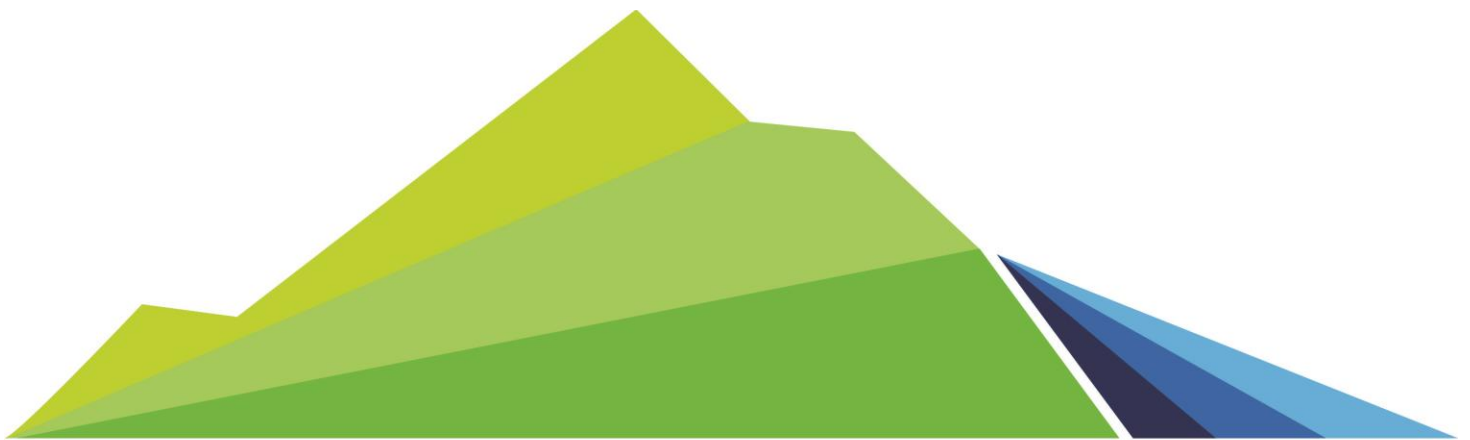


MAY 2023



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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This month:

BIODIVERSITY FUNDING BOOST FOR COUNTY WICKLOW

New funding from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) will help with resurrecting ponds, enhancing the climate resilience of dunes and rolling out education and awareness initiatives around County Wicklow.

NPWS, part of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government, is allocating €100,000 to Wicklow out of a national fund of €2.7m.

This will go to fund five key projects, including:

- Resurrecting ponds and enhancing biodiversity at council owned lands at Clermont Campus and Mill Lane, Killincarrig, to support our local amphibians and dragonflies among many others. These new pond complexes will serve as recreation, education, and leisure sites, providing large benefits to the overall wellbeing of local communities.
- Brittas Bay Conservation project: the continuation of the implementation of measures to enhance habitats and species in this important dune complex including ecological monitoring, conservation grazing, removal of invasive sea buckthorn, citizen science opportunities and awareness raising interpretation.
- A countywide hedgerow survey to address this critical information gap and protect these wildlife corridors that also provide carbon sequestration, flood protection, protection from soil erosion and preventing aquatic siltation.
- A Woodland Bat Monitoring Survey in partnership with Bat Conservation Ireland, of two elusive bat species that have more specific ecological requirements (ie woodland specialists) and therefore such species could provide an opportunity to act as an environmental indicator of the condition of our woodlands for biodiversity.
- A series of talks, workshops and community events to connect to the ecological crisis and support citizens in getting involved and creating new projects with their communities.

SEVEN WICKLOW COMMUNITY PROJECTS TO BENEFIT FROM €1.6M IN FUNDING

Wicklow County Council is set to receive €1,600,845 to develop seven community projects across the county under the Government's Community Recognition Fund.

The Community Recognition Fund is a major initiative designed to specifically support communities across the country that are hosting people from Ukraine and other countries. The funding has been allocated across all local authorities based on the number of new arrivals located there.

The towns of Baltinglass, Rathdrum and Greystones will see the development of community parks while Wicklow town will benefit by a place-making project which includes the refurbishment of the Assembly Hall and improvements to the seafront.

Arklow town's project will see a playing pitch and landscaping project in the Seaview Avenue amenity area which will complement the facilities already there.

Bray will receive a sum of €490,000 towards the development of two Community Centres in the town.

Housing & Community

1. Housing

	April 2023	April 2022
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4460	4525
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	172	230
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2710	2548
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	23	21
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	32	31

Allocation of Social Housing

	April 2022	April 2023
Wicklow County Council	72	06
Approved Housing Bodies	10	49

Social Housing Stock

	April 2023	April 2022
Tenancies occupied	4,801	4,711
Total weekly rental accrual	315,888.41	307,594.36
Arrears	2,931,574.55	2,752,775.26

MD -	Added to list YTD 2023	Completed YTD 2023	Vacant April 2023*	WIP
Arklow	5	5	13	9
Baltinglass	6	9	23	13
Bray	10	23	59	16
Greystones	1	1	5	5
Wicklow*	3	5	45	8
Totals	25	43	145	51

*Excludes CPO's. Includes 23 Hillview properties.

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completed and allocated
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completed and allocated
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completed and allocated

Sheehan Court Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Schemes on Site	Units	CURRENT STATUS
Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build (Changed to Affordable scheme)	36	Completion anticipated Q2 2023
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completion anticipated Q2 2023
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completion anticipated Q2 2023
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completion anticipated Q1 2024
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completion anticipated Q4 2023
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Tender with department for approval.
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Foundation stage
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Design team being appointed.
Liam Kavanagh Park, Ballynerrin, Wicklow	10	On site
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Stage 2 received. – part 8 ongoing
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5
Burnaby, Greystones	75	PPP Bundle 5
Ballinahinch Ashford	25	Design Stage
Tinahask, Arklow	75	Design stage.
Sheephouse Arklow	30	Design Stage

Public Private Partnership.

- A site at Tinahask in Arklow has been included in Bundle 6 of the PPP Wicklow County Council are progressing with a design on the site in parallel.

Part V

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	2	18 Delivered, 2 Units Scheduled Q2 2023	CALF
Rathnew	3	3 Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Delgany	3	Scheduled Q2 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	3	Scheduled Q2 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Delivered May 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	6	Scheduled Q2 2023	CALF
Arklow	16	Due for delivery 2023	CALF
Blessington	5	Delivery Due Q2 2023	CALF
Bray	1	Delivery due Q4 2023	CALF
Delgany	3	Delivered May 2023	WCC
Greystones	1	Delivered Q1 2023	WCC

Rathnew	1	Scheduled Q4 2023	WCC
Bray	4	Scheduled Q3 2023	WCC

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Bray, Rathnew, Wicklow, Rathdrum, with delivery ranging from 2022-2024. 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

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	78	Delivery Due Q2 2023	CALF
Rathdum	13	Delivered Q1 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Scheduled Q2 2023	CALF
Arklow	33	Due for delivery 2023	CALF
Blessington	40	Delivery Due Q2 2023	CALF
Bray	17	Delivery Date Q1 2024	CALF

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

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

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

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

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands

Parnell Road (Central Garage site)

Tuath have submitted the revised CAS application and it is currently being assessed. The Department had some queries which have been responded to.

Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas

All land registration issues have now been resolved. Respond are in the process of appointing a project manager.

HOME IMPROVEMENT/ADAPTATION

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

› Grant funding for private house - €2,352,438.16 - €580,626.16 spent to date

› Grant funding for social house - €818,793.00 - €376,003.50 spent to date

2023 - 66 open applications (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

2023 - 93 approvals (Also have some additional grants open from 2022 due to contractor delays)

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Grants Received/Processed	249	216	266	327	281	205

Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing and Disability Steering Group has prepared the new draft Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2022-2027. The next meeting of the HDSG is due to take place in April 2023

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road – 2 x 2 bed properties	Contractor on site – expected completion in August 2023
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Contacto on site - expected completion date August 2023
Carrig Eden - 14 units x 1 bed age friendly units	Part 8 complete – design team is being procured at present
Kilcoole Health Centre - 4 no 1 bed apartments	Detailed design complete – stage 3 approval received – contractor about to be appointed

Vacant Homes Scheme

There are now 17 CPOs underway on long term vacant houses around the county.

30 South Green, Arklow	House now Vested (registered to Wicklow Co Co). Refurbishment to start shortly.
5 Priory Way, Delgany	House now Vested (registered to Wicklow Co Co). Refurbishment to start shortly.
8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy	House allocated and tenant in situ.
5 Ashwood, Roundwood	ESB re-connected 2 nd June.
108 Charnwood, Bray	An Bord Pleanála decided to confirm the CPO on 25 th of April 2023. Confirmation order advertised and must now allow period for possible application to High Court for Judicial Review.
10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow	House now in possession of WCC since 8 th of November 2022. Compensation package to be agreed.
33 Connolly Street, Arklow	Refurbishment complete.

6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Refurbishment to start shortly.
114 Hillside, Greystones	Deal now agreed. Contract for purchase to close shortly.
18 Delgany Glen, Greystones	Refurbishment underway.
2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town	House now Vested (registered to Wicklow Co Co). Refurbishment underway.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	CPO confirmed. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry served. In our possession since 28 th of June 2022. Compensation now agreed. House to be Vested in WCC (Vesting Order No 3 of 2023) – advertised 3 rd week in April.
100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	House now acquired by agreement with Link Financial and in possession of the Council since 25 th of August 2022.
53 South Green, Arklow	Notice to Treat served 9 th January 2023. Compensation now agreed.
53A South Green, Arklow	Notice to Treat served 9 th January 2023. Compensation now agreed.
41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry	Vesting Order No 1 of 2023 now completed by Taillte Éireann. Title now registered to WCC. Compensation has now been paid. House shuttered mid May 2023 awaiting refurbishment.
2 Harbour Road (“Merdenville”), Arklow	CPO published Dec 2022. Negotiations underway with owner to agree purchase. Compensation package now finalised June 2023.
36 Wheatfield Bray	CPO published March 2023. Currently engaging with owner with a view to purchase by agreement.
2 further CPOs (further house in Bray and Wicklow Town) to be published.	

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

Derelict Properties

The following four derelict properties have been approved for sale:

Property	Progress
Croneynhorn	Valuation done, applicant has been requested a deposit to progress application – on agenda for meeting 12/06/2023
Killacloran	Valuation done, applicant has been requested a deposit to progress application
Rednagh Rd	Valuation done, applicant has been requested a deposit to progress application - on agenda for meeting 12/06/2023
Borkhill	No

Affordable Housing

Greenhill Road Affordable Housing Scheme was launched to the public for applications on 09/01/2023, and closed on 30/01/2023. There has been a lot of interest from the public and Wicklow County Council received over 140 applications

for the 36 properties. Wicklow County Council are currently 'sale agreed' on all the 36 units, and are having an open day on site for clients on Saturday 22nd April. Breakdown of properties that were available are below.

No. of units	Beds	Type	Story	House Price	Minimum House Purchase Price
6	2 bed	Terrace	2 Storey	€280,000	€222,716
6	2 bed	End Terrace	2 Storey	€290,000	€236,702
16	3 bed	Terrace	2 Storey	€315,000	€252,295
8	3 bed	End Terrace	2 Storey	€330,000	€275,618

Wicklow County Council also received approval for future affordable housing schemes in the county in the past month – one development in Rathnew(44) and another in Baltinglass(22), These will be provided directly by the developer . Wicklow County Council also has plans for further developments throughout the county.

Croí Cónaithe (Towns, Cities and Rural)

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

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

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

The Croí Cónaithe scheme has been extended in November 2022 to include rural locations also, opening up the scheme to derelict farmhouses etc. There has been a lot of interest in this scheme to date.

Number of Applications	2023 to date	2022 (6 Months)
Applications Received	10	18
Applications being processed,	8	16
Applications refused or withdrawn	1	3

Infill Sites

- Blackhills – Two 3 bed semi-detached properties allocated February 2023
- Knockroe – Two 4 bed fully accessible homes has been tendered and a contractor appointed. Contractor commenced on site - expected completion date Q4 2023
- 5a Rednagh Rd – One 4 bed scheme – Part 8 to commence shortly

Housing Maintenance – Boiler servicing & safety checking campaign

The focus now is on servicing and safety checking of 1416 Oil and 2269 Gas boilers around the county. Contractors are reporting **access rates as low as 60%** which is surprising given the current “Cost of Living” crisis with high fuel costs. It is in tenants’ interests to ensure that they provide access to contractors to service and safety check boilers. Oil boilers in particular will consume more fuel if soot build up is not removed at the annual service. Also important checks and replacement of components such as fuel hoses are carried out on oil boilers which prevents expensive loss of fuel and environmental damage which is extremely expensive to clean up. All new boilers fitted now are condensing boilers which have higher thermal efficiency and use less fuel.

Local Authority Home loans up to March 2023

Received	Approved in principle
10	0

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	April 2023
Applications Received	400	3
Completed	98	0
Declined	277	3
Ongoing	25	25

Homeless figures for April 2023

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/04/2023	Year To Date	As at 31/04/2022
No of New Presentations	16	126	30
No. of Repeat Presentations	2	3	0
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	9	56	17
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	7	71	11
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	0	0	2
No. of Children	20	103	34

NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	6	44	13
Family Circumstances	3	41	8
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	0	3	0
Mental Health	0	8	1
Risk of Homelessness	2	8	0
Arrears/Loss of Income	0	3	0
Addiction Issues	0	13	0
DV/DA	0	8	5
Medical Issues	0	5	1
Overcrowding	2	9	1
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	5	14	2
ASB:	0	6	0
Rough Sleeping*	1	9	0
Sofa Surfing*	4	17	1
Staying with Family*	2	30	3
Staying with Friends*	1	3	1

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

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/04/23	
Families	16
Adults	29
Children	47
Single individual	2

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/04/2023								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	22	26	23	8	2	8	2	2
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/04/22								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	21	27	24	11	5	2	1	2

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 443 households (322 families & 116 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 30th April 2023. (185 homeless cases, 246 prevention cases to date and 11 direct provision). 128 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

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

There are 9 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon, with continuing transition by the clients to suitable, alternative accommodation at the moment.

