of supporting sustainability while addressing community centre needs.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL LAUNCHES MY COCO – A NEW ONLINE PAYMENT PLATFORM

Wicklow County Council is pleased to announce the launch of the MyCoCo Payment Portal, a new online service that makes it easier for tenants and business customers to manage and pay their accounts.

Customers with Rents, Rates, Home Loans and any other Council accounts can access their account online through their browser or download MyCoCo payments app. Account holders will receive correspondence in the coming weeks with their customer account and pin number to allow them to register for the service.

Wicklow County Council is the first local authority to pilot the new recurring payments feature on the MyCoCo platform, giving customers an easier way to make regular payments automatically and helping them avoid missed payment dates. We are also the first Local Authority to make this service available across all income departments.

Signing up for MyCoCo gives customers a convenient, mobile friendly way to manage their account anytime, anywhere. The app can be downloaded directly to your smartphone, allowing you to securely pay your rent, rates, or home loan online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Customers can also easily view and download account statements, transaction history, and payment receipts, making it easier than ever to stay on top of their finances.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Social Development

Housing

-	June 2026	June 2025
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	79	89
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	19	20
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	18	19

Allocation of Social Housing

	July 2026	July 2025
Wicklow County Council	14	27
Approved Housing Bodies	16	23

Figures at end of July 2025 are as follows:

CUSTOMER CARE: NEW APPLICATIONS	4
CUSTOMER CARE: AWAITING INFORMATION	68
CUSTOMER CARE: AWAITING PROCESSING	74
HOUSING: AWAITING TO BE LOGGED & THEN PROCESSED	49
HOUSING: AWAITING FURTHER INFORMATION	77
HOUSING: AWAITING EHO	7
TOTAL:	279

Figures for end July 2026 are

CUSTOMER CARE: NEW APPLICATIONS	7
CUSTOMER CARE: AWAITING INFORMATION	27
CUSTOMER CARE: AWAITING PROCESSING	14
HOUSING: AWAITING TO BE LOGGED & THEN PROCESSED	88
HOUSING: AWAITING FURTHER INFORMATION	89
HOUSING: AWAITING EHO	19
TOTAL:	244

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Social Housing Stock

	June 2025	June 2026
Tenancies Occupied	5066	5176
Total Weekly Rent Accrual	€344,720.88	€361,313.24
Arrears	€2,961,669.56	2,067,544.75

Rent

- Income based Differential Rent Scheme - Last Review – 2019. A full rent review will be carried out this year.
- 2 Schemes in the County – one in Bray and one for the rest of the County (new tenants in Bray now go onto Wicklow Scheme)

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

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

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

Assessment criteria

CAS funding operates in partnership with Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies.

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

As of 31st July 2026, Wicklow County Council continues to work in partnership KARE, St John of God & Sunbeam to deliver properties under the disability category of social housing need. Wicklow LA also continues to work with Sunbeam House Services and NAHVI/Positive-Futures, to bring active projects to completion.

Areas of delivery below:

CAS Acquisitions 2026	No. of Units	Delivery Schedule	Scheme
Rathnew	1	Delivery Q2 2026	CAS
Arklow	1	Delivery Q2 2026	CAS
Tinahely	1	Due to be Delivered Q3 2026	CAS

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

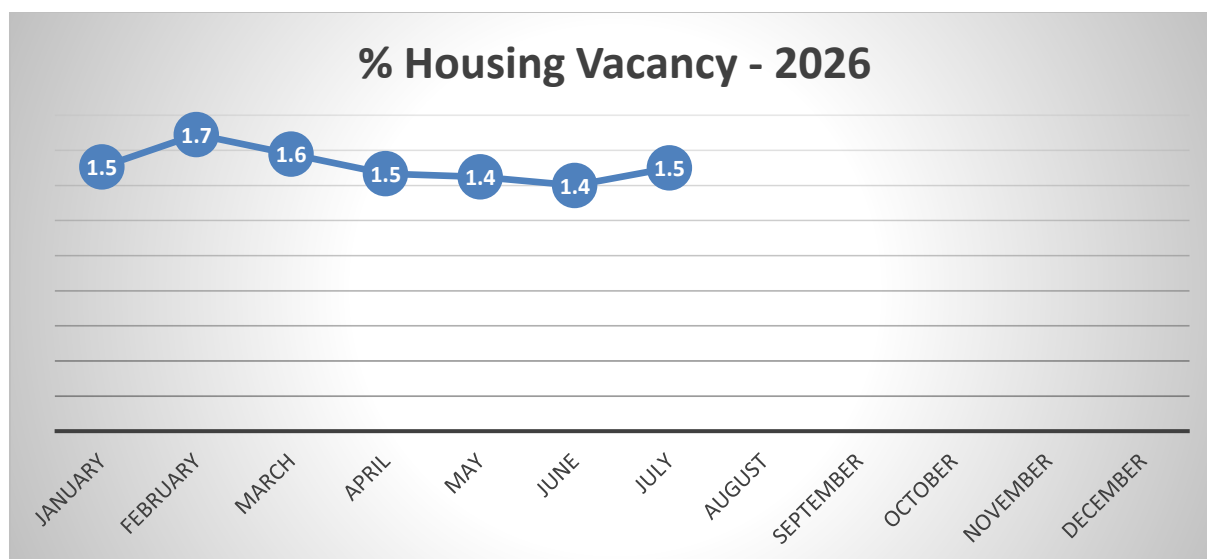
	<u>To Date</u>	<u>June 2026</u>
<u>Applications Received</u>	502	2
<u>Completed</u>	127	0
<u>Declined</u>	280	0
<u>Ongoing</u>	15	15

Voids / Re-Letting Programme

MD	Not Started	In Progress	Completed but not yet tenanted	TOTAL Vacant	TOTAL Completed in 2026
Arklow	8 (+4)	5 (+1)	1 (0)	14 (+4)	6 (0)
Baltinglass	3 (+2)	8 (-2)	8 (0)	19 (0)	7 (+3)
Bray	4 (0)	7(+1)	5 (-2)	16 (-1)	9 (+2)
Greystones	3 (0)	4 (+1)	3 (+1)	10 (-2)	7 (+2)
Wicklow	9 (+4)	8 (-2)	6 (0)	23 (+2)	11 (+3)
2026 Totals	23 (+5)	32 (-1)	23 (-5)	82 (+4)	40 (+10)
2025 Totals					142
Total Vacancy as % of Total Stock	Figures in brackets indicate change on previous month				1.5 (+0.1)

As part of the Voids Funding Programme, the Council can recoup a maximum of €11,000 per house from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) on a once off basis. The cost of refurbishing and re-letting social housing stock in Wicklow is currently averaging €42,275 per property.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026



A Local Area Term Maintenance Framework for Planned Building Maintenance and Refurbishment Works was setup in 2024 and has a 2-year term. 17 contractors were appointed under this Framework to cover Wicklow's five Municipal Districts for works such as housing refurbishments works, repairs and adaption grants. Also, the Housing Direct Labour Team complete a proportion of housing upgrades as part of the Voids Programme. This framework will be renewed in Q3 2026.

Traveller Accommodation (TAU)

Scheme	Current Status
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme: 3 group housing units and 17 social houses	Expect to go to tender for Contractor in September
Vale Road, Arklow	This is a two-unit group housing scheme. The Part 8 planning process is complete. TAU funding approved and design team appointed.
Ballintreskin – 2 extensions	The tender for the construction contract has been awarded, and the contractor has commenced works. It is expected to reach substantial completion by Q4 2026.

Infill Sites/Age Friendly & Disability Schemes

Scheme	Units	Current Status
1A Mill Road, Greystones- Age Friendly	4	Construction works are ongoing and it is expected that the works will be completed in Q3 2026

Energy Retrofit Program

As part of our ongoing Energy Efficiency retrofit programme, housing services are undertaking works across the county. This includes, depending on house surveyed, and not limited to external wall insulation, attic insulation, heat pumps and upgraded windows and doors. These works comply with our policy on energy fabric upgrades which went through the SPC in 2023.

The driver of this programme is the improvement to energy efficiency of local authority properties (BER – B2 or better), energy cost savings and sustainability. The move from solid fuel to more sustainable, energy efficient and cost-effective heating systems contributes to the climate change agenda and dramatically improves the comfort levels of tenants in these properties.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

A new Framework has been developed and contracts are moving towards tender stage to deliver on projects in 2026, in line with DHLGH requirements.

EERP	Numbers carried out as - 2026
Houses complete	2



Energy Retrofit works completed at Seamount Drive Kilcoole 2025.

Regeneration Projects/ Special Projects

Hillview, Wicklow Town

Wicklow County Council have initiated meetings with the DHLGH regarding the inclusion of Hillview Estate, Wicklow Town as one of the first potential schemes under the new Delivering Housing Building Communities Housing Regeneration Fund. This estate has been identified as a location that would benefit from a housing regeneration project, due to the complexity of issues both structural and social. It is proposed to develop a suite of proposals for this housing development in Q3 2026 and apply for funding when the DHLGH Regeneration Programme is open.

Farrankelly Close, Greystones

Stock condition surveys (+Adjust) have been completed at Farrankelly Close. Phase 1 of the works to install new windows and doors to 11 properties has been delivered with associated improvements to insulation and ventilation completed by the Greystones MD team. The contract was recently awarded, and it is expected that the windows will be installed in Q3/Q4 2026.

Disabled Person Grant (DPG) and Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG/MAG/HOP)

Grant	Home Adaptations
Disabled Persons Grant (DPG) completed May 2026	51
Housing Adaptation Grant complete May2026 (HAG/MAG/HOP)	247

Includes: Housing Adaptation Grant / Mobility Aid Grant /Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant complete in 2026

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Private Rented Accommodation Regulation & Enforcement

The Targeted Inspection programme on private rented accommodation continues. Housing For All requires 25% of all private rented properties to be inspected annually. This equates to approximately 1560 properties in County Wicklow every year. Target properties are selected using a Risk Based approach. The Council is responsible for enforcing the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 (SI 137 of 2019).

Private Rented Inspections	Numbers carried out 2026 to date:
Targeted and complaint inspections	168

So far in 2026, the following Notices have been served by Wicklow County Council in relation to breaches of SI 137 of 2019:

Notice Type	Notices currently active:
Improvement Notice	16
Prohibition Notice	4

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

A new private rental inspection contractor framework was established in July and Wicklow are looking to complete a sample of social housing stock with a contractor by the end of the year.

Stock Condition Surveys (SCS)

Wicklow County Council completed 404 stock condition surveys on local authority properties to date. This formed the basis of drawdown of planned maintenance funding from the DGLGH in terms of surveys, electrical inspections, electrical upgrade works, heating upgrade works and replacement of windows and doors. A new SCS framework was established in July and Wicklow are looking to complete a sample of social housing stock with a contractor by the end of the year.

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

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

There are currently 113 households in the County availing of this scheme.

Wicklow County Council (MTR) Tenants	Approved Housing Body (MTR) Tenants	In Progress
61	52	11

Social Housing List by Area of Choice

The table below outlines the number of households currently on Wicklow County Council's social housing waiting list who have selected each area as their first preference. As applicants may choose up to three areas of choice, the figures represent first-preference demand only and do not capture additional demand from households who have selected an area as their second or third preference. In addition to the currently at the awaiting allocation stage, there are also

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

households seeking transfer from HAP and other social housing supports whose housing needs are not reflected in these figures.

FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	Total
ARKLOW	310
ARKLOW RURAL / THOMASTOWN	3
ASHFORD	170
AUGHRIM	14
AVOCA	21
BALLINACLASH	1
BALLYCOOGUE	1
BALTINGLASS	45
BARNDARRIG	5
BLESSINGTON	139
BRAY NORTH	287
BRAY SOUTH	256
BRAY TOWN CENTRE	105
CARNEW	24
DELGANY	80
DONARD	4
DUNLAVIN	13
ENNISKERRY	26
GLENEALY	5
GREYSTONES	143
KILCOOLE	36
KILMACANOGUE	4
LARAGH	6
NEWCASTLE	8
NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY	37
RATHDRUM	13
RATHNEW	34
REDCROSS	1
ROUNDWOOD	15
SHILLELAGH	6

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

STRATFORD-ON-SLANEY	3
TINAHELY	7
WICKLOW TOWN	86
Grand Total	1908

Homeless Services - Homeless Figures for July 2026

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/07/2026	Year To Date	As at 31/07/2025
No of New Presentations	41	266	14
No. of Repeat Presentations	25	161	5
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	17	118	6
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	44	358	15
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	10	46	4
No. of Children	30	190	10
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	5	113	3
Family Circumstances	26	146	5
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	3	34	2
Mental Health	3	19	1
Risk of Homelessness	30	166	12
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	0	0
Addiction Issues	6	33	1
DV/DA	2	12	1
Medical Issues	1	11	1
Overcrowding	1	13	4
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	7	14	0
ASB:	5	13	0
Rough Sleeping*	3	11	4
Sofa Surfing*	5	39	1
Staying with Family*	6	30	0
Staying with Friends*	7	27	2

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/07/2026	
Families	16
Adults	35
Children	44
Single individual	9

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/07/2025								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	24	28	26	8	3	3	3	8
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/07/2026								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	30	44	29	10	7	7	0	13

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, 717 households (502 families & 213 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October 2018 to 30th June 2026. (279 homeless cases, 390 prevention cases to date and 48 direct provisions). 180 properties were sourced by WCC.

-	July 2026	July 2025
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	77	89
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	19	20
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	18	19

Addressing Homelessness in Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

There are 10 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon. There is continuous transition by the clients to suitable alternative accommodation.

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

Dublin Simon are engaged by Wicklow County Council to operate and manage the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow as a Family Homeless Service. The building comprises of three 1-bed units, two 2-bed units, and two 3-bed units.

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

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

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

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

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

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

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

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

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

Housing First

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

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

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 19 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. The main issue facing this programme is the availability of 1-bed units in suitable locations with easy access to required services.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Community

Community Awards Scheme (CAS) 2026

As part of its commitment to supporting local community development, Wicklow County Council operates an annual Community Award Scheme.

The fund for 2026 was available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area.

The maximum grant amount of €1,000.00 per organisation for small projects and group running costs.

Payments of grants are issued in July.



Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2026

This funding will provide capital supports that are essential for many small community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged communities in rural and urban areas.

The scheme is designed to ensure local priorities are identified and met, to improve and enhance community facilities for all. Funding has been offered to a diverse range of community groups including, but not limited to, community centres, parish halls and local voluntary groups.

The Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is responsible for allocating funding through this scheme and applications were required to link to one or more key priority areas identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to be eligible for consideration.

The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht awarded €199,043.66 as part of the 2026 Programme, and all successful applicants have now been notified of their award.

Payments of grants are being issued.



IPB Pride of Place Competition 2026

Wicklow County Council invited expressions of interest earlier this year from local community groups who would like to be considered for nomination to the 2026 IPB Pride of Place Competition, delivered in partnership with Co-Operation Ireland.

This much-loved annual all island competition, run in collaboration with local authorities, shines a spotlight on the incredible work happening in communities across Ireland. It celebrates the people who roll up their sleeves, work together, and make their local communities vibrant, welcoming, and inspiring places to live.

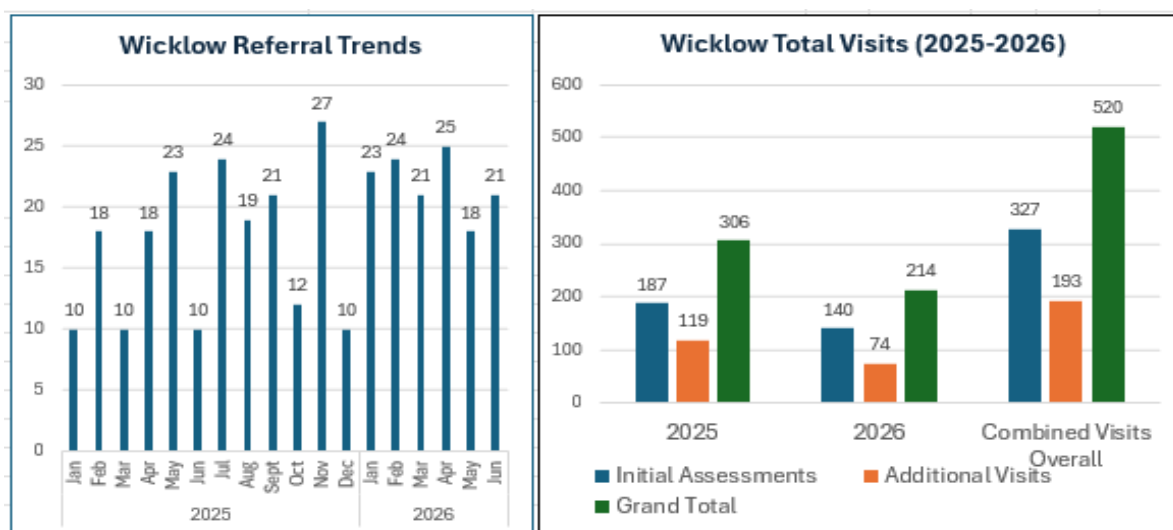
The standard of applications this year was exceptionally high, and the selection process was extremely competitive. Wicklow County Council have nominated the following five entries to represent the county in the national awards in October. Judging by the Cooperation Ireland judges will take place on 19th, 20th and 21st August. The final awards will take place on Saturday 24th October in the National Convention Centre, Dublin.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Project / Group Name	Category
Enniskerry Village	Population 2000-5000
Made in Wicklow – For the Love of Creativity	Creative Communities
Care & Repair Helping Hands	Age Friendly Communities
Murrough Pump Track	Community Youth Initiative
Plot to Plate Sustainable Greystones	Urban Neighbourhoods & Housing Estates

Wicklow County Council Programme Delivery

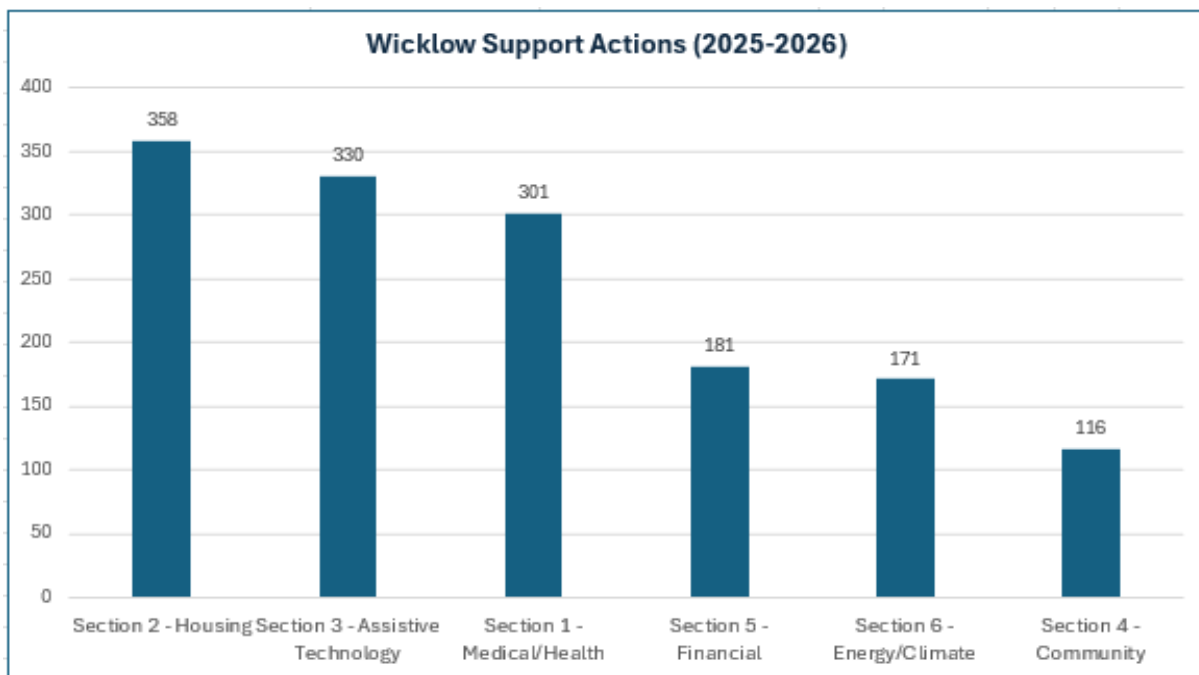
Outlined below are details of the number of older people in Wicklow who have been assisted by Healthy Age Friendly Homes to continue to live in their own home with dignity and independence. Since the 1st January 2025, 327 older people across Wicklow have benefited from support from Healthy Age Friendly Homes.