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

Dublin Simon has been engaged by Wicklow County Council to operate and manage the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow as a Family Homeless Service. The building comprises of 3 x 1 bed units 2 x 2 bed units and 2 x 3 bed units – Four of the families have now transitioned or are in the process of transitioning to a permanent home and the resulting vacancies are in the process of being occupied with families experiencing or in danger of homelessness

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

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

San Remo is operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where 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

The facility providing 35 ensuite bedrooms with associated kitchens and common areas 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 Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. There are plans now to move 6 of these persons on to own-front door accommodation which will in turn create 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 to achieve 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 15 clients under Housing First and it is hoped that at least one further allocation will take place before the end of July 2023. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation – the main issue facing this programme is the availability of one bed units in suitable locations with easy access to services etc.

Traveller Accommodation

Capital Programme

Ballintekin – 3 houses	Contractor on site- expected completion date Nov 2023
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Approval received for funding from Department, – Contractor about to be appointed for the scheme.
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses	Due to change in the family circumstances – new site has been chosen and Part 179a drawings being drawn up

Fire safety annual checks on Halting sites for 2022 has been carried out and the 2023 will commence in September 2023.

Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

All 71 properties given approval for energy efficiency fabric upgrade works in 2022 have been substantially completed. Surveying of the houses identified for 2023 programme is substantially completed and approx 35 have commenced on site.

Ukrainian Response

- As of 9th March the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 1,480 (although we know that there are considerably more in the County)

This number is broken down as follows –

- Arklow MD 240 No.
- Baltinglass MD 326 No.
- Bray MD 622 No.
- Greystones MD 152 No.
- Wicklow MD 140 No.

MAY 2023



- WCC are currently assessing all Displaced Ukrainians persons in the County in order to identify their accommodation needs as well linking them in with all the relevant services and supports within the community.
- WCC are working through a list of pledged properties within the County and matching families accordingly. As of the 9th March we will have housed 201 number displaced Ukrainian people into pledged properties
Larger buildings and vacant units are also being identified and explored as potential options for medium to long term accommodation.
- A new National Vacant Home call lead by Local Authorities has been launched, and is currently in place for a property to be pledged directly to Wicklow County Council with a second promotional advertising campaign now running both nationally and locally from 4th -25th March. offerahome@wicklowcoco.ie
- The Community Reponse Forum continues to meet on a fortnightly basis

2. Community

Age & Opportunity Grant 2023

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership was successful in securing funding of €2,000 to promote physical Activity among older people. The Grant Scheme is a combined initiative from Age & Opportunity and Sport Ireland. This year it is providing €317,430 to support sport and physical activities run by 909 organisations all over Ireland. These range from active retirement groups to sports clubs and nursing and day care centres.

Age Friendly Ireland

Age Friendly Ireland will be running a national Radio Campaign in May to encourage older people to reconnect with their local community groups and the wider Older People's Council.

Older People's Council – National Convention

The 2023 National Convention of Older People's Councils was hosted by Age Friendly Ireland and Kerry County Council, in Tralee on 11th & 12th May.

The theme for the convention this year was 'Reconnecting | Fáilte ar ais – Welcome Back'

The delegation from each county included the Age Friendly Programme Manager and 3 OPC members, including the Chair of the OPC.

Photos: Wicklow OPC delegation with Alice Corbett, Regional Programme Manager & Catherine Mc Guigan, Chief Executive, Age Friendly Ireland and Mary Butler TD, Minister for Mental Health and Older People.



Older People's Council

The County Wicklow Older People's Council Executive met on 21st April 2023, to agree on the programme for the Annual General Meeting of the wider OPC, scheduled for 26th May and the recruitment plan for new members.

The Public Participation Networks have scheduled a series of community engagement workshops, in each of the five municipal districts, to run on Wednesday evenings in April /May. The Age Friendly Programme manager will be doing a

short presentation, at each of these to encourage more older people to reconnect and engage with the Older People's Council in County Wicklow, which support the implementation of the new County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-27.

Wicklow Arts Office

Creative Places Baltinglass: Artist Coffee Morning

56 Artists, musicians and creative practitioners attended the first Artist Coffee Morning on Friday 21st April as part of Creative Places Baltinglass, a community-led three-year project that celebrates Baltinglass people and place funded by the Arts Council.

At this event the Arts Office launched a new Seed Funding Scheme, soft launched the new Creative Places Baltinglass website and share information about upcoming events and opportunities for the Baltinglass Community.

www.creativeplacesbaltinglass.ie

Creative Places Baltinglass: Seed Funding

The Seed Funding Scheme seeks high quality applications featuring innovative ways to increase engagement between people, arts, culture, heritage, climate action, biodiversity and creativity.

This fund is open to artists and local community arts, heritage, biodiversity and cultural groups based in Baltinglass.

Awarded projects can include artistic interventions, socially engaged arts projects, performances, exhibitions, podcasts, diversity and inclusion initiatives, and creative engagements for children and young people. Awarded projects must take place in and benefit the residents of Baltinglass

Grants between €500 and €1,000 will be allocated per project.

The closing date for applications is 4pm on Friday 2nd June 2023

Creative Places Baltinglass: Bealtaine Tea Dance

Funded by Creative Places Baltinglass and managed by the Baltinglass & District A.R.A., over 65 Senior Citizen from the Baltinglass area attended an afternoon of music and dancing as part of the Bealtaine Festival on 10th May 2023.

Creative Places Baltinglass: Seed Funding Clinic

In response to the feedback at the first Arts Coffee Morning, the Arts Office held a seed funding clinic on Wednesday 10th May to support applicants interested in applying for the Scheme

The aim of this clinic was to provide information on the application process, what supporting information is required and how to present a project budget.

Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme

22 applications were received for the Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme. These are currently being assessed and all applicants will be contacted with the panel's decision shortly.

2023 Artist one-to-one Coaching

32 applications were received for the Artist one-to-one Coaching Sessions. 20 artists have been selected and assigned a coach. Each artists will receive three one hour sessions and these will take place between April and September 2023.

Creative Places Baltinglass: Artist Coffee Morning

Wicklow Arts Office invites West Wicklow artists, musicians and creative practitioners to attend an Artist Coffee Morning on Friday 21st April from 9:30 – 11:30am 2023 in Germaine's, Main Street, Baltinglass

Artists, musicians and creative practitioners of any discipline and experience level are welcome to come along to connect with others and find out more about Creative Places Baltinglass.

Story Trails

Spearheaded by Wicklow Library Service in collaboration with the Arts Office, a new outdoor Story Trail have been unveiled in Burnaby Park, Greystones. This new edition will join two existing Story Trails in Tearmann Community Garden, Baltinglass and Vartry Woodland Walking Trail, Knockraheen, Roundwood.

One further Story Trail is expected to be installed in Rathdrum and a press release will be issued to announce all four Trails alongside a special launch programme this summer.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2023

Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of creativity for children and young people, returns to County Wicklow on Saturday, 10th June 2023.

A flagship initiative of Creative Ireland's 'Creative Youth Plan,' Cruinniú na nÓg aims to enable, celebrate and encourage the creative potential of children and young people through creative activities.

Following the recent 'Voice of the Child' research conducted by the Arts Office, this year's programme features a diverse and extensive line up of events, activities and workshops designed to inspire and delight.

Over 40 events, activities and workshops will take place in nine locations across County Wicklow.

The full programme of free events can be found <https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/wicklow/>



Communications Promotion & Community Engagement

Healthy Wicklow and Sláintecare Healthy Communities have received notification from the Department of Health that an additional €4,140 funding will be allocated for a communications promotion and community engagement element

Intended uses for this element of funding are to cover:

- Advertising & publicity
- Venue hire
- Event costs
- Promotional materials
- Communication equipment
- Branding & signage

Local Authority	Amount
Carlow County Council	€2,070
Cavan County Council	€4,140
Clare County Council	€2,070
Cork City Council	€4,140
Cork County Council	€2,070
Donegal County Council	€6,210
Dublin City Council	€10,350
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	€2,070
Fingal County Council	€2,070
Galway City Council	€2,070
Galway County Council	€2,070
Kerry County Council	€2,070
Kildare County Council	€4,140
Kilkenny County Council	€2,070
Laois County Council	€2,070
Leitrim County Council	€2,070
Limerick City and County Council	€4,140
Longford County Council	€4,140
Louth County Council	€2,070
Mayo County Council	€4,140
Meath County Council	€2,070
Monaghan County Council	€2,070
Offaly County Council	€2,070
Roscommon County Council	€2,070
Sligo County Council	€2,070
South Dublin County Council	€6,210
Tipperary County Council	€4,140
Waterford City & County Council	€4,140
Westmeath County Council	€4,140
Wexford County Council	€4,140
Wicklow County Council	€4,140
	€103,500

Maternal

Mental Health Day

Healthy Wicklow, County Wicklow Children and Young People’s Services Committee, Sláintecare Healthy Communities and Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership came together during the week of the 1st – 7th May to raise awareness of maternal mental health across the County. It is an international campaign dedicated to talking about mental health problems during and up to one year after pregnancy.





Sláintecare Healthy Communities Enhancement Fund

- Grant payment made to the Ballywaltrim District Recreational Park Management Committee to carry out upgrades to the Ballywaltrim Sports Pavilion. Under the agreed SLA, an initial €15,000 was provided with an additional €5,000 to be paid at a later date.
- Procurement process underway via RFQ procedure for two feasibility studies, one exploring the development of a health and wellbeing hub and the other to explore options for developing green spaces in Little Bray/Fassaroe.
- Meeting took place with HSE regarding the acquisition of Rathclaren House in Little Bray. The meeting went very well and all parties are in agreement with the proposal for the building to be purchased by Wicklow County Council for development into a new and much needed community facility in Little Bray/Fassaroe.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Marathon kids event at Arklow Running Track



650 primary school children took part in the Marathon Kids event, an initiative aimed at promoting health and fitness in young people. The event was held at Arklow Running Track and was led by none other than Irish Olympian David Gillick. The 5th and 6th class primary school children completed the last leg of their marathon journey and got presented with their medals.

Try Tennis Programme in Arklow Tennis Club

Women's Try Tennis 4 Week Programme started in Arklow on 9th May with former professional Tennis Player Yvonne Doyle. Wicklow Sports and Recreational Partnership are collaborating with Tennis Ireland to deliver this Women in Sport initiative

Girl's Kickboxing Programme

Girls kickboxing programme is a 6 week programme targeting girls aged 12-17 years. The programme started in Thursday 27th April in Shoreline Leisure Bray. The 6 week kickboxing programme is instructor led by Ann Hargaden, qualified 4th degree Black Belt in kickboxing and self-defence.



Women's Kickboxing Programme

Women's kickboxing programme is a 6 week programme. The programme started in Thursday 27th April in Shoreline Leisure Bray. The 6 week kickboxing programme is instructor led by Ann Hargaden, qualified 4th degree Black Belt in kickboxing and self-defence.



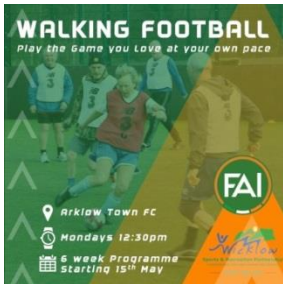
Youth Kickboxing Programme

In conjunction with Bray Sports week programme targeting 12-17 April in Little Bray Family Resource instructor led by Ann Hargaden, defence.



Promotion Unit, this kickboxing programme is a 6 years. The programme started in Wednesday 26th Centre. The 6 week kickboxing programme is qualified 4th degree Black Belt in kickboxing and self-

Walking Football Programme



This programme is in partnership with Gemma Murphy FAI Wicklow Development Officer. This is a 6 week programme targeting men and women in the Arklow Area. The programme kicked off on Monday 15th May at 12.30pm in Arklow Town Football Club.

Kiltegan Keep Active Women's Sheds

Kiltegan Keep Active Women's Sheds programme started on Tuesday 16th May. In partnership with Siel Bleu, this programme is running for 4 weeks with a variety of exercises from floor, to seating to standing exercises.

Walk with Me

Walk with me is an instructor lead walk along the cliff walk in Wicklow Town. This walk is aimed at the residents of the Direct Provision Centre in Wicklow Town, and took place on Tuesday 16th May.

Bike Week 2023

Bike Week is a celebration and promotion of the benefits of cycling. Bike Week 2023 took place from Saturday 13th to Sunday 21st May 2023. A variety of events will be held throughout County Wicklow.



Check Out Our List of Events for 2023

- Saturday 13 May**
 - Intro to Mountain Biking
 - Learn to Cycle Taster Session
 - Blessington
 - Newcastle
 - Greystones
- Monday 15 May**
 - Learn to Cycle Taster Session
 - Roundwood
- Tuesday 16 May**
 - Learn to Cycle Taster Session
 - Rathdrum
 - Ebike Tour - Tiknock
- Wednesday 17 May**
 - BMX Workshop - Greystones
 - FREE Bike Rental Day
 - Blessington Greenway
 - Ballinastoe
- Thursday 18 May**
 - Bike Rental and Trail - Glencullen Adventure Park
 - Seaside Spin & Sauna - Greystones
 - BMX Taster - Arklow Skatepark
 - Bike Maintenance Workshop - Blessington
 - Bike Maintenance Workshop - Cycleplus Greystones
 - Learn to Cycle Taster Session - Bray
- Friday 19 May**
 - Ebike Tour - Ballinastoe
 - BMX Workshop - Wicklow Town
- Saturday 20 May**
 - Learn to Cycle Taster Session
 - Arklow
 - Carnew
 - Rathnew
 - Tinahely
 - Pamper & Pedal - Blessington Greenway
 - Bike Maintenance Workshop - Blessington

Recent & Upcoming Events and Training & Education

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Outdoor Gym Activity Class	Coral Leisure Arklow at outdoor gym equipment	Tuesday 23 rd May at 10am	Open to General Public
Intro to Gym for Teenage Girls	Coral Leisure Arklow	Tuesdays and Thursdays eight sessions in June	Open to teenager girls 13 years+
Junior Pickleball Classes	Coral Leisure Arklow	Wednesday 7 th June for 4 week 4pm for 8 to 11 years 5pm for 12 to 15 years	Open to primary and secondary school children
Bray Trail Walk/Run Series	Bray Promanade	Starting Thursday 1 st June at 7.30pm – 8.45pm	6 week programme aimed at resident of the Direct Provision

			Centre's in the Bray area.
Walk & Talk Programme	Meeting at the AIB Carpark in Wicklow Town	Tuesday 13 th June at 7pm	Instructor lead walking programme, twice a week Tuesday and Thursday Evenings.
Inclusive Dance	Coral Leisure Arklow	Friday's at 11:15am up to end of June	20 participants with their support workers from HSE Day Care services in Arklow area

Training & Education

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Sports Inclusion Disability Awareness	90 minute Online Workshop	26 th April @ 3pm	12 attended, targeting teachers & SNAs
Disability Inclusion Training	2.5hr Online Workshop	17 th May @ 7pm	16 attending
Autism in Sport	2.5hr Online Workshop	23 rd May @ 7pm	10 attending
Safeguarding 1	3 Hours Online	5 th April @ 6.30pm	10 attendees
Safeguarding 1	3 Hours Online	25 th April @ 6.30pm	9 attendees

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

As the current SICAP programme ends on December 31st, a new tendering process will be undertaken this year. On April 25th the Department of Rural and Community Development issued a Prior Information Notice (PIN). This states that the new procurement process will commence in July 2023 for the new programme 2024-2028 on the basis of separate competitions for circa 51 individual contracts across the 31 local authority areas/33 LCDCs. Two of these contracts will relate to Co. Wicklow.