**Date of Data Extract: 02nd July 2026*

Total Number of Participants Awaiting a Visit	42
Total Supports Offered for: Medical/Health; Housing; Assistive Technology; Community; Finance and Energy/Climate (Jan 2025 – 02 nd July 2026)	1,457

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026



The Local Coordinator conducts home-based assessments and works with the older person to develop a personalised action plan across six domains which can be broken down into the following areas housing, community, health, technology, finance, climate and energy. The list outlined in the infographic below is not exhaustive and is subject to the resources available in the respective county. If you require more details on the support provided, they can be obtained from the Regional Programme Managers or the National Office.

Programme Details:



The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme continues to support older people, over 65 years of age, to live in their home for as long as possible. The Programme accepts referrals from a variety of sources including from:

Healthy Age Friendly Homes is a free service which is available to homeowners, private, Approved Housing Body and Local Authority tenants. Local coordinators play a critical role in ensuring older people receive timely and appropriate support and reinforce the Councils commitment to the development of age friendly communities through measurable social benefit.

The older person – Self Referral
Family and friends
Elected representatives

Local Authority Staff
Public Health Nurses, GP's and Occupational Therapists
Community Organisations

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

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



County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme 31st July 2026

Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy:

Age Friendly Expo 2026: Save the date: 23rd October, Brockagh Centre, Laragh.

Age Friendly Alliance: Alliance meet 4 times per year. Next meetings September and December.

OPC Executive Committee: Next meeting 2nd September, with LCSP Public Consultation targeted for older people, following this meeting in Clermont, Rathnew

Meetings Held 2026	Future Meetings
23 rd January 20 th March 22 nd May 29 th June	2 nd September
4 & subgroup meetings	6

Age Friendly Ireland Public Realm Steering Group: This group is updating the current Age Friendly Ireland Public Realm Guidelines and consists of the Wicklow Age Friendly Programme Manager/Access Officer, along with key national stakeholders. Consultants are O'Herlihy Access Consultancy. Met 7th July. Final draft format currently underway.

Positive Aging Committee meeting, HSE 2nd July online

Age Friendly Champions: Wicklow Library Service AF Champion meeting 9th July



Comhairle na nÓg

- Regional Comhairle Networking event: Dublin Wednesday 8th July
- Youth Council have been working over the summer on the report of their transport survey, with good data to work with. Report due to be completed mid-September.
- Youth Summit is booked for Friday 6th November in the Glenview Hotel.
- Comhairle na nÓg Coordinator, Dr. Caroline Winstanley will attend an international Human Rights & Democracy lab event in Wurszburg, Germany, where they are interested in hearing more about CNN as a unique structure.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026



Access Officer: Disability & Inclusion

- Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) Meeting 1st July, with next meeting September. Review of Terms of Reference and visit from Equality Officer in DLR to take place September/October.
- Emergency Planning Protocol: Including people with disabilities in protocols. Ensuring Community Centres have included accessibility considerations.
- The Sunflower Lanyard aims to support people with hidden disabilities. Induction training now available on internal training platform called Eazysafe, for whole staff team to access and receive a certificate once completed.
- Website Accessibility: Ongoing edits made to current website regarding accessibility as needed. Ongoing meetings with Communications team to ensure accessibility considerations are covered as needed and are a core part of planning of new website from the start. Next meeting planned in August.
- Access Officer queries: dealing with ongoing queries for support and/or information, linking in with WCC staff including Laura O'Callaghan weekly and externally, as appropriate.



**Healthy
Wicklow**



Sláintecare.
**Healthy
Communities**

Healthy Wicklow

Wicklow Travellers Group

Healthy Ireland staff have been actively supporting the Wicklow Travellers Group Annual Summer Project, helping to deliver a range of fun, engaging, and health-promoting activities for local children and young people. A highlight of the programme was the group's trip to Clara Lara Fun Park, where 26 participants enjoyed a day of outdoor adventure, physical activity, and team building. The outing provided young people with the opportunity to build confidence, strengthen friendships, and create positive memories in a safe and supportive environment.

Active Communities

The service users at Cheshire Ireland's Ardeen facility in Shillelagh depend on a small, well-used range of physical therapies to maintain mobility, manage pain, and preserve independence in daily living. Healthy Wicklow has funded a new Motomed exercise bike on which residents rely for low-impact cardiovascular and lower-limb conditioning. Funding has also been allocated towards a group Strength and Conditioning programme, delivered by physiotherapist David Blake, for both residents and respite clients in the Ardeen facility in Shillelagh. The programme is designed to promote strength, balance, mobility and overall physical wellbeing through safe, evidence-based exercise tailored to the individual abilities of participants.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026



The 6-week Strength & Conditioning programme came to a successful conclusion with the final session held on 11th August in Knockananna, delivered in partnership with physiotherapist David Blake. Over the course of the programme, 25 participants took part in structured sessions designed to improve strength, mobility, balance and fitness. Participants benefited from expert guidance, progressive exercises and practical strategies that can be incorporated into their everyday lives, helping to build confidence, reduce injury risk and support long-term health and activity. The programme was a great success, with strong participation and commitment shown by everyone throughout the six weeks

Slaintecare Healthy Communities-Bray



Children's Wellness Hub

The evaluation of the Children's Wellness Hub is now complete, following almost two years of work between Mary Immaculate College and multiple local stakeholders. The evaluation provides a strong evidence base for the work being delivered in Bray and reinforces the importance of trusted, community-based early intervention supports for children and families. The project has entered its second year of SEED funding, with a further €75,000 secured to support continued development. The Hub continues to expand, with three staff now in place and workshops ongoing with both children and parents. Planning is underway for a formal launch of the evaluation findings in early September, involving key stakeholders, services, organisations, and Wicklow County Council.

Bray Traveller Project

The Bray Traveller Project continues to progress positively under the current phase of Genio funding. The Housing Accommodation Officer role is now well embedded and continues to support Traveller individuals and families across housing advocacy, homelessness, tenancy sustainment, repairs, and wider wellbeing initiatives.

There has been strong progress in a number of priority housing cases. One priority homelessness case has received a housing offer and is due to move shortly. A priority overcrowding transfer has successfully moved into a new home, while a priority medical transfer is expected to receive an offer shortly. A downsizing transfer is also progressing, which will allow a family home to be reallocated to a daughter currently living in gross overcrowding. One homeless service user was supported through assessment and documentation to secure a HAP tenancy and move into accommodation.

Interagency working with Housing Officers, the Traveller Social Worker, Clerks of Works, Simon Community, and the Homeless Team has strengthened significantly. Advocacy is also ongoing with the Department of Housing in relation to funding for a private five-bedroom property for a priority overcrowding case.

Additional progress includes:

- 2 disability adaptation works completed
- 4 disability adaptation works in progress
- 12 basic repair works completed
- 5 new social housing applications submitted
- 7 Tier 1 homelessness cases

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

- 8 Tier 2 homelessness cases
- 17 tenancy sustainment interventions

Health and wellbeing initiatives continue alongside the housing work, including targeted supports for young Traveller men and women, healthy food and budgeting work, and a Chronic Health Assessment Clinic delivered with the HSE Social Inclusion Unit.

Period Poverty Initiative

The Healthy Communities Period Poverty Initiative has secured funding for 2026. This will support the continued provision of free menstrual products through community organisations and services working with vulnerable individuals and families in Bray. It will also support the delivery of targeted menstrual health education workshops within disadvantaged communities, promoting awareness, dignity, and longer-term wellbeing. At present, at least four workshops / talks are being planned across community settings and secondary schools in Bray.

Physical Activity for Health Hub / Ballywaltrim Sports Pavilion

Work also continues in relation to the Physical Activity for Health Hub and wider community infrastructure in Ballywaltrim. The PAfH Hub remains an important SHC-supported initiative in Bray, focused on improving access to tailored physical activity programmes for those living with chronic conditions and those experiencing health inequalities.

In parallel, the final stages of the Ballywaltrim Sports Pavilion grant are being progressed. The original €20,000 Sláintecare allocation supported refurbishment of the pavilion, with €15,000 already released and the final €5,000 currently being finalised subject to receipt of the required supporting documentation and confirmation that expenditure remains in line with the original grant purpose and SLA conditions. This will support the close-out of a long-running community capital project linked to participation, recreation, and local wellbeing in the Ballywaltrim area.



The members of Wicklow's Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) were officially appointed by the Minister for Justice on 1 December 2025. The first meeting was held on 4th December 2025.

Chair: Cllr Tom Fortune

Vice-Chair: Selena McKenzie

Meetings held in 2026:

- LCSP – 4 meetings – next meeting 21st September
- The first public meeting of the LCSP was held on 15th June at Kilian House, Greystones, in conjunction with a public consultation.
- LCSP Steering Group – 7 meetings
- Domestic Violence Working Group – 2 meetings
- Roads and Road Safety Working Group – 3 meetings
- Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group – 2 meetings (next meeting scheduled for 2 September 2026)
- Safe and Secure at Home – 1 meeting

The adopted minutes of both the Partnership and Steering Group meetings are published on the Wicklow County Council website under the Local Community Safety Partnership page in the Community section:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/LCSP>

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Progress to Date

- Property Marking training took place on the 18th July. The machine was on display at the Tinahely Show and garnered a lot of interest. Following the show Tinahely Men's shed organised the marking of equipment that had been onsite at the show and held two property marking sessions in Tinahely. As interest in the machine is increasing it is planned to hold a further day of training to get more people trained up on the use of the machine.
- The LCSP has secured a grant of €16,500 from the Department of Agriculture to provide Tractor Driving Safety Awareness training for young people aged 14 years and over. Two training sessions took place on the 20th and 21st July in Coolboy, and more dates are being booked for August, September and early October in both Coolboy and Valkeymount. A community Garda will attend all the upcoming sessions and give a talk to the young people attending.
- The LCSP are working with Wicklow Youth Services and PsyCare Ireland to deliver a **Night-Time/Nightlife Preparedness course for young people aged 18+ in the coming months.**

Wicklow Local Community Safety Plan

- To date the youth survey has received 297 responses and the adult survey has received 518 responses. These will continue to be promoted until the end of August.
- Six public consultations for the Community Safety Plan were held in May and June.
- A presentation and consultation with the IFA executive took place on the 23rd July.
- A consultation hub has been opened for groups and organisations to make a submission to the Community Safety Plan.
- A presentation and consultation with the Older People's Council is being organised for 2nd September.
- Further focused consultations are being coordinated with Minority Communities and the Travelling Community.



Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

Mid-Year Review 2026: The mid-year review process is now complete and the SICAP Mid-Year Reports have been fully approved by Pobal and the SICAP Sub-group on behalf of Wicklow LCDC. Both programme implementers -Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership- have met all progress requirements for year to date in terms of KPIs, implementation of actions and budgets. The next funding tranche has been released.

Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN):

Central Bank of Ireland national consultations with community sector: Wicklow PPN attended event at CBI HQ which focused on the customer experience. Wicklow PPN reps also met with CBI Deputy Governor in CEART offices where they outlined the issues which local groups and communities experience in relation to banking/financial matters.

11 funding streams advertised and 4 local/6 national public consultation events open for submissions.

Re-registration of Wicklow PPN community group members is ongoing. 70% of groups now completed.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

PPN Policy Review & Development: Consultant has been selected to review Wicklow PPN policies. This project will commence end August.

Please see www.countywicklowppn.ie and Wicklow PPN Facebook and Instagram for further information on above, including newsletters, funding streams, public consultations, events, daily updates and membership.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Planning, Economic & Rural Development

Forward Planning

County Development Plan

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 was adopted in September 2022 and came into effect in October 2022. The County Development Plan has been subject to six variations since 2022, and the consolidated updated County Development Plan is available to view here:

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

Local Plans

There are 5 settlements / areas with Local Area Plans (LAP) / Local Planning Frameworks (LPFs) in Co. Wicklow – 'Bray Municipal District', 'Wicklow Town – Rathnew', 'Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole', 'Arklow' and 'Blessington'.

LAPs/LPFs have been adopted for 'Wicklow Town – Rathnew', 'Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole', 'Arklow' and 'Blessington' and can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Development-Plans-Strategies>

Bray Municipal District (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue) Local Planning Framework/ (Proposed Variation to the Wicklow County Development Plan)

The pre-draft public consultation for this plan has been completed, and work is being carried out on preparing the draft LPF. The LPF will be done through a variation of the County Development Plan. There is no specific date to publish the Draft Bray Municipal District LPF.

More information can be found here – <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans/Bray/Bray-Municipal-District-Local-Area-Plan-2025>

Call for Sites

In response to the new NPF Housing Target Guidelines, Wicklow County Council has undertaken a non-statutory '**Call for Sites**' consultation inviting landowners, homebuilders and other interested parties (including members of the public) to make submissions, identifying possible sites that they suggest could be considered for zoning for new housing development and could meet the objectives of the Guidelines in terms of contributing to the acceleration of housing delivery over the next 15 years.

A 'Call for Sites' consultation portal was created to assist those wanting to send in a submission. Drop-in services were also held in County Buildings to provide assistance during the consultation stage. The "**Call for Sites**" consultation was open from December 2025 to 27th February 2026. Over 200 submissions were received and are currently being reviewed, with the view to preparing a Proposed Variation of the County Development Plan. It is anticipated that this Proposed Variation will be published for public consultation in Q3 2026.

More information is available here: <https://call-for-sites-wicklow.hub.arcgis.com/>

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

The Government's [Housing For All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland](#) has introduced a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes as a part of the 'Pathway to Increasing New Housing Supply'.

The final RZLT maps for lands liable in 2026 were published on 31 January 2026 and can be viewed here: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax>

Submissions to Final 2026 RZLT Maps. The final map for 2026 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2026. Owners of such land are invited to make a request to Wicklow County Council to change the zoning of this land until 1 April 2026. If certain conditions are met, a landowner may be exempt from the 2026 liability on foot of such a request. One submission was received in 2026. WCC has assessed this submission and a determination letter issued on 26th June 2026.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

More information is available here: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/Draft-Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax-2026/Making-a-rezoning-request>

The annual draft RZLT maps for 2027 were published on 31st January 2026 and can be viewed here: [Wicklow > Living > Services > Planning > Residential Zoned Land Tax > Draft Residential Zoned Land Tax 2026 > Residential Zoned Land Tax 2027 > Liable Land](#)

Submissions to Draft 2027 RZLT Maps. The draft map for 2027 identifies land that may be liable for the tax in 2027. Owners of such land – and interested third parties – were invited to make submissions by 1st April 2026 regarding the inclusion of land on this draft map. Eight submissions were received. WCC has assessed these submissions, and determination letters were issued on 26th June 2026.

The following link provides some general information on the RZLT process including a short information video: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax/RZLT-General-Information>

A frequently asked questions document has also been prepared and is available to view here:

Residential Zoned Land Tax — FAQs:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Portals/0/adam/Documents/5Cn831T6AES8TXmR2C3i4A/Link/RZLT%20FAQs%20Your%20Questions%20Answered.pdf>

Vacant Site Levy

The Vacant Site Levy has been replaced by the Residential Land Zoned Tax. There are currently 17 sites remaining on the Vacant Sites Register. Levies have been applied up to and including 2024, and no further levy demands will issue. All outstanding levies are actively being pursued.

The Vacant Sites recorded on the Vacant Sites Register as of 31st July 2026 are as follows:

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
Arklow	6
Baltinglass	1
Bray	2
Greystones	2
Wicklow	6
Total	17

More information is available here: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Derelict-Vacant-Sites/Vacant-Sites>

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31 July 2025	To 31 July 2026
Received (Valid)	641	649

A total of 85 valid applications were received during July as follows:

Type of Development	Number
Individual Houses	12 (12 Rural)
Housing Developments*	04
Agricultural Structures	01
Commercial	07
Other Developments**	61
RED III	00
Total	85

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

**Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger signpost, well, change of use, hoarding, relocation of vehicular entrance, extend the appropriate period of permission, various amendments/modifications to previous planning permission, conversion, retention, boundary screen wall, attic conversion, reclamation of land, effluent treatment system & percolation area.

Decisions issued in respect of 76 applications in July 2026:

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	03
Individual Houses	06
Other Developments	66
RED III	01
Total	76

Decisions issued between January to July 2025, in comparison to the same period for 2026.

	31 July 2025	31 July 2026
Total Number of decisions issued	548	614
Total Number of decisions to grant	445	546
% Grant Rate	81%	89%
No of applications withdrawn		6 (3 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála

Strategic Infrastructure Development

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received a planning application for permission by Sure Partners Limited for offshore wind energy development – Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 located off the coasts of Co. Wicklow and Co. Wexford under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended – ABP-319864-24 refers. Further Information requested 10th April 2025.

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received a planning application for a strategic infrastructure development in respect of proposed material recovery/recycling facility and inert landfill Ballinclare & Carrigmore near Kilbride, Co. Wicklow – ABP-321255-24 refers. Permission was granted on 19th February 2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received a planning application for proposed development of a soil recovery facility in the townland Kilmartin, Coyne's Cross, Co. Wicklow – ACP-324033-26 refers.

Substitute Consent

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for development that consists of a sand/gravel extraction pit including extraction areas, processing areas, stockpiling areas and ancillary works (circa 23.7 hectares). The development also includes a sand/gravel washing/screening plant & buildings comprising workshop/machinery shed, tools storage container, pump – house, 2 no. portable office buildings, 1 no. portable office/canteen/WC, Sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant control cabin, bonded oil storage tanks, diesel generator container & electrical substation (all totalling circa 376sqm) The application is accompanied by a remedial EIAR and remedial NIS. Lands at Ballinabarney North and Bolagh Lower, Redcross, Co. Wicklow.

E-Planning Project

The E-planning system has been in place since 17th April 2023.

From 1st January 2026 to 31st July 2026 a total of 640 applications were received of which 13.75% were hard copy applications and 86.25% were received online.

For the month of July, a total of 84 planning applications were received of which 19.05% were hard copy applications and 80.95% were received online.

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

There has been a mix of application types received during the month of July via the E-planning portal including:

- A number of one-off rural dwellings throughout the county
- a mixed-use commercial facility at Glenheron Employment Zoned Lands Plot 1 to the east of the R761 (Kilcoole Road) Greystones, Wicklow
- 14 no. dwelling units at Bawnogues, Baltinglass
- 86 dwellings at Roundwood Villag, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow
- Change of use to a number of properties throughout the county
- Extensions, demolition and alterations to existing properties throughout the county
- Construction of 34 dwellings • 34 no. houses at Lands within the townlands of Newpaddocks and Santryhill, Blessington

Planning Enforcement – July 2026

Enforcement Files	Total
New Files	4
Advisory Letters	14
Warning Letters	5
Enforcement Notices	0
Legal Files	0
Closed	6

Derelict Sites as of 31st July 2026

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Arklow	2
Baltinglass	2
Bray	0
Greystones	0
Wicklow	0
Total	4

A number of properties in Wicklow Town and a property in Ashford are under consideration for formal Section 8(2) Notices.

Heritage Office

County Heritage Plan (CHP) Work Programme: Local Authority County Heritage Plan Fund 2026 allocation of €60,000 awarded from the Heritage Council for two projects. Confirmation of €20,000 funding received for the Community Archaeology role and €40,000 for County Heritage Plan allocation.

Historic Towns Initiative (HTI): Heritage-led Regeneration Plan for Wicklow prepared in association with Wicklow Town Team, allocation of €50,000 awarded from The Heritage Council. Heritage consultants have been appointed, and a commencement meeting was held on 7th July with the final report due on 20th October 2026.

Wicklow Heritage Forum: Four meetings scheduled for 2026. First meeting held on 25th March in Russborough House, second meeting held in Arklow Maritime Museum on 21st July. Third meeting scheduled for 13th October, location to be confirmed.

Heritage Week: 2026 theme of 'Heritage at Risk', with 104 events taking place across Wicklow from the 15th-23rd August, with a number of WCC Heritage Team led events.

Built Heritage Funds (Architecture): Co-ordination of the annual Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes for 2026.

BHIS 2026 allocation of €175,000 for County Wicklow confirmed for eighteen projects, with four projects completed to date. Progress report issued to DHLGH.

BHIS 2027 applications opened on 28th July, with deadline for submissions on 30th October 2026. Promotion ongoing.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

HSF 2026 allocation of €168,250 confirmed for two projects as follows:

- Russborough House €101,817 to support a programme of extensive and essential stone repairs; and
- Old Lacken Schoolhouse €66,433 to repair timber windows, overhaul of cast iron rainwater goods, lime repointing, re-rendering in lime plaster and stone repairs.

HSF 2027 applications opened on 28th July, with deadline for submissions on 27th November. Promotion ongoing.

Built Heritage Funds (Archaeology)

Applications to the Community Monument Fund secured a total allocation of €544,415 from National Monuments Service for seven projects as follows:

- Kilpipe Medieval Church €130,000 to repair and consolidate ruins;
- Kilmacanogue Old Church €105,038 for phase 2 programme of masonry repairs;
- Drumgoff Barracks €130,000 for phase 2 repairs to early 19th century building associated with the Military Road construction;
- Black Castle, Wicklow Town €100,000 for conservation and stabilisation of the upstanding masonry remains;
- Killougher (Old) Church and Graveyard €23,724 for a Conservation Management Plan, including archaeological, architectural, engineering, ecological and arboricultural assessment;
- Killadreenan Church €25,695 for a Conservation Management Plan, including assessment of significance, condition and vulnerability, and the development of conservation policies and a prioritised schedule of works to guide future conservation and management; and
- Castletimon Church Ruins €30,000 for small-scale, preventative conservation works to include consolidation of collapsed masonry and targeted stabilisation.

Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN): Co-ordination of *Our Wicklow Heritage* (County Wicklow online community heritage archive) plus a network of 11 groups in County Wicklow in association with WCC Archives and library services and in partnership with National Museum of Ireland and the Heritage Council. Regional meetings to date held on 29th April and 23rd July. Three Wicklow groups (Blessington, Delgany and Donard) awarded iCAN grants for equipment and activities.

Historic Graveyards: Collaborating with Community Archaeology service to undertake digital headstone recording and creation of digital story maps and in situ information boards at selected sites.

Placenames Project 2026: Local heritage initiative co-ordinated by Pat Reid, with Expressions of Interest opened in June.

Wicklow Creative Ireland Programme: HO working with CI Team on 2026 work programme.

Biodiversity Working Group and Climate Action Teams: HO participation in internal working groups to support implementation of the County Biodiversity Action Plan, launched in February, and integration of heritage into the Climate Action Plan delivery.

Town Regeneration

1.0 Town Teams

There are currently eight Town Teams in County Wicklow: Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington, Carnew, Greystones, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, and Wicklow. Newcastle is about to begin the process of becoming a Town Team.

2.0 Town Centre First Masterplans

- 2.1 Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan
- 2.2 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre First Masterplan

3.0 Town Centre First Measure 3 Suite of Support

Two applications have been approved for funding under the Town Centre First – Measure 3 Suite of Supports: one for Blessington and one for Wicklow Town. Both projects were originally required to be completed and all associated claims submitted by 30th September 2025. However, an extension has been granted.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

a) Blessington:

This project involves developing plans to transform Market Square into a high-quality public space. It includes commissioning professional services to carry out a pre-development study of the site as a de-risking exercise ahead of a potential construction phase, subject to future funding.

Update: Three public consultation workshops were held between August and October 2025, giving the community opportunities to contribute ideas and share their vision for the future of Market Square. The first draft of the final plan was presented to the Elected Members of the Baltinglass Municipal District in December 2025 and is expected to be finalised and published later in 2026. A briefing meeting is to be held for Baltinglass elected members in June.

b) Wicklow Town:

This project will develop a comprehensive design plan aimed at enhancing the public lands surrounding the Black Castle. The work will also include an assessment of the structure and condition of the Castle itself.

Update: The final plan was presented to the Elected Members of the Wicklow Municipal District and published in December 2025. A Part VIII application is being prepared.

4.0 Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Wicklow County Council was awarded €725,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht under the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme, with three projects successful in securing funding. The selected projects were originally required to be completed, with all associated claims submitted by 31st October 2025. Extension requests were submitted to and approved by the Department for each project to allow additional time for delivery.

a) **Kirikee, Glenmalure** - Renovation works are planned for the Community Centre, including upgrades to the roof, windows, ceilings, and walls. Construction works are progressing. Works are almost complete and a case study is being prepared in advance of Department drawdown.

The works are now complete and the keys handed back to the community. Drawdown being prepared.

b) **Lacken** - The old schoolhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community centre featuring a café, community shop, and a small heritage section. Construction works are complete with case study and final drawdown to be finalised.

5.0 Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2025

Six applications were submitted of which two were successful and awarded funding.

Main Scheme Funding

a) Rathdrum RDA hall – grant funding of €225,000 secured which will be used to replace the electrical system to ensure compliance with current safety standards and to refurbish the existing toilet block, including the installation of a fully wheelchair-accessible facility. These works are essential to ensuring the hall remains safe, functional, and inclusive, and continues to meet the needs of Rathdrum's growing population.
This project has been put out to tender with a closing date of August 28th, 2026.

Project Development Measure

b) Arklow St. Mary's Park – grant funding of €49,500 has been awarded to engage a professional consultancy to prepare a detailed design for the regeneration of St. Mary's Park in Arklow. The project aims to create a vibrant, multi-functional public space capable of accommodating community gatherings, events, outdoor dining, and markets, thereby boosting footfall and supporting local employment along Main Street. The proposed design will enhance the park's amenities, visibility, and green infrastructure, ensuring sustainability, accessibility, and stronger integration with surrounding civic and cultural assets.

Full brief has been prepared; site plans are being completed. Kick start meeting with Studio Myco the successful tenderer has taken place.

Health checks

Quotations were sought for Health checks for two towns: Carnew and Wicklow
Successful tenderers, Studio Myco. Report is pending from Studio Myco.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

The health check for Wicklow starts with a walkability audit on the 7th July with the consultants, members of the municipal district and the town team. Surveys have been prepared and disseminated. Public consultation day is Tuesday August 18th.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications (Department of Rural and Cultural Development and the Gaeltacht, DRCDG)

- Category 1: Applications for large-scale, ambitious capital projects that are ready to proceed to construction with all necessary planning and consents in place.
- Category 2: Provides smaller grant funding to help develop project proposals so they can be submitted for Category 1 funding in future calls.

Blessington RRDF (Category2)

Category 2 funding is for design and consent processes only to enable a project to move forward to Category 1 funding application which is for construction.

A meeting between WCC's Capital Delivery Team (CDT) the Department's RRDF Team of the took place on the 25th February 2026. The Department requested some further information on the Councils proposals for Blessington and how they align with the original RRDF Application and grant of funding. The Department were accepting of the fact that a Town Centre First (TCF) Plan had been developed in line with the Departments guidelines since the awarding of the RRDF Grant and that it had been prudent to wait until that process had been completed to progress the RRDF further during the same time period to ensure the RRDF complimented the TCF Plan. A decision by the Department is due week ending 22nd August 2026.

Baltinglass RRDF (Category 1)

The original RRDF grant was awarded in 2019. It was a category 1 application and included the cost of works. The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow came in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised, and the necessary technical plans are complete in order for the works to commence. Works on the Public Park and playground are completed.

The required Quality Audit process on the design of Public Realm has been completed in late February 2026. Some minor changes to the designs are required on foot of the outcomes of the QA process. Tender documents will be uploaded to eTenders as soon as they are completed by the consultants. A briefing was held with Baltinglass elected members.

The Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD, has announced the Sixth Call for Category 1 proposals for the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) is now open. This is a call for projects which are shovel ready.

Discussions have taken place regarding potential RRDF project entries. Deadline for entries was 28th July 2026.

Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications (Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, DHLGH)

- Category A: Applications for projects that are "ready to go" and have the necessary consents (like planning permission) in place to begin in the current year.
- Category B: Applications for projects that require further development work to enable them to become eligible for Category 1 status in subsequent funding call.

Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004 (Category B)

A revised business case was sent to DHLGH in December 2024. A tender brief is currently being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for both the proposed land based and marine works. The department have approved this scheme to progress to the next stage: Planning and Design. Tenders will be placed on eTenders in the coming weeks. The approval covers the Planning and Design stages only at this stage.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge – URDF Wic0002 (Category B)

Arising from the ABP decision that an NIS was required, this project has been delayed. The Capital Delivery Team will review the project and discuss further with the Department. The Department have indicated approval for a review of the project with a view to seeing what parts of the project may proceed. An initial in house review is being carried out.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage James Browne TD have announced a new Town and Cities Investment Regeneration fund to replace the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund. Scheme outlines and details to be clarified. Towns of 9,000 and above will be eligible for funding.

Three projects were submitted to the Department for funding:

- Arklow Harbour Plan Development
- Wicklow Harbour Plan Development
- The Murrough Waterfront Park Enhancement

Tourism

1. Wicklow Gaol

Fire Safety Upgrades are well advanced and expected to be completed by early September. Further extensive works have been procured to firstly fix the 1998 tower roof as well as the two flat roofs, the fix/upgrade all the windows in the Gaol. Finally, new toilets are being ordered to be fitted within the courtyard, enhancing the overall outdoors venue.

The contract with the new operator is to be signed shortly.

2. Wicklow Naturally

The winner of this year's Young Sustainable Chef was announced at the Tinahely Show. The Challenge was put to secondary school students to design, prepare and present a nutritious dish using locally sourced Wicklow ingredients.

Wicklow Naturally is now working on an extensive programme of food events during the Halloween/Samhain season.

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

Work continues with the implementation of recommendations contained in the 7–10-year VEMMP. The Local Advisory Group and the Working Group of the Glendalough Partnership continue to meet regularly to support the implementation of actions contained in the VEMMP. OPW and National Monuments Services have worked together to procure a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) to support actions in the VEMMP and ensure a collaborative approach is taken and that the heritage of the area is preserved and protected. They have appointed 7L Architects as the lead consultant for the development of the CMP and a support team has been put in place comprising a range of disciplines such as landscape architect, stone conservation expertise and ecological professionals.

Economic Development

1. Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

Phased implementation of the Destination Towns project at the Abbey Grounds is progressing with the delivery of new public amenities remaining on track for the rest of the year.

2. Special Projects

Avondale Business Park:

Site sales at Avondale Business Park continue to move forward, with the disposal of Site 20 successfully approved at the July council meeting. An additional disposal is being prepared for the September meeting, while the review of expressions of interest and on-site infrastructure assessments remain underway.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Strategic Enterprise Lands:

Strategic enterprise lands in County Wicklow remain under active review to determine optimal and suitable use.

The GRID:

The new operator is now active on-site after completing the formal handover. Current occupancy remains at 100% with a final decision to be made on the future use of the open event space.

Sites on Mill Road, Greystones:

The registration status remains unchanged at this time. The Law Agent continues to liaise with the Property Registration Authority as work continues towards a resolution.

3. Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)

A recent meeting of the ORE network took place in July where members continue to progress the schedule of activities for the remainder of the year.

4. Skills Strategy

The Wicklow Skills Strategy moves forward as planned, following the August taskforce meeting. Key projects continue to stay on target for the delivery of 2026 priorities.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

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

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

Metrics: Grants	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	2026	2026
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Market Explorer Grant	14 BEG / 2 Priming / 8 Feasibility / 3 (MEG) Total: 27- €546,033	33	3 BEG/ 2 Priming/ 3 Feasibility Total: 8 €230,458
Gross Jobs Created	696	188	8
Net Jobs Created	50	105	-
New Job Commitments 3 Years	N/A	84	91.5
Metrics: Training/ Capacity Building	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	2026	2026

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	117	90	59
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	156	90	75
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes and events (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	1139	720	372
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	20	20	5
Metrics: Business Advice & Mentoring	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	2026	2026
Number of new clients added to database. *Criteria have been amended for this metric	580	-	393
Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	544	270	448
Metrics: Student Enterprise Programmes	Historical	Targets	
Academic Year	2025/26	2026/2027	Year to Date 2026/27
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1170	1170	1467
Metrics: Client Transfers To Enterprise Ireland	Historical	Targets	
No of transfers	2025	2026	Year to Date 2026
Number of transfers	6	5	4
Lean, Green & Digital Start For Micro Projects	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	2026	2026
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Business Assessment by a Lean Expert	15	15	13
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Business Assessment by a Green Expert	21	27	18
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Digital for Business Assessment by a Digital Expert	34	27	18
Number of Grow Digital Vouchers approved	5	18	3
Energy Efficiency Grant	9	18	12
RD&I Grants (inc IP) Approved	1	1	1
Microfinance Ireland	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	2026	2026

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

No. of Companies who have submitted an MFI loan application through the LEO	17	19	14
New Exporters	Historical	Targets	Year To Date
	2025	2026	2026
No. of Companies who have started exporting (at least €10k in first time export sales).	3	3	TBC

Activities took place in July/August

- **Expression of Interests**
Expressions of Interest are currently open for participation in Food & Drink Export Development Programme targeted at businesses within the food and beverage sector seeking to expand into international markets with the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow.
- **Save the Date: National Women's Enterprise Day 2026**
National Women's Enterprise Day, taking place on Thursday, 15 October 2026, at Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew which will be an inspiring afternoon celebrating female entrepreneurship, featuring guest speakers, networking opportunities, and practical insights for women in business. Further details, including the programme and booking information, will be announced soon.
- Two LEO Wicklow clients, **Ailbhe Cronin** of **Appleberry Atelier** and **Claire Schorman** of **By Claire Schorman**, have been selected among 25 finalists nationwide for the Kilkenny Design Makers' Academy, a new business development programme supporting creative businesses to scale. The programme includes expert mentoring, business coaching, workshops and opportunities to showcase their products through Kilkenny Design retail stores.
- The **LEO Wicklow Design Thinking for Business Innovation Programme**, delivered in partnership with KWETB, is a Level 6 Micro Qualification designed to help businesses strengthen innovation, problem-solving and decision-making skills. The programme takes place at LEO Training Room, Clermont House, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow, across four full-day sessions on 21, 24 and 28 September and 5 October 2026.
- **National Ploughing Championships 2026:** LEO Wicklow client Equibuff, led by Niamh Jennings, has been selected to exhibit in the LEO Village at the National Ploughing Championships in September 2026. Niamh will also receive training and mentoring to help her maximise this valuable business and promotional opportunity.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