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN):

Joe O' Brien, Minister of State with special responsibility for Community Development, Charities and Integration met with PPN staff and representatives in CEART, Wicklow Town 25/5.

Development process for new Wicklow PPN Strategic Plan has commenced.

Consultations: Irish Council for Civil Liberties Freedom to Advocate Survey; Small Business & Community Organisation Awareness & Preparedness for Cyber Attacks Survey; Co Wicklow Partnership LEADER Funding Public Meetings; Housing Commission Public Consultation.

Training Opportunities: Bray Area Partnership Facilitation Skills Course; Overview of Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme; ESB Windfarm Community Fund; Community Safety Innovation Fund; Reach Fund; Human Rights & Equality Grant Scheme; CLÁR Programme; Heart of the Community Fund; Tidy Towns Heritage Award.

See www.countywicklowppn.ie and Wicklow PPN social media for further information on above and more.

Wicklow Library Service



Age Friendly Recognition for Wicklow County Council Library Service

Wicklow County Council Library Service has recently gained Age Friendly Recognition for all its library branches. Achieving Age-Friendly Status is a significant milestone and the library service is delighted to have gained recognition for its efforts.

Becoming age-friendly involved several steps. Firstly, there was a focus on creating awareness among its staff regarding the needs of older people and what they can do to make library usage easier for them. This included providing training which sparked conversation in the various branches which in turn enhanced staff understanding and empathy towards older library users.

Moreover, library staff actively listened to the needs and concerns of older people through engagement sessions and surveys. This valuable feedback guided the implementation of various measures to enhance accessibility and infrastructure within the library. For instance, adjustments were made to ensure wheelchair accessibility, lower shelves were provided for easier access, and magnifiers and reading glasses were made available to cater to visual impairments.

There was also recognition of the importance of digital inclusion and to offer digital training programmes specifically tailored for older adults. Furthermore, to promote social participation and intergenerational connections, the library organised events, talks, and activities that appealed to the older population. Walkability studies were conducted to ensure the library's surroundings were safe and easily navigable for older people.

Stakeholder engagement played a vital role in the library's age-friendly journey. The active participation of older people in decision-making processes ensured their voices were heard and their needs were addressed effectively. Health-related initiatives were also integrated into library services, such as collaborating with healthcare providers to offer informational sessions or health screenings.

The library's achievement of Age-Friendly Status was the result of a comprehensive approach that encompassed accessibility, infrastructure improvements, digital training, stakeholder engagement, and promoting social participation. County Wicklow's Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027 document provided a framework on which to base our plan.

With the older population increasing faster than any other group, the library's commitment to positive aging and inclusivity has positioned it as a valuable resource for older adults in the community.



Celebrating 50 years – EU50 Table Quiz

Wicklow County Council was one of 17 local authorities which successfully applied for grant aid funding to the Department of Foreign Affairs under the EU50 initiative, which celebrates 50 years of Ireland's membership of (what is now) the European Union.

To mark the occasion, it was decided to hold a table quiz for fifth / sixth class students, which would represent each of Wicklow's 13 branch libraries & mobile library. Each of the 80+ primary schools in county Wicklow was given the opportunity to put forward one team to represent them. To whittle this down to 14 teams necessitated local heats being held in each school's nearest library. The heats occurred following the Easter holidays, and 14 teams were transported to the Woodenbridge Hotel on Monday 8 May for the EU50 library quiz final. Each of the 56 participants brought along supporters on the evening, so a great atmosphere was in place. All of the 80 questions in the final, were questions regarding European matters, including general knowledge, geography, history, sport, European landmarks, flags and (ahead of the week that was in it!) the Eurovision Song Contest.

After a close fought battle, Blessington library emerged as the champions, with the mobile library – represented by a Roundwood school – and Baltinglass in 2nd and 3rd place, respectively. Some of the comments received after the event from school principals were as follows:

- *We thoroughly enjoyed the event, came up not too bad in the results and were so well looked after re transport and refreshments.*
- *It was a really positive experience for our pupils, even though they weren't the victors on the night. We look forward to continuing our warm association with Wicklow Library - our Mobile Library is a godsend and all the pupils and staff look forward to seeing Karen every fortnight.*
- *I would just like to thank you all for this event: our team and their supporters had a lovely evening, and really enjoyed participating. We would love to take part in future events like this.*



Celebrating 50 years of EU Membership at Bray Library

Library celebrated Ireland's 50 years of EU membership on Thursday, 18th of May. Bray's Aurora singers will perform a stunning rendition of the EU anthem 'Ode to Joy'.

“One Book, One Community” - Carnew

On 5th of May, students from Colaiste Bhríde and All Saints NS celebrated their One Book, One Community experience of reading *A Place Called Perfect* by Kilkenny author Helena Duggan.

Both schools celebrated the community element of coming together to read the same book. This shared reading experience brought numerous benefits to the students and the school community as a whole, creating a common ground for conversation between the students and promoting a sense of belonging.

Helena Duggan was on hand and the students had the privilege of asking her questions, all of which were from the heart and answered very enthusiastically by the author.



Bilingual Story Time in Blessington Library

On Saturday 20th May there was a Bilingual story time at Blessington Library.

Reading Stories in two languages is a great way to help young children learn new words and become interested in other languages. When children are exposed to more than one language it helps them understand and appreciate other cultures. Bring along your little one to this session which is through Spanish and English.



Bealtaine at Wicklow County Council Library Service

In celebration of Bealtaine and creativity in older years Wicklow’s libraries are hosting the following activities and events.

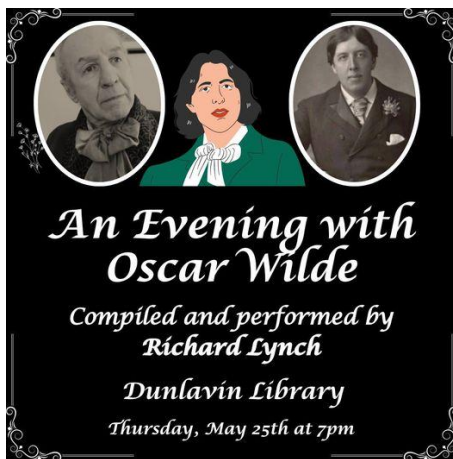
The ancient craft of needle felting is an enjoyable and very attractive craft. Participants will be provided with all the materials needed to produce a finished piece of art. There are numerous other benefits attached to felting – the craft is relaxing and mindful and by working with the hands, participants immerse themselves in the creative process and experience calmness and satisfaction.

Felting workshops with local artist, Miriam Brady took place in Blessington library on May 10th, and Baltinglass Library on May 16th, and on Tuesday & Wednesday 23th & 24th May at 3 pm

Join Ita at Blessington Library for a two-day workshop where you will use paint & glue to create a beautiful batik-style design on fabric.



Building on Bealtaine - Richard Lynch hosted a Classic Victorian Evening and celebrated one of the greatest writers in English Literature, Oscar Wilde, at Dunlavin Library, Wednesday 25th of May and at Ballywaltrim Library on 31st May.



Knit and Crochet for Purple Heart Cancer Support at Bray Library

Drop in every Monday at 11:00 am for this creative event at Bray Library! No expertise is required, just bring your knitting and crochet and join in supporting Purple Heart Cancer Support. This activity promises to be an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Whether you're a seasoned knitter or a beginner in the world of crochet, this event

welcomes everyone. Not only will you enjoy the therapeutic element of knitting and crocheting, but you'll also contribute to a worthy cause. No booking required, just drop in.



Knit and Crochet
for Purple House Cancer Support.

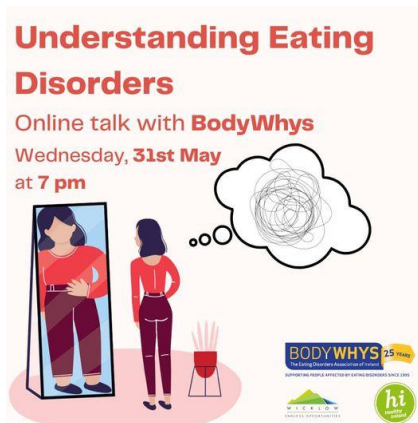
Every Monday, Starting May 8th at 11am
in Bray Library,
no need to book.

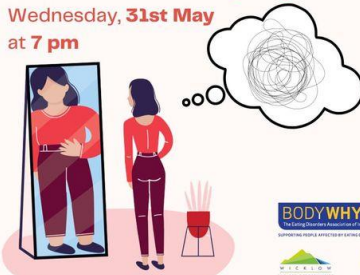
Supporting Someone with an Eating Disorder




On Wednesday, May 31st, Harriet Parsons from Bodywhys, The Eating Disorders Association of Ireland, talked online about eating disorders and how best to support someone affected by them.

Harriet has been working in this area for over 14 years and has a BA in Psychology, an MA in addiction studies and an MSc in psychoanalytic Psychotherapy.




Understanding Eating Disorders
Online talk with **BodyWhys**
Wednesday, **31st May**
at **7 pm**



Barn Owl Talk in Baltinglass Library

Due to the extensive decline of the barn owl breeding population, the Barn Owl is a Red-listed Bird of Conservation Concern in Ireland. As a top predator and sentinel species for the health of our countryside, the declines in Barn Owl populations are extremely worrying. In 2022 Wicklow County Council Heritage Office, in partnership with local National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) staff, initiated the Wicklow Barn Owl project with the aim of gathering data on this species in County Wicklow and providing suitable supplementary habitat through the installation of Barn Owl nesting boxes where appropriate. Oran O'Sullivan gave a talk in Baltinglass Library on Tuesday 23rd May about this wonderful conservation project.



An Chomhairle Odrasachta
The Heritage Council

Baltinglass Library

The Barn Owl in Wicklow:
The story so far

Tuesday, 23 May at 6.30pm



Bee Talk – Blessington Library

Biodiversity Week in Blessington Library was celebrated with a talk by bee expert Brian Murray on 20th May. Brian introduced attendees to the 100 species of bee in Ireland with stories, facts and anecdotes. It also informed attendees how to get involved with recording bees and other insects as a Citizen Scientist by showing where and when to find bees in Ireland.



Biodiversity Week
**IRISH BEES
FOR BEGINNERS**



SATURDAY, 20TH MAY AT 2PM

*An introduction to the 100 species
of bee in Ireland with local enthusiast
Brian Murray.*



BLESSINGTON LIBRARY

Economic Development, Planning, and Infrastructure

1. Economic Development

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Economic)

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

The LECP will be developed in two sections to allow for flexibility and adaptability:

- 1) Strategy, with the high level goals and objectives for a period of six years
- 2) Implementation Plan, with actions, for a period of two years (renewed every two years)

The Economic and Enterprise Development SPC has the remit for the development of the economic element of the LECP and has held a number of meetings and workshops to achieve this. The LCDC has the remit for the development of the community element of the LECP. The Advisory group will oversee the process.

The LECP is developed from three main elements (i) data and evidence from the socio-economic profile of the county (ii) consultation (iii) national and local strategies, policies and plans. From this five main themes emerged and have been agreed. The objectives and actions are being finalised under these integrated themes:

- Health, Resilience and Well-being
- Enterprise, Innovation and Creativity
- Climate Action
- A Connected County
- Equality, Diversity and Just Transition

The LECP Strategy Framework is completed and went before the LCDC for sign off on 24th May, followed by the EDES SPC on 19th June for sign off. Then it will be presented to the 5 MDs and EMRA (to ensure it complies with the RSES) – then to full council meeting.

The Implementation Plan is being developed at present – this is 80% completed already.

Following the last round of consultation with the LCDC a number of further indicators were requested. They are being added to the socio-economic profile at present.

It will now have an extensive new section on data regarding Environment and Agriculture and further detail on HAP, Incomes, Homelessness and Social Housing. The SCOT analysis has also been updated following feedback from the LCDC and PPN re environment, agriculture, just transition, migration.

This data will also benefit the Local Authority Climate Action Plan and the CWP LEADER Strategy.

Town Regeneration

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

There are four Town Teams in the County, with one to be developed in Bray.

Meetings have been held with the town Team Chairs and the MD Administrators to gain background information on the Town Teams, their expectations, issues, composition and work at present. Meetings have been held with the Town Teams in Blessington and Wicklow with further meetings planned for Greystones and Arklow.

Meanwhile the existing Town Teams are involved in projects aimed at the economic, social and cultural development of their towns.

Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington is a pathfinder town. It is the first to receive funding for a Town Centre First Masterplan for Blessington. They also had a presentation from Professor Theo Lynn from DCU whose team has prepared a report commissioned by DRCD on the digital readiness of Blessington. Digital readiness is an element of the Masterplan. This report informs the evidential basis for the future digital development of Blessington.

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

Arklow Town Team

The town team have a number of projects that they are currently working on.

Greystones Town Team

Greystones Town Team CLG last meeting was held on Tuesday 26th April, 2023. Updates were provided from sub groups of the Town Team.