HARBOURS AND PORTS

1. Government Funding: Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme (LAMIS) - DAFM		
Funding Applied	Grant applications for 10 harbour improvement projects.	Value € 1.37m.
Funding Approved	LAMIS funding conferred for three projects.	Value of €175,402.97
Tenders	Tenders submitted for two projects on eTenders. Emergency works approved for one project.	
Project 1 (Sluice Gate)	Refurbishments/Removals/Restoration/Manufactured.	60%
Project 2 (Ladders)	Contractor Appointed/ Site Visit Completed/Manufacturing.	20%
Project 3 (Electricals)	Contractor Appointed/Site Visit Completed/RAMs pending.	20%
2. Dredging: MARA Applications		
MARA Submissions	Marine Area Consent (MAC) and Marine Usage Licence (MUL) applications for Wicklow Harbour dredging project submitted to MARA 26 th January.	
MUL 230026	Additional Information submitted to Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) with guidance from appointed consultant.	
Minded to Determine Notice	Application permit - MUL 230026 - Final comments made with consultation to MARA to address proposed conditions for the application.	
Arklow - Dumping at Sea	Appointment of specialist to conduct the annual Dumping at Sea monitoring for the EPA is pending procurement.	80%
Arklow - Dumping at Sea	Appointment of specialist to compile the Aftercare Management Plan for the Dumping at Sea Permit.(2025-2032)	80%
Wicklow - Dredging	Requested specialists to conduct annual dredging and measurement in Wicklow Harbour.	30%
3. Harbour Infrastructure & Accessibility Upgrades		
Marine Strategy Report - Wicklow Harbour	Consultant finalised stakeholder engagement report and optimisation study for Wicklow Harbour. A submission of scope is requested for the Marine Strategy report.	80%
Wicklow Harbour Amenities	Works have been successfully completed on the new age friendly steps access to the bathing area.	100%
Wicklow Harbour Amenities	This project included the installation of supportive hand railings, alongside general surface cleaning and fresh painting.	100%
Public Accessibility Toilets	Arklow and Wicklow public toilets have been upgraded with improved door access using a dedicated button for disabled people, upgrading the approach ramps, and improved general drainage.	100%
Public Accessibility Toilets	Arklow and Wicklow public toilets have been programmed to operate from 8am to 4pm with corresponding key fobs handed to cleaning Team - Ashford Cleaners	100%
Harbour Security	Completion Certificates - All warranties and certificates for all CCTV related installed assets submitted and approved. Working on Maintenance Plan	90%
4. Office of Public Works		
Storm Damage, Wicklow Harbour	Damage Repair: Major damage has occurred to Wicklow harbour beach due to multiple storms and persistent easterly winds. Temporary works have been completed to make area safe for public. Full design required for permanent sea wall / barrier solution in this area.	100%
Funding Applied	An application was successfully submitted to the OPW under the Minor Flood Mitigation and Coastal Protection Scheme. The application requested € 100,000 to appoint an engineering consultant to conduct a comprehensive flood assessment, including all necessary hydrological and investigative works.	100%
Funding Approval	Scope: The assessment covers four specific risk areas within Wicklow Town and Harbour. The OPW has formally approved	100%

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

	and granted funding to Wicklow County Council to the value of € 90,000 to progress these works.	
Tender	Tender for the appointment of an Engineering Consultant submitted on eTenders.	100%
Coastal Erosion, CERM Study.	Interim Report 1 and 2 by consultant has been submitted to OPW for review.	70%
5. Events		
The Round Ireland – Ireland's Premier offshore Yacht Race was successful held		
Filming of the movie "Drummer Boy" in Wicklow Harbour with the Tall Ship Phoenix.		
Sea Breeze Festival from July 17–19, 2026		
Arklow Lifeboat Station Bicentenary Open Day (August 2, 2026)		

WICKLOW HARBOUR STATISTICS

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-26	7	6	1	8	4	4
Feb-26	4	4	0	4	3	1
Mar-26	4	4	0	4	2	2
Apr-26	6	6	0	6	5	1
May-26	8	8	0	8	5	3
Jun-26	4	4	0	4	3	1
Jul-26	6	6	0	6	2	4

GENERAL CARGO DATA 2026	
General Cargo/Container	39
Gross Tonnage	101,364

SIZE OF VESSELS BREAKDOWN 2026			
Tonnes			Number of Vessels
Lower Limit	Upper Limit		
500	999	2	1704
1,000	1,999	2	3534
2,000	2,999	30	79285
3,000	3,999	5	16841
			101364

2026 CARGO BREAKDOWN			
CATEGORY	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	TOTAL
FORESTRY PRODUCTS	38728.96	4516.24	43245.2
METALS		31908.436	31908.436
	38728.96	36424.676	75153.636

PROJECT OFFICE

The Arlow Flood Relief Scheme: Planning Application and CPO were approved by An Bord Pleanála in July 2022. Byrne Looby Partners Ltd., (now known as Ayesa) has been appointed to carry out the detailed design and tender documents

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

for the project. The detailed design which includes elements such as flood walls, flood embankment design, hydrology and hydraulic modelling, archaeological investigations, utility diversions, environmental inputs & bridge remediation specifications is ongoing and should be complete in Q3 2026.

The project team are currently finalising the design, specification and tender docs. The project will be advertised for tender as a 2-stage restricted procedure, this tender process should be complete by Q1 2027 with an estimated contractor appointment date of Q1/Q2 2027. The works will take 3.5 years with completion by Q4 2030.

WCC are also in discussion with UE & ESB in relation to facilitating major infrastructure upgrade to their networks in order to aid the proposed/ pending developments in Arklow. It is intended these upgrades will be undertaken in conjunction with the flood relief scheme works.

A public information day will also be organised within the coming months, where the team will showcase the final design for the scheme.

WATER SAFETY AND BEACHES

Water Safety Development Officer (WSDO)

- Ongoing rostering of lifeguard staff.
- Supporting lifeguards with station visits and provide resupply of equipment.
- Accompanying Water Safety Ireland Risk Assessors with their beach inspections.
- Promotion of Water Safety with the communications team with social media posts, radio interview.
- 25th July was the annual World Drowning Prevention Day.
- 31st July was the annual International Lifeguard Appreciation Day.

Beach Lifeguards:

Lifeguard working hours extend during periods of excellent weather to provide cover from to 8pm.

Lifeguards during July have;

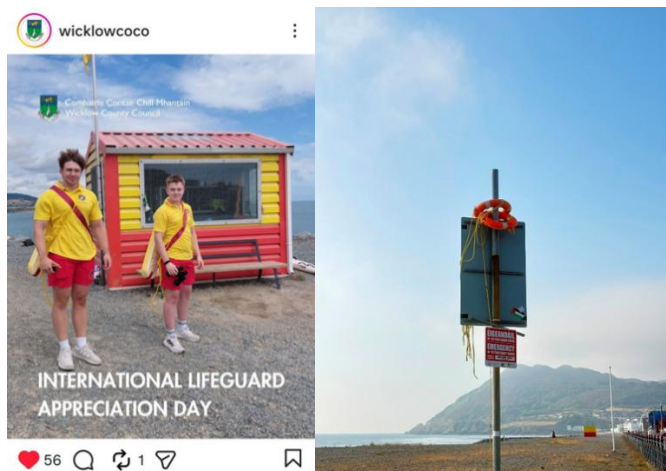
- Provided water safety advice - 2270 times
- Provided first aid - 98 times
- Prevented accidents - 138 times
- Provide swimming rescue assists - 10 times
- Missing adults – 2 times
- Missing children on the beaches – 5 times
- Rescues during rip currents – 3 times
- Rescues with rescue tube - 6 times
- Rescues with rescue board - 7 times
- Non-fatal drownings - 6 times

ILSE Risk Assessments with Water Safety Ireland have taken place at the following locations and the council are awaiting the issuing of the formal reports to inform a programme of works or other:

- Greystones Beach South.
- Brittas Bay North.
- Brittas Bay South - Issued in July – program of works for the recommendations being formulated.
- Wicklow Harbour.
- Magheramore Beach - Issued in July – program of works for the recommendations being formulated.
- Risk assessment requested to be completed on Bray beach south of the harbour pier.
- **WSDO is reviewing all old risk assessments to establish any recommendations not carried out and will work to have outstanding issues rectified.**

Missing Ringbuoys: One report of 2 missing Ringbuoys, through the national reporting website of www.ringbuoys.ie and attended too.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026



CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS

Spongeworks: A talk was given at the National Parks and Wildlife Summer series of lectures on Spongeworks. Two pilot farms have been identified to demonstrate sponge measures. Trinity College are undertaking a study of the catchment, mapping opportunities and undertaking on site farm assessments to identify where nature-based solution can be implemented. Work has commenced on a survey of 22 wetlands in the Aughrim River catchment to assess status and see where measures could be undertaken to increase their capacity to absorb and store water. The contract was awarded to Wetlands Survey Ireland.

Dark Skies: Dark Source have been contracted to undertake a lighting assessment of four towns in the uplands, identified current practice in lighting and measures that could be used to reduce light pollution, looking at the local authorities public lighting and also identify opportunities to work with stakeholders in the community. The four towns are Roundwood, Laragh, Aughrim and Donard. A lighting pollution policy guidance document will also be produced. Transportation & Roads, the Heritage Office and Housing are collaborating with the project.

Tidy Towns and Sustainable Development Awards: The annual awards opened for entry in June with a closing date of the 3rd of July for receipt of entries. Work is now underway to judge submissions. The awards recognise the work local volunteers undertake to deliver sustainable development in our communities.

DZ demonstrator fund: The DCEE have provided funding to each local to undertake a decarbonisation project in their assigned decarbonisation zone. Arklow is the DZ for Wicklow County Council. Projects must focus on community engagement and awareness raising of the DZ. A project has been developed to promote greater uptake of SEAI Warmer Homes and other SEAI grants for homeowners. Marketing Coach have been awarded a contract to develop marketing strategy for the project. Scope 123 have been awarded a contract to deliver the advice and support campaign.

Community Climate Action Programme (Phase 1) - Strand 1: Building Low Carbon Sustainable Communities

A total of 19 projects have completed Phase 1 with the final report submitted to the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.

Community Climate Action Programme (Phase 2):

Following submission of the original portfolio from Wicklow County Council to Pobal and the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment of 27 projects, an additional project was granted funding from the reserve list: An Tochar GAA Roundwood. This brings the total number of Wicklow projects to 28 for Phase 2 of the CCAP.

All 28 groups are now in the delivery phase of the programme and have until October 2027 to complete their projects.

Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF)

Under this new grant, IPB insurance have committed €50,000 with a matching €50,000 from each local authority to deliver a stream of funding to community-based groups. The fund is aimed at Tidy Towns groups who are encouraged to collaborate with one or more local groups to take meaningful environmental action through impactful, sustainable, community-driven projects.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Groups must be registered with their local Public Participation Network (PPN) and undertake similar activities as their 'partner' groups.



Projects should focus on climate action, biodiversity and or sustainable environmental improvements. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Biodiversity conservation (e.g., creating or managing pollinator-friendly spaces).
- Tree planting and urban greening initiatives.
- Renewable energy projects (e.g., installing solar panels for community buildings)
- Waste reduction and recycling initiatives
- Water conservation projects
- Public education campaigns on sustainability
- Climate resilience projects. Climate adaptation projects that build local resilience such as rain gardens, ponds, beach sand ladders

Once all applications are received, an evaluation process will take place and successful groups will be notified. The delivery phase will close early December 2026 when all projects and payments will be complete.



Refarm Ponds: Last year Wicklow CC ran a pilot programme partnering with the national ReFarm project. Under this novel initiative, which utilises public private partnership funding model to incentivise nature friendly farming, we supported the creation of 12 wildlife ponds around the county. This year the call for applicants received a huge response and the local coordinator is currently reviewing candidates. It is expected that a further 12 ponds will be created.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026



Heritage Week: For Heritage Week the primary focus of the Biodiversity office is on supporting to festivals, the Shaking Bog festival in Glencree and Invertopia at Russborough House.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

No. of Complaints Created	180
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	195
No of Litter Fines Issued	6
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	1
No. of Warning Letters Issued	15
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	22
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	19
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	31
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act.	2
No of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	5
Income - Litter	€750
Income- Waste Management	€800

DOG CONTROL, DOG LICENCES AND HORSES

Dog Control: For the month of July 2026, a total of 639 yearly dog licences were purchased, and 43 lifetime licences were purchased. This is a 31% increase on licences purchased in June 2025.

The Dog Wardens are continuing a targeted approach ensuring that all dogs are licenced by visiting every house in certain locations. They are also patrolling the beaches to ensure dogs are under effectual control and not causing a nuisance.

Horses: No horses were seized during the month of July. 3 horses were seized in Enniskerry on the 3rd August and to date have not been reclaimed. These horses will be rehomed in the coming weeks.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

POLLUTION CONTROL

Pollution Response & Investigation

Pollution Response & Investigation	
11	Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
7	Water pollution complaints closed.
5	Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
4	Noise pollution complaints closed.
1	Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
1	Air pollution complaints closed.
Ambient Air Monitoring	
0	Inspection of Ambient Air Monitoring Stations
Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme	
14	Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
22	Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.
Good Agricultural Practice Inspections	
5	Inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice.
4	Follow up inspections of farms carried out for adherence to good agricultural practice
4	Sewage sludge nutrient management plan applications to land reviewed.
Well Grants	
14	New Water Grant application received
10	New Well granted
13	New Pumps granted
14	Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
31	Inspections in advance/completion of works
Private Water Supplies	
1	Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for 121 Regulated Private Water Supplies prepared.
22	Regulated Private Water Supplies were monitored.
20	Regulated Private Water Supplies were compliant with available results for microbiological standards.
1	Regulated Private Water Supplies was non-compliant with a chemical standard and in consultation and agreement with the HSE placed on do not consume water restriction and to take remedial action.
1	Boil water notice lifted from Regulated Private Water Supplies in consultation with the HSE after completion of remedial action and satisfactory water quality results.
Bathing Water Monitoring Programme	
42	Bathing waters monitored had excellent or Good quality
Deco Paints and Solvent Regulations	
1	Vehicle refinisher (car spraying) installations issued compliance certificate
13	Paint Retailers inspected.
Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer	
3	Licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.
4	Licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed non-compliant and corrective action requested.
Septic Tank Inspections	
2	Inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems carried out.
2	Domestic wastewater treatment systems found non-complaint and advisory notices issued/
2	Follow up Inspection to assess compliance with advisory notice.
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring	
4	Lake samples were taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

5	Coastal waters samples taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.
Planning & Development	
7	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural development.
9	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning commercial development.
1	Environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning housing development.

CEMETERIES

Wicklow County Council operates 34 active burial grounds across the county. The Environment Office deals with applications to erect headstones, exhumation licences, and general queries.

Published Death Notices Data

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	2026
Total	138	94	125	105	99	103	100	764
WCC	55	32	42	44	38	36	24	271
Cremation	49	27	42	40	44	33	34	269
Other	34	35	41	21	17	34	42	224

Percentage Breakdown

%	Total Published Death Notices
35	Traditional Interment in Local Authority Burial Grounds
35	Cremation/Other non-traditional interments
29	Other Burial Grounds

OUTDOOR RECREATION

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) supports the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the necessary repair, enhancement, or promotion of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure in countryside areas across Ireland.

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

ORIS	Project Name	Brief description	Completion/ Update
OR221WW02	Bray to Greystones - Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	The walk remains closed due to safety concerns. Route corridor has been identified. Discussions with landowners on rerouting on Greystones side, specialist contractor to carry out investigation of the slopes identified in the RPS report, subject to possible environmental considerations. Task Force providing cost updates to Dept and liaising with DRCDG in order to conclude this project.	Extension granted by DRCD.
OR221WW01	Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link 2021 Scheme	Engineering contractors engaged to provide report on remedial works and costs following flood damage to bridge. Tenders for repair works issued. Bridge to remain closed until works complete	Ongoing 2026

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

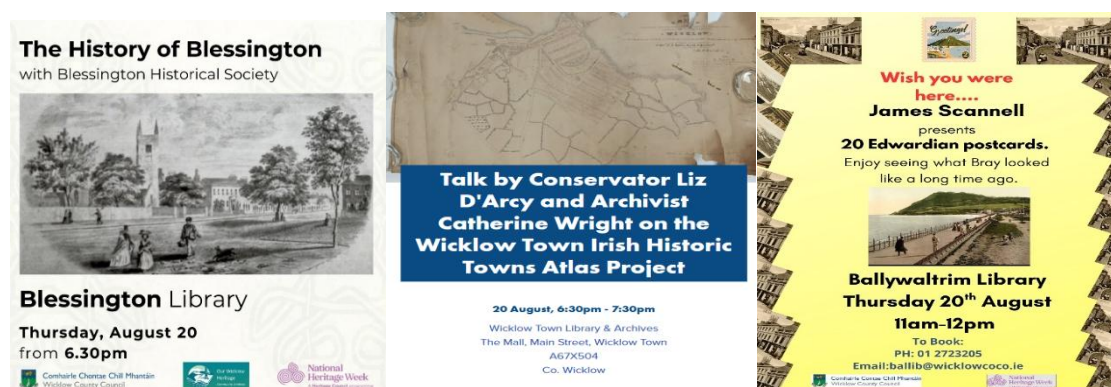
OR322WW01	Roundwood Recreation Area	Car park upgrade and 5 play areas completed. Signage installation completed. Bike pump track works completed, soft landscaping to be finalised.	Ongoing 2026 – near completion
OR423WW02	Bray Head Sustainable Recreation Plan	Feasibility project to deliver: AA screening, a biodiversity survey, trail design and landscape design. Plan is now completed.	Complete
OR123WW01	Hollywood Natural Play Area	Provision of a natural play area within Ballysize forest. Tender issued	30/07/2026
OR123WW06	Wicklow Uplands rebranding to Sugarloaf Way	Signage replacement along an 18km route. Signage installation completed for 3 new trailheads erected at Raheen, Great Sugarloaf and Mullinaveigue.	Complete
OR223WW01	Baravore Car Park, Glenmalur	Car park upgrade works and fencing completed during November 2025. Multi-disciplinary design team appointed to prepare feasibility / scoping study	30/08/2027
OR223WW02	Three Trout's Bridge, Delgany	New bridge across Three Trout stream, linking 2 sections of the pathfinder route. Consent process to progress managed by MD office. Project included in Planning application for pathfinder project. Decommissioned under Oris.	Cancelled
OR424WW01	Disability and Outdoor Recreation	Creation of a strategy and work plan to ensure accessibility for walking, cycling and water access for the disabled community in Co Wicklow. Consultant appointed and working to identify available/usable sites for 2 x water, 2 x bike and 2 x trail access for exploration.	26/02/27
OR124WW01	Brockagh Forest Science and Discovery Area	Provision of rustic, timber exploration, science tables, magnifying glasses play equipment and seating in Brockagh Forest. Project screened out. Landowner licence agreement in place. Tender issued.	26/02/27
OR124WW02	Wicklow Harbour Sea-Trac	Installation of a Sea-Trac system in Wicklow Harbour to create independent swimming access for those with a physical disability. Chair supply and installation due during August / September	26/02/27
OR124WW03	Vartry Anglers Disabled Access	Disabled access to the lakeshore with 320m of new trail surfacing for wheelchair use and installation of a self-contained eco toilet and tree planting. Project under review	TBC
OR124WW04	Wild Swimming Infrastructure	Installation of changing screens at 4 locations where wild swimming is popular throughout Wicklow. Bike shelter installation at 3 of those locations. Tender drafted	26/02/27
OR224WW01	Glen Turn Cliff Walk	Complete surface upgrade and drainage works on cliff walk trail. Tender out for detailed specification required for works. Awaiting engineer's review of erosion at Glen beach.	30/11/27
OR224WW02	Russelstown Link to Russborough House	Proposed trail linking Russelstown Wood to Russborough House & Park. Tender for planning development being evaluated	30/11/27

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

OR324WW01	Djouce Mountain Trail construction and habitat restoration	Djouce Mountain trail construction works to improve safety issues and restore habitat. Draft MOU and route planning discussed with NPWS and Powerscourt estate. Works specification tender awarded and specification now in progress. Next stage of Tenders under review.	30/11/27
-----------	---	---	----------

LIBRARY SERVICE

National Heritage Week



National Heritage Week, a national programme coordinated by the Heritage Council, takes place from **15–23 August 2026** and celebrates Ireland's cultural, built and natural heritage. This year's theme, **'Heritage at Risk'**, encourages communities to explore and protect heritage that is vulnerable or at risk of being lost.

With County Wicklow's rich history, landscapes, traditions, stories and strong local heritage networks, Wicklow Libraries are contributing a varied county-wide programme of talks, workshops, storytelling, genealogy and local history events. The programme provides opportunities for communities to explore and share Wicklow's heritage, from family and local history to placenames, historic towns, folklore, art, poetry and oral traditions. The official Heritage Week programme lists a wide range of heritage events taking place across County Wicklow during the week.

Library	Heritage Week Event	Date & Time
Greystones	<i>Wicklow in Art and Poetry</i> with Colm Brennan	15 Aug, 11.00am
Blessington	Heritage Week Storytime	15 & 22 Aug, 11.30am
Ballywaltrim	<i>Tracing Your Family History: An Introduction to Library Resources</i>	17 Aug, 11.00am–12.30pm
Ballywaltrim	<i>Census of Bray 1926</i>	17 Aug, 1.30–2.30pm
Wicklow Town	<i>A Miracle on Djouce: 80th Anniversary Talk</i>	18 Aug, 7.00pm
Baltinglass	<i>Step Back in Time in Baltinglass</i>	18 Aug, 7.00pm
Tinahely	<i>Stepping Back in Time: Stories of Tinahely</i>	18 Aug, 6.30pm
Greystones	<i>Holding on to our Heritage in Stories and Song</i>	18 Aug, 6.30pm
Blessington	<i>Holy Wells of Co. Wicklow: The Living Traditions</i>	18 Aug, 6.30pm

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Enniskerry	<i>Wicklow Placenames Project Workshop</i>	19 Aug, 2.00–4.30pm
Enniskerry	<i>Famous Men and Women from North Wicklow</i>	19 Aug, 6.15–7.15pm
Ballywaltrim	<i>Little Bray Rambling House – song and poetry</i>	19 Aug, 6.30–7.30pm
Arklow	<i>Wicklow Placenames Project Workshop</i>	20 Aug, 6.00–8.00pm
Wicklow Town	<i>Wicklow Town Irish Historic Towns Atlas Project</i>	20 Aug, 6.30–7.30pm
Carnew	<i>Wicklow Placenames Project Workshop</i>	21 Aug, 6.30–8.30pm
Baltinglass	<i>Wicklow Placenames Project Workshop</i>	22 Aug, 10.00am–12.30pm
Arklow	<i>Genealogy Workshop with Ita</i>	22 Aug, 10.00am–4.00pm
Greystones	<i>The Root of All Evil: The Irish Boundary Commission with Cormac Moore</i>	22 Aug, 3.00pm

Heritage library events also include: Arklow Library: Tuesday 11 August, 6.00–8.00pm: Djouce Air crash talk with James Scanell and Thursday 13 August, 6.30–8.00pm: 1926 Census talk with genealogist Bernie.



Summer Stars & Youth Programming

Summer Stars remains a major success across the county, with strong registrations and regular participation reported by all branches. Wicklow Town has recorded **over 450 children** participating, while Ballywaltrim reports registrations exceeding last year. Branches are continuing to encourage reading through prizes, activity cards, Storytimes, crafts and special events, with lots of end-of-summer celebrations taking place to reward our young readers.

Highlights include:

- **Ballywaltrim Library** is preparing its Summer Stars prizegiving with Cathaoirleach Cllr Caroline Winstanley on Saturday 22 August, 12:30 – 1:30pm followed by two superhero workshops with local author and illustrator Alan Nolan.
- **Wicklow Town Library** reports excellent engagement with its Summer Stars activity cards, weekly prize draws and puppet show, which attracted over 50 children and parents.
- **Blessington Library** continues weekly Storytime, LEGO and Magformers Free Play, with its Summer Stars programme concluding with a prize draw, certificates and medals.
- **Arklow Library** continues a broad programme of children's activities including Storytime, crafts, chess, LEGO and games.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

- **Greystones Library** continues its STEM and children's programming with Dr. Viktoriia Bihun "Human Body" STEM workshop (Aug 8), alongside its end-of-Summer Stars event with Reuben the Entertainer (Aug 22).
- **Ballywaltrim Library** Teen programming continues in Ballywaltrim through crafts, chess and the Analogue Club, providing screen-free social and creative opportunities.
- **Enniskerry Library** Children are increasingly enjoying the Alpaca Storytime

Community Engagement, Inclusion & Lifelong Learning

Libraries continue to provide welcoming spaces for learning, social connection and community support. Regular conversation groups, book clubs, knitting and craft groups, digital support and community room activities remain well established across the county.

Partnership activity includes:

- Digital support for patrons in **Blessington** and regular community use of library spaces.
- Rehab Care visits and activities at **Ballywaltrim**, including Storytime with library staff.
- A range of community and support groups using **Wicklow Town Library**, including Vision Ireland, Wicklow Integration Team and HSE services.
- School literacy and numeracy programmes visiting Wicklow Town Library during the summer.
- The **Activator Poles Workshop** in Enniskerry, supporting community wellbeing and activity.
- Multigenerational chess in Enniskerry, bringing children, secondary school students and older adults together.
- Continued language learning through Irish, English, French and Spanish conversation groups across all branches.

Creativity, Culture & Exhibitions

- **Arklow Library** hosts *Clay & Thread* by Caragh O'Connor and Rebecca Ní Chonchúir, alongside a mixed-media exhibition by Jakub Syriste.
- **Greystones Library** hosts creative writing, music and arts programming, including work by local artists and writers.
- **Wicklow Town Library** hosts local artist Damian O'Reilly in the exhibition space and continues to support the Wicklow Creative Co-op.
- **Arklow's ¡Fiesta Española!** programme provides a month-long celebration of Spanish culture through bilingual Storytime, crafts, Spanish film, language activities and a tapas tasting, in partnership with Arklow Municipal District.
- **Wicklow Town Library** hosted a successful five-day inclusive summer dance camp for Wheelie Good Dance Group and Inclusive Dance Wicklow, culminating in a dance recital.
- **Ballywaltrim Library** continues its creative programme for children and teens, alongside regular arts, crafts and STEM activities.

Interesting / Notable Highlights

Wicklow Town Library celebrates its fifth anniversary on 31 August, marking five years of service from the current library.

Enniskerry Library installed a new SurfBox Print, Copy & Go facility on 4 August, providing a more convenient self-service printing option for customers. Public computers have also returned to service following a lengthy outage.

The increasing popularity of **Alpaca Storytime in Enniskerry**, including an Alpaca-themed colouring competition, demonstrates the value of distinctive, locally tailored programming.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Ballywaltrim's **Summer Stars engagement has exceeded last year's registration levels**, with strong interest in books, displays and children's activities. On Saturday 15th August the Silent Book Club for adults offers a different take on a book club with a quiet community reading space.

Blessington's **newsletter has relaunched successfully**, with a positive response and a focus on increasing community reach and engagement.

The inclusive dance summer camp in Wicklow Town provided an excellent example of the library acting as a community venue and supporting accessible cultural participation. The Wicklow Speaking Club is also meeting for the first time in the exhibition space at the library.

Ballywaltrim Library staff: *"There have been some lovely chats about favourite books and our World Cup displays and recommendations have led to engaging discussions about offside, hydration breaks and heroes!"*.

ARCHIVES SERVICE

Archives catalogue - County Archives collections continue to be catalogued on our collections management platform *Axiell Collections*. Collections catalogued to date include private estate collections; Wicklow business collections; Grand Jury and Boards of Guardians. Cataloguing of county council records series is ongoing.

Digitisation programme - Funding has been secured by the County Archives through the Commemorations Unit of the Department of Culture Communications and Sport to complete the digitisation of the records of the Rathdrum Rural District Council and begin the digitisation of the Shillelagh Rural District Council.

Special projects/Outreach activities

Education programme - All County Wicklow secondary schools will be contacted this month ahead of the new school year, inviting students to group visits of the County Archives and proposing archivist outreach visits to schools introducing our educational resources.

Genealogy service - As a member of the Irish Family History Foundation, the County Archives receives a large volume of genealogy enquiries from both Ireland and abroad. This year to date, the service has researched over 100 enquiries, using our parish records database, our digitised collections and other sources including land, census and tombstone records.

Heritage Week 2026 - A talk will take place in Wicklow Library on 20 August introducing the new County Archives project the Wicklow Town Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) and highlighting this year's conservation project on several items from our Wicklow Town collection. The IHTA records the topographical development of a selection of Irish towns and each town is published separately as a fascicle or folder and includes maps and a detailed text section. As part of this exciting project, the County Archives commissioned conservator Liz D'Arcy to repair and conserve four items from the Wicklow Town collection consisting of two maps and two rental rolls, all dating from the mid-nineteenth century. Liz D'Arcy will share the results of this work and the conservation process itself and the archivist will give a brief introduction to the Wicklow Town Irish Historic Towns Atlas project. This conservation project was supported by a grant from the Heritage Council's Heritage Stewardship Grant fund.

ARTS OFFICE

Arts Office General Programme

Arts Plan Consultation for a new Arts Plan for 2026 – 2031

Wicklow County Council Arts Office invited artists, arts stakeholders, arts groups, arts festivals and those interested in participating in the arts in County Wicklow to engage in public consultation in relation to the development of the new Arts Plan for County Wicklow from 2026 – 2030. Progressing well and to be presented internally Q 4 2026.

Culture Night 2026 Awards Announced: Culture Night Wicklow 2026 programme was launched on Wednesday 19th August across social media and via press release, with a full communications plan to be activated across next 4 weeks in the build-up to Culture Night on Friday 18th September

CREATIVE IRELAND

Mining Music – Heritage Music Project with Barn Ensemble culminates in a public performance: Mining Music - a community arts project exploring the musical, social, and cultural heritage of mining in Wicklow took place in the Brockagh

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Resource Centre in Glendalough, as part of the Heritage week. The musical part of the programme was performed by the Barn Ensemble supported by Creative Ireland.



Mining Music event - Brockagh Resource Centre, Glendalough, Photo: Marlena Murphy CCEO

Research commissioned for Engaging Young People Through Film

Desk research, interviews and case studies of Youth Film Groups (outside Co Wicklow) will become a part of key findings and a report funded by Creative Ireland to be delivered in October 2026. Recommendations for development and implementation will be used to create a more comprehensive strategy for young people in film and digital arts in co. Wicklow

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery

Transportation

Public Lighting Maintenance

Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently (20/08/2026) outstanding stands at 369 – 2.22% of total stock of 16,616. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation and we have ongoing liaison with the ESB to repair these faults, and progress has been made to repair long standing faults. A large number of faults also require civil works or infrastructure installations to undertake the repair; a number of these faults have been completed, and others are currently in progress. A total of 139 faults were attended in July, while 182 faults were noted/reported during the month.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Faults Reported – July	108	4	17	74	102	305
Faults Attended – July	127	9	27	74	89	326
No Supply						0
Access Issues (Atten)	8		7	1	8	24
Cable Fault (Attend)					2	2
Civils	6	1	7	3	13	30
Council Approval				4		4
ESB Notified	13	24	9	5	13	64
ESB Required	7	15	18	7	14	61
On Hold	1	5	20	3	3	32
PLEEP Fault	3	5	1	2	1	12
Submitted	28	16	8	8	31	91
TMR	5	2	10	6	5	28
Tree Cutting Req	2	1	10	4	4	21
Grand Total	73	69	90	43	94	369
Percentage Not Working	2.21%	2.70%	2.56%	1.35%	2.31%	2.22%
No. of Lamps	3309	2552	3509	3181	4065	16616
Percentage of Total Lamps	20%	15%	21%	19%	24%	100%

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

The retrofitting of lanterns has commenced in all MDs with c. 1,568 lanterns upgraded to date (27/03/2026).

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Transportation Statistics

Transportation Statistics	Total 2024	Total 2025	Total 2026	June 2026	July 2026
Solicitors Queries	1014	1065	719	107	137
Road closure Applications	53	56	48	10	5
Road Opening Licences	1254	1494	743	127	82
Abnormal Load Applications	50	33	38	6	10

National Roads Projects

Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The scheme is currently suspended as no funding is provided. The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet with the public and any interested parties. Visit www.n11m11.ie for more details.

M11N11 Bus Priority Scheme

The Phase 3 design and environmental evaluation work is progressing with submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála expected in Q2 2028.

Bulletin #8 – Project Status & Commencement of Phase 3 was published in April 2026 on the project website www.n11m11bpis.ie

The project team will continue to engage with all stakeholders as the project progresses through its various phases. Specialist ecological surveys are currently ongoing across the scheme boundary extents and Ground Investigation works are planned to commence in August.

N11 Junction 12 Road Safety Improvement Scheme

A Feasibility and Options report was submitted to TII in July 2025 for approval and funding for proposed improvements to the southbound diverge ramp at the Garden Village / Newtownmountkennedy exit. TII's response advised that funding is not currently available to progress this scheme at this time.

N11 Kilpedder 'Rat-Run' Road Safety Improvement Scheme

The primary objective of the scheme is to address recurring safety issues and rat running during peak hours through the village and area of Kilpedder. The scheme aims to eliminate this rat-running through residential areas, enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety, and improve public transport accessibility. The scheme also aims to improve safety on the mainline of the N11.

The Phase 3 Design Report has been approved by TII on 09/02/26.

A public consultation under Part 8 took place between 29th April 2026 and 28th May 2026 with an in-person Public Information Event held in the Glenview Hotel on the 14th of May 2026 between 4:00pm and 8:00pm. Submissions were

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

accepted up until 12th June 2026. Full details including a summary presentation are available on the Council's Online Consultation Hub at www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub.

The scheme had been screened for the requirement of an Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment, and it was determined that neither was required. The screening reports and determinations were included in the Part 8 documents. Nevertheless, a third-party application has been received by An Coimisiún Pleanála for their screening determination as to whether an EIA and/or an AA is required. A decision by ACP is expected in September 2026.

N11/M11 Strategic Bus Park & Ride Facilities

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

- The Park & Ride at Junction 6 Fassaroe commenced construction work in April 2025. Commissioning and testing by the NTA are ongoing. The NTA are waiting on funding for the bus service before park and ride can be opened.
- The Bus Park & Ride at Junction 16 (Ashford/Rathnew) was approved by the Elected Members at the meeting of the full Council in March 2025. Land purchase has been completed. Construction is expected to commence in 2027 subject to funding being available.
- The preliminary design for the Bus Park & Ride at Junction 11 (Kilpedder) is being developed in conjunction with the NTA Park & Ride Delivery Office (PRDO). The PRDO are not currently progressing until progress is made with other Wicklow P&Rs and due to other priorities nationally
- Junction 20 Templeraíne Park and Ride/Share is currently progressing through preliminary design towards a planning application by Wicklow County Council in conjunction with the NTA. A part 8 planning route is envisaged, which subject to AA and EIA screening processes returning a favourable determination may commence in September 2026. WCC are progressing land acquisition discussions in parallel with this design process.

N81 Hollywood Cross to Tallaght Road Improvement Scheme

The preferred route corridor was published in 2016. The scheme is not included in the National Development Plan.

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

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

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

The Phase 2 Preferred Option was published in October 2025 on the project website www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie. The project team is currently progressing at Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation). Ground Investigation works are planned to commence in late August 2026. The project team will engage with all stakeholders as the project progresses through its various phases.