Members of the Town Team attended an event hosted by Bray Area Partnership in the Glenview Hotel - *Breakfast Briefing: Become a Disability Confident and Inclusive Employer*, which they found very informative.

A presentation was made to the Town Team by Codling Wind Park in relation to the Community Benefit Funding, after which a Q&A discussion ensued.

Wicklow Town Team

The tender for the Connectivity Project, connecting South Quay to the Main Street has been evaluated and the successful tenderer has been notified. Consultations with relevant stakeholders is ongoing.

Tourism

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

The current strategy sets out a number of challenging but achievable priorities along with a series of detailed actions to be implemented over the lifetime of the strategy.

The Key Priorities are:

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

Tender documents have been prepared and will be published shortly seeking consultants to develop a new Tourism Strategy to replace the current strategy taking into account the changes in tourism post Covid 19 and the focus on sustainable tourism, Wicklow Outdoors, Screen Induced Tourism and Food and Beverage Tourism.

Below are some of the many projects Wicklow Tourism has been working on during March and April:

Press Releases and Articles:

See below the various articles Wicklow Tourism have published on the visitwicklow.ie website and promoted through their social media channels over the month of May. Some stories have been picked up by local and national press.

- **Arklow Uncovered, Top things to See and do:**

If you make the time to venture to Wicklow's most Southerly Town then you deserve all of the insider tips on how to make the most of your visit. In recent years, the landscape of the town has changed somewhat and you can now catch some great eateries, enjoy some beautiful walks, woodlands, beaches and a great retail experience. Arklow is a town steeped in history and surrounded by natural beauty. Read more: <https://visitwicklow.ie/arklow-top-things-to-see-do/>

- **West Wicklow Passport Itinerary: Blessington, Hollywood, Donard, Baltinglass, Dunlavin**

Collect five stamps on this Wicklow Passport suggested itinerary. This route covers most of West Wicklow starting

along the shores of the Blessington Lakes following the N81 to the 'real' Hollywood and on to Donard and the majestic Glen of Imaal, the Heritage Town of Baltinglass and back along the Kildare border to Dunlavin. The route proposed can be shortened but the detours are well worth the drive!

<https://visitwicklow.ie/blessington-hollywood-donard-baltinglass-dunlavin/>

- **8 Wicklow Hidden Gardens You Must Experience**

Wicklow is The Garden of Ireland and places like Powerscourt, Mount Ushers or Kilmacurragh are arguably some of the best gardens in Ireland. But what about all the secret spaces we've yet to discover? Look at the list below and check some of Wicklow's Hidden Gardens offering a variety of experiences, and acres of beauty for everyone.

Please Check their individual pages or call for opening times and further details. <https://visitwicklow.ie/wicklows-hidden-gardens/>

- **Powerscourt Certified by Sustainable Travel Ireland: First Major Visitor Attraction in Ireland!**

Powerscourt House, Garden & Waterfall is the first major visitor attraction to achieve certification with Sustainable Travel Ireland. Over the past couple of years, Powerscourt has been extremely busy in implementing initiatives to help reduce their carbon footprint and increase its sustainability.

<https://visitwicklow.ie/powerscourt-certified-by-sustainable-travel-ireland-first-major-visitor-attraction-in-ireland/>

- **Newly Refurbished Avondale House Re-Opens to the Public**

Avondale House re-opens with guided tours of the refurbished ground floor rooms including the imposing double storey entrance hall, morning room, dining room, living room, library and the forestry schoolroom. Avondale House refurbishment follows on from the hugely popular launch last year of Beyond the Trees Avondale treetop walk and viewing tower

<https://visitwicklow.ie/coillte-opens-newly-refurbished-avondale-house-to-the-public/>

- **2023 Tourism Map Out!**

The latest edition of the very popular Wicklow Tourism Map is out now. Distribution of the map has already commenced and will soon be available at various points around the County, Dublin, Ireland and beyond! The Wicklow Tourism map is widely used by visitors to find their way around the County. The map lists the many attractions, points of interests and activities on offer in Wicklow.

<https://visitwicklow.ie/2023-tourism-map-out/>

Social Media Report from 17th April – 17th May:

- **Website:** 52,062 Users, 65,616 Sessions, 126,295 Pageviews
- **Social Media Reach:** Facebook: 196,647 (+149%) – Instagram 19,162 (+16%) – Paid: 28,071
- **Followers:** Facebook: 33,779 – Instagram: 11,745
- **Short Videos:**
 - West Wicklow Wicklow Passport Tour: https://www.instagram.com/reel/Crf0wUhtct-/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
 - Arklow: https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cr3DC2hsR6o/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

EcoTrail Advertising:

- **Nature Trail Ad:** Thanks to the financial support from Failte Ireland, our first advertising on dedicated media appeared on the very popular Nature Trail magazine in France with a full-page ad. The magazine is produced every two months, and we are hoping this will raise awareness for the race.
- Further promotion is being finalised in partnership with print and online media in Ireland, the UK and Spain

Wicklow County Campus Masterplan

The Wicklow County Campus Masterplan will focus on developing Wicklow County Campus as a Centre of Excellence in Enterprise, Education, and Innovation in County Wicklow. Wicklow County Council will use the Masterplan to act as a catalyst for economic development in the county and attract investment and further development.

The project team consists of MOLA Architects as project leader, supported by a team consisting of a Transport Engineer, Landscape Architect, Ecologist, and a Quantity Surveyor.

Stage 1 – Data Collection and Analysis has completed, and the project is now in Stage 2. The project is expected to be complete in Q3 of 2023.

Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

The purchase of the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow was completed in August 2022 and it is intended that the space will be enhanced and redeveloped into the Abbey Gardens and Event Space, through Destination Towns funding provided by Fáilte Ireland. The Parochial House has been retained by St. Laurence O’Toole Diocesan Trust and a separate entrance way will be provided as part of the redevelopment.

The friary contained within the Abbey Grounds is a Recorded Monument afforded statutory protection under the National Monuments Acts and it is also listed as a Recorded Protected Structure WTC-RPS24 in the County Development Plan 2021-2027.

Following Archaeological investigations in the grounds and the discovery of medieval remains an Archaeological report and archaeological impact statement and alternative proposals have been submitted to The National Monuments Services (NMS). The NMS have confirmed that the project can proceed in accordance with the detailed methodology and mitigation strategy outlined proposed by the archaeologist.

A meeting has been held with the MD team, staff from Wicklow County Council and the architects with a view to getting the project underway immediately in order to achieve completion by Q4 2023.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

Fáilte Ireland, in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the Office of Public Works (OPW), the National Monuments Service (NMS), and Wicklow County Council commissioned Consarc Design Group with a multidisciplinary team to deliver a Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan for Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park and Visitor Orientation Recommendations for Co. Wicklow

An extensive consultation process was held between November and January. This process included submissions received through community meetings, online meetings and through a public questionnaire. Submissions were also received from statutory bodies.

Since January the masterplan team have been compiling and cataloguing these submissions and working on making the necessary changes to the masterplan and to accompanying statutory documents such as the Environmental Report and the Natura Impact Statement.

In response to the submissions received the masterplan team have also created some proposals concerning the implementation stage. The team is working toward finalising and signing off on the final version of the plan in the coming weeks.

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

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

The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow have come in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and an application for additional funding has been submitted to the DRCD.

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Arklow and Wicklow URDF projects completed. Following a meeting with the URDF Team, Bray Public Transport Bridge is under review.

A 3rd round URDF scheme has just been announced. The purpose of the scheme is to address long term vacancy and dereliction. It is intended that the scheme will fund local authorities to acquire long term vacant/derelict properties for refurbishment/repurposing and to bring them back into use primarily for housing. From the proceeds of the sale of the first round of refurbished properties local authorities will build up a revolving fund for the development of a rolling programme to address long term vacancy in the county.

A briefing for the scheme has been held and the initial application for Wicklow has been submitted, including potential sites/buildings and a staffing submission. Some of the URDF team are due to visit Wicklow to review existing projects and details of our application.

It is likely that later in the year there will be a further call for URDF projects along the more traditional lines.

Bray Harbour Improvements

URDF Funding of €7,140,00 approved (75% match funding for total spend of €9,520,000) Consultants RPS appointed July, 2021 to undertake analysis of the terrestrial harbour environment with a view to presenting an options appraisal to complement ongoing marine work.

The requirement for additional environmental assessments was identified in the draft Feasibility Report. RPS was requested to carry out an EIA Scoping Exercise as an add-on to their current engagement. A draft EIA has been received which has been reviewed. A public information day and presentation to the elected members was held on 6th of December, 2022. In line with the EIA Regulations the report was submitted to An Board Pleanala requesting a formal scoping opinion in accordance with Article 95 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), in respect of this project. The District Engineer is working on the preparation of tender documents to engage Consultants to prepare detailed design and produce contract documents.

Special Projects

Wicklow County Council Economic Development Unit are progressing the acquisition of Enterprise Space in Greystones from Cairn.

A tender has been awarded to Savills to take approx. 4.7 acres on the Mill Road, Greystones to market and seek proposals to include a hotel, some residential, and possibly some retail/office space. The project is currently in information gathering stage prior to any advertising.

Offshore Renewable Energy

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

Wicklow County Council is working with a business working in the Offshore Renewable Energy Sector, chamber representatives and representatives from the education sector SETU to establish an offshore renewable energy network aimed at addressing 3 key issues

- Ports
- Education and Skills
- Supply Chain

Major milestones in recent weeks include the announcement that the Dublin Array and Codling Windparks have received consents to supply power to the state. These projects will next proceed to prepare planning applications. The Arklow Bank (SSE) was unsuccessful at the ORESS auction but intends to proceed to planning stage and is exploring other options open to them.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow County Council appointed James Burke Associates (JBA) to carry out a review of The Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy 2019-2021 and to develop an Action Plan going forward. The new Plan will build on the original Plan but will also focus on Climate Action and development of the Food Incubation Hub and on Food Poverty, to review progress on original goals and actions and to agree steps to final action plan. A draft review has been submitted and will be reviewed by Wicklow Naturally and put before the members of Wicklow County Council in Q3 of 2023.

An RIDF application has been successful for funding for two days of activities around October Feast to support Agri-Food Tourism in County Wicklow.

Skills Taskforce for County Wicklow

The Skills Taskforce has members from Wicklow County Council, the Training and Development sectors, as well as members representing the Film, Food and Renewables sectors.

The contract for a Skills Audit and Strategy was awarded to KPMG Ireland, who presented to the Skills Taskforce in mid-May, outlining the project plan and timelines. KPMG also sought feedback from the taskforce for questionnaires that will be sent to employers, and will be part of a public consultation, via Wicklow County Council's portal and advertised on radio and social media, to seem employer and employee views on what skills shortages exist in County Wicklow. The public consultation is scheduled to begin end-June.

Broadband Connection Points (BCP) and Remote Working Hubs

A tender will be published in the Summer of 2023 for the development of a marketing plan for all present and future Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) and Remote Working Hubs in County Wicklow, following a grant of €50,000.00

under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme from the Department of Rural and Community Development for this purpose.

Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS)

A Priming Grant of €199,600 has been awarded to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG from Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS) for the provision of Architectural Design Services & Project Design Preparation (including Part VIII) for a Food Incubation Development Hub at Wicklow County Campus comprising regional infrastructure of scale for agri-food and drinks SMEs including specialist food production units, co-working innovation kitchens, and scaling and growth support services.

This funding will allow for plans to be primed for the full implementation of the Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation Centre. It will enable the recruitment of a project manager to advance plans for the centre, retention of an architect led design and multi-disciplinary team to prepare plans, appointment of a financial team to complete a business model and a financial analysis review, and the launch of a promotional awareness campaign.

The Food Hub will facilitate the development of scalable, sustainable, and profitable food businesses across the mid-east by providing the physical environment to choreograph opportunities for food entrepreneurs to interact with each other and will support Wicklow food and drink companies to adjust, pivot, or reposition themselves to respond to new market realities arising from Covid-19, Brexit, and other market changes, including climate change/sustainability, innovation, and digital transition.

Local Enterprise Office

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

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	-28/ €748,180 -8/ €12,829.95	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	12/ €283,118.50 2/ € 2,642.00
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			

METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
Total number of participants at Management Development type programmes.	44	60	13
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	84 / 7 programmes	120	43
Total No. of all Participants participating in training Programmes (all programmes except SYOB and MDP)	653	1200	175
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	8	20	12

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
Number of new clients added to database *Criteria have been amended for this metric	498	500	172

Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	426	390	140
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METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021/2022	2022/2023	Year to Date 22-23
No. of Secondary Student Participants	900	1100	1138

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2022	2023	Year to Date 2023
Number of Applications	Programme review	Programme review	Programme review

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2022	2023	Year to Date 2023
Trading Online Vouchers	67 Total value: € 138,464	38 (meet demand)	23

Lean, Green & Digital Start for Micro Projects	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	15	7
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Green for Micro Assessment by a Green Expert	9	17	0
No. of Companies who have undertaken a DigitalStart Assessment by a Digital Expert	-	6	4

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	15	11	5

April 2023 Activities

- Minister Neale Richmond, Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with special responsibility for Employment Affairs and Retail Business, visited LEO Wicklow client O'Brother Brewing alongside Leas-Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Aoife Flynn-Kennedy, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Emer O'Gorman, LEO Wicklow Business Advisor Martin Cullen and Cllr Derek Mitchell. Barry O'Neill spoke about their journey from start up to now looking forward to employing 23 staff in the next 3 years, and all of the different supports received from start up stage from LEO Wicklow.

Upcoming May 2023 Activities

- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out several times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Business Advice Clinics continue to run 3 days per week to provide advice to those individuals hoping to start a business and to assist existing businesses grow and develop.
- LEO Wicklow to host a Roundtable meeting on the Gig Economy. In attendance will be organising partners LEO Meath, Mid East Skills Forum, Screen Ireland, The Screen Guilds, Film and TV Crew Academy and the financial institutions. The objective for the event is to demonstrate the importance of the Gig Economy in an Irish and Global context and to articulate the value and vibrancy of the Irish Screen Sector and the importance of 'gig working' or free-lance working to the industry with the aim of starting a conversation with financial institutions and gain advice as to how those working in the sector can better represent themselves and demonstrate their ability to pay / repay loans and /or track savings.
- 1st June: National Enterprise Awards at the Mansion House. WHC Labs are representing Co.Wicklow at this gala event.
- National Competition for the Student Enterprise Programme on 15th May at Croke Park.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Spring/Summer Business and IT Skills training programme has been published on the LEO website and is now underway. A wide range of core business skills training courses are on offer from February through to June. Courses are open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow. Interest in training has increased up since last year with booking registrations looking strong.