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

The construction contractor was appointed and commenced in July 2025. The construction was substantially completed in March 2026. The bus shelters were installed at the end of April 2026. Snagging and landscaping are continuing.

Park & Ride/Share at Hollywood

A suitable P&R location, that can be accessed from the regional road is being investigated. Based on this location, a supplementary Feasibility and Options Report and request for funding approval was formally submitted to TII on 20th May 2026.

TII's response on the 11th of June 2026 refused funding stating that "*Without the relocation of the parking and bus stop*" (from Annalecky) "*to Hollywood there is no safety improvement evident in the submitted F&O report. As the proposal does not address the safety concern identified, safety funding is not applicable in this instance.*"

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

WCC advised that whilst the removal of N81 parking at Annalecky is likely to be supported, the removal of the Annalecky bus stops altogether would be problematic as they will continue to support local use.

N81 Blessington Gateway Project

Wicklow County Council are progressing this project at the design phase (Phase 3) to be followed by any necessary statutory approvals process (Phase 4). This will likely be a Part 8 process.

N81 Baltinglass South Gateway Project

The Feasibility and Options report (Phase 2) for the proposed scheme on the southern approach to Baltinglass was approved by TII on 22nd October 2025. The tender to procure a Technical Consultant to progress the scheme through to next phases was published in December 2025. The Technical Consultant was appointed in June 2026 and is now progressing the Phase 3 design.

N81 Hearn's Cross

A Feasibility and Options Report is being prepared to support an application to TII for funding for road improvements.

N11M11 Resurfacing Works

Nighttime road resurfacing works were completed by the MMARC contractor on the N11 northbound between junction 7 and junction 5 between June and July 2026.

TII have appointed a contractor to carry out resurfacing works on the N11 southbound carriageway between Junction 14 and Junction 18. To mitigate noise impacts on properties near the N11, WCC have requested that SMA material is used to resurface the road, however TII have advised that they intend to proceed with the resurfacing of this section of the N11/M11 using HRA in line with the existing pavement surface and current TII asset management policy. This work is planned for completion as nighttime works between 7th September 2026 and 13th November 2026 during which nighttime road closures and special roadworks speed limits orders will be in place.

N81 Resurfacing Works

Surfacing works on the N81 Mullicagh Lower and Upper were completed in August 2026.

Greenway & TII Active Travel Projects

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

Meetings with the local stakeholders committee were held on Friday 22nd May and Thursday 25th June 2026. The committee were provided with an overview of the Project Programme, Key Project Deliverables and target dates, and updates on progress for the Design and Environmental Evaluation Phase (TII PMG Phase 3). A landowner workshop was carried out with Local Stakeholder Committee on 16th July 2026 to inform communications strategy. The programme for the current Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) is a total of 24 months with the statutory planning submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála targeted for Q2 2028. Information on the scheme is available on the project website www.wicklowgreenways.ie

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

A non-statutory public consultation for the Emerging Preferred Route was undertaken in January and February 2026. The Public Consultation included two public display events taking place in Greystones and Wicklow. Submissions and observations were accepted up to 13th February 2026. Phase 2 meetings with project stakeholders have been concluded. Any updates required following the Public Consultation will be undertaken and reflected in the Options Selection Report to be submitted to TII for the Phase 2 Options Selection Gateway Review approval. Following TII approval, this route will advance to Phase 3 for Preliminary Design. Information on the scheme is available on the project website www.wicklowgreenways.ie

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Blessington eGreenway

Wicklow County Council was notified by letter dated 04/12/2024 that An Bord Pleanála has refused permission for the Blessington Greenway. Wicklow County Council has examined the decision by An Bord Pleanála. In consideration of the time and resources that would be necessary to prepare a new and/or revised submission and the uncertainty regarding the potential for a successful outcome, Wicklow County Council is not currently in a position to dedicate resources to the progression of a greenway scheme at this location. Wicklow County Council's priority in the short term is to consider opportunities to progress with shorter locally based trails to extend on the existing routes. These trail schemes can build on and benefit from the work completed to date for the Blessington Greenway. However, these trails would not meet the criteria for TII Greenway Schemes and therefore are unlikely to attract TII funding. Accordingly, any such trails will need to be progressed at Municipal District level.

Kilmacanogue to Bray Southern Cross Active Travel Scheme

The Phase 3 design, EIA works and landowner engagement are all continuing to progress. Information on the scheme is available on the project website www.kilmacanoguetosoutherncross.ie

Road Capital Projects

Blessington Inner Relief Road North

Construction work is progressing with completion expected later in 2026. The construction of the new roundabout junction with the N81 has commenced with works anticipated to be completed in Q4 2026.

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

Construction work on the project commenced in April 2025. Section 1 construction works are complete and are fully open to the public. The original contract completion date for the full project was May 2026 with the contractor now reporting a completion date at the end of September 2026.

Arklow Southern Port Access Road

After completion of the tender process a Technical Consultant has been appointed for the project in August 2026. The initial design phases 2 (options selection) and 3 (design & environmental evaluation) are expected to take 24 months to complete.

Rathnew Inner Relief Road North – Phase 3

Tenders have been invited for Consultancy Services to deliver this project through Design, Planning, Tender and Construction phases.

Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund (HIIF) Road Projects

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage advised, by letter dated 17 June 2026, that the projects listed below have been accepted onto the Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund (HIIF) programme.

- Rathnew Inner Relief Road (RIIR)
- Fassaroe Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge across N11/M11, Bray
- Fassaroe Road Infrastructure N11 to Enniskerry, Bray

The Local Authority is the designated Sponsoring Agency for approved projects under HIIF Call 1 and is responsible for the direct delivery of the project in accordance with the requirements of the Infrastructure Guidelines 2023.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Active Travel Updates

Project Updates

Active Travel Bridge (Wicklow Train Station to Port Access Route) Pathfinder

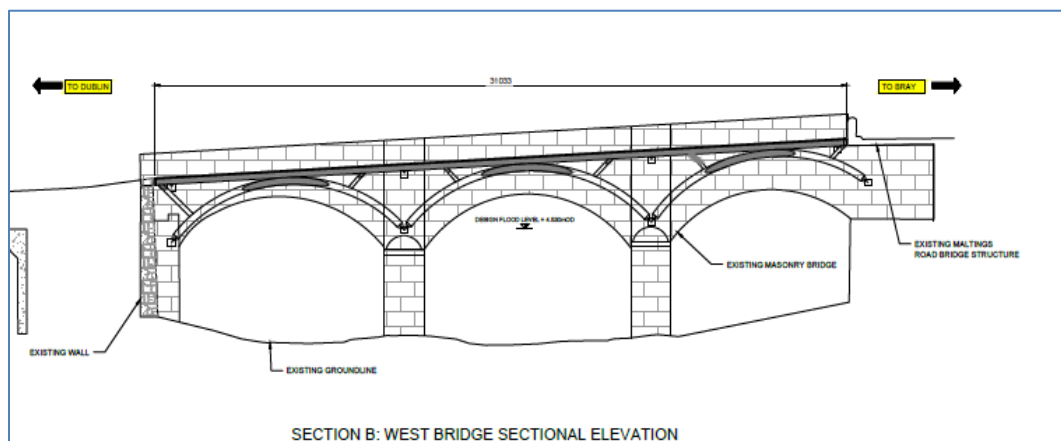
New pedestrian and cycle bridge to be provided at Wicklow Train Station, linking Station Road to the Port Access Road. Bus and vehicle set down to be provided along with cycle parking. The acquisition of lands on northern side of rail line has been completed. Archaeological Testing completed. NTA Rail Infrastructure Team to advise in relation to the management of the project.

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvements along the R750 and Station Road from Abbey Street carpark to Station Road Junction to improve linkage to Wicklow Train Station. Preliminary Design stage completed and approval received from the NTA to move to Statutory Stage. AtkinsRealis appointed as consultants to manage the project through Phases 4-7. Preliminary design complete, Traffic modelling underway.

Bray Bridge footbridges and tie ins (Bray MD)

New footbridges and alterations to the road to make provision for cyclists. Atkins is progressing with the preliminary design phase. The Options Report for the new pedestrian bridge structures has been completed, and the report is currently under review. The road alignment design has also been progressed and issued to WCC for review.



Baltinglass Bridge Active Travel Scheme (Baltinglass MD)

Provision of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at Baltinglass Bridge. Atkins Realis have completed the Options Selection Phase, and an emerging preferred option has been selected. The emerging preferred option is for the provision of a new pedestrian bridge structure on the north side of the existing bridge. A Contract has been awarded for the proposed geotechnical investigation works. The GI works are scheduled to be completed in September. Ecological Impact Assessment report to be finalised. Ongoing consultation with the two affected landowners.

Greystones Pathfinder (Greystones MD) - Greystones Seafront to Charlesland Active Travel Provision

Provision of pedestrian and cycle improvement works to be completed along the public road linking Greystones Train Station with the Marina to the north and Charlesland to the south. AtkinsRealis appointed as consultants to manage the project through Phases 4 -7. Part 8 Pack prepared and advertised on the 19th of August 2026. It will be on display until the 16th of September 2026. The submission period is open from the 19th of August 2026 to 5pm on the 30th of September 2026.

Safe Routes to Schools: Kilmacanogue NS (Bray MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. Works commenced on site.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Convent Road Active Travel Scheme (Greystones MD)

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on Convent Road, Delgany. The Preliminary Design Phase has been completed, and the project has progressed to Phase 4 – Statutory Processes. The public consultation phase has concluded, and a total of 83 public submissions were received. The submissions were generally positive, with 72% of submissions supportive of the proposed plans. The Chief Executives Part 8 Report is currently being prepared. It is planned to present the outcome of the Part 8 report to elected members in the September GMD meeting.



Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme (Greystones MD)

The provision of new and improved pedestrian facilities on the R761 Kindlestown Lower Road, with new Public Lighting, and Public Realm improvements in Killincarrig Village. The Detailed Design phase is ongoing. The alignment design has been completed, and the utility design is currently being finalised. A Stage 1&2 Road Safety Audit has been completed. Construction works are scheduled to commence when the Chapel Road Scheme has been completed. Expected start date is October 2026

Blessington Main Street to Deerpark

WCC and NTA met to review preliminary design. NTA have approved gateway 2/3 pack to proceed to statutory process and Part 8. WCC screening determination reports approved, next step would be to advertise Part 8 however due to staff shortages this project is on hold.

Delgany Village Accessibility Scheme – Mill Road (Greystones MD)

The provision of new and improved pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure along Church Road, Delgany. The Scheme is at Phase 5 – Detailed Design and Procurement. The Consultant for the scheme, EGIS, have advised that they do not have resources available to continue working on this project. A tender process will be required to appoint a new consultant for the scheme. However, works are on hold due to lack of resources.

Other Projects -

- **SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara HSRR*, Brittas Bay.**

The project will include Brittas Bay NS Safe Routes to School project. Brittas Bay footpath construction underway. Gateway 4 approval has been submitted to the NTA following the Section 38 for the SRTS element. The Phase 1 Brittas Bay footpath project has now been included in the Safe Routes to School project under the active travel program for 2026. Works are underway.

- **SRTS Round 3: Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird**

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of school. An Taisce and WCC to engage with school on revised delivery report. Due to staff shortages this project is on hold.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

- **Scalp Road Footpath, Enniskerry**

Provision of footpath along Scalp Road, Enniskerry. Topographical survey is complete. Tender to be prepared for consultant to carry out feasibility study.

- **Aughrim Road Pedestrian Crossing, Tinahely**

Provision of a new Zebra/Controlled Crossing and upgraded footpath to link Kilcommon National School to residential areas. Topographic survey completed. Works extended to include two additional pedestrian crossings on School Road. Section 38 consultation completed. Construction works ongoing.



- **Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Arklow**

Project extended to include 560m footpath, pedestrian crossing and access ramp at link to Coolgreaney Road. WCC to fund cost of ramp construction. Construction works ongoing.



- **Redford Park Junction, Greystones**

Redford Park Junction upgrade to provide improved pedestrian and cycle facilities Lidl have verbally confirmed the boundary lines with their solicitor. WCC waiting on written confirmation from Lidl. Project on hold due to lack of resources.

- **Bus Priority Little Bray**

Enhancement of bus and active travel infrastructure between Fassaroe Townland and Sunnybank Junction Review drawing and options assessment as bridge in Rehills development is no longer part of this plan and not feasible as part of river cycle way option. Draft Feasibility & Options Report under review with WCC. Project on hold due to lack of resources.

- **Wicklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**

2026 list of proposed locations to be submitted to Active Travel Team by WMD and issued to NTA for approval.

- **Arklow MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**

Construction completed in Rathdrum and Avoca. 2 Pedestrian crossings to be completed as part of the Coolgreaney Road improvement scheme which will be funded under Arklow MD Junction

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Tightening Works. Section 38 was advertised on the 19th of August 2026. Submission period is from the 19th of August 2026 to the 2nd of September 2026.

- **Greystones MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**

Pedestrian crossing installed in Kilcoole. Awaiting ESB connection. Gateway 5 approval request issued to NTA for approval. Victoria Road crossing to be completed.

- **Baltinglass MD Pedestrian Improvement Scheme**

2026 list of locations to be listed in PGAF and issued to NTA for Gateway 5 approval.

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

- New NTA BSEP tracker being actively populated from sources below to Outline Plan for BSEP that can be delivered in 2026 & into 2027. Includes Bus Shelter requests.
 - TFI/NTA directly.
 - LA - CRM, MD's inputs.
 - Representations – Councillor / TD requests / SPC.
 - Public Consultations.
 - Reporting Safety / Accessibility Issues – directly TFI/LA.
- SPC items from each MD have been added to the BSEP tracker. The requests are primarily Shelters, but locations noted also highlighted ancillary works also needed. NTA will these for suitability and will recommend level of works/progress required. Some items may overlap with Connecting Ireland (CI) works & some have already been installed.
- Current works
 - 2 new stops being installed in Dunlavin including resurfacing of adjacent road surface.
 - New Shelter installed in Rathnew and existing stop to be relocated to shelter
 - Bus cage lining to progress where missing or faded locations being grouped.
 - TFI flagpole and carousels to be installed by NTA at 11 locations where recent upgrades of stop infrastructure are complete.

New Projects in 2026

- **SRTS Round 4 Scoil Naomh Brid, Talbotown**
Prepare brief Design support for round 4 schools. Due to staff shortages project on hold.
- **SRTS Round 4 St. Brigid's NS, Greystones**
Prepare brief Design support for round 4 schools. Due to staff shortages project on hold.
- **SRTS Round 4 St Brigid's NS. Manor Kilbride**
Prepare brief Design support for round 4 school. Due to staff shortages project on hold.
- **SRTS Round 4 Wicklow Educate Together**
Prepare brief Design support for round 4 schools. Due to staff shortages project on hold.
- **Deerpark Cycle Link, Bray –**
Phase 1 – PGAF approved. Consultant to be appointed to complete design.
- **Giltspur to Charnwood Active Travel Link -**
Phase 1 – PGAF approval to be sought from NTA.
- **Arklow MD Permeability Links**

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Phase 1 - 2026 list of 2026 list of locations to be listed in PGAF and issued to NTA for Gateway 5 approval.

- **Arklow MD Junction Tightening works –**

GAF approved. Coolgreaney Road Pedestrian Improvement works scheme will use this funding to provide junction tightening and new pedestrian crossings on Coolgreaney Road. Section 38 was advertised on the 19th of August 2026. Submission period is from the 19th of August 2026 to the 2nd of September 2026.

- **Bray MD pedestrian crossings**

GAFs to be submitted to crossings on Upper Dargle Road and Springfield Cemetery

Bridge Rehabilitation (Local and Regional Roads)

- Work completed at Carrigmore (Coolacork) Bridge.
- Works completed at Quill Rd culvert.
- Works commencing at Ballyteigue Bridge.
- Report on option for Colbinstown Bridge currently being reviewed with Consultants.

Surface Dressing

The current season is almost complete. Data and stats to follow in September.

Machinery Yard

- Framework Circle K cards usage is increasing, and all cards have been delivered.
- Tender for supply of HVO fuel issued this week.
- 3 new front end loaders delivered this week.
- Training continuing for all relevant drivers.

Parking Income

January to July 2026

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	613,743.16
Greystones Municipal District	219,652.46
Wicklow Municipal District	295,971.72
Arklow Municipal District	167,804.51
Parking Permits	73,052.50
Parking Fines	390,525.50
Wicklow County Council Total	1,760,749.85

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Infrastructure Delivery

Affordable Housing Information as of 31st July 2026

Mariner's Point, Wicklow – 4 x Affordable Houses

- 4 x two-bedroom houses have been assigned. Two of the sales are closed. Two are due to close soon.

Market Close, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow – 7 x Affordable Houses

- Applications for 4 x 2-bedroom houses and 3 x 3-bedroom houses have been processed. Units are being assigned to successful applicants.

Ballycomyn, Blessington, Co. Wicklow 42 x Affordable Houses

- 30 x 2-bedroom houses and 12 x 3-bedroom houses. Applications portal closes 26th August 2026. Applications are being processed.

Lott Lane, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow – 26 x Affordable Houses

- 26 Affordable houses have been approved. 24 x three-bedroom, 2 x two bedroom
- Due to launch Q4 2026
- Showhouse will be ready Q3 2026
- Phase 3 AHF application approved 17th July 2026

Rockbrae, Bray, Co. Wicklow – 9 x Affordable Houses

- Application for 9 Affordable Houses at Rockbrae, Bray was approved on 28th January 2026. Contractor appointed and design phase has commenced.