Recently held courses include:

- How to Sell Food and Craft Products at Markets, 19 April
- Start Your Own Business Course, (Ongoing) started 20 April, Fully Booked
- Effective Marketing for SMEs, 26 April

Forthcoming training includes;

- Digital Marketing Clinic. 10th May
- A Laypersons Guide to Income Tax. 17th May
- TOV Seminar, 24th May
- Unlocking AI: A closer look at Chat GPT webinar, 30th of May
- In Partnership with Intreo: Employers information Roadshow on 25 May, outlining business supports around employing.

2. Planning

Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 as altered 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>

Local Area Plans

Work has commenced on the preparation on three new LAPs for ‘**Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole**’, ‘**Wicklow Town & Rathnew**’ and ‘**Blessington**’. The team are at the data gathering and surveying stage and are in the process of preparing a consultation web portal for the pre-draft consultation. It is intended to start pre-draft plan public consultation in Q2/Q3 2023.

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for these LAPs and they have commenced their preliminary work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

The current LAP’s for these three settlements, as well as the Arklow LAP and Bray MD LAP are available to view here <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/Local-Area-Town-Settlement-Plans>

RZLT – Residential Zoned Land Tax

This is a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes, and which will in time replace the Vacant Site Levy, it was enacted as a part of the Finance Act 2021, as referred to in Circular NRUP 06/2021 of 22 December 2021.

The aim of the tax is to activate and bring forward the development of housing on lands which are suitably zoned and serviced, as indicated on maps that have been prepared and published by local authorities for their respective functional areas. These maps were published on Wicklow County Councils website on 01 November 2022. The legislation also sets out certain lands which are to be excluded from the scope of the tax. The tax measure is intended to encourage activation of existing planning permissions on lands which are identified as being in scope and to incentivise owners of suitable lands without planning permission to commence the process of engagement with Planning Authorities.

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

The Minister has issued guidelines under Section 28 of the PDA to provide guidance to planning authorities in the preparation and publication of maps to identify lands in the scope for this new RZLT.

The 'in scope' maps went on display from 01 November 2022 to 01 January 2023, with submissions invited. Advertisements were placed in local papers and on the local radio station as well as Wicklow County Council social media. 75 submissions were received and all submissions have been published on the Wicklow County Council website. All 75 submissions have been assessed and responded to, before 01 April 2023, with a determination letter as to whether the lands in question are to remain in scope or be removed from the final map. Land owners had the option to appeal the determination decision to ABP, with 18 appeals made in relation to RZLT sites in Wicklow. All queries on appeals should be referred to ABP.

Supplemental RZLT maps were published on 01 June 2023, which include additional land identified as being in scope, over and above the lands which has already been included on the draft maps. Wicklow County Council has NOT published a supplemental map as no additional land met the criteria for inclusion in the supplemental maps.

More information can be found online at the following link <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax>

Vacant Site Levy

This programme is still ongoing as it will not be replaced by the RZLT until January 2024. All sites currently on the register will be inspected in 2023, and if they remain vacant, will be issued with a 'demand for payment' for the calendar year 2022.

Heritage & Biodiversity Office

National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund: €100,000 available to each LA from NPWS, Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government. Funding applications submitted by 24/02/23. Confirmation of funding received for all projects applied for, as follows:

1. Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project €34,170
2. County Wicklow Hedgerow survey €20,000
3. Community Outreach Programme €18,830
4. Woodland Monitoring project (bats) €7,000
5. Wicklow Pond Restoration project €20,000

County Heritage Plan (CHP): Funding allocation of €57,000 confirmed from The Heritage Council for the following actions in 2023:

- Glendalough Community Excavation and outreach
- Wicklow Barn Owl Project
- Seasonal nature workshops
- Support for Heritage and Biodiversity Plan reviews
- Our Wicklow Heritage communications.

- Community Archaeologist Part Time post.

Archaeology: Community Monuments Fund- CMF 2023 is co-ordinated on behalf of Wicklow County Council by the Heritage Office. Applications received from private landowners, community groups, public authorities and other custodians of archaeological heritage. Five projects were approved for a total budget of €108,174 as follows; Drumgoff Barracks €5,000; Kilpipe Church and Graveyard €30,523; Newcastle Castle €29,982; West Wicklow Historic Graveyards €30,000; Derralossary Church and graveyard interpretation €12,669.

Built Heritage Capital Funds (Architecture): 34 applications received to Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) by deadline 30/01/23. Following an assessment process 19 projects were shortlisted for the total county Wicklow budget of €101,000 (includes €5,000 for Thatch), and funding has subsequently been confirmed for all these projects by the Department. There were 7 applications under the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant scheme. Following assessment 5 projects were submitted to the Department and funding allocations have been confirmed for the following 2 projects; Crusher House, Barravore (stream1) €35,000 and Cronroe Gardeners cottage (vernacular) €10,000.

Public Outreach and Biodiversity Week Events:

Wild Woods talk with Richard Nairn scheduled for Wicklow library 11th May.

Wicklow is to host Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) launch on 31st May in Brockagh Centre and afterwards in Glendalough. The event will feature representatives for the five participating counties, The Heritage Council and The National Museum.

A programme of Biodiversity themed events is being scheduled by Biodiversity Office for National biodiversity Week 19th -28th May highlighting a diverse range of themes; including Wicklow Barn Owl project, Forest schools, hedgerows, marine field trip, dragonfly workshop, gardening workshop and nature cafes. Full programme to be uploaded on www.biodiversityweek.ie

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 30th April 2023
Received (Valid)	443

A total of 101 valid applications were received during April as follows:

Type of Development	30 th April 2023 - Number Received
Individual Houses	15 (13) refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	06
Agricultural Structures	03
Commercial	07

Other Developments**	70
Total	101

*23/342 Cairn Homes Properties Ltd, 98 dwellings, Coolagad, Greystones

23/381 Arklow Shipping UC, 34 apartments, North Quay, Arklow

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

Decisions issued in respect of applications in April.

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	02
Individual Houses	12 (5 refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	55
Other Developments Requiring EIA	01
Total	70

Decisions issued between January to April 2023, in comparison to the same period for 2022:

	31/04/2022	31/04/2023
Total Number of decisions issued	326	310
Total Number of decisions to grant	284	256
% Grant Rate	87%%	83%
No of applications withdrawn		07 (3 refer to rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

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

ABP-313314-22 – Lands at Fassaroe and Monastery, Bray (650 Units) Members Meeting 10/5, CE forwarded 07/06 – ABP unable to determine within the 16 weeks statutory timeframe.

ABP-313442-22 – Lands at the former Heiton Buckley site on Castle Street, Bray, (139 Units) Members Meeting 10/05, CE report forwarded 22/06

ABP-314686-22 Lands at former Bray Golf Club Lands, Off Ravenswell Road and Dublin Road, Bray, Co. Dublin and Co. Wicklow, (586 Units), Members meeting 4th October, CE report submitted 21/11

Strategic Infrastructure Development

An Bord Pleanala has received an application for approval under section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-310090-21- Proposed development will comprise the onshore grid infrastructure including 220kV export cable circuits and fibre optic cables, new 220kV GIS substation at Shelton Abbey and overhead line connection and all associated ancillary works. In the townlands of Johnstown North, Johnstown South, Seabank, Ballymoney, Killiniskyduff, Templerainy, Coolboy, Kilbride, Shelton Abbey, Ballyraine Lower and Ballyraine Middle, in Co. Wicklow – approved with conditions 27/5

An Bord Pleanala has received an application for permission under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-309991-21 - Development and operation of an inert landfill facility to backfill the existing quarry to original ground level; progressive restoration of the backfilled quarry to longterm grassland/scrub habitat: establishment and operation of a construction and demolition waste recovery facility; installation and operation of a soil washing plant and all associated site works at Ballinclare and Carrigmore townlands, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow

An Bord Pleanala has received an application for proposed development primarily comprising of the provision of a new 110 KV substation with Gas Insulator Switchgear (GIS) technology and two 110kV underground transmission cables (connecting to existing 220kV overhead lines to the northwest of the proposed substation) along with associated and ancillary works at Bogland, Kish, Cooladangan, Ballintombay, Ballyroonaun and Ballynattin, Co. Wicklow – ABP determined application without an oral hearing.

Substitute Consent

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

An Bord Pleanala 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, bunded 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 & Bolagh Lower, Redcorss, Co. Wicklow.

E-Planning Project

The ePlanning system went live on 17th April 2023 with applications being submitted online almost immediately.

The project includes the following elements:

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

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

Planning Enforcement

New Files	9
Advisory Letters	34
Warning Letters	6
Enforcement Notices	4
Legal Files	1
Closed	13

Vacant Sites

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
Arklow	7
Baltinglass	1
Bray	3
Greystones	4
Wicklow	6

02 sites on appeal to ABP – Section 9 (Notice of Entry)

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

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Wicklow	1
Baltinglass	1

Short-Term Letting

Applications received for Registration in April 2023	5
Complaints received in April 2023	1
Warning Letters issued in April 2023	1
Enforcement Notices issued in April 2023	1
Legal proceedings in April 2023	0
Files under investigation as of 30/04/2023	55

3. Environment

Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created during April	99
No Of complaints resolved during April	46
No of Litter Fines Issued during April	7
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	1
No. of Warning Letters Issued	2
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	4
No. of Burning Applications Granted	0
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	6
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act During Month	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	20
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	0
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	1
Income - Litter	€600.00
Income- Waste Management	€1,850.00

Whitestown Remediation

The draft remediation plan has been presented to the court.

Climate Action Plan

KPMG delivered the draft Baseline Emissions Inventory and Climate Change Risk Assessment and have now delivered a Summary Report on the Evidence Base which will be used for stake holder engagement. The Summary Report is a key output in these early stages of the process and is produced from the collation and analysis of the evidence base taking policy context into account.

The Climate and Biodiversity Action SPC met with KPMG on 5th April for a Question and Answer session on the baseline evidence.

A tender was undertaken to appoint a consultant to carry out SEA/AA through all steps of the process and Fehily Timoney were selected to carry out the SEA/AA

A meeting of the Climate and Biodiversity Action SPC was held with updates from the Biodiversity Officer, the Mid East Energy Unit and on the Climate Action Plan.

The next stage in the development of the Climate Action Plan is stakeholder engagement. A tendering process was undertaken to recruit a facilitator. Connect the Dots were selected to assist with facilitation of stakeholder workshops.

Recruitment of Climate Action Team

- Community Climate Action Officer - commenced in April
- Climate Action Coordinator – due to commence in July
- Climate Action Officer - commenced in April
- Regional Energy Manager - commenced in April
- Energy Officer - due to commence shortly.

Mid-East Energy Unit

The inaugural meeting of the Mid East Energy Unit Steering Group was held on 22nd February.

Wicklow County Council has signed up to the SEAI ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme, a year-long programme which will allow the Council to apply for ISO 50001 accreditation.

Wicklow hosted the April meeting of the SEAI ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme.

Bicycle Parking

Work is underway to identify suitable locations to install bicycle parking at public buildings, car parks and amenities.

EV Charge Point (EVCP) Infrastructure

Wicklow County Council is collaborating with Easy Go to build on the existing EVCP infrastructure in the County.

Municipal District Engineers will work with Easy Go to identify suitable locations for installations.

The Green Team is working on a number of initiatives:

- A new logo was selected.
- Member to check on implementation of the paper policy
- Eco friendly cleaning products to be trialed.

Conservation Management Plans

The Bray Head and Clermont conservation plans are in draft format. A walk over tour of Bray Head to discuss management recommendations with key stakeholders took place in April.

Environmental Awareness

- An event on Greener Gardening and Ponds for Biodiversity was held with West Wicklow Environmental Network in Teermann Garden, Baltinglass on the 15th of April. Over fifty participants attended. The event was publicized through network contacts and social media.

- April was National Spring Clean Month with over 120 events countywide.
- Thirteen schools are undertaking composting training funded by Wicklow County Council. The training provides five online sessions with two site visits to each school and will include provision of some tools.
- A dog fouling campaign continued with sensor activated messaging moving to Bray, Rathdrum and Newtownmountkennedy
- A series of three webinars to explore waste segregation, waste prevention and food waste called Green Hubs was completed with the final workshop on the 5th of April. It was funded by the Eastern Midlands regional waste management office. We partnered with Sustainable Travel Ireland based in Kilcoole for delivery of the webinars. One initiative incorporated into the second webinar is the promotion of a deposit return scheme for coffee shops. Training was provided on waste segregation and waste prevention.
- Green Flag assessments were completed in schools with 20 application submitted by the deadline for applications.

Sustainable Energy Committees

An energy awareness day for Wicklow and Greystones is planned for June with further events later in the year.

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 9 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 7 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 6 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 7 Noise pollution complaints closed.
- 0 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 0 Air pollution complaints closed.

Private Water Supplies

- 46 Private water supplies monitored deemed compliant with drinking water limits
- 4 Private water supplies deemed non-compliant and requested in writing to address microbiological/chemical non-compliances.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 14 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards
- 32 Rivers monitored for compliance with environmental quality standards.
- **Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations**
- 3 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.

Bathing Waters

The EPA recently published the Bathing Water in Ireland 2022 Report, in which bathing water over a 4 year rolling period is assessed.

Of 144 Identified bathing waters in Ireland 97% met or exceeded the minimum standard of sufficient quality. 117(79%) excellent, 20(13%) good, 7(7%) sufficient, 3(3%) poor and 1(1%) new.

Of the Identified bathing waters in Wicklow - 100% met or exceeded minimum standard of sufficient quality. 4 (67%) excellent, 2(33%) good, 0% sufficient and 0% poor.

Other bathing waters in Wicklow – 6 (86%) met or exceeded minimum standard, 4 (57%) highest quality, 1 (14%) generally good quality, 1 (14%) met minimum standard, 1 (14%) below minimum standard.

Wicklow Harbour was below minimum standard in the period 2019-2022, however, improving quality was seen in 2022 (excellent).