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes recently completed	Units	Current Status
Ballard, Shillelagh	20	Completed and allocated
Merrymeting, Rathnew Ph 2	21	Completed and allocated
Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin	10	Completed and allocated
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completed and allocated
Lugduff, Tinahely	20	Completed and allocated
5A Rednagh Rd, Aughrim	1	Completed and allocated
Schemes on site	Units	Current Status
Fassaroe, Bray	11	Nearing completion
Merrymeting, Rathnew, Ph 3	7	Nearing completion
Lott Lane, Kilcoole Ph 1	75	Contractor on site, expected completion Q1 2027
Ballinahinch, Ashford	19	Contractor on site, expected completion Q4 2026
1A Mill Rd, Greystones	3	Construction ongoing
Lott Lane, Kilcoole Ph 2	26	Contractor on site, expected completion Q1 2027
Burgage More, Blessington	106	Contractor on site
Rockbrae, Bray	53	Contract awarded, construction to commence
Pipeline schemes	Units	Current Status
Mountainview, Blessington	10	Tender assessment complete, Stage 4 Approved. Start Sept 2026.
Tinahask Ph 1	74	Tender assessment complete, Stage 4 Approved. Start Sept 2026.
Lott Lane Ph 3	46	Tender documents underway

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Hawkstown Park Ph 2	54	Tender documents underway
Barndarrig	17+3	Tender documents underway
18 Old Conna Grove, Bray	3	Tender documents underway
Ballyguile Rd, Wicklow	16	Part 8 on public display
Parnell Rd, Bray	16	Design stage, part 8 Q3 2026
Sheephouse, Arklow	57	Design stage, part 8 Q4 2026
Lauderdale Estate, Bray	6	Design stage
Ballywaltrim Cottages	3	Design stage
Tinahask, Arklow Ph 2	128	Options being considered, post PPP
Burnaby, Greystones	268	Options being considered, post PPP
Rehills, Bray	140	Options being considered, post PPP

Part V

The following Part V units are due during 2026:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q3 2026	WCC
Roundwood	6	Delivery due Q3 2026	WCC
Baltinglass	7	3 Delivered Q2. Remainder due Q3 2026	WCC
Delgany	3	Delivered Q2 2026	WCC
Dunlavin	7	Delivery due Q3 to Q4 2026	WCC
Wicklow	7	Delivered Q3 2026	WCC
Newcastle	1	Delivered Q1 2026	WCC
Delgany	6	2 delivered Q2. Remainder due Q3 2026	WCC
Wicklow	4	Delivery due Q3 2026	WCC
Arklow	2	Delivery due Q1 2027	WCC
Delgany	11	Delivered Q2 2026	WCC
Rathnew	19	9 Delivered Q2. Remainder due Q3 2026 to Q4 2026	WCC
Rathnew	16	Delivery due Q3 2026	WCC
Delgany	1	Delivered Q2 2026	WCC
Kilcoole	1	Delivered Q2 2026	WCC
Enniskerry	8	Delivery due Q3 2026	WCC
Delgany	4	Delivery due Q3 2026	WCC
Wicklow	2	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Delgany	10	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Enniskerry	2	Delivery due Q4 2026	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Delivered Q2 2026	CALF
Rathnew	15	Delivered Q1 2026	CALF

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Wicklow	13	Delivered Q2 2026	CALF
Newcastle	5	Delivery due Q3 2026	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	16	Delivery due Q3 2026	CALF
Bray	12	Delivery due Q3 2026	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	22	Delivery due Q4 2026 to Q1 2027	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	26	Delivery due Q3 2026	CALF

Potential units

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

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

Turnkey

The following Turnkey units are due during 2026:

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Baltinglass	2	Delivery due Q3 2026	WCC
Roundwood	4	Delivery due Q3 2026	WCC
Delgany	1	Delivered Q2 2026	WCC
Arklow	2	Delivery due Q3 2026	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Delivered Q2 2026	CALF
Baltinglass	10	Delivered Q1 2026	CALF
Newcastle	11	Delivery due Q3 2026	CALF
Newtownmountkennedy	6	Delivery due Q3 2026	CALF

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHBs in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.
- Expression of Interest for Turnkey Housing Developments/Housing Schemes and or land for the provision of social housing/affordable housing to be advertised in Q3.

Vacant Homes Scheme

Current Compulsory Purchase Orders on long term vacant houses around the county 2026.

No.	Property Location	Current Status
1.	114 Hillside, Greystones	Allocated.
2.	108 Charnwood, Bray	Allocated.
3.	36 Wheatfield, Bray	Allocated.
4.	10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow	Allocated.

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

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

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

There are 2 types of Grants available:

- Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant of up to €50,000
- Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant including the Derelict Property top up grant of up to €70,000

To qualify for the top up of €20,000, an independent report prepared by a Structural Engineer, along with a copy of their Professional Indemnity Insurance, is required to be submitted along with the application, confirming, to the satisfaction of the local authority, that the property is derelict i.e. structurally unsound and dangerous.

To qualify for the grant, applicants must:

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

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

Number of Applications to date	342
Applications Approved in Principle to date	156
Number of Applications paid to date	114
Value of 114 Grants paid out to date	€6,253,844.50
Further Information Requested	4
Applications withdrawn/Rejected to date	68

Number Expert Advice Grant Applications to date	3
Applications Approved to date	1
Number of Applications paid to date	1
Value of 1 Grants paid out to date	€4,903.40
Further Information Requested	2
Applications withdrawn/Rejected to date	0

In addition, 3 new schemes have launched:

- The Expert Advice Grant (up to €5,000)
- The Vacant Above the Shop the Grant (up to €135,000)
- The Conversion of former Commercial/Public Use Building (up to €110,000)

Detailed information on all 3 schemes is available at www.wicklow.ie

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Integration and Emergency Response

Operational Fire Statistics July 2026

There were **187** incidents attended during the month of July 2026. Due to false alarms (non-incidents, 39) and laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types (28 incidents), individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **252 occasions** including **15** mobilisations in other counties. On 10 occasions an incident commander requested additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance. In all cases this related to additional resources to contain large gorse / forest fires which totalled 50 during the month.

Operational activity for the month of July 2026 saw a significant increase in mobilisations over the previous month June 2026 (+107 mobilisations or +72%) as a result of the exceptional extremely hot / dry weather that was accompanied nationally and internationally by significant numbers of wildland fires. There were 50 large wildland fires attended during the month, an increase of 42 in this type of incident over the preceding month. Wildfires in Ireland normally taper off from May onwards however for the first time since 2018 a significant number of wildfires occurred during the summer months. The largest fires attended required a response over multiple days by numerous crews due to fires re-kindling caused by wind and hot day time temperatures. From a strategic perspective maintaining emergency response cover in place for the county was a dynamic process facilitated very effectively by control room staff in the ERCC. Neighbouring fire stations were rarely mobilised to long duration remote rural fires to maintain an emergency response for urban areas. In addition, crews were encouraged to maintain an operational response at incidents by whenever possible registering with the ERCC as "Available at Incident" allowing them to be redeployed to a more serious incident if required.

The effectiveness of the response to the unprecedented number of wildfires in the month of July in Wicklow was significantly enhanced by preplanned close coordination with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and staff in Coillte. Inter-agency training and planning enabled coordination and a dynamic response to incidents. The largest fires were in the national park. NPWS deployed civilian helicopters for firefighting on a regular basis; Coillte also availed of their services when forestry was impacted by fire. In addition, for larger fires and where civilian helicopters were not available Wicklow Fire Service requested the services of the Air Corps through the NDFEM on 3 occasions and these were provided.

In addition to the large rural wildfires there were 67 smaller outdoor fires started maliciously mainly in or close to urban areas, an increase of 52 over the preceding month. There was a decrease in mobilisations to RTCs (-10) but a corresponding increase in false alarms many associated with people smelling or seeing smoke many miles from a large gorse fire e.g. fires in the Dublin Mountains resulted in significant smoke in Bray and the surrounding areas.

In terms of year-on-year comparison a similar trend to the monthly statistics can be seen when July 2026 is compared with the equivalent month in 2025. There was an increase in large wildland fires (+56) and an increase in maliciously set fires in mainly urban areas (+38). There was an increase in false alarms due to smoke from wildland fires (+20).

During the month of July 2026 activity by main incident types is as follows:

• Small fires set maliciously in main urban areas	67	26%
• Wildland fires	52	24%
• False alarms	39	15%

This corresponds to 65% of overall activity. In comparison the following incidents types accounted for 20% of overall activity:

• Road Traffic Collisions	27	11%
• Fires in Buildings	20	8%

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Incidents in County Kildare (7-incidents total, samples below):

- 10/07/2026 Dunlavin Fire Crew supported crews from Naas at a 2-car RTC at Brownstown, Kilcullen.
- 29/07/2026 Blessington Fire Crew supported crews from Naas at a single car RTC, car on roof, at Punchestown Racecourse.
- 31/07/2026 Baltinglass and Dunlavin crews attended a single car RTC, car on roof, at Ballytore.

Incidents in County Wexford (6-incident total, samples below):

- 14/07/2026 Carnew Fire Crew assisted crews from Gorey at a tractor and bailer on fire at Craanford.

Incidents in County Carlow (1-incident total, samples below):

- 18/07/2026 Baltinglass Fire Crew supported a crew from Hacketstown at 2-car RTC at Graigue.

Fire Prevention Statistics July 2026

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid, or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	4		4		1
Revised FSCs	0				
FSC 7-Day Notice	2				1
Regularisation FSCs	0			2	
Total FSCs	6	0	4	2	2
DACs	3		4		4
Revised DACs					
Total DACs	3	0	4	0	4
Dispensations / Relaxations					

36 planning files were referred to the Chief Fire Officer for comment in July. Observations were made on 33 files received.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	9	40	0	1	1
Circuit	4	1	4	2	0
Dangerous Substances Act					
Explosive Act					

Activities during the month of July included:

- Two 2-day on station firefighter skills training events took place in Tinahely and Rathdrum Fire Stations.
- Two new recruits (Greystones and Carnew) completed their 3-week Firefighting Skills Course in Castlebar.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

- One new recruit (Carnew) completed a 2-week Breathing Apparatus Wearers Course in Tullamore.
- A meeting of Stations Officers took place on 22nd July in Wicklow Town.
- A meeting of Sub Station Officers took place on 23rd July in Wicklow Town.

Building Control Statistics

Commencement Notices for July 2026:

- Commencement Notices Submitted: 13
- 13 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 31 Opt Out Declarations
- 7 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 2 Seven-Day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 58% of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 56% of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 30 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 10 with Compliance Documentation (33%)
 - 17 are Opt Out (57%)
 - 1 Without Compliance Documentation (3%)
 - 2 Seven Day Notice (7%)
- 42 Valid Commencement Notices
- 137 new build residential units
- 45 Apartments
- 16 domestic extensions
- 1 Non-Res new builds
- 10 Invalidated CNs from July

Certificates of Completion processed in July 2026

- 12 New No. of CCC submitted
- 6 Required Revised Information (50%)
- 17 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 49 new Residential units & 10 Apartments
- 2 Non-Res. Builds

Submission Statistics

17 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 10 No. CCCs submitted in July
- 7 No. CCCs submitted in June

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

137 new residential houses, 45 apartments, 16 residential extensions and 1 Non-res buildings were notified to LA for Commencement & 49 newly residential units with an additional 10 apartments were for completion submitted, assessed and validated in July. The high level of commencement notices for July would indicate that construction activity in Wicklow will continue to rise for the remainder of 2026.

9 No. Commencement Notice submissions were invalidated this month; this is due to a joint direction by both NBCO & Dept of HLGH to LA's. Commencement Notice data extracted from BCMS is being used in the National Action Plan on Housing Supply. If Revised Information request have not been responded to by the Commencement Date, submissions are to be invalidated, so BCMS real time statistics can be extracted.

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

In July, Building Control increased site inspections to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 4 Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued. Building Control also organised a joint inspection with the National Building Control Office, however NBCO were unable to attend on the day.

Revised Information requests remained high in July for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 56% of Commencement Notice submissions & 50% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. Revised information requests are issued to nominated role holders of submissions when compliance with Building Regs has not been demonstrated.

Wicklow Building Control continues to perform standardised assessment of submissions at commencement stage and onsite presence during construction. These methods remain the best way to promote compliance with Building Regs.

Building Control returned 2nd quarter activity statistics to the NBCO in July, returning 19% inspection rate for new builds notified for commencement within 2nd quarter. Building Control staff continue to contribute to the NDFEM Codes of Practice Subgroup on a weekly basis both online and in person meetings in Portlaoise.

Civil Defence

July provided our volunteers with an opportunity to enjoy the summer weather and take a well-deserved break from regular training following a busy period of activity. While the month was somewhat quieter from a training perspective, our volunteers continued to maintain operational readiness and remained available to support the community when required.

Volunteers also continued to provide cover at a number of local events, supporting event organisers and helping to ensure the safety and wellbeing of attendees.

Despite the reduced training schedule, operational activity continued, with volunteers responding to callouts and providing assistance when requested. This demonstrated the ongoing commitment of our members, who continue to balance their own personal time and summer commitments with the responsibility of remaining ready to respond when their community needs them.

Operations & Preparedness

- The unit was activated by **An Garda Síochána** to assist in a missing person search in the **Bray Head** area. Civil Defence volunteers conducted coordinated search operations alongside partner agencies, with the missing person subsequently located alive by the Coast Guard. The successful outcome highlights the professionalism, training, and commitment of our volunteers, as well as the importance of effective interagency cooperation during search and rescue operations.
- Wicklow Civil Defence drone crews were called upon during the wildfire incidents at the Featherbeds, Glencree, to provide aerial support and operational cover. Using advanced drone-based aerial imagery and thermal imaging capabilities, crews were able to provide an overview of the affected areas, monitor fire

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

progression and identify areas of elevated heat or potential hotspots that may not have been visible from ground level.

The use of thermal imaging was particularly valuable in identifying residual heat and potential hotspots within the affected terrain, supporting the ongoing assessment of the fire-affected area. The aerial perspective also provided operational personnel with improved situational awareness of the wider incident area, particularly in difficult or inaccessible terrain

- Wicklow Civil Defence provided medical and first-aid cover for the Gravel Rider Series mountain bike event in Glenmalur, supporting the safety and wellbeing of participants, event staff and spectators throughout the event. The Wicklow Civil Defence operation was supported by Wexford Civil Defence, providing additional personnel and resources to strengthen the medical response capability for the event. The cooperation between the two Civil Defence units demonstrated the benefit of inter-unit support when providing cover for larger or geographically challenging events.

The event also provided an opportunity for volunteers to work in a live operational environment, maintaining their practical skills in casualty assessment, first aid, patient management and communications while working alongside fellow Civil Defence volunteers. The successful delivery of the medical cover ensured that an appropriately trained emergency response capability was available throughout the event

Community Engagement

- Provided first aid cover for the **Wicklow County Council Staff Summer Picnic**, with Civil Defence volunteers delivering on-site medical support and assistance throughout the event

Summary

Overall, July was a month of maintaining a balance between allowing volunteers some well-earned downtime while ensuring that our operational capabilities, training standards and commitment to supporting the community remained firmly in place.

Wicklow Integration Services

1) Wicklow Community Integration Forum

- **Meetings**

The **East Regional Group** met in The Department of Social Protection's Bray Intreo Centre on the 27th August 2026. At the meeting, members discussed and provided feedback on the draft communication strategy, focusing on how CIF members can communicate and promote CIF events and resources in a coordinated, strategic, and safe way. Members also shared updates on the work taking place within their respective organisations, highlighting current activities, emerging priorities, and opportunities for collaboration. The group also discussed key challenges currently affecting their organisations and the communities they support, providing an opportunity to share learning and identify common issues across the region.

- **Communication Strategy**

During the **Q3 Wicklow CIF Management Group** on the 29th July 2026, CIF members began developing a communication strategy to ensure a more coordinated, consistent, and thoughtful approach to promoting CIF events and resources. A key aim is to strengthen joint communications so that all partners share clear, aligned messages. The strategy also reflects concerns about the safety and wellbeing of new communities, considering discrimination and racism, ensuring that communications do not unintentionally increase risks. While there is a strong commitment to promoting the valuable work

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

of CIF and increasing awareness of available supports, there is also a shared recognition of the need to do so in a cautious and strategic way. As a group, we are working together to identify the most appropriate, effective, and safe approaches to communicating about our events, services, and initiatives. Regional groups will also provide their input to the communication strategy. This will be drafted by the CIF Coordinator and presented back to CIF members for further review.

2) Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

- **Topline data**

Totals per Municipal District (in Department run emergency accommodation only)		
MD	IPAS	Ukrainian Response
Arklow	30	14
Baltinglass	688	31
Bray	198	459
Greystones	0	105
Wicklow	204	89
Total	1,120	698

IPAS Centre information	
Current number of IPAS centres in County Wicklow	9
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	1,120
Of which are children	366

IPAS Totals per MD (up to end of July)	
Arklow	30
Baltinglass	688
Bray	198
Greystones	0
Wicklow	204

WCC LAIT Activity to date in 2026	
Total number of Integration Clinics delivered	111
Total number of face-to-face support sessions	523
Total number of sessions with single adults	178
Total number of sessions with couples	24
Total number of sessions with families	233

LAIT Integration Support Data Recorded for May 2026

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Basic Clinic Data	
No. of clinics	15
No. of Individuals	58
No. of Couples	6
No. of Families	36
No. in Ireland less than 1 month	4
No. in Ireland 1-3 months	42
No. in Ireland 3-6 months	38
No. In Ireland more than 6 months	41
No. of International Protection Applicants	126
No. Persons with Status	6
No. of BOTPs	1
Total number of Referrals to outside agencies	12

Integration Supports – Key Enablers

In Session Support	Incidence
Accommodation	12
Community/Family	9
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	59
Employment/Enterprise	65
Events	0
Finance/Welfare	11
Health/Wellbeing	25
Language/Communication	2
Legal/Justice/Civic	9
Transportation	0
Miscellaneous	7

Follow up Support	Incidence
Accommodation	2
Community/Family	2
Culture/Religion	0
Education/Training	9
Employment/Enterprise	2
Events	0
Finance/Welfare	3
Health/Wellbeing	4
Language/Communication	0

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Legal/Justice/Civic	1
Transportation	0
Miscellaneous	6

Overall Support April	
Emails sent for Clinic work	59
Emails Received	235
Emails Sent	264
Contacts with stakeholders	62
Referrals	12

Other Activity

The LAIT and the Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership (LSP) received €10,000 funding via CYPSC under the IPSS (International Protection Support Services) programme. The LAIT provided an additional €10,000 in project funding. Using this funding pot, the LAIT and the LSP jointly delivered a programme targeting over 200 children aged 4 to 12 years residing in IPAS centres, providing them with the opportunity to participate in summer camps in their local areas.

A total of 160 children registered for and participated in seven different summer camps across County Wicklow. The camps provided children aged 4 to 12 years with opportunities to take part in a range of sports, recreational and social activities. The initiative supported children and families to access positive, inclusive summer activities, while encouraging participation, social connection and integration within local communities.

3) Ukrainian Response

• BOTP in State Contracted Emergency Accommodation

As of the end of May 2026, there are **740** Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation. As of the end of July 2026, there are **698** Ukrainian displaced persons in emergency accommodation, although it is known that there are significantly more in the county.

The breakdown of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from DOJHAM is as follows:

- Arklow MD: **14**
- Baltinglass MD: **31**
- Bray MD: **459**
- Greystones MD: **105**
- Wicklow MD: **89**

Note: These figures do not contain details of BOTP clients placed in accommodation providers by any other bodies separate to DOJHAM (Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration). Therefore, the total in any accommodation provider may not reflect the total number of BOTP clients in that establishment.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

BOTP Centre information in Wicklow	
Current number of BOTP centres in County Wicklow	14
Number of new centres opened	0
Total number of residents	698
Of which are children	171

Update on State-supported Ukraine accommodation in Co. Wicklow

The Government agreed to phase out accommodation that has been provided to people from Ukraine since 2022. This means that the State will no longer be offering accommodation to all people who are beneficiaries of temporary protection who arrived in Ireland before March 2024. This change is being introduced on a phased basis which commenced at the end of June.

On 21 July 2026, residents in some State-supported Ukraine accommodation in the Wicklow area were informed that they may no longer be accommodated at these centres from October 2026. The first centres affected by this announcement in Wicklow include:

Name	Location	Number of Residents	Last date of accommodation
The Royal Hotel Bray	Wicklow	252	18/10/2026
Astervale	Wicklow	16	31/10/2026
Sinnotts Carnew	Wicklow	15	31/10/2026

Accommodation Centres in Wicklow

There will be a number of Designated Accommodation Centres available in locations around the country. Some existing centres will close and be returned to private use. The next use of the property after a contract ends is a decision for the owner.

Some existing centres may become Designated Accommodation Centres, and some residents whose application is accepted may be able to stay in their current accommodation. Others will be assigned to a new location. The Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration will try to give successful applicants as much notice as possible of their allocated accommodation and date of transfer, if applicable.

The **Royal Hotel Bray** property will continue to provide accommodation to beneficiaries of temporary protection who have been successful in the application process for ongoing accommodation. Current residents who may be in need of further State supported accommodation must still submit an application within the timeframe (4th August 2026 – 11th September 2026) for completion and submission of an application form. Residents who don't apply for ongoing accommodations, or apply but are not accepted, will be required to leave the accommodation by 18th October.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Organisational Development

The following interviews were held in July 2026:

- Senior Executive Technician Interviews
- Executive Technician Interviews
- Executive Technician (GIS) Interviews
- Environmental Awareness Officer Interviews
- Foreman Craft (Bray Municipal District) Interviews
- Harbours Supervisor Interviews
- Traffic/Litter Warden (Bray Municipal District) Interviews
- Senior Staff Officer Shortlisting
- District Administrator Shortlisting

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026
Managerial/Administrative	365	361	367	363
Professional/Technical	144	146	151	160
Outdoor	245	238	234	235
Temporary/Seasonal	96	58	60	96
Non DoHPLG	2	2	2	1
Total	852	805	814	855

Increase in Temporary/Seasonal Employees as a result of Beach Lifeguards commencing on 1st June 2026

Freedom of Information

July 2026: 19	July 2025: 16
January – July 2026: 126	January – July 2025: 58

Ombudsman Requests

July 2026: 6	July 2025: 3
January – July 2026: 18	January – July 2025: 21

Press Releases

July 2026 – 9

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Register of Electors

Wicklow County Council Franchise Section went live on www.voter.ie on Thursday 11th June 2026. There are now 17 other local authorities who have fully migrated with the remaining 14 anticipated to be moved across before the end of October 2026.

All applications for updating details and new registrations are now coming to Wicklow County Council via www.voter.ie but we will continue to utilise www.checktheregister.ie for changes of address into Wicklow until all local authorities who have not migrated to date are also using the new system.

We are continuing to work on data quality on the Register and are also planning a programme of works for voter registration including visiting Secondary Schools in late summer/early Autumn 2026.

Customer Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
Communication Channels	No.	Public Counters	No.
No. of Phone Calls received to (0404) 20100	7,148	Motor Taxation transactions in County Buildings	2,147
No. of Customer Service Emails received	4,536	Revenue Transactions	1,739
No. of Elected Members / Deputy Representatives Received	133	Housing Counter Visits	405

Energy Office

Wicklow County Council achieved ISO 50001 certification in September 2024. This international standard supports the establishment, implementation, maintenance, and continuous improvement of an energy management system. To retain certification, an annual surveillance audit is required. The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) was appointed as the external auditor to conduct these annual assessments of the Council's ISO 50001 energy management system. The Energy Office remains committed to ongoing improvement, proactively identifying non-conformances and implementing corrective actions monthly. The 2026 ISO 50001 surveillance audit took place on 20 March and concluded with a recommendation that Wicklow County Council retain its certification.

The Energy office collaborates with all sections of the council and supports the development of other energy efficiency opportunities.

- Monthly energy reports on our Significant Energy Users (SEU)
- Library Service – New builds and energy efficiency projects in existing libraries and fleet
- Fire Service - New builds and energy efficiency projects in existing fire stations and fleet
- Fleet Management – Monitoring energy and carbon emissions of the WCC fleet
- Wicklow Gaol – Installation of a new boiler system, transitioning from kerosene to HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel to improve sustainability and reduce emissions.

Ongoing energy monitoring and verification of projects completed in 2025 to verify energy savings.

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

The Energy Office is currently investigating several energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects for 2026 with support from the Mid-East Energy Unit, Codema and SEAI

Planned SEAI Pathfinder Projects for 2026.

- Arklow MD / Library - Part removal of gas boiler, installation of Air Source Heat Pump, Solar Photovoltaic Panels
- Blessington MD office - Removal of gas boiler, installation of Air Source Heat Pump & Solar Photovoltaic Panels
- Shoreline Leisure Centres Energy Performance Contract (EPC) - Invitation to participate in competitive dialogue issued

Other ongoing projects - District Heating Feasibility Study – Arklow Decarbonised Zone final version due Q2 2026

Mid-East Energy Unit

- Tender published to establish multi-party framework for smaller works outside EPC
 - One stop shop for SEAI Pathfinder projects for Mid-East Region
 - Framework agreement established with the three successful contractors
- First EPC project for Kildare County Council contract signing took place in June 2026
- Second EPC for Meath County Council contract signing took place in July 2026
- Installing heat meters in leisure centres across the region to inform EPC process
- Third EPC for Wicklow County Council invitation to compete in competitive dialogue ongoing
- Fourth EPC for Louth County Council invitation to compete in competitive dialogue ongoing

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Finance, Water & Information Systems

Finance

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST JUL 2026							
	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Actual Expenditure	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Income	Adopted Full Year Budget	% Budget Spent to Date	Actual Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	%	€	€	%	€
Housing and Building	34,648,940	62,990,719	55%	(35,957,045)	(65,142,671)	55%	(1,308,104)
Road Transport & Safety	12,600,015	28,055,651	45%	(8,013,453)	(19,804,843)	40%	4,586,562
Water Services	1,917,236	4,382,330	44%	(2,845,143)	(5,354,831)	53%	(927,907)
Development Management	11,458,928	19,296,387	59%	(6,637,368)	(11,199,854)	59%	4,821,560
Environmental Services	11,940,062	20,044,291	60%	(3,283,719)	(6,082,483)	54%	8,656,343
Recreation and Amenity	5,874,408	10,517,175	56%	(689,516)	(1,393,762)	49%	5,184,891
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,258,677	2,081,928	60%	(397,082)	(694,328)	57%	861,595
Miscellaneous Services	6,151,794	9,588,050	64%	(10,453,456)	(17,287,651)	60%	(4,301,662)
Central Management Charges	16,143,039	27,283,644	59%	(555,311)	(1,050,000)	53%	15,587,728
Local Government Fund	0	0	0	(12,722,547)	(21,810,080)	58%	(12,722,547)
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Commercial Rates	0	0	0	(20,156,998)	(34,419,672)	59%	(20,156,998)
	101,993,098	184,240,175	55%	(101,711,636)	(184,240,175)	55%	281,462

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements daily and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st to 31st July 2026.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st July 2026					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2026	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/07/2026
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,487,427	45,379,457	(38,686,589)	(419,559)	18,760,735
Road Transport & Safety	(24,249,158)	10,215,172	(2,642,502)	(548,786)	(17,225,275)
Water Services	(6,335,116)	576,412	(435,457)	(90,000)	(6,284,161)
Development Management	(64,738,651)	559,577	(6,643,583)	1,029,972	(69,792,684)
Environmental Services	4,635,816	3,992,035	(2,481,709)	(257,464)	5,888,678
Recreation and Amenity	3,302,756	4,356,021	(806,893)	(1,460,860)	5,391,023
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,225,465)	93,253	0	(267,500)	(2,399,712)
Miscellaneous Services	(6,311,917)	735,278	(504,971)	(428,535)	(6,510,144)
	(83,434,307)	65,907,203	(52,201,704)	(2,442,731)	(72,171,539)

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

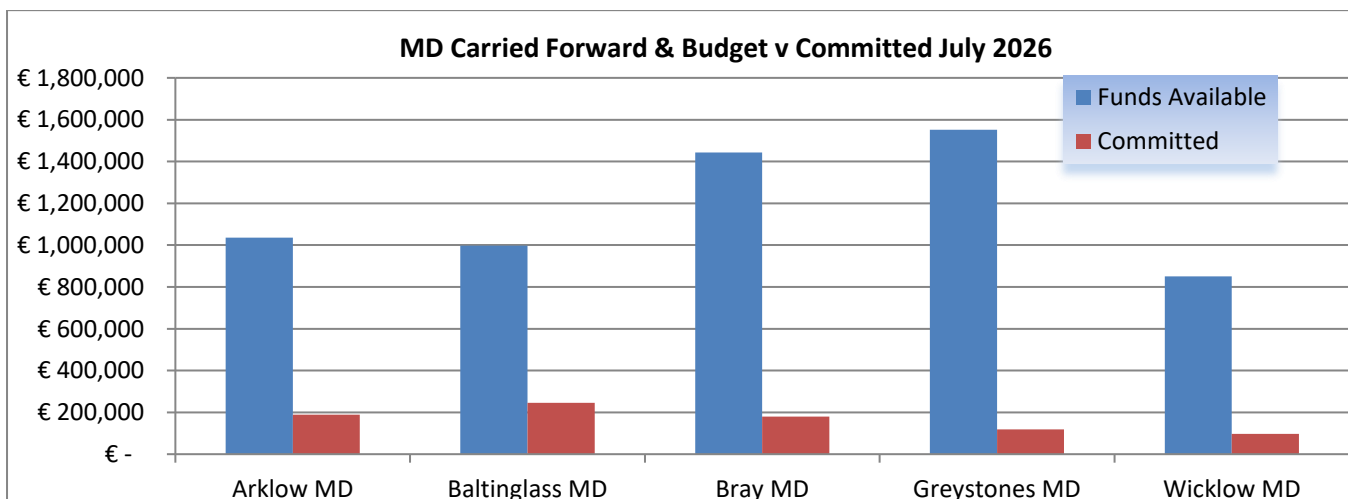
SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31st July 2026										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2026	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/07/2026	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	2,830,358	34,553,606	(11,259)	(104,225)	121,396	37,216,921	(27,966,059)	9,250,863	518,439	76%
Rents & Annuities	2,760,539	11,625,400	0	0	0	14,385,939	(12,100,306)	2,285,634	0	84%
Housing Loans	447,005	1,442,535	0	0	0	1,889,540	(1,364,150)	525,390	0	72%

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

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2026

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on 7th July to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% generated circa €1.4m which was ring-fenced for discretionary funding within the 5 Municipal Districts to implement important public realm projects. The total Municipal District's General Municipal Allocation funding for 2026 is set out below:

Municipal District	C/F from 2025	Adopted Budget 2026	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	517,434	518,009	1,035,443	189,636	845,807
Baltinglass MD	317,834	679,901	997,735	246,208	751,527
Bray MD	604,785	838,142	1,442,927	180,370	1,262,557
Greystones MD	1,040,878	511,584	1,552,462	119,228	1,433,234
Wicklow MD	213,125	637,288	850,413	97,412	753,001
Total	2,694,056	3,184,924	5,878,980	832,853	5,046,127



Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Capital Investment Programme 2026-2028

The Capital Investment Programme 2026-2028 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of 11th May 2026. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2026	2027	2028	TOTAL	Dev Charges ¹	Loan	Grant Aid ²	Other ³	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	114,226,000	128,000,000	130,400,000	372,626,000	-	30,000,000	295,418,500	47,207,500	372,626,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	29,906,000	31,040,000	35,960,000	96,906,000	38,851,000	-	54,465,000	3,590,000	96,906,000
WATER SERVICES	255,000	140,000	140,000	535,000	-	-	535,000	-	535,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	4,021,000	5,185,000	4,270,000	13,476,000	3,206,000	-	7,260,000	3,010,000	13,476,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	14,080,000	33,165,000	26,895,000	74,140,000	-	-	64,365,000	9,775,000	74,140,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	12,865,000	16,660,000	32,890,000	62,415,000	19,337,500	-	41,017,500	2,060,000	62,415,000
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	7,250,000	22,310,000	23,200,000	52,760,000	2,377,500	-	44,657,500	5,725,000	52,760,000
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	1,350,000	950,000	950,000	3,250,000	-	-	-	3,250,000	3,250,000
OVERALL TOTAL	183,953,000	237,450,000	254,705,000	676,108,000	63,772,000	30,000,000	507,718,500	74,617,500	676,108,000
NOTES									
1. Commencement of, and progression on, projects funded fully or in part by Development Charges is subject to the availability of funds.									
2. Where grant aid is not forthcoming the associated schemes may not progress.									
3. Other Income includes among others, disposal of assets, own resource revenue and capital account provisions, and private sector investment.									

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Capital Funded Projects

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
NRGF	Blessington Greenway	€15,000,000	€0
URDF	Arklow Historic Town Core	€3,134,684	€783,671
URDF	Wicklow Town - Library and Fitzwilliam Square	7,034,879	€2,407,470
URDF	Bray Public Transport Bridge	€8,600,000	€1,000,000
URDF	Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration	€9,520,000	€2,380,000
RRDF 2019	Blueprint for Baltinglass	€3,566,968	€891,742
RRDF 2020	Placemaking Newtownmountkennedy	€477,000	€119,250
REDF	Wicklow County Campus - Content Creation Hub	€4,500,000	€2,700,000
REISS (REDF)	Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation and Innovation Centre	€249,500	€49,900
Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns	Abbey Grounds Wicklow Town	€1,000,000	€500,000
Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Scheme	Market Square Wicklow Town	€119,000	€19,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Greystones CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Blessington CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
WCC	Mill Road, Greystones Masterplan	€50,000	€50,000
Sports Capital Programme	Charlesland All Weather Pitch Refurbishment	€52,500	€2,750
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Wicklow	€68,759	€20,628
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Arklow	€28,999	€8,700
Sports Capital Programme	Arklow Running Track	€62,434	€18,730
Sports Capital Programme	Dr. Ryan Park	€45,320	€13,596
LSSIS	Wicklow Swimming Pool	€2,443,654	€1,579,477
LSSIS	Charlesland Running Track	€411,674	€123,502
Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2022	Wicklow Libraries	€26,500	€2,650
T&V 2018	Blessington	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2018	Wicklow	€150,000	€30,000
T&V 2019	Dunlavin	€26,216	€2,623
T&V 2019	Coolkenno	€30,000	€3,000
T&V 2019	Aughrim	€119,500	€17,925
T&V 2019	Redcross	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2019	Delgany	€37,000	€3,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Bundled	€28,000	€2,800
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Dunlavin	€4,950	€495
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Roundwood	€40,000	€4,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Ballinaclash	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Enniskerry	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Laragh	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Tinahely	€5,500	€550
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Baltinglass	€10,000	€1,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Arklow	€39,500	€3,950
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Wicklow	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Greystones	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Rathdrum	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Broadband Connection Points	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Kilcoole	20,000	2,000
T&V 2020 Main	Stratford	€200,000	€22,222
T&V 2020 Main	Avoca	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Enniskerry	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Annamoe	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2021	Ballinaclash	€70,000	€7,000
T&V 2021	Donard	€29,000	€2,900
T&V 2021	Wicklow	€245,931	€24,593
T&V 2022 PMD	Carnew	€55,555.00	€5,555
T&V 2022 PMD	Kiltegan	€55,555.00	€5,555
T&V 2022	Ashford - GAA Wall	€127,000.00	€12,700
T&V 2022	Blessington - Community Space	€20,000.00	€2,000
T&V 2022	Kilcoole - Stakepark	€277,777.00	€27,777
	Sub-Total	€58,988,686	€13,104,276

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

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

Chief Executive's Report – August 2026

Information Systems

Operations

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

GIS & Systems Analysis

- **Property Portfolio Register**

Continued development of the Property Portfolio Register in collaboration with the Property Portfolio Team and Mallon Technology, supporting improved management and accessibility of Council property information.

- **Hydrant Mapping**

Continued collaboration with Uisce Éireann and the Fire Service to map and verify water hydrant locations, supporting emergency response and public safety.

- **Planning Consultation**

Continued development of the GIS-based Call for Sites Assessment Portal to support the Council's planning and land-use assessment processes.

- **Local Planning Frameworks**

Provided GIS and mapping support for the Greystones–Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework 2026, including the preparation and updating of spatial planning information.

- **Statutory Mapping**

Continued work on the validation and preparation of Council planning data for publication through MyPlan.ie, ensuring planning information is accurate and up to date.

- **Digital Inspections**

Continued expansion and support of digital inspection and field-data collection using ArcGIS Survey123, improving the efficiency of data collection and reporting across Council services.

Infrastructure

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