The public are invited to give their opinions on bathing waters in popular use that they would like to see designated (regulated) as official bathing waters in the 2024 season.

There are 6 current identified bathing waters in Wicklow in the 2023 season: Bray South, Greystones South, Silverstrand, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga.

There are 7 other bathing waters also monitored in the 2023 season: South of Bray Harbour, Greystones Cove, Kilcoole, Murrough, Wicklow Harbour, Arklow South and Arklow Cove.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared
- 11 Inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems carried out.
- 8 Domestic waste water treatment systems found complaint.
- 3 Advisory notices were issued in respect of Domestic waste water treatment systems found non-complaint.
- 5 Verification inspections to confirm compliance with Advisory notices were carried out.
- 11 Public engagement activities were undertaken to promote awareness and improve compliance.

Well Grants

- 6 New Water Grant applications received
- 5 New Well granted
- 15 New Pumps granted
- 26 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 30 inspections in advance/completion of works

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 2 Vehicle refinisher installations issued with certificates of compliance.
- 5 Vehicle refinisher installations issued with reminder letters.

Smokeless Coal Regulations

- 3 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

- 35 River samples taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.

Planning & Development

- 25 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural, commercial and forestry development.
- 1 environmental report on compliance with planning permission conditions was completed.

Control of Dogs

Dog licences

A total of 231 reminders for dog licences were issued in April 2023. 479 licences were issued, 434 yearly and 45 lifetime. 209 of these licences (43.6%) were purchased on line.

Bathing Season & Water Safety – Recruitment of Beach Lifeguards

Recruitment is underway for lifeguards for the summer season. Induction will take place prior to the season commencing on Thursday 1st June 2023.

Blue Flag Beaches

Wicklow has successfully retained the Blue Flags at beaches at Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Greystones South. The presentation of the Blue Flags will take place on Friday 19th May at Donabate Beach. The season will run from 1st June to 15th September.

Identification of Bathing Waters 2023

Wicklow County Council is asking people who swim at beaches, lakes and rivers to tell them if they think they should maintain existing designated bathing waters designations or give a new official bathing area designation to areas that are commonly used for swimming, but not identified at the moment. If you are a regular swimmer and want to help your Council decide which bathing areas should be classified as such, it might be helpful to consider the following:

- How your swimming area has been used up to now;
- How many people use the site;
- What facilities exist at the site and how accessible it is;
- Any safety issues.

Advertisements were placed in the national newspapers, and on Wicklow County Council social media, requesting any interested parties to apply. Closing date for this is 28th September 2023.

Harbours and Ports

Harbour Projects

Arklow Harbour	Grant Available	Project Update
Inner Harbour Arklow pontoon	€200,000	Tenders Received at tender assessment stage.
South Quay Arklow Storage facilities	€325,000	Tender received but very high uneconomical cost. Units to be redesigned and retendered.
Arklow Harbour welfare facilities	€100,000.00	Location has been selected at Memorial Garden. Contractor has been appointed
Wicklow Port and Harbour		
Wicklow Harbour Navigation aids	€50,000	Project underway, main structure currently being refurbished. New light and glass to be fitted once refurbishment of structure is completed.
South Quay Wicklow Harbour pontoon	€52,000	Pontoon has been purchased. Awaiting finalisation of Foreshore licence before installation can take place.
North Quay, Wicklow - additional quay space	€120,000.00	Project is currently out to tender.
Wicklow Harbour - concrete works	€150,000	Concrete replacement works underway on Packet pier. Repairs to take place to North Pier after summer season.
Wicklow - welfare facilities	€100,000	Location has been selected beside steps to the beach at harbour office. Contractor has been appointed

Wicklow Harbour – Cargo Movements

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-23	7	4	3	10	7	3
Feb-23	9	6	3	12	7	5
Mar-23	7	5	2	9	6	3
Apr-23	7	6	1	8	6	2

Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

In July 2022 An Bord Pleanála published two orders approving the Planning Application (EIAR) and Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for Arklow Flood Relief Scheme. Wicklow County Council has confirmed the CPO and moved to procure the

detailed design to allow construction proceed. The Council will also procure further Archaeological and other surveys in the coming months to inform the detailed design. The Request for Tender for a Consultant will be advertised in May.

Avoca Mines Remediation Project

The Council is at the final stages of agreeing an SLA with the DECC to advance the Remediation of the Avoca Mines project and is preparing tender documents for consultants, based on the draft SLA.

Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

1. Transportation

Public Lighting

For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults. Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **264 – 1.75%** of total stock of 15,243. Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attended)	2	1	10	1		14
Cable Fault (Attended)	1	1	3		3	8
ESB Interface Required	2	1	11	15	6	35
ESB Required (Attended)	7	8	8	9	9	41
Knock Down (Attended)						0
Materials Required	2	1	2			5
No Supply	1	1	1	1	2	6
On Hold	1		5		2	8
Submitted	15	42	45	21	15	138
TMR	4		2	1	1	8
Tree Cutting Required	1	1		1		3
Grand Total	36	56	87	50	38	267
Percentage Not Working	1.20%	2.31%	2.60%	1.78%	1.03%	1.75%

Date	24/04/2023	03/05/2023	08/05/2023	15/05/2023
Access Issues (Attended)	18	19	13	14
Cable Fault (Attended)	7	6	7	8
ESB Interface Required	32	38	35	35
ESB Required (Attended)	30	38	38	41

Knock Down (Attended)	0	0	0	0
Materials Required	4	5	5	5
No Supply	8	6	6	6
On Hold	14	9	9	8
Submitted	219	172	151	138
Traffic Management Required	1	2	7	8
Tree Cutting Required	1	1	3	3
TOTAL	334	296	274	267
PERCENTAGE NOT WORKING	2.20%	1.95%	1.80%	1.75%

Speed Limits

The special speed limit bye-laws were adopted at the February Council meeting with effective dates of 1st June for standard limits and 1st August for periodic limits. Signage procurement for the standard signs has been completed and erection of signs is to take place over the coming weeks. The tender process for the procurement of the periodic signs will be undertaken over the coming weeks.

Transportation Statistics

	Total 2021	Total 2022	Total 2023	March 2023	April 2023
Solicitors Queries	923	838	293	91	73
Road closure applications	53	78	15	5	3
Road Opening licences	1575	1414	719	337	94
Abnormal Load applications	54	60	19	7	4

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website www.n11m11.ie on 14 December 2021. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in 2021. Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation was due to commence in Q1 2022. The scheme is currently suspended as no funding was provided to continue during 2022 or 2023. The Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet with the public and any interested parties.

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

The BPIS seeks to achieve the early delivery of bus priority measures in advance of the main scheme between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview). The scheme is currently at the Options Selection phase (Phase 2 of TII's Project Management Guidelines).

A non-statutory public display on the emerging preferred option took place in November 2022.

The Option Assessment and appraisal process has identified that bus priority measures are preferred within the following sections of the corridor:

- Sub-Scheme A northbound and southbound – Loughlinstown Roundabout to Junction 6 (Bray / Fassaroe)
- Sub-Scheme C northbound only – Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) to Junction 8 (Glenview)

The viability of delivering bus priority within Sub-Scheme B needs further examination to identify the optimum solution to meet the project objectives. This work is expected to build upon the analysis undertaken to date on the N11/M11 BPIS and J4 to J14 Schemes.

The Options Selection Report is being finalised following the completion of the public consultation and consideration of the submissions received. The final Options Selection Report is expected to be published in 2023. Currently, TII funding has been allocated to progress sub-schemes A and C only.

The public consultation information is available to view on the BPIS project website www.n11m11bpis.ie. This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment for the 7 no residential properties to the east of the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The options review and design commenced in March 2023 following confirmation of funding from TII

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

Tenders for a Per-Cent Art Feature are being procured by the Arts Office. The preferred feature has been selected pending the completion of the final assessment stage.

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

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

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

Technical Consultants have been appointed to undertake planning and design services under TII Project Management Guidelines Phases 2 to 4 (inclusive).

N81 Pavement Capital Works

Resurfacing works of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove is expected to be carried out in 2023.

N81 Rural Traffic Calming & Bus Stop at Hollywood

Option selection and design work is currently ongoing. TII have provided funding for this study.

N11 Pavement Resurfacing Works

N11 surfacing works between junctions 7 and 16 will be carried out by the N11 maintenance contractor over the period from May to September 2023. A traffic management plan will be in place and works will be carried out at night to minimise traffic disruption.

N11/M11 Park & Ride Facilities

The NTA are currently progressing with proposals for bus based Park & Ride facilities adjacent to the N11/M11 at Junctions 6, 11 and 16. It is anticipated that some proposals will progress to statutory approvals during 2023.

Arklow Public Realm

Parade Ground Public Realm works has substantially been completed and snagging of the project has also been completed. The project is now in the 12month defects period and remedial works on pavement surface was undertaken in the second week of May.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

The route options continue to be revisited for a few sections of the proposed greenway route with updated ecological surveys just having been completed on those sections. Work continues is preparing documents and report to identify the emerging preferred route for the Greenway. It is currently planned to hold a public consultation on the emerging preferred routes in Q2 of 2023.

Baltinglass Town Centre Plan

Consultants are proceeding with preparation of documents for the delivery of a revised tender package for reduced scope town centre works, and undertake a value engineering exercise on this element of the project to bring the scheme within the current budget limits.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

Currently detailed design along with the preparation of associated documents including the preparation of the CPO documentation is ongoing to allow the scheme to proceed to statutory approval. As the project may impact on the Poulaphuca SPA, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required to be prepared. Statutory approval will be sought from An Bord Pleanála.

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

Consultants continue to proceed with the detailed design with the preparation of the tender documents.

Redford Junction

Work has commenced in the preparation of detailed design and the preparation of tender documents to allow the project to proceed to construction.

Winter Maintenance

The winter maintenance season commenced on the 15th October 2022 and finished at the end of April 2023. April was generally a mild month, consequently salting of routes only occurred on 4 nights in the last period with 16 individual routes salted.

SUMMARY OF SEASON TO DATE (Up to and including 30/04/2023)	
No. of Weeks Completed to date (out of 28 weeks)	28
No. of Days Completed	196
Total number of salting nights	58
Percentage no. of Nights when salting occurred	29.59%
Total number of routes salted over the season	587
Total estimate tonnage used over the season	2485.6

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Wicklow County Council has just recently appointed consultants to this project. The consultants have commenced work on the project which includes data gathering and are arranging for detailed environmental surveys to be done which will feed into the development of the routes options and constraints studies. Meeting with Irish Rail in April regarding East Coast Rail Infrastructure Protection Project, agreement made to share environmental data. A meeting with NPWS to be scheduled for May.

Blessington eGreenway

Planning documents under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act were lodged with An Bord Pleanála with the end date - 4th March 2022. On the 16th March 2023, An Bord Pleanála made a request for further information, response to be with ABP by the 8th June 2023. Work has commenced on the preparation of the responses to the further information request.

Bridge Rehab Works:

The Bridge crew has completed works at Kippure Bridge. Further works on scour repairs to take place later in the summer.

The crew are currently working at Blackmoor Bridge in Donard and will move to 2 further bridges in the area during May.

Preparations underway to schedule works required in stream/river during the season.

Machinery Yard :

Working with the WCC Climate team in relation to installing EV chargers across the County alongside a commercial operator. Proposed locations have been agreed with MD staff, but are subject to change depending on ESB Network supply at the proposed location.

A review of contract details to take place as soon as possible with all involved.

These additional EV chargers, alongside the EV chargers installed in 6 WCC depots across the County would leave the EV infrastructure in Wicklow in a really good place.

From this, WCC would hope to replace some of its existing fleet with Electric Vehicles in 2023. We have seen from EV trials that WCC daily operations would be affected if the EV charging infrastructure is not in place.

We will be looking at replacing some of the larger pick up fleet also in 2023 as part of a replacement plan. 2 large trucks have been added to the fleet to replace older vehicles. These trucks are ex Fingal County Council trucks will form an important part of the Winter Maintenance fleet.

These trucks are currently getting fitted with Romaquip gritters, which have been up graded to be brine capable machines which forms part of the plan to switch to a pre wet process in some Municipal Districts.

Working with TII and DTTAS on seeking funding for Brine station installations. Hopefully approval to be given very soon to proceed.

The trial for fuel derived from HVO (Hydrated Vegetable Oil) in some vehicles, as a substitute to diesel. HVO has a much lower CO2 footprint than diesel but it is currently more expensive to buy. Trial to commence the coming weeks as soon as the storage tank is installed.

Working with Pro-Works and a number of other LA's on a Fleet Maintenance system for the Machinery Yard, as part of compliance with RSA regulations. Progressing with the Pro Works system in order to reduce number of systems being used.

Surface Dressing-

Preparation for the season is ongoing. Season to start in mid-June.

Traffic management contractor has been appointed and chippings currently being collected and delivered to various locations.

Health and Safety Plans have been signed off by each MD.

Calibration of sprayer is complete, with remainder of plant being serviced and prepared in the coming weeks.

Active Travel Updates - May

Projects Under Construction

Glenart pedestrian link (Arklow MD)

Pedestrian accessibility link improvements at the rear of the Woodlands housing development located between Lamberton and Glenart. The works will involve the construction of a pedestrian access ramp and the installation of public lighting along the scheme. Works are progressing with concrete works completed on the pedestrian ramp, as well as public lighting completed. A handrail is to be installed with reinstatement works on access lane to be completed also. Works are scheduled to be completed by the end of May.

Arklow North Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

The design of cycle and pedestrian facilities on the R-772 Dublin Road. The scheme involves construction of a footpath and segregated cycle facilities on the R-772 between the M11 Junction 11. Works are progressing well on site, with Ongoing construction works on southbound footpath and cycle track.

Ashford to New Developments footpath (Wicklow MD)

Improve pedestrian facilities along the R-764 by widening the footpath and upgrading the public lighting. Progressing well, with retaining wall and stone facing complete. Kerbing has been installed and footpath construction to be completed.

Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

Provision of 2.8km of segregated cycle track along the R-772 Wexford Road, Arklow between Knockmore Roundabout and M11 Junction 21. The scheme will also construct 1.4km approx. of pedestrian footpath. Initial works began in January 2023, with clearing of the verge. Drainage and public lighting ducting works are substantially complete on the eastern side of road, and preparation works are ongoing for kerbing installation. Accommodation works to commence at residential properties on eastern side.

Bellevue Junction Improvement works in Delgany (Greystones MD)

Upgrading of the junction of the R-762 and Bellevue Hill. The project will improve pedestrian accessibility and safety and enhance village centre aesthetics by widening and landscaping the paved pedestrian areas, upgrading public transport facilities, undergrounding services, and upgrading public lighting. Construction works to continue.

Kilcoole Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements (Greystones MD)

Provision of 500m of new footpath and 500m of cycle track along the R-761. Works are being progressed by the NTA deliverables team will be completed in three sections/phases. Works are nearing completion in phase one, with footpath construction ongoing and the commencement of accommodation works at the boundary with Glenbrook Park. Works have commenced in Phase 2 also with verge clearing now complete and works on the retaining wall are ongoing.

Project Updates

Bray Dart Interchange (Bray MD)

New plaza and public transport interchange in front of Bray DART station, with revised car parking, set down and taxi rank arrangements. Tender assessments to be carried out once the tender closes on 15th May.

Safe Routes to Schools: SS Michael and Peter Junior School (Arklow MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Preliminary designs were presented to Elected Members and were met with positive feedback. Work is ongoing on the detail design and procurement. Work is due to be undertaken in July and August.

Safe Routes to Schools: St. John's Senior National School, Arklow (Arklow MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Preliminary designs were presented to Elected Members and were met with positive feedback. Work is ongoing on the detail design and procurement. Work is due to be undertaken in July and August.

Safe Routes to Schools: Kevin's National School, Greystones (Greystones MD)

Provide infrastructure for schools to increase walking and cycling as the preferred travel mode where possible and improve safety at front of schools. Preliminary designs were presented to Elected Members at the April district meeting and were met with positive feedback. Work is ongoing on the detail design and procurement. Work is due to be undertaken in July and August.

Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Wicklow MD)

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle facilities along Marlton Road, Rocky Road, R-750 and Station Road to provide strategic routes to Wicklow Train Station. Consultants are currently preparing Rapid Build Option Assessment Report for this route.

Greystones Active Travel Pathfinder Project (Greystones MD)

Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to Greystones Train Station. The spine route extends from Greystones Marina to Shoreline Sports Centre. The project will include improved pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway. Consultants are currently preparing Rapid Build Option Assessment Report for this route and preparing the designs pedestrian and cycle crossings along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway.

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	323,986
Greystones Municipal District	91,597
Wicklow Municipal District	120,651
Arklow Municipal District	70,917
Parking Permits	29,575
Parking Fines	153,039
Wicklow County Council	789,765

2. Emergency Services

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics April 2023

	Total stations	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baltinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Call sign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic	0										
Persons Reported	7	2	4	1							
Fire Domestic	7	2	4	1							
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	26	2	2	7	7	3				1	4
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	0										
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	4	1	1	1	1						
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	1		1								
One Station Mobilised											

Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	20	7	3	2	1	1	5			1	
Fire Outdoor Rural: Gorse / bushes	5		1			1			2		1
Fire Chimney	6	1	2	1	1					1	
Fire Small Urban / bin / skip / bonfire	11	5	1	4		1					
Fire Vehicle	7	1		2	2		1	1			
Flooding	1		1								
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	1		1								
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	11	1	3	3		1	1		1	1	
Garda Assist	0										
Electrical Incident	0										
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										
Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	0										
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	0										
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	1	1									
False Alarm – Good Intent	4	1	1		1					1	
Malicious False Alarm	0										
Mobilised into other County	7					2	1	2		2	
Times Stations mobilised	112	22	21	21	13	9	8	3	3	7	5

There were **93 incidents** attended during the month of April 2023. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **112 occasions** including 7 mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of April 2023 **was unchanged (112 mobilisations) on the preceding month** (March 2023: 111 mobilisations).

Operational activity for the month of April 2023 **was down 20% on the equivalent month in 2022** (April 2022: 142 mobilisations). The reduction in mobilisations can be accounted for by: Domestic House Fires (-15), malicious urban fires (-17), ambulance assists (-11). There was an increase in RTCs (+11).

Sample Incidents (April 2023)

- 05/04/2023 Rathdrum and Tinahely crews attended a 2-vehicle RTC at Ballinatone, Greenane. One vehicle on its side.

- 09/04/2023 Bray and Greystones crews attended a fire in derelict Rockbrae House on the Vevay Road. Crews were in attendance for 6 hours.
- 15/04/2023 Arklow and Wicklow Town crews attended an RTC on the Vale Road following a collision between a car and a motorcycle.
- 16/04/2023 Rathdrum and Tinahely crews attended an RTC in Aughrim involving a car and a motorcycle.
- 16/04/2023 Tinahely and Carnew crews attended a single vehicle RTC in Carnew.
- 20/04/2023 Rathdrum and Wicklow Town crews attended an RTC on the R755 Roundwood between a truck and a motorcycle.

Incidents in County Kildare (3-incidents total):

- 07/04/2023 Dunlavin crew assisted Monasterevin crew at an environmental incident at the Red House, Kilbelin, Newbridge. An overturned truck was leaking fuel.
- 23/04/2023 Blessington crew supported a crew from DFB Tallaght at an incident involving an overturned car in Killeel.
- 30/04/2023 Dunlavin crew supported a crew from Naas at a 2-car RTC at Blackhall, Calverstown.

Incidents in County Wexford (3-incidents):

- 09/04/2023 Arklow crew assisted crews from Gorey at a domestic fire persons reported at Riverchapel, Courtown.
- 17/04/2023 Carnew crew attended a chimney fire at St Mary’s Church Camolin.
- 19/04/2023 Arklow crew assisted crews from Gorey and Bunclody at a hay barn fire at Tinnabawn, Kililinierin.

General

- A coordination meeting of the local Principal Response Agencies (Gardaí, HSE and Local Authority) took place to discuss Major Emergency Management.
- Wicklow County Council held a coordination meeting of it’s Major Emergency Management Committee.
- Meetings took place with organisers of a number of large outdoor events scheduled during the summer including the Kaleidoscope festival (Russborough House), Beyond the Pale (Glendalough House), the Bray Air Show and the Tinahely Show.
- 4 two-day Breathing Apparatus Refresher courses were delivered in the Bray Training Centre to 50 firefighters from around the county.
- 1 Emergency Traffic Management Training course was undertaken in Greystones Fire Station mainly for new entrants.
- Station Officer Paul Whelan instructed for the NDFEM on an updated 5 Day Fire Service Trainer (Delivery) Course which took place in Ennis. Wicklow also had one student on the course.
- SACFO Michael Gahan directed the 5 Day NDFEM Heavy Vehicle Rescue Instructor Course held in Hacketstown Training Centre. Wicklow also had one student on the course.
- ACFO Ryan Lally completed the Effective Decision Making course in Clonmel.

Fire Prevention Statistics April 2023

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

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid or withdrawn	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended for Grant
FSCs	9	0	4	0	11
Revised FSCs	1	0	2	0	1
FSC 7-Day Notice	3	2	0	0	0
Regularisation	0	0	2	0	0

FSCs					
DACs	1	1	2	0	0
Revised DACs	1	0	1	0	1
Dispensations / Relaxations	3	1	1	0	0

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 20 planning files during the month of April 2023.

The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 18 of these files.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District	2		1	1	
Circuit					
Dangerous Substances Act		5			
Explosive Act					

Building Control Statistics April 2023

Commencement Notices for April 2023:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 44

- 11 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 20 Opt Out Declarations
- 5 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 8 Seven day Notice
-

Submission Statistics

- 45 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 64 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 28 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 6 are Compliance Documentation (21%)
 - 15 are Opt Out (54%)
 - 1 Without Compliance Documentation (4%)
 - 6 Seven Day Notice (21%)
- 39 Valid Commencement Notices
- 79 new build residential Units and additional 48 Apartments
- 8 Non Res new builds

- Invalidated CNs for April = 2

- **Certificates of Completion processed in April 2023**

- 7 New No. of CCC submitted
- 4 Required Revised Information
- 10 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 38 new residential units plus 1 Non Res. Build

Submission Statistics

10 No. Validated CCCs related to;

- 7 No CCCs submitted in April 2023
- 3 No CCCs submitted in March 2023

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Building Control continues to experienced high construction activity & in particular completion of units since the beginning of 2023. 79 new residential houses and 48 apartments were notified to LA for Commencement & 38 newly completed residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in April.

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

Revised Information requests were high in April for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 64% of Commencement Notice submissions & 57% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. It should be further noted that some Opt Out Submissions are requiring 2 to 3 Revised information requests which results in submissions being assessed 2 to 3 times to ensure compliance prior to commencement.

Opt Out submissions are both extensions and single unit dwellings, generally from BCMS users who are unfamiliar with both BCMS and Building Regulations which leads to Building Control resources being directed to resolving both administration and technical issues with Opt-Out Submissions. NBC&MSO Quarterly Newsletter dated September 2022 has requested LA’s to focus resources on compliance with Building Regulations in Opt Out Submissions, Wicklow Building Control continue to perform rigorous assessment of submissions at commencement stage and onsite presence during constructions. These methods remain the best way to promote compliance with Building Regs.

Building Control submitted Building Control Activity statistics for 1st Quarter 2023 to NBCO in April also.

Civil Defence

Callout & Assists

- Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership hosted Marathon Kids Event with David Gillick at the Arklow Running Track, Coral Leisure Arklow, 750 5th & 6th class students from around the count took part. Civil Defence Provided First Aid for the event.

Gardaí	Local Authority	Fire Service	HSE	Charity	Other
-	1	-	-	-	-

Training

- Missing Person Search Instructor training ongoing
- Swiftwater Flood Responder training course took place on the river Varty in Wicklow Town on the 15th and 16th of April
- Drone training in conjunction with Wicklow County Council Staff



Organisational Development & Financial Matters

1. HR & Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in April 2023:

- General Operative
- Assistant Engineer
- Technician Grade I (Architectural)
- Technician Grade I (Civil)
- Technician Grade I (Environmental)
- Assistant Planner
- Craftworker Plumber

Employee Numbers

Employee Numbers	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023
Managerial/Administrative	303	298	301	304
Professional/Technical	117	116	126	131
Outdoor	273	264	262	260
Temporary/Seasonal	44	69 (Increase due to Lifeguards)	37	35
Non DOHPLG	6	6	5	5
Total	743	753	731	735

Access to Information

Freedom of Information Requests

April 2023: 7	April 2022: 5
Jan – April 2023: 38	Jan – April 2022: 31

Ombudsman Requests

April 2023: 2	April 2022: 0
January – April 2023: 9	January – April 2022: 10

Press Releases

April 2023 – 3

Register of Electors

Online applications via www.checktheregister.ie continue to be received and processed daily, we have cleared our backlog of 150 applications.

At a recent online meeting with the Electoral Registration Modernisation Project Team we were advised that the next advertising campaign will commence June 19th for a number of weeks. This campaign will be a more deliberate messaging for PPSN, DOB, Eircode

Radio: National – Local, nationwide

Outdoor: Billboard, DPODs (transit & shopping centres) Bus Shelters, nationwide

Social: FB, Instagram, Twitter, nationwide

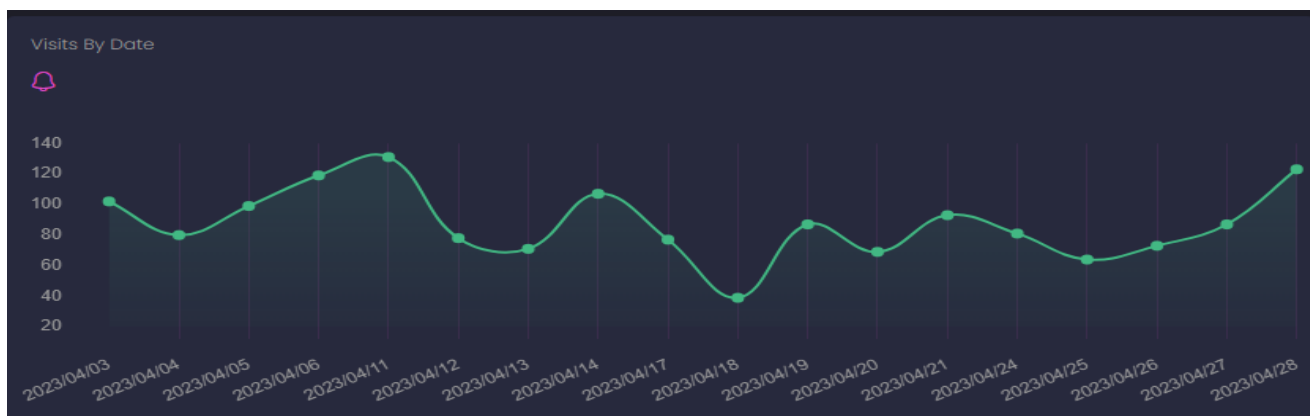
Digital: Digital audio, Irish language, nationwide

We expect to see a significant spike in online applications once the advertising campaign launches.

Customer Service Innovation Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2023 - April			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	8,926	Motor Taxation	1,564
No. of Emails	1,007	Revenue Transactions (includes phone payments)	1,339
No. of Elected Members Emails	40	Housing Counter visits	460
CRM Cases	58	Social Housing Applications • To be processed: • To be checked and validated: • Awaiting further info:	33 11 44 <hr/> 88

Total in person visits for April 2023 – 1,580



LAMA Awards

Wicklow were shortlisted in four of the categories in this year’s LAMA Awards.

- Best Community Transport Initiative – Saville’s Cross Junction Scheme
- Best Micro Start-up – Kate Dempsey Aqualicense
- Most Inclusive Project 2022 – Ukrainian Hub
- Best Energy Smart Initiative – Solar Car Ports

Aqualicense, who are supported by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, were this year’s ‘Best Micro Start-up’ winners.



In the picture: Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Tommy Annesley and Chief Executive Emer O’Gorman as well as Ciaran Farrell CEO of Aqualicense, accepting the award from the sponsor Andrew McCarthy, Chief Sponsorship and Mission Officer, Bon Secours Health System and Cllr Michael Anglim, Chairperson, LAMA (Local Authority Members Association).

2. I.C.T.

IT Helpdesk

- 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.
- A new Helpdesk Management Portal is currently being configured which should improve the workflow process of tickets.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is continuing.

GIS & Systems Analysis

- **Sustainability Communities Report** – Maps prepared for housing development at Usher Glen, Ashford (Amenities and Services, Education and Childcare, Health, Sports, Social Housing and Transportation)
- **Local Area Plans** – Continue supporting the Forward Planning section with the preparation of LAPs, in particular environmental assessments for various plans.
- **Planning Consultation Hub** – The Forward Planning section demonstrated the application to Municipal Districts for use in future LAPs.
- **Transport Orientated Development** – GIS analysis of transport routes was performed, and a cloud application was designed to host data. The Forward Planning team used the application to identify and digitise sites and have returned to the Department.
- **Open Data** - All County Development Plan datasets have been uploaded to data.gov.ie and interested 3rd parties have been notified.

Infrastructure

- Ongoing upgrades of WAN connections at remote sites by Wicklow County Council aim to optimize performance and cost-effectiveness.
- Wicklow County Council has recently implemented infrastructure hardware upgrades, focusing on removing legacy and End-of-Life (EOL) equipment.
- Wicklow County Council is committed to ongoing enhancements in security measures to bolster defences against cyber attacks. These continual improvements aim to safeguard WCC's systems and data from potential threats in the digital landscape.

3. Finance

Revenue Account

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT							
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH APRIL 2023							
	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	14,636,696	42,194,421	35%	(15,921,142)	(46,575,078)	34%	(1,284,446)
Road Transport & Safety	5,550,375	24,371,150	23%	(1,826,736)	(16,722,878)	11%	3,723,638
Water Services	1,784,890	5,649,853	32%	(2,063,702)	(6,606,528)	31%	(278,812)
Development Management	4,871,238	14,288,049	34%	(3,313,908)	(8,574,520)	39%	1,557,330
Environmental Services	3,710,816	13,559,916	27%	(413,814)	(2,628,049)	16%	3,297,002
Recreation and Amenity	2,576,184	8,984,450	29%	(229,945)	(1,085,428)	21%	2,346,239
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	611,063	2,106,287	29%	(227,355)	(1,049,228)	22%	383,708
Miscellaneous Services	819,811	9,728,355	8%	(2,221,576)	(13,260,436)	17%	(1,401,766)
Central Management Charges	6,970,701	21,746,281	32%	(333,161)	(1,050,000)	32%	6,637,540
Local Government Fund				(4,607,190)	(13,821,571)	33%	(4,607,190)
Commercial Rates				(10,446,570)	(31,405,046)	33%	(10,446,570)
	41,531,773	142,628,762	29%	(41,605,100)	(142,778,762)	29%	(73,327)

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st April 2023 to 30th April 2023.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH APRIL 2023					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2023	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 30/04/2023
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	17,814,239	28,434,321	(24,475,640)	(182,000)	21,590,920
Road Transport & Safety	(37,383,838)	2,914,173	(605,423)	(137,500)	(35,212,587)
Water Services	(13,023,496)	64,913	(71,646)	(17,500)	(13,047,729)
Development Management	(26,681,391)	145,376	(3,012,379)	(206,250)	(29,754,643)
Environmental Services	276,031	1,276,716	(852,754)	(183,750)	516,242
Recreation and Amenity	(2,034,378)	426,078	(86,955)	(97,000)	(1,792,254)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(2,040,366)	136,528	(251)	(167,837)	(2,071,925)
Miscellaneous Services	(10,515,300)	(3,832,576)	(271,315)	1,264,578	(13,354,613)
	(73,588,498)	29,565,530	(29,376,362)	272,741	(73,126,589)

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 30TH APRIL 2023										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2023	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 30/04/2023	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates	4,598,635	31,339,711	6,891	3,940	0	35,949,177	(9,982,542)	25,966,635	646,267	28%
Rents & Annuities	3,281,584	5,694,635	0	(6,684)	0	8,969,536	(5,606,092)	3,363,444	0	63%
Housing Loans	440,112	794,089	0	0	0	1,234,201	(772,028)	462,173	0	63%

NB Rates accrual represents full year accruals while rents and loans are accruals year to date. The rates collection, rent collection and housing loan collection percentages are below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

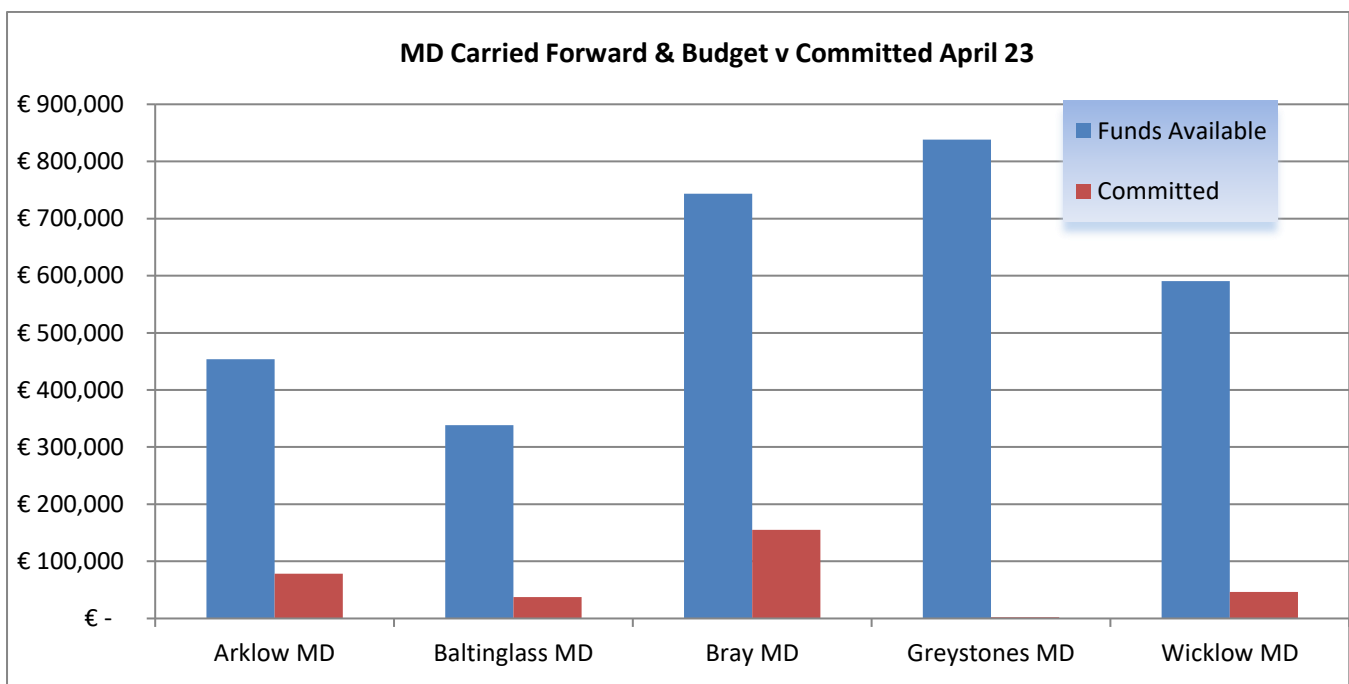
General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2023

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 10th 2022 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% resulted in an additional €1,110,384 in the Revenue Budget for 2023. This money was ring-fenced for Discretionary Funding in the Municipal Districts. The total Municipal District’s General Municipal Allocation funding for 2023 is set out below:

Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	34,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	10,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	66,500
Christmas Festival	20,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	80,000
Festivals / Other	5,000	10,000	32,000	10,000	5,000	62,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Discretionary Funding	208,197	208,197	353,278	208,197	208,197	1,186,066
Total	269,197	246,197	426,778	246,197	250,197	1,438,566

Municipal District carried forward allocation and budget '23 and expenditure for 2023 is as follows:

Municipal District	C/F from 2022	Adopted Budget 2023	Funds available to MD	Committed	Balance to Expend
	€	€	€	€	€
Arklow MD	184,779	269,197	453,976	78,615	375,361
Baltinglass MD	92,215	246,197	338,412	37,527	300,885
Bray MD	365,206	378,392	743,598	155,038	588,560
Greystones MD	592,012	246,197	838,209	1,956	836,253
Wicklow MD	342,471	248,197	590,668	46,244	544,424
Total	1,576,683	1,388,180	2,964,863	319,381	2,645,482



Capital Investment Programme 2023-2025

The Capital Investment Programme 2023-2025 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 April 3rd 2023. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2023 €	2024 €	2025 €	TOTAL €	Dev Charges ¹ €	Loan €	Grant Aid ² €	Other ³ €	TOTAL €
HOUSING AND BUILDING	131,973,000	111,600,000	110,500,000	354,073,000	-	30,000,000	317,055,000	7,018,000	354,073,000
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	22,234,170	50,280,424	55,097,634	127,612,228	28,687,388	7,000,000	83,774,840	8,150,000	127,612,228
WATER SERVICES	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	-	-	300,000	-	300,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	13,400,000	2,650,000	2,935,000	18,985,000	1,400,000	-	11,870,000	5,715,000	18,985,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	5,630,000	18,200,000	29,350,000	53,180,000	-	-	42,630,000	10,550,000	53,180,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	9,420,327	10,297,355	13,975,000	33,692,682	13,370,536	-	19,522,146	800,000	33,692,682
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	3,375,000	12,772,000	18,300,000	34,447,000	1,781,250	-	29,229,650	3,436,100	34,447,000
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	800,000	400,000	400,000	1,600,000	-	-	-	1,600,000	1,600,000
OVERALL TOTAL	186,932,497	206,299,779	230,657,634	623,889,910	45,239,174	37,000,000	504,381,636	37,269,100	623,889,910

Capital Funded Projects

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
NRGF	Blessington Greenway	€15,000,000	€0
URDF	Arklow Historic Town Core	€3,134,684	€783,671
URDF	Wicklow Town - Library and Fitzwilliam Square	7,034,879	€2,407,470
URDF	Bray Public Transport Bridge	€8,600,000	€1,000,000
URDF	Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration	€9,520,000	€2,380,000
RRDF 2019	Blueprint for Baltinglass	€3,566,968	€891,742
RRDF 2020	Placemaking Newtownmountkennedy	€477,000	€119,250
REDF	Wicklow County Campus - Content Creation Hub	€3,500,000	€2,000,000
Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns	Abbey Grounds Wicklow Town	€1,000,000	€500,000
Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Scheme	Market Square Wicklow Town	€119,000	€19,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Greystones CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Blessington CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
WCC	Mill Road, Greystones Masterplan	€50,000	€50,000
ORIS 2018	Avonmore Way Link Bridge	€460,000	€91,000
ORIS 2018	Vartry Reservoir Walks & Car Park	€165,157	€33,031
ORIS 2018	St. Kevin's Way	€200,000	€40,000
ORIS 2018	The Spinc	€160,000	€30,000
ORIS 2019	Wicklow Way Infrastructure Enhancement	€25,000	€5,000
ORIS 2019	Baltinglass Road Cycle Trails	€11,000	€2,200
ORIS 2019	North Wicklow Trails Network Development	€190,700	€38,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Avondale Avonmore	€20,330	€2,033
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Trail Digitising	€19,600	€1,960
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Tinahely	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Stratford	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Long Distance Video	€21,400	€2,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Brockagh Mountain Access	€11,100	€1,110
ORIS Measure 1 2020	People Counters	€22,000	€2,200
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Sean Lenihan	€21,200	€2,120
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Glenmalure Bridge	€12,500	€1,250
ORIS Measure 3 2020	Bright light Blueway	€554,820	€55,482
Sports Capital Programme	Charlesland All Weather Pitch Refurbishment -	€52,500	€2,750
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Wicklow	€68,759	€20,628
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Arklow	€28,999	€8,700
Sports Capital Programme	Arklow Running Track	€62,434	€18,730
Sports Capital Programme	Dr. Ryan Park	€45,320	€13,596
LSSIS	Wicklow Swimming Pool	€1,646,052	€493,816
LSSIS	Charlesland Running Track	€411,674	€123,502
CLAR 2019	Rathcoyle NS	€55,556	€2,778
CLAR 2019	Knockananna	€46,000	€3,000
CLAR 2021	Knockananna community allotment	€10,830	€1,083
CLAR 2021	Askanagap	€55,557	€5,557
CLAR 2021	Knockananna	€27,514	€2,501
Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2022	Wicklow Libraries	€26,500	€2,650
	Sub-Total	€56,705,032	€11,312,089

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
T&V 2018	Blessington	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2018	Wicklow	€150,000	€30,000
T&V 2019	Dunlavin	€26,216	€2,623
T&V 2019	Coolkenno	€30,000	€3,000
T&V 2019	Aughrim	€119,500	€17,925
T&V 2019	Redcross	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2019	Delgany	€37,000	€3,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Bundled	€28,000	€2,800
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Dunlavin	€4,950	€495
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Roundwood	€40,000	€4,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Ballinaclash	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Enniskerry	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Laragh	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Tinahely	€5,500	€550
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Baltinglass	€10,000	€1,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Arklow	€39,500	€3,950
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Wicklow	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Greystones	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Rathdrum	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Broadband Connection Points	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Kilcoole	20,000	2,000
T&V 2020 Main	Stratford	€200,000	€22,222
T&V 2020 Main	Avoca	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Enniskerry	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Annamoe	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2021	Ballinaclash	€70,000	€7,000
T&V 2021	Donard	€29,000	€2,900
T&V 2021	Wicklow	€245,931	€24,593
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilmacanogue Nature Trail	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Lacken Mass Path	€18,000	€1,800
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilcoole Mass Path	€13,000	€1,300
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Avonmore Kayak Project	€16,500	€1,650
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Age Friendly Triobikes for older people	€23,160	€3,160
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Keadeen Access	€13,500	€1,350
ORIS 2021 Project Development	Three Trout Route	€50,000	€5,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 3	The Sugarloaf Repair	€500,000	€50,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	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	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Ballyboy Equestrian Trail	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Glen Turn Cliff Walk	€33,300	€3,600
ORIS 2022 M1	Miners Way	€28,000	€2,800
ORIS 2022 M1	Red Kite Loop	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	West Wicklow Access Points	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Wicklow Uplands	€33,000	€3,300
REISS (REDF)	Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation and Innovation Centre	€249,500	€49,900
	Total to date	€59,816,421	€11,670,